



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Madison

Celebrating 25 Years

Spring 2018

HEARTLINE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LOVE & COMPASSION

Sometimes I reflect on my childhood at those times when I would sit and think about what it would be like when I was thirty years old. "Thirty years old," I thought with a mixture of amazement and horror. As I'm about to turn fifty, thirty sure doesn't seem old anymore! In fact, it stopped seeming old when I was in my twenties. It also seemed, at the time, so very far away – then, boom! Next thing you know, you've shot right past thirty to fifty! The fly-by nature of time is not always a welcome thing, but sometimes it comes bearing gifts. For example, it seems like yesterday that our Board of Directors decided to move forward with plans to expand the Ronald McDonald House by purchasing the property adjacent to us. That was in February 2014. Next thing you know, we're full steam ahead in a capital campaign to raise millions of dollars for this crucial project. The motivation for the Board and staff was extraordinarily compelling: each year we are unable to accommodate more and more families at the House – increasing to several hundred per year – due to growth in our local area hospitals. And while we could put many of them up in hotels due to the generosity of our hotel partners, that wasn't always possible...nor was it really fulfilling our mission. All that motivation, the hard work of our Campaign Cabinet, staff, and Board, and the jaw-dropping generosity of donors during the "quiet phase" of the campaign has brought us to a place where we are

ready to break ground! My head is still spinning with how quickly we got here.

At the same time, I am hearing precisely the same mind-blowing reactions from those who were part of the House's first opening: "Has it really been 25 years already?!" Yes, it has! How exciting is it that the ground breaking for the House expansion (the largest project since the House first opened) coincides with the 25th anniversary? This is truly a time where we look back over the last 25 years and give thanks to all those who made it possible for us to help over 28,000 families and, at the same time, look forward to the next 25 years with a House nearly double the size of the original!

As we enter this brand-new era of service and love for all the families we serve, it is my honor and privilege to say thank you to all who have brought us to this point, and thank you to all who are carrying us forward into the future. What a wonderful time to be a part of RMHC – Madison!

Most sincerely,

Kevin Huddleston
Executive Director



Our Mission

The mission of RMHC is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. RMHC-Madison supports the critical needs of children through three core programs: Ronald McDonald House, Ronald McDonald Family Room and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

2018 Board of Directors

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Ronald McDonald House of Madison

PROGRAM IMPACT

OUR HOUSE PROVIDES FAMILIES



- Cost-free lodging in a home-like atmosphere
- Higher quality sleep
- A space for play
- Close proximity to hospitals
- Better perceived quality of life
- Strengthened coping abilities

1,287 FAMILIES SERVED

- 75% Wisconsin families
- 25% families from other states/international



461 STAYS NOT PROVIDED

Last year there were 461 night stays we were not able to accommodate families at the House. Today, we face having to turn away more families who need our help.



\$1.3 MILLION SAVED

Families saved an estimated \$1.3 million in out of pocket lodging and meal expenses due to the presence of Ronald McDonald House in Madison.



GREAT GIVERS

Sharing a Journey of Hope

Chris and Angela Batterman began their relationship with Ronald McDonald House Charities in 2005. Their son, Joseph had acquired hydrocephalus when he was one year old and needed brain surgery. Their first trip to the hospital was just the three of them, but by 2005 they had their second child, Grace. When they next needed to return to the American Family Children's Hospital they weren't sure what to do, since staying overnight at the hospital meant one of them would have to stay home with their new baby while the other was at the hospital with Joseph.

That was when they were first referred to Ronald McDonald House in Madison. Angela said, "I remember when we first walked through the doors, it was like getting a big hug and knowing that you weren't walking into a building, but you were walking into a family that cared about you and is with you on your journey. We would connect with other families who were going through difficult times, some of them worse than what we were going through. We were able to encourage one another and be blessed during a very difficult time."

In 2012, Joseph was in the hospital for over a month and in the intensive care unit (ICU) for three weeks. During that time, Angela and Chris took shifts – one staying with Grace at Ronald McDonald House, and one staying with Joseph in the ICU.

Both speak fondly of the support they received at the House. Angela said, "when we came to the House, we were often extremely emotionally and physically spent but we had a safe place to come to. We didn't have to stay in a cold hotel. We also had meals prepared for us and that was a wonderful blessing."

When Angela and Chris and the Batterman family learned about the capital campaign to expand the House, they were motivated to get involved. Angela said, "when you receive a gift, you always want to say thank you and pass that along. When our son started this journey, we had two ways to approach it: we could be closed off and feel sorry for ourselves or we could say, 'this happened to us... we've been entrusted with this journey so that we can make things better for other people.' And that's how we've approached it."

Joseph, who is now 15, said, "To me, the Ronald McDonald House is an extended family that's there to help my family as we are going through difficult times." His sister Grace echoes his support of the House by saying, "This is a wonderful place for families who don't have a place to stay when their loved one is in the hospital, and you can have fun, even during a sad time."

We are grateful to the Batterman family for their generous support of the capital campaign. It is meaningful and humbling to have a guest family support the expansion for families that will need the House in the future.

When asked what motivated their giving, Chris said, "Our family has supported the expansion because we don't like to see people turned away. Whether they've been here once or 10 times, parents and families with kids in the hospital are under a tremendous amount of stress, and to hear that there isn't enough room for families really tugs at our heartstrings. If we can do something about it and help fix the capacity problem, let's go ahead and do it."

We're so terrifically grateful that they did!

– Mary Donahue, Director of Development

Forever Grateful for RMHC

Prematurity and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) aren't things you think about until it becomes your life and your child. We found out we were expecting shortly after getting married in May 2017. We were so excited for our New Year's baby, due January 28, 2018. The pregnancy was normal and going well, until we faced some complications at just 29 weeks gestation and needed to be taken from Janesville to SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, WI. The doctors explained the risks of having a baby so early. She probably wouldn't breathe well and had a risk of brain damage among other things because of her age and fragility. As new parents, we didn't know what to do except pray for our little one. God had a plan we didn't understand, but we placed our trust in him and the doctors.

Annabelle weighed just 2 pounds 10 ounces when she was born at 29 weeks gestation. Her skin was red and she was so small and fragile. We were told she didn't need to be put on a ventilator and was acting much older than her age, right from the start! This stubborn little miracle went through her 63-day NICU stay crushing our expectations and rising above the obstacles. It was amazing to watch her develop, as if she was still in the womb.

When we saw our daughter there in the isolette, so tiny and helpless, all our plans and ideals we once had for our lives changed. We knew one of us would stay

with her, however that was possible, for as long as she needed. It's impossible to describe what it's like to be a NICU parent; the feelings of loss, loneliness, fear, and uncertainty. We are grateful beyond words for the support we received from the Ronald McDonald Family Room staff and volunteers. One or both of us were able to stay at the hospital near Annabelle for 59 nights thanks to the presence of a Ronald McDonald Family Room. It was our home and the staff and volunteers became like family. It was so nice to have a place to rest, do laundry and eat, and never have to be far from our daughter. There are so many things to think about and take care of day and night, but thanks to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, a place to stay and meeting basic needs was not one of them. We knew RMHC helped families, we just didn't know how much until we were one of those families. Thank you RMHC and its supporters, we are forever grateful!

Annabelle loves being home and is growing well! She is 5 months old and more than 12 pounds. She is very social and loves smiling at people. She teaches us more about ourselves and our faith every day. We believe a huge part of her success was having her parents there in the hospital to care for her. Thank you, RMHC, for making that possible!

– Jared and Emily, Annabelle's parents



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Passion for Compassion

At the heart of any nonprofit, you will find a dedicated, hardworking group of people who give of themselves for causes that they believe in. Here at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison (RMHC-Madison), we are fortunate to have a team of 200+ volunteers who are the foundation of all we do.

Whether they are managing the front desk, maintaining common areas and the kitchen, transporting families to and from the hospital, performing housekeeping tasks, making up guest rooms or offering a kind word and a smile, they all work together to make families feel at home in a time of uncertainty.

Our volunteer team is comprised of husband-wife duos, young professionals, college students, and many more who are spending their retirement serving others. These wonderful people share with us their most valuable asset - their time.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your hard work and dedication. We are so grateful for the support you provide to our families. We could not do it without you!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tara at thensley@rmhcmadison.org or 608-230-4660.



2018 Events



22th Annual Rock Valley Golf Classic

June 7, 2018

This golf outing has a rich history of sponsorship and support from Rock Valley individuals and businesses. Foursomes and sponsors return year after year to play and support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison and the families from Rock County whose children are treated at a Madison hospital. Features of the day include the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, silent and live auctions, and an RMHC-Madison family sharing their story.



13th Annual Wisconsin Dells Waterslide-athon

June 16, 2018

The Wisconsin Dells Convention and Visitors Bureau and its member businesses donate a portion of their proceeds for a limited time in June to RMHC-Madison. Money-saving Waterslide-athon offers at Dells water parks and local McDonald's are available at participating McDonald's restaurants. Look for Waterslide-athon coupon sheets in-store in June.



16th Annual Karate America Verona Kick-athon

July 28, 2018

Participating students kick as fast as they can for 15 seconds and collect pledges to match their kicks. Long-time loyal supporters of RMHC-Madison Jeff and Meredith Christiansen open their facility up Kick-athon morning. Proud parents cheer on the kicking frenzy, all to benefit RMHC-Madison.



29th Annual RMHC-Madison Golf Classic

August 20, 2018

The RMHC-Madison Golf Classic combines tradition with new features every year... from the long-standing ice cream hole to the hole-in-one car prizes to last year's eclipse glasses and this year's race car ride opportunity. Loyal sponsors and golfers return every year to help provide RMHC families a home-away-from-home when they need it most. The Golf Classic also features an exciting live auction, mobile friendly silent auction and RMHC family's story.



1st Annual Cars Curing Kids for RMHC-Madison

September 23, 2018

Local car officianados associated with the non-profit Cars Curing Kids organization will raise funds for RMHC-Madison through a car cruise through downtown Madison. RMHC-Madison patients and siblings will have the opportunity to ride in one of the cool cars that day. The day will also feature an award ceremony, caricatures, door prizes, and an RMHC family sharing their journey.

Wish List

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison relies on donations of these household items to provide all the comforts of home in our House and at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Madison.

Gift cards

Restaurants	Local movie theaters
Local entertainment	Local gas stations
Target, Walmart, Shopko	Walgreens
Pick'n Save grocery store	Office Max/Office Depot

Special requested items

Crossword or word search puzzle books for adults
Forever postage stamps
8 1/2 x 11 recycled copy paper

Toiletries

Travel sized toothpaste
Travel sized deodorant
Travel sized shampoo/conditioner

Household items

Disinfectant wipes
Liquid hand soap
Toilet bowl cleaner (without bleach)
Paper towel rolls
Vinyl, powder free gloves (M,L sizes)
Laundry detergent
Dryer sheets
Dish washing liquid
Swiffer Wet Jet pads & liquid cleaner (purple box)

Pantry

Regular coffee and decaf coffee
Macaroni & cheese (boxed and microwavable)
13 gallon trash bags
30-33 Gallon trash bags
9x13 and smaller disposable aluminum foil pans
Plastic Tupperware (square and rectangular)

For Lunches with Love Program

Individual serving sized bagged chips or pretzels
Individual serving sized fruit cups or applesauce
Brown paper lunch bags (size 6.125"x4"x12.375" only)
Sandwich and snack sized zip lock baggies

You can deliver donated items to the Ronald McDonald House in Madison at 2716 Marshall Court
Office hours 8am - 9pm M-F, 9am - 9pm S-S

All donations must be new and in the original packaging. We do not accept expired or used items.





Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Madison

2716 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705
608-232-4660

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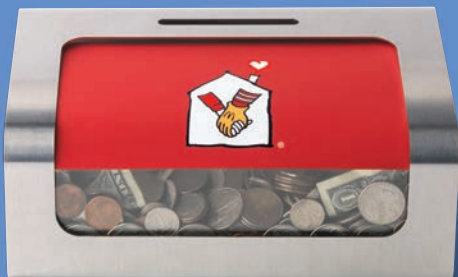


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**Your spare change
means a sick child
will have family by
their side every step
of the way.**



Whether you're driving through or dining in, please remember the RMHC Donation Boxes at your local McDonald's.

