



Gilchrist KIDS

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OUR MISSION

To provide counseling, support and care to anyone with a serious illness, so they may live life to the fullest.

OUR VISION

We are deeply committed to giving people the clear information and loving support they need to make informed choices about their care.

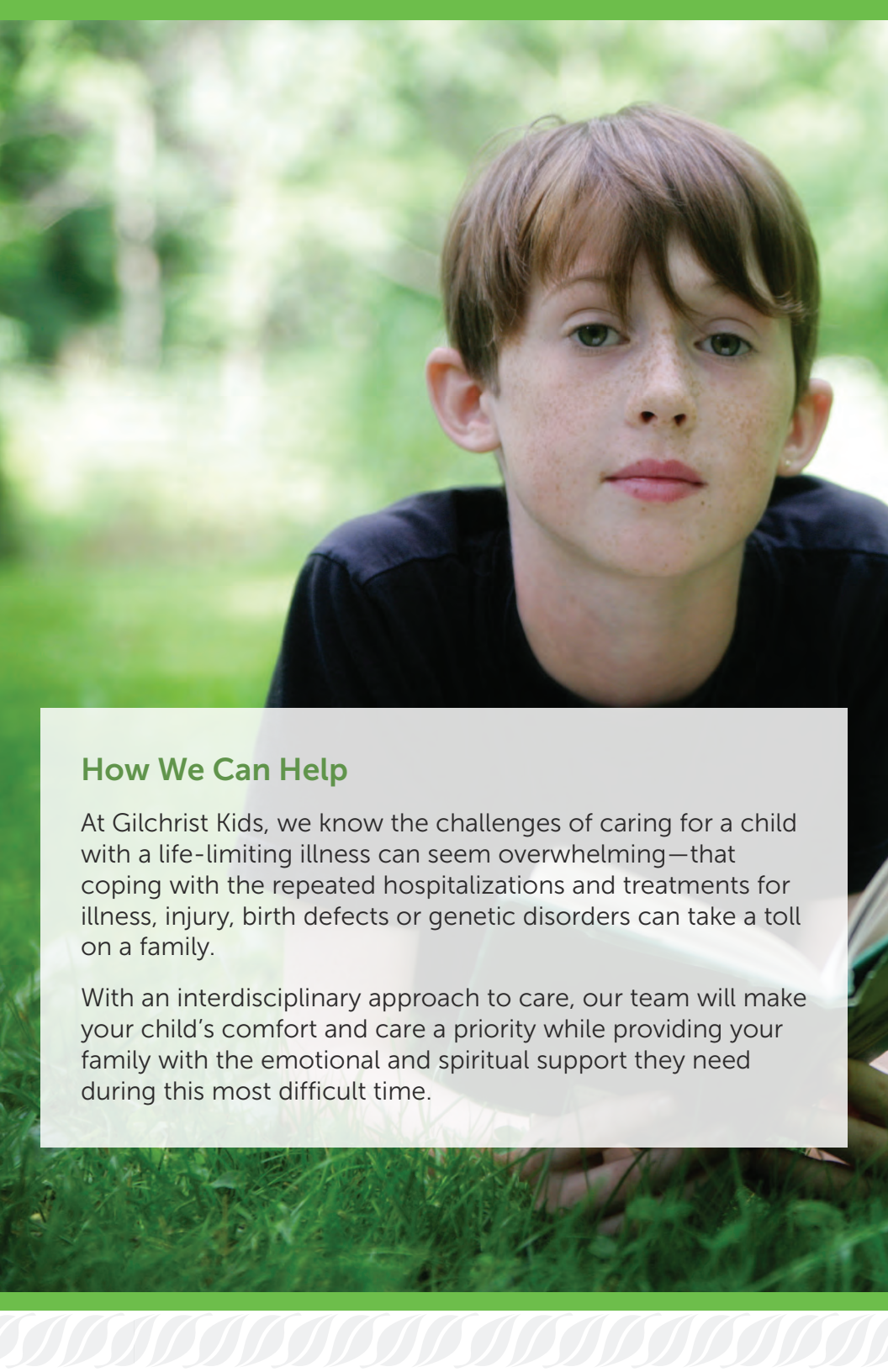




About Gilchrist Kids

Gilchrist Kids provides compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life care for infants, children and young adults with life-limiting illnesses, as well as perinatal support for parents-to-be who have learned that their unborn child may have an incurable illness. Gilchrist was the first hospice in Central Maryland to offer pediatric hospice care, and is an expert in the field. We provide care at home or at Gilchrist Center Baltimore's pediatric inpatient unit, the only one of its kind in Maryland.





How We Can Help

At Gilchrist Kids, we know the challenges of caring for a child with a life-limiting illness can seem overwhelming—that coping with the repeated hospitalizations and treatments for illness, injury, birth defects or genetic disorders can take a toll on a family.

With an interdisciplinary approach to care, our team will make your child's comfort and care a priority while providing your family with the emotional and spiritual support they need during this most difficult time.



Our Goal

The overarching goal of Gilchrist Kids is simple: By providing pediatric end-of-life care, we will help your child “live well,” surrounded by loved ones in the place where they are most comfortable.

Our Team

Our specialized team of pediatric trained doctors, nurses, social workers, a child life specialist, chaplains, counselors and volunteers will provide comprehensive support for your child and for your whole family.

Our team of professionals will:

- Provide hands-on care
- Manage medications, pain and other symptoms
- Assess your child’s physical condition
- Educate the whole family about what to expect
- Assist you as you work through the intense emotions and probing spiritual questions that often accompany a life-limiting illness
- Work closely with your child’s current care team to ensure continuity of care planning

Our team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Who may need Gilchrist Kids?

Gilchrist Kids is appropriate for any **infant, child or young adult diagnosed with a life-limiting illness** whose life expectancy is measured in months rather than years, and who is interested in comfort-oriented care. Gilchrist Kids care can be initiated as soon as it is recognized that your child has a life-limiting illness. Our program only requires doctor certification.

Where is care provided?

Care is most often provided in the child's home.

We serve families residing in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford and Howard Counties. We also offer respite care and acute inpatient care at Gilchrist Center Baltimore.

Will my child have to stop treatments and medications to be enrolled in Gilchrist Kids?

No. Your child can continue any treatment or medications they are currently receiving and can start new treatments and medications while on hospice care. Your child can still be treated at the hospital if that is within the goals of care.

Does my child have to give up their current team of doctors and specialists?

No. We understand how important your trusted doctors are and that they are the most familiar with your child's care. Gilchrist Kids will not replace the care your child already receives. We are simply making your child's circle of care larger. We will work in tandem with your current medical team to understand all of your child's needs and develop a specialized plan of care for your child.





We already have so many appointments to attend. Will hospice take up more of what little time we have?

The benefit of hospice care is that we come to you. Our visits mostly take place in your home, but we are available to meet you at your child's other appointments or at another convenient location.

Do children ever improve and get discharged from hospice care?

Yes. Some of the children in our care do stabilize to the point that hospice care is no longer needed.

Do you have an inpatient hospice unit for children?

Yes, we have a dedicated pediatric inpatient hospice unit at Gilchrist Center Baltimore.



We still want our child to have every intervention including CPR. Can we still receive care from Gilchrist Kids?

Yes. We will respect all decisions you make for your child and their health.

The burden of care has put tremendous stress on our family, and sometimes we just need a moment to ourselves. Can you help?

Yes. Gilchrist Kids has a group of volunteers specially trained in pediatric care available to offer companionship, assistance and support for families. Our volunteers can stay with your child at home if you need to run an errand or take a few hours for yourself, or they can help with basic household tasks. We also provide respite care at our inpatient center in Baltimore.

We have plans to go out of town. Will that be “allowed” with Gilchrist Kids?

Yes. We encourage travel and memory making and will arrange for a travel hospice contract while you are away so that you will have access to hospice benefits wherever your child is.

Who pays for the care my child receives from Gilchrist Kids?

Gilchrist Kids is committed to providing quality, compassionate care for anyone deemed appropriate for care, regardless of insurance limitations or ability to pay. In most cases, **Medicaid or private insurers** will cover the costs of Gilchrist Kids services, and we offer **additional financial support** for those patients without insurance coverage.



I want to be there for every visit. Can Gilchrist Kids accommodate my schedule?

Yes. Our staff members are committed to working around your schedule and will be available for evening and weekend visits to ensure that your whole family remains informed, educated and involved in your child's care.

The team also knows that extended family and friends—aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, classmates, teachers and others—are often very involved in a child's life. To that end, our staff will be available to provide them with comprehensive support and guidance.

My baby will be critically ill at birth, but my due date is still several months away. Can Gilchrist Kids help me?

Yes. Gilchrist Kids is committed to providing support for families who have learned that their unborn child has a life-limiting illness. While you will continue to receive obstetric care from your regular practitioner, we offer emotional and spiritual support to help you adjust to your infant's condition. After birth, we will provide specialized care for your newborn and continue to support you and your family.



Respite Care

What is respite care?

Respite care provides **24/7 inpatient care for children, giving you time for self-care, rest or time to check off your to-do list.** Respite care is provided in our pediatric unit at Gilchrist Center Baltimore for up to 5 nights per month, depending on availability.

Can I visit the inpatient center before my child comes for a respite stay?

Yes, we encourage all families to visit and tour the pediatric unit at Gilchrist Center Baltimore prior to a stay. We will also make a home visit to learn more about your child's routine prior to the stay.

What amenities are provided?

Your child will have **a private room and bathroom in a warm, home-like setting,** with access to a large playroom and outdoor patio areas. Each room is equipped with a TV and DVD player.



Can I stay with my child during a respite stay?

Yes. It is not required, but if you would like to stay for some or all of your child's visit you are welcome to do so. (There is room for one parent to stay overnight in the child's room.)

Is it OK to go out of town while my child is having a respite stay?

Yes, you are welcome to travel while your child is staying at Gilchrist Center Baltimore.

What should I bring?

Items you will need to bring for your child's respite stay include **medications, equipment and supplies, clothing and special dietary products/supplies.** You may also bring comfort items for your child (e.g., a favorite toy or stuffed animal).

*When every moment becomes more precious,
we shoulder much of the burden of care
so that you can keep your child at home
and spend time just being a family.*

To learn more, call 1.800.823.8880 or visit gilchristcares.org/kids.

Gilchrist is certified by Medicare, licensed by the State of Maryland, accredited by CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Partner) and is a provider of choice for the Johns Hopkins Home Care Group and the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Gilchrist Kids is a member of Alliance Kids, the region's collaborative voice and provider of high quality, compassionate pediatric and hospice care serving children and young adults.





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A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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*Gilchrist provides services without regard to race,
color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, disability,
religion, ability to pay or national origin.*