

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Liam Lawson Foundation  
for Pediatric Palliative Care



**THE LIAM LAWSON FOUNDATION PRESENTS FIRST GRANT TO  
THE EXCEPTIONAL CARE FOR CHILDREN ORGANIZATION**

*Addressing the needs of medically fragile children and their families*

Coatesville, PA – March 29, 2004 — The Liam Lawson Foundation, whose primary goal is to enhance the public and professional awareness of the need and effectiveness of palliative or end of life care options for children with life-threatening conditions, will be presenting their first grant on April 7, 2004. The date is significant because it is the anniversary of Liam's third birthday for whom the Foundation was created. The Foundation will be presenting this grant to an organization called Exceptional Care for Children. The recipient of the grant will be Jeanine Winsness, Founder and CEO of Exceptional Care for Children. The presenters will be Annette O'Brien, R.N., Founder and President of The Liam Lawson Foundation and Katey Lawson, R.N., Vice President and Liam's Mom.

The purpose of Exceptional Care for Children is to provide children with life-threatening illnesses a family-oriented, "homelike" environment where they can receive the skilled nursing and medical care they require while at the same time be supported developmentally and spiritually. The children and families that will benefit from Exceptional Care are numerous: there will be children whose illnesses require them to be dependant on technology; there will also be children whose disease processes limit their life expectancy significantly and may require palliative/comfort care for their short time with their families towards the end of life.

The Liam Lawson Foundation has chosen Exceptional Care for Children as its first recipient because they share common goals. Both organizations believe in the tremendous need for this kind of care for children with chronic, life-threatening illnesses. Liam's family's experience illustrated first hand how much pain and emotional turmoil is involved in living with these issues. The goal is to make it better. And while we will never change the fact that we will always be blessed with medically fragile children, how we handle those situations as families and caregivers can be improved. The Liam Lawson Foundation and Exceptional Care for Children will make a difference.

**About the Foundation**

The Liam Lawson Foundation was established after our personal experiences with Liam. At the age of 4 months, Liam was diagnosed with a life-threatening condition with a poor prognosis and a life expectancy of 2 to 5 years. In our efforts to care for Liam with compassion and comfort, we encountered a tremendous lack of support and knowledge of palliative care options from Liam's health care providers. This tremendous lack of pediatric palliative care options for children and their families only worsened an already incredibly difficult situation. There should be nothing more important to us when we are entrusted with a medically fragile child than to enable that child to be as happy and comfortable as possible. There is a need to understand our children and appreciate them as individuals with specific needs and requirements. Our goal is to foster a community that will support a family's wishes with only the child's best interests in mind; and to understand that it is every bit as important to minimize suffering at the end of life as it is at the beginning. Liam's mission is now our own, to ease the suffering of unique children like Liam by giving the families the options the need and the children deserve.

To learn more about our goals and other ways we plan to make a difference for our exceptional children, please visit our website at [www.liamlawsonfoundation.org](http://www.liamlawsonfoundation.org).