

# A Lion in the House

a film by Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN



## A LION IN THE HOUSE Community Engagement Campaign

# Campaign Tool Kit

## Working with National Partners: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

The complete A LION IN THE HOUSE Campaign Tool Kit was created to guide public television stations, organizations and the community to support A LION IN THE HOUSE outreach activities in collaboration with national partners: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Cancer Society (ACS), Association of Oncology Social Work (AOSW), Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses (APON), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy (CCCA), CureSearch, Gilda's Club Worldwide, Health Ministries Association (HMA), Hope Street Kids, Intercultural Cancer Council (ICC), Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF), Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), National Association of Social Workers (NASW), National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), PADRES Contra El Cáncer. The full Tool Kit with information for all national partners is also available for download.

**Get involved at [www.itvs.org/outreach/lioninthehouse](http://www.itvs.org/outreach/lioninthehouse).**



## American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is an organization of 60,000 pediatricians committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The AAP also houses the National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs.

## National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs at the American Academy of Pediatrics

[www.medicalhomeinfo.org](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org)

The National Center promotes a model of care for special-needs children called a “medical home.” In a medical home, a pediatric clinician works in partnership with the family/patient to assure that the medical and nonmedical needs of the patient are met. The care plan combines palliative care and life-prolonging care for children and youth living with life-threatening or terminal conditions and their families. The Medical Home Initiative is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration and its Bureau of Maternal and Child Health and provides the potential to extend supportive services to childhood cancer patients and survivors.

### Partnering with AAP Chapters and Medical Home

The AAP has 60,000 members in 59 chapters in the United States. Locate your state’s chapter office at <http://www.aap.org/member/chapters/chaplist.cfm>. See “Tips for Working Effectively with AAP Chapters” on page 4. AAP chapter members can provide support to the LION IN THE HOUSE campaign in the following ways:

- Provide expertise and serve as spokespeople on medical issues and focus areas.
- Provide linkages to patients and families who might like to be involved.

To find out about events and activities happening in your state that will help improve access to medical homes for children and youth with special health care needs, go to: <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/states/index.html>. These pages also provide state work plans and activities that might support your A LION IN THE HOUSE campaign.

## *American Academy of Pediatrics Continued*

### Resources

- Compassionate and culturally competent care resources  
<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/tools/compassion.html>
- Tools and information for families and providers on palliative care  
<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/resources/palliative.html>
- Advocacy and spokesperson tips and background materials for families and practitioners on issues of special-needs children  
<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/health/advocacy.html>
- Tools and training materials to assess and implement medical home  
<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/tools/providerindex.html>

## Tips for Working Effectively with AAP Chapters

### Background Information on Chapters

Chapters are organized groups of pediatricians and other health care professionals working to implement AAP policy at the state and community levels and address the needs of their members. There are 59 chapters in the United States and seven chapters in Canada. The U.S. chapters are usually drawn along state lines, but two states with large populations (California and New York) constitute more than one chapter. In addition, two chapters serve pediatricians in the uniformed services (east and west, divided by the Mississippi River). Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are also separate chapters.

Chapters provide advocacy, leadership, education and networking opportunities for AAP members. The AAP and its chapters have a unique partnership of autonomy and cooperation. Although required to maintain bylaws and see that these bylaws do not conflict with the AAP's and to elect officers (president and vice president) who are voting members of the AAP, chapters have complete organizational control over their activities. This autonomy gives chapters the freedom to address the needs and interests of their individual members.

### Partnering with AAP Chapters

Chapters are independently incorporated. They are separate entities from the national AAP. As such, chapters have control over their priorities and set their own agendas. When working with AAP chapters, it is helpful to keep the following in mind:

- Chapter leaders are *volunteers*. Chapter presidents and vice presidents are not paid for the work they do on behalf of children. They are often very busy individuals, currently in practice, and prefer to communicate via email. If you need a chapter leader to attend a meeting on a weekday, please keep in mind that canceling office hours cannot usually be done on short notice. Please allow sufficient lead-time if you want the participation of chapter leaders.
- When corresponding with chapter leaders, it helps to be *very clear and concise*. With limited free time in which to perform their chapter-officer duties, the briefer the better in terms of correspondence (whether electronic or by mail).
- It is recommended that a *copy of all letters or correspondence be sent to the chapter executive director (ED)*. Most chapters (55) have EDs, and since they are often the chief administrator in the chapter, it is helpful to copy them on all items that are sent to the chapter presidents and chapter vice presidents.
- If you want to learn more about a chapter or are interested in finding out more about how you/your project can interface with a chapter, request to attend an upcoming chapter meeting. The chapter ED will have those dates, times and locations for you.
- An executive committee or board governs every chapter. This governing body often does not meet more than monthly. If you need an official decision by the chapter, please keep this timeline in mind.

For more information about chapters, visit the Member Center on the AAP website (<http://www.aap.org>) and select "Chapters" or call 800-433-9016.