

Elizabeth Seton 
PEDIATRIC CENTER

Changing lives, one child at a time

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AETNA FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

(NEW YORK, NY) – On October 4, 2007, Aetna Foundation awarded a grant of \$25,000 in support of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center's Palliative Care Program. This funding will be utilized to further develop programmatic expertise and implement a variety of traditional and complementary treatment strategies in caring for medically fragile children with life limiting illness. These young people account for 80% of the Pediatric Center's residents. This marks the second consecutive year that the Aetna Foundation has assisted the Center in meeting the very special needs of this pediatric population.

Funding contributed to the Pediatric Palliative Care Program pays for professional staff development, adaptive equipment and alternative therapeutic interventions to improve comfort and quality of life for residents with life limiting illness, burial and funeral assistance for indigent families, and bereavement counseling and therapeutic interventions for families and caregivers. Several innovative new practices, like the utilization of neurologic music therapy, have allowed this program to remain at the forefront of pediatric palliative care.

As Manhattan's only pediatric long-term care facility serving a high need population of medically challenged and financially disadvantaged children, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center is uniquely positioned for leadership in the emerging field of Pediatric Palliative Care. The program continues to employ conventional and developing objectives in the provision of palliative care to children and young adults. The ultimate goal is to make these residents' shortened lives more comfortable and meaningful.

The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center is committed to *changing the lives of medically fragile children, one child at a time*. All programs are centered on resident children and their families, respecting individual cultural beliefs and practices. Each child admitted to the Center enters a "Neighborhood" where they receive team-based trans-disciplinary care, including medicine, nursing, social services, palliative care, mental health, rehabilitation, education, nutrition, child life/therapeutic activity, pastoral care and more. As Manhattan's only pediatric nursing facility, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center plays a matchless role among New York health care providers.

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Established in 1987 as an affiliate of the New York Foundling, the Center is now an independent nonprofit health facility licensed by the New York State Department of Health providing care for children with severe disabilities and complex medical conditions.

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