With our world-class care and programs, we embrace all children and their families as they navigate life-limiting or end-of-life journeys through:

- Palliative and respite care that addresses the emotional, spiritual, and social needs of the family
- Continuity of care from diagnosis to end-of-life
- Art, music, multimedia, and sensory therapies
- Expert care provided by our prestigious care partners and highly-trained staff
- A loving community that offers ongoing support and compassion

2015 Board of Directors

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Thank you for opening our doors with your hearts!

The Board of Visitors Ryan House embodies the deep love and compassion this community has for Arizona’s most medically complex children and their families as they face the unimaginable.

Five years strong, Ryan House remains sustained by philanthropic dollars and services are provided at no cost to families. We are grateful to have a generous community so vested in our mission, and an exceptional care partner in Hospice of the Valley.

Over five years of providing innovative, world-class care, we remain laser-focused on providing comprehensive support to children and families throughout the care continuum and meaningful interventions that enhance quality of life. This would not be possible without the generosity and friendship of our founding partners, donors, volunteers, staff, and families.

Parents tell us we bring hope, and that we are a place of firsts – first laugh, first sleepover, first swim, first song, first snuggle. We need to be a place of firsts for all children who need this care, and have set our sights on realizing our vision.

Warmly,

Alyssa Crockett, Executive Director

Thank you for your continued kindness and generosity. Today, the Board of Visitors Ryan House is the only facility of its kind in the Southwest and one of only two in the country. Our success has become a catalyst for change in pediatric palliative care in Arizona and the United States. Overnight stays for children and families are in high demand. With more than 500 children served since its founding, including approximately 260 who received more than 9,000 days of respite care and approximately 240 who required end of life care, Arizona’s population of qualifying pediatric patients remains greatly underserved.

Please help us grow and reach more of Arizona’s children with life-limiting and terminal conditions and to advance this much needed pediatric palliative mode of care!

With gratitude,

Leslie Propstra, Board Chair
We are transforming the

23 Staff

650 volunteers

5,000 hours of service

Palliative Care
Palliative care aims to holistically identify and alleviate the physical, psychosocial, spiritual, and emotional pain for both the child and the family, enhance quality of life and minimize suffering.

Respite Care
Respite care is a gift of time; short-term overnight stays that help a family take breaks from the stress of 24/7 home care.
quality of life for Arizona’s most medically complex children.

Pediatric End-of-Life Care
Families with a child facing end-of-life receive supportive planning and compassionate care consistent with clinical, cultural, and ethical standards.

Grief and Bereavement Support
We offer Sibshops, family counseling through various programs, a memorial wall, an annual community event to honor children who have died, and memory boxes to families that are filled with special keepsakes.

Life-Enhancing Therapeutic Activities
Certified child life specialists and trained volunteers provide activities that address the isolation, pain, and fear children and siblings face with diagnosis and improve quality of life.
90% of families
said respite stays at Ryan House improve the quality of life for the whole family.

100% of parents
said that their child participated in meaningful activities during his or her respite stay.

83% of parents
said respite lowers their level of stress.
Diego, affectionately known as ‘Go-Go,’ is a happy and loving nine-year-old boy who was born terminally ill. He suffered many complications at birth and has severe brain damage. His life expectancy was quoted at seven years. He has had many close calls but is extremely resilient. Diego’s parents, Eddy and Crystal, took him home from the hospital immediately under hospice care.

Dr. Kevin Berger introduced them to Ryan House which soon became their blessing.

Diego has a little brother, Cristian, age 7, and a little sister, Sienna, age 4. During the first five years of Diego’s life, his parents took him everywhere they went. They realized they needed to start ‘living’ and needed to get out of the house. “Thank goodness for Ryan House,” mom, Crystal said, “It is the best place for Diego when we are not here.”

Diego stays two to three times a year at Ryan House. The sensory room is his absolute favorite. Diego also loves getting massages from the nurses and reading books with the volunteers. He truly enjoys being in an environment around other people.

Many other children at Ryan House have a close bond with Diego and absolutely adore him. “It’s not sad anymore,” Crystal said. “It’s powerful. Diego is proof that anything is possible!”

“It’s not sad anymore”
Theo Kizer was born very quickly. His mother, Nichole was about to hold him for the first time, but the doctors immediately took him to neonatal intensive care. He needed to be intubated with a breathing tube. Theo was in the NICU for two months following his birth. He was very fragile. Eventually the doctors diagnosed a very rare syndrome that has only affected 80 children in the last 40 years. Theo’s airway and lungs were so small that it was extremely difficult to breathe. Most babies with this diagnosis do not even survive pregnancy.

Surgery was performed within his first two months to attempt to remove his breathing tube and insert a feeding tube. “We wanted to think he would survive,” said Nick. Even after the operation, Theo was still exceptionally fragile and showed many complications.

“There was not much more the hospital could do for us. We had to take him home,” Nichole remembers thinking. They decided rather than bringing Theo to their house, they would go to Ryan House.

“We were able to sleep in his room and the staff would watch Theo while we slept,” Nick recalled. “We were able to do many of the things we had hoped to do with Theo as a normal family. We invited family over for visits and were able to bring our dogs sometimes. We bathed Theo in the special bathtub. We watched a Cardinals game with him dressed in a little jersey.”

“One night when we were sleeping, the nurses called us into the room where they were holding Theo. His vitals were dropping and he couldn’t breathe well. We didn’t want him to be in pain. We called our family and held him in the sanctuary. When the sun came up, he took his last breath and we sang “Here Comes the Sun.”
In the five years since opening in 2010, Ryan House has provided over 9,000 days of respite care to more than 530 children with life limiting conditions, and supported more than 240 children at end-of-life. Approximately 50% of the children served were male and 50% were female.

In addition, Ryan House has supported over 2,000 siblings and parents/guardians, along with nearly 3,500 loved ones, such as extended family and friends, who also received comfort and support.

Top diagnoses of children served:
- cerebral palsy
- muscular dystrophy
- mitochondrial disease
- brain deformation/trauma
- 10

- White 32%
- Hispanic 36%
- Native American 20%
- Asian 4%
- Pacific Islander 4%
- Black 4%
FY 15 Financials

**Sources of Revenue 2015**
- Events 19%
- In-Kind Revenue 15%
- Individual Giving 13%
- Corporate Support 9%
- Misc Support - 1%
- Grants & Contracts 43%

**Expenditures 2015**
- Program 77%
- Fundraising 15%
- Administration 8%

**FY 15**
- Total Revenue: $1,862,433
- Total Expenses: $2,128,219
- Change in Net Assets: ($265,786)
- Net Assets, End of Year: $3,966,128

**FY 14**
- Total Revenue: $1,432,174
- Total Expenses: $1,892,220
- Change in Net Assets: ($460,046)
- Net Assets, End of Year: $4,231,914