

Support.

Hope.



Information.

Advocacy.



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All donations are tax deductible





Our Mission... To provide counseling, support, information and advocacy to families when there has been a diagnosis of cancer or other catastrophic illness that may impact vision.

Families often report feelings of denial, anger and guilt. They suffer a tremendous loss, and have reactions similar to those experienced when a child dies. A mourning period and associated grieving are crucial to the family's survival.

Skilled professional assistance during those weeks and months make all the difference. Families can and do pick up the pieces, but it can be very difficult without help. The Institute for Families is a place to turn to for support, information and understanding.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The Institute for Families provides consultation and therapy for families whose child is suffering from a catastrophic illness. Our goal is to meet with families soon after they receive the diagnosis, either in person or over the telephone. We provide nationwide assistance and understand the importance of reaching out to families wherever they might be.

INFORMATION

Families in crisis need information and often times, they do not know where to find it. We refer parents and physicians to organizations that specialize in meeting the special needs of each child.

At the Institute, we write and publish journal articles, booklets and newsletters for families and health care professionals. These tools provide another resource offering easy-to-understand suggestions and coping strategies. Parents often share their experiences, strength and hope with each other through our publications.

We also offer a series of professionally produced videos that deal with issues affecting the families of children with a serious illness and the healthcare workers who assist them.

ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION AS PART OF OUR MISSION

The Institute for Families provides nationwide in-service training programs for physicians, residents, medical students, students and other

healthcare workers. Our goal is to enhance their understanding of issues facing families and to improve communication. One of our primary goals is to assist families in navigating the complex medical institutions that work to heal their child. The help we can provide in this regard is invaluable to the entire family. We are also active in the medical community, making presentations at conferences and meetings.

The Institute for Families is a non-profit organization. All of our services are provided at no cost to families and professionals, with funding provided by private donations. **No federal funding is given.**



When a family first learns that their child has a serious illness, it is a devastating experience.

Emotions take over -- confusion, shock, a feeling of helplessness, fear, depression and profound sadness. The news affects everyone, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and the extended family.

Physicians are suddenly tasked with breaking the difficult news. And while most want to provide emotional support, few have received the necessary preparation.