The mission of Essential Care Perinatal program is to provide support, education and guidance to expectant parents and families whose unborn child has a life-threatening illness.

Our program is administered by The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care and supported by local foundations, fundraising efforts, memorials and private donations.

Please send contributions to: Hospice Foundation of WNY, PO Box 590, Buffalo, NY 14240-0590

(716) 686-8006

Helping families with seriously ill babies before birth
**Perinatal Services:**

- Assist expectant parents in identifying resources to help their family cope during the pregnancy and after the birth of the baby
- Help expectant parents plan for their baby’s birth
- Help to address the emotional needs and concerns of other children in the family
- Provide guidance and encouragement in finding hope and comfort amidst the family’s anguish and grief
- Assist expectant parents in finding the right ways to tell people about their baby
- Support the needs of the parents and family while in the hospital setting
- Assist expectant parents with communicating their wishes for personal and medical care during their baby’s birth to the mother’s doctor and Labor/Delivery staff
- Assist in creating ways to celebrate and “welcome the baby” in the hospital or at home
- Assist in creating special keepsakes and treasures prior to and after baby’s birth (for example: a memory box, handprints of baby and family members, photographs, lock of hair, etc.)
- Provide family with community resources available to them (for example, support groups, websites and written materials)
- Help in planning final arrangements, memorial services and precious good-byes at the hospital or at home – wherever you need us
- Provide bereavement support to parents and family members

**To Make a Referral Call**

(716) 686-8006

Referrals are accepted from a parent, physician or anyone. The mother’s primary physician or specialist will be contacted upon referral. In most cases, our services are covered by major health insurance plans.