



Executive Director
Kevin Huddleston

Director's Letter

We're very proud to be serving the hundreds of families and children who pass through the doors of the Ronald McDonald House of Madison, the Ronald McDonald Family Room in St. Mary's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Every day, we see firsthand the powerful, positive impact our programs have on a family as they rally around their child in loving support while they're treated for, often, a life-threatening illness. Recent medical and scientific studies have even shown that hospital stays are shorter, healing is faster, and outcomes better for families who are being supported with the services of Ronald McDonald House Charities. The staff, volunteers, and Board members of RMHC-Madison, feel honored to be a tangible part of that healing process for these kids and their families.

That said, we would welcome a world where children's hospitals were no longer needed and we were put out of business. Unfortunately, that's not the reality we live in and, while medical technology continues to improve and many more children leave healthy when it's all said and done, the hospitals continue to expand their services, bringing more families to Madison in need of our services. Meanwhile, our House remains full, often with hotels taking the overflow. We are very lucky, however, to have a Board of Directors so committed to the mission of RMHC, they absolutely refuse to accept the idea of turning families away for lack of room. And so they have engaged in some serious strategic planning to get ahead of that inevitable curve. Deliberations have already begun to expand our services - especially our House program.

Preparing for future program growth first necessitates growing our fundraising program, and I am very excited to announce that we have hired our own Mary Donahue as the Chapter's first ever Director of Development. Mary has an extensive professional fundraising background and was ultimately chosen from among many other highly qualified candidates through a very rigorous hiring process involving myself, Board members, and an outside third-party fundraising professional. We welcome Mary into her new role and we'll be announcing a replacement Marketing and Communications Director in the near future. We hope you'll stay tuned as we continue to work out some very exciting plans to grow our mission!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Huddleston', written over a light blue circular background.

Kevin Huddleston





Love Lines

Spring 2014

Tara Hensley
House Director

Our House is filled with lots of love every day, but the hearts of those who fill our House grow even bigger on the days when our Therapy Dogs come for a visit.

A "Therapy Dog" is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in places such as medical facilities, retirement and nursing homes, schools and many other places including Ronald McDonald House here in Madison.

The dogs who visit us are household pets who, along with their owners have gone through an intensive training program and have their certification. On a rotating basis we will get visits from Bella, Buck, Chance, Cooper, Daisy, Ella, Finch, Izzie, Maisy, Sophie, Sully, Swing and Wilson! On many occasions, two dogs come for a visit at the same time which makes for double the wuv!

Many of our families have pets of their own at home that they miss while they are away. Families look at our visitor's board to see which furry friend will be coming in next and see photos of all the different breeds

and names of dogs we have visiting. I hear excitement in their voices as they often find a dog that looks like theirs. Visit time is mostly in our living room and this is where you will find lots of smiles, snuggles and much needed therapy and love. Whether a family is a pet owner themselves or one that is just a lover of animals, spirits will be lifted and days will be brightened by these amazingly loyal friends.

-Tara Hensley



Celebrate Mother's Day

We just try to do what any good parent would...

At Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison we try to do what moms do...

At our House, we make a home for the children and families who need us, a warm cozy room to rest in, food that nourishes body and soul, a word of encouragement and support when it's needed most.

Your Gift

We hope you will consider honoring your mom, or any mom you love, with a gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities, in her name, this Mother's Day. Your gift will help make it possible for us to keep providing comfort and support to families whose child faces a medical crisis.

It's a gift both you and she can feel great about!

In recognition of your gift, we will send your honoree a card acknowledging the gift you've made on her behalf. For more information or to make a gift, call us at 608-232-4660 or www.rmhcmadison.org/donate.





Something More than Just Luck

When Katie and Joe Meagher learned that their first child's due date was March 17th both of them having Irish roots they were tickled, they started thinking of their child-to be as their "Little Leprechaun". Even feeling that the birthdate was a good omen, they decided to wait until Katie was twelve weeks along to start sharing the happy news with family and friends. In week thirteen, however, their luck turned; Katie was having some bleeding. She went to the E/R where initially everything checked out okay. After a follow up appointment she was diagnosed with a blood clot and was told the devastating news that she going to lose her baby. Katie and Joe had no intention of just going home to wait. They sought out a second opinion. They met with a doctor who was more hopeful and optimistic, but was also cautious, and advised Katie to stop working and remain on bed rest.



At twenty five weeks, Katie was getting started on her baby registry and looking forward to getting their home ready for their child. Joe left the house to pick up some lunch and before he could get home, Katie realized there was something very wrong. Her doctor advised, this was the day he had been preparing her for. When Katie arrived at Waupun Hospital it became apparent that contractions had started and Katie was in labor. The decision was made that Meriter Hospital in Madison would be best to address her pre-term labor. So, Katie was transferred by ambulance, in a raging snow storm, in a trip that would take more than an hour and a half. Paramedics delivered her safely to Meriter where she was met by the doctors they consulted with just weeks earlier.

They brought the contractions under control and staved off her labor. Katie and Joe settled in for what they believed would be a long wait.

Within a couple of days, Katie was feeling fine. She assured Joe it was okay to leave and go to work. She further convinced him all was well by having a big breakfast. But before Joe could make it to the office and before Katie's breakfast could settle, the contractions were back and Katie was headed in to Labor and Delivery. There the doctors determined that not only was their baby 14 weeks early, he was breech, and his heart rate was dropping with every contraction. Joe turned the car around to rush back to Madison and Katie was rushed to the OR.

It was December 11th that their St. Patrick's Day baby was born. Oscar Michael Meagher, named for both his grandfathers, weighed just 1 pound 12 ounces at birth and he was breathing on his own. After an hour in surgery and another in recovery, Katie was finally able to be wheeled to Oscars' room where she was able to hold his very tiny hand and he was able to grasp her finger.

It would be the next day before she could hold him. It would, however, be months before they could take Oscar home. He later developed some problems breathing and needed to be intubated. He developed chronic lung disease and it would take time to slowly wean him from oxygen until the doctors could send him home on a low flow oxygen.



"Hardest of all," Katie said, "was watching the other moms taking their babies home one by one. It was so hard to leave him there night after night." Katie and Joe say this is where their appreciation for Ronald McDonald House came from... Katie says, "I was only a few minutes away from Oscar and that was reassuring." Katie became great friends with the shuttle drivers who took her to and from Oscar's side each day. "They really helped keep my spirits up. Especially Paul and Gene, they always got me laughing about something."

Joe and Katie say they are also grateful that Katie's mom, Karen, and Joe's sisters, Melissa and Megan could come and stay at the House, as well. They want to thank the businesses and individuals who support the House, and let everyone who contributes to the work of the House know how grateful they are for their kindness. Joe adds, "I see those donation boxes at McDonald's in a whole new light, words could never begin to describe our thanks for the incredible work done here." Katie said, "the volunteers of the house make you their family, they show genuine care for each of the families that pass through the doors, RMHC helped us in a time of great need."

After 110 days, Katie and Joe were finally able to take their now 8 pound seven ounce boy home! Oscar, their "Little Leprechaun" was, after all, lucky, in a sense. He avoided many serious complications and chances are very good that he'll have no long term effects of such an early arrival.



Visit rmhcmadison.org to support our mission by donating, volunteering, or joining our Friends of RMHC online community.

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608.232.4660



Teresa Van Den Wildenberg
Family Room Manager

Family Room

Family Room helps "When Two Miles is Too Far"



St. Mary's Hospital Meet and Greet Luncheon for Ronald McDonald Family Room Volunteers

A "Meet and Greet" Luncheon was held on Thursday, March 20th, at St. Mary's Hospital for the Ronald McDonald Family Room volunteers. The informal luncheon was held to give the Family Room volunteers a chance to meet one another. Over 30 volunteers attended, and Joanne Johnson, St. Mary's Volunteer Director, and Kevin Huddleston, from RMHC, were both there to welcome volunteers and thank them for their service to the Family Room. Erin Hause, a Social Worker with St. Mary's, also expressed her appreciation to the volunteers, and discussed the impact of the Family Room on the parents she works with. The Luncheon was followed with an informative tour of the Neonatal ICU and Pediatric Unit, given by Laura Ziebarth, RN, MSN, and Interim Manager of both departments.

-Teresa Van Den Wildenberg



Wish List Spring 2014

Thank you for supporting the Ronald McDonald House and the families who stay with us. We are deeply grateful for your interest and assistance in making their stay a little more comfortable and their lives just a bit easier. You truly make a difference!

All donations must be new and in the original packaging - we do not accept expired items.

For Our Guest Families

Gift Cards For:

Walgreens
Target, Walmart, Shopko
Restaurants
Movie theatres
Calling cards

Copps Grocery Store gift cards for House used to purchase perishable groceries

Pantry Items:

Decaf coffee
Regular coffee

SPECIAL Requested Items:

Standard sized down-alternative filled pillows
Standard sized plastic pillow protectors

Toiletries:

Trial sized deodorant
Feminine hygiene products
Adult Toothbrushes

For Fun:

Xbox 360 video games (Rated E)

For Our Home Away From Home

Disinfectant wipes
Toilet bowl cleaner (without bleach)
Paper towel rolls
9x13 disposable aluminum foil pans
8-13 gallon trash bags
55 gallon trash bags
Vinyl gloves (latex free) medium size
Kitchen scouring pads and sponges
Swiffer wet mop refill liquid & pads purple variety
Swiffer dusting clothes
Toilet brushes and holders
Gallon sized zip lock baggies

For Our Lunches With Love Program

Individual serving sized snack items (assorted chips, pretzels etc.)
Individual serving sized fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, pears, fruit cocktail etc.)
Snack and sandwich sized zip lock baggies

You may drop off donated items at the
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison,
716 Marshall Court, Madison, 53705
Between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week
Please call 608.232.4660 or contact us
at info@rmhcmadison.org for more information



2014 RMHC-Madison Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Tara Hensley
House Director

Mary Donahue
Director of Development

Sande Janagold
Business Manager

Teresa Van Den Wildenberg
Family Room Manager

Julie Mascitti
Administrative Assistant

Save the Date

Sunday September 14th, 2014

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held in September this year in order to take advantage of some warmer weather and hold the event outdoors. This year, our volunteers will be encouraged to bring a guest along! More details and formal invitations to follow soon.





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Madison, WI 53705

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August 18, 2014
Blackhawk Country Club

10:45 a.m. Registration & lunch
11:30 a.m. Shotgun start
5:00 p.m. Cocktail hour
6:00 p.m. Dinner and program

Ronald McDonald House Golf Classic

25TH ANNIVERSARY

This annual event is the single largest fund raising event for the Ronald McDonald House all year! Last year the event raised nearly \$85,000, helping us provide a "home away from home" for the more than 1,200 families that needed us last year. Your participation directly supports the costs of operating the 17,000 square foot, 18 bedroom house that has welcomed more than 20,000 families since opening in 1993, and keeps families together when they need each other the most. Join us for the 25th Anniversary Year of the RMHC Golf Classic, a day of golf that also does so much GOOD.

\$5,000 Share the Light Sponsor:

TWO complimentary golfer packages for four Sponsors at this level provide a seven night stay at the House for 10 families.

- Each of those families will receive a letter naming you as the benefactor of their stay at our House.
- You will receive sponsorship recognition throughout the year on the RMHC-Madison website
- Your logo and name on live leaderboard
- Mention in both pre- and post- event special Facebook and Twitter postings
- You will also receive top billing in all sponsor recognition including: Welcome banner, Hole signage, Golf Cart cards, Dinner Program, and Dinner Signage

\$3,000 Sweet Dreams Sponsor:

Complimentary golfer package for four Your sponsorship provides seven nights of sweet dreams for ten families staying at our House.

- Each of those families will receive a letter naming you as the benefactor of their stay at our House.
- You will receive sponsorship recognition throughout the year on the RMHC-Madison website
- Your logo and name on live leaderboard
- Mention in both pre- and post- event special Facebook and Twitter postings
- You will also receive sponsor recognition including: Welcome banner, Hole signage, Golf Cart cards, Dinner Program and Dinner Signage

\$1,000 Caring Heart Sponsor:

One invitation to the dinner and program at Blackhawk Country Club

As a sponsor, you will receive special recognition through on-course identification on a sponsored tee or green. You will also have special recognition in the Golf Classic program and be listed as a sponsor on the "thank you" sign displayed at the post-event dinner.

\$500 Helping Hand Sponsor:

As a Helping Hand to the House, you will have your name listed in a special mention at the post-event dinner

\$375 Golfer Package:

- 18 holes of golf with complimentary cart
- Lunch and refreshments
- Door prizes
- Complimentary gift package
- Your registration entitles you to play course games for prizes at no extra cost to you or your guests
- One invitation to dinner and program per golfer at Blackhawk Country Club

Dinner Guests:

Invite your spouse or friends to join you at dinner! Additional dinners are available at \$50 each.

Make checks payable to: Ronald McDonald House Charities Golf Classic

Please mail payment to: RMHC Golf Classic, 2716 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705

Questions about the Golf Classic? Please contact Mary Donahue: 608-232-4668 • mdonahue@rmhcmadison.org



M3 Insurance is proud to be a partner in the ongoing support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison and the presentation of the RMHC-Golf Classic.