

Elizabeth Seton 
PEDIATRIC CENTER

Changing lives, one child at a time

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ELIZABETH SETON PEDIATRIC CENTER HOSTS LEADERSHIP AAHSA
Leaders from long-term facilities nation-wide observe culture change first hand

On Thursday February 7, 2008, the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) conducted a site-visit of the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center for leaders from a number of long-term facilities nationwide as a part of their 2008 Fellow Class Leadership AAHSA - Creating Home: Heart & Science of Culture Change.

The visitors included Judy Brown, Faculty LAAHSA, Michele Holleran, Faculty LAAHSA, Wendy Green, AAHSA Staff, Kristen Santaromita, Manager, AAHSA Leadership Academy and 39 Fellows - leaders from long-term facilities around the country. Fellows included chief executive officers, executive directors, administrators, medical professionals, development and marketing executives, and others. The focus of the visit was to observe first hand an organization that has successfully undergone a transformation through leadership innovation and person-centered initiatives.

In April 2006 the Pediatric Center underwent a comprehensive culture change which decentralized the delivery of pediatric care – moving away from the institutional departmental structure and shifting towards resident family centered ‘neighborhoods.’ Each nursing unit within the Center became a ‘neighborhood’ with its own specific collaborative network of service providers and residents – just like any one of the many neighborhoods of New York City.

Team leaders and administration of the Pediatric Center joined Chief Executive Officer Patricia A. Tursi in hosting the group on a tour of the ‘neighborhoods’ in action. Residents were observed participating in a number of daily therapeutic and educational activities. Following the tour Elizabeth Seton staff participated with Fellows in a panel discussion regarding objectives and outcomes of culture change.

The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center was originally established in 1988 by the Sisters of Charity as an affiliate of the New York Foundling. It is now an independently incorporated healthcare organization with its own distinct mission and leadership. In March of 2005 the organization was officially renamed in honor of Saint Elizabeth Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity.

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The Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center and John A. Coleman School are committed to changing the lives of medically fragile children, one child at a time. All programs are centered on the children we serve and their families, respecting individual cultural beliefs and practices. Each child admitted to the Center enters a “Neighborhood” where they receive team-based trans-disciplinary care, including medicine, nursing, social services, palliative care, mental health, rehabilitation, education, nutrition, child life/therapeutic activity, pastoral care and more. To learn more please visit www.setonpediatric.org.

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