



## **Parent Advisory Council**

### **Our Mission**

The Parent Advisory Council of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children is dedicated to fostering a partnership of parents, children and professionals who will work together to ensure a climate of responsiveness to the needs of the children and families served.

The Council is a group of parents whose children have received care at St. Chris. Some of our children are chronically ill, while others have been treated at the hospital occasionally.

### **Our purpose is:**

- To serve as an advisory resource to the administration of St. Christopher's Hospital and the parents and families that it serves
- To help promote family-centered care by keeping the needs of our patients and families at the center of our hospital services

### **Our goals are:**

- To provide input from a parent, family and caregiver perspective to help ensure that services meet family needs
- To increase understanding and to promote effective partnerships between families, staff and professionals
- To provide a forum for developing creative solutions to challenges faced by the hospital
- To provide support and access to information for families

### **Our accomplishments include:**

- Satellite TV
- "About My Child" template for parents to record their child's medical history
- "Walk in my Shoes...A Day in the Life" video used in employee orientation
- Presentations to hospital staff about working with families
- PAC bulletin board

The Council meets quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month in September, January, March and June from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For information, call (215) 427-4862 or [email](#) us

### **Fast Facts for Parents by Parents**

St. Christopher's Parent Advisory Council takes an active role in assisting staff in promoting family-centered care. Council members provide training to staff, residents and outside organizations on parenting children with special health care needs.

- The Information Desk has a variety of take-out menus for restaurants in the area that parents are welcome to borrow.
- The cafeteria opens at 10:30 p.m., which is great for families that miss dinner because they don't want to leave their children.
- On the lower level of the hospital to the right of the cafeteria is the Medical Library. The medical librarian is available to assist parents in looking up information regarding their child's illness Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- There are special menus available from your child's nurse for children who do not like what is offered on the regular menu.
- There Children's Advocacy Project of Philadelphia [Web site](#) has a user-friendly, comprehensive listing of many social service agencies that exist to improve the lives of families that need help the most.
- The hospital offers a service where families can create a free care page. [CarePages](#) is an easy-to-use service that continues even after the child is discharged. Information is available through Child Life.
- There are computers available for parents use in the Lobby and in the ICU Waiting Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.