

# KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE

*every step of the way*

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES  
OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

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Dear Friends,

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Indiana is celebrating 14 years of serving families. With our recent expansion in May of 2015, we have grown to 15 guest rooms and are recognized as one of the largest in-hospital Ronald McDonald Houses in the world.

Donors and volunteers, along with our outstanding staff, have made it possible to serve the needs of our families 365 days a year. In 2015, 615 families made our Ronald McDonald House their home.

"The House that love built," is not just a slogan, thanks to the 100 plus volunteers committed to providing love and care to our guests day in and day out. Inside the walls of the Ronald McDonald House families find support, comfort and hope.

Thanks to our donors and event sponsors for their tremendous support, and to our mission partners, Parkview and McDonald's, who continue to contribute to the success of our program with their generous donation of in-kind services and ongoing resources.

We are grateful to all of you for your time, talent and treasure. It is because of you we can provide comfort to families in need throughout our region. Thank you.

Blessings,  
Kathy Rogers



**Kathy Rogers**  
Board President



When you enter the Ronald McDonald House, you become part of our family. Last year, that family consisted of grandparents aiding new, tired parents, neighbors cooking breakfast for all, a Christmas morning with children excitedly opening their donated gifts and new moms bonding over late night chats. Whether related by blood, shared experience or love of mission, we are family. Serving families at the RMH is my greatest privilege and a true blessing.

**Lisa Pacula** Executive Director



# THE LOWE FAMILY

*Katrina and Lydia*

“Nobody plans to be a NICU mom,” thought Katrina Lowe as she endured a 167-night stay at the Ronald McDonald House. The journey began August 5, 2015, when she came to the hospital with a number of pregnancy-related complications. Katrina’s blood pressure was dangerously high and led doctors to perform an emergency C-section. Her daughter, Lydia, was born very premature weighing just 2 lbs., 7 oz., and went straight to the newborn intensive care unit (NICU). Katrina was finally able to see her the next day, but Lydia was surrounded by doctors, nurses and a number of tubes and wires – she didn’t move or open her eyes.

In the following two months, doctors performed numerous tests and eventually diagnosed Lydia with Prader-Willi syndrome and chronic lung disease. Though an answer was a relief, Lydia still struggled to breathe, battling a bacterial lung

infection. Doctors spent the next month focused on moving Lydia to a ventilator. On January 18, she was discharged – or as Katrina says, “She graduated from the NICU.”

“This has been a journey, and we’re not done yet,” says Katrina about being able to take her daughter home. “But I don’t know what I would do without the Ronald McDonald House.”

Katrina found the House to be a built-in support group as well. “All of us parents developed such a bond,” says Katrina. “We can all relate to one another, and we still keep in touch. There is always love in the house...kindness and respect.” Katrina spent her entire hospital stay – all 167 nights – in the Ronald McDonald House. “It was my home away from home,” she says. “They’re family.”



As a Fort4Fitness Charity Partner, the Ronald McDonald House team had over 300 runners and walkers participate. The Friday night kids' marathon brought out our youngest and most energetic supporters. All combined, our sponsors and team members raised over \$25,000.

## OUR YEAR IN PICTURES

During the course of 2015, our staff, volunteers and supporters throughout the community presented and participated in events dedicated to raising both funds and awareness in support of our mission.

It makes our day when a past family stops in to visit. Sharena Carr stayed in the Ronald McDonald House over three months while daughter Sariah was in the newborn intensive care unit. During her stay, Sharena was thankful for the emotional support of the RMH.



Sisters Nevaeh and Ava spent over six weeks in the Ronald McDonald House waiting for their brothers to come home. The sisters, along with mom and dad and older brothers, were able to spend more time together, thanks to the RMH.



In May of 2015, the Ronald McDonald House expanded to add four new guestrooms, giving the House a total of 15 guestrooms. This expansion project helps to ensure that there is space for every family who needs the Ronald McDonald House.

The expansion project also allowed for the remodel of the exterior walls of the Ronald McDonald House. Guests and hospital visitors are now met with a beautiful new sign directing them to the RMH, and pictures of past families grace the walls leading to the House.

Grant and Laura Langebartels, along with daughter Braya, stayed in the Ronald McDonald House while their son Colton was in the newborn intensive care unit. The Langebartels lived an hour away from the hospital, and Laura was unable to drive following her surgery. Without the RMH, Laura says she has no idea how they would have managed to keep their family together during Colton's hospitalization.



This past year, the House was full of families with small children at Christmas time. Thanks to the generosity of a former board member, each child had a wonderful surprise under the tree Christmas morning.

In only its second year, Ride RMHC brought out 270 cyclists who enjoyed a great day and helped to raise \$33,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. Seasoned cyclists, families and first timers alike all had a great experience.



The Rhinestone Rodeo celebrated its sixth year in a new location, the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation. Thanks to the generosity of the Rodeo sponsors and guests, \$140,000 was raised for RMH families.



# THE SONNER FAMILY

*Brinia, Jennifer, Colin, Jeff, Emily and Jan*

"This all started with a stomach ache," says Jeff Sonner as he remembers the beginning of his family's nightmare last September.

He and his wife Jen's 15-year-old son, Colin, complained of abdomen pain – a grievance that had become quite common. But this particular day, he was sent home from school, and when Jeff arrived around 4pm, Colin was curled into a ball in pain.

Colin was admitted to Parkview LaGrange and started pain medicine, but to no avail. The next morning, Colin was taken by ambulance to Parkview Regional Medical Center where he was diagnosed with pancreatitis. A gallstone had lodged itself below the pancreatic duct, clogging the pancreas, causing it to over-produce, and resulted in it literally destroying itself. Because of the severity of Colin's illness, he was given a 50/50 chance of survival.

Nurses then told Jeff and Jen about the Ronald McDonald House. "We didn't have clothes. We didn't have anything with us. They helped get us through the first night," Jeff remembers.

After that, they developed a routine: Jen would stay with Colin at night while Jeff slept at the RMH, then they would switch in the morning. "When you have a child in the hospital, it's hard to just keep living your life," says Jeff. "We weren't going to leave him, so I lived there. I got to know the coffee lady, the guy at the grill, the RMH folks and the Ped staff."

"It gave us a place to relax and actually rest," Jen adds.

The couple remembers how relieved they were for the RMH, as it helped them be close to Colin when all they could do was wait. "When we were in the House, the volunteers and staff members encouraged us and helped us with anything we needed," says Jeff. "For those 57 days, they gave us a place to stay – a home – and I can't put a value on that."

# OUR IMPACT

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE INSIDE PARKVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

## FINANCIALS January-December 2015

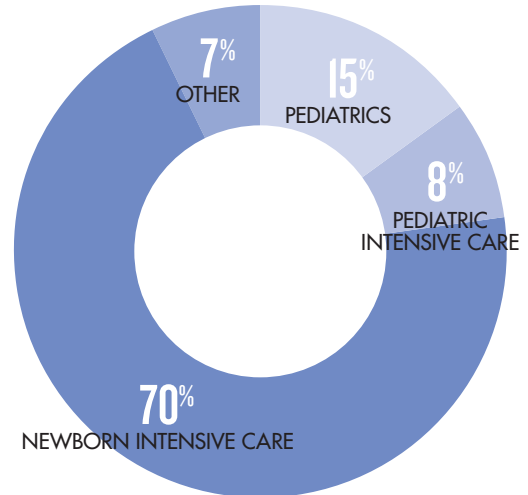
### REVENUE

Special Events	\$195,004
Donation Boxes	\$126,343
Individual/Corporate Gifts	\$ 65,165
McDonald's Promotions	\$ 15,415
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$401,927</b>

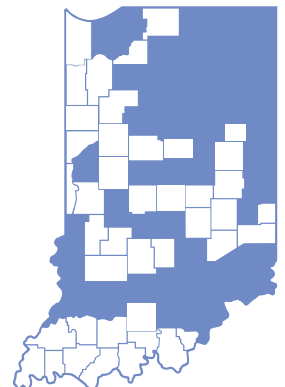
### EXPENSES

Programming	75%
Fundraising/Communication	19%
Administrative	6%

## GUEST ROOM USAGE BY HOSPITAL DEPARTMENT



## SERVED FAMILIES FROM 29 INDIANA COUNTIES



## SERVED FAMILIES FROM SIX STATES



# THE POWER OF GIVING.

2015 Donors

The Ronald McDonald House at Parkview is extremely grateful for every gift. Each one offers families the gift of comfort and convenience. Thank you to the following donors who contributed to the Ronald McDonald House January 1-December 31, 2015.

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“Having a child in the NICU is a heart-wrenching experience. It consumes every ounce of your energy. But being able to have a place that felt so much like home to physically and emotionally recharge was a blessing that I cannot begin to repay.

**Laura and Grant Langebartels**

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## MELVIN & MARILYN MUNDY

*volunteers*

Mel and Marilyn Mundy began volunteering at the RMH at Parkview when the House opened in November of 2012. However, their first experience with the Ronald McDonald House came 27 years earlier when their youngest son underwent surgery at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

"There weren't any good options for parents," Marilyn remembers. "We slept on floors, we slept in the parents' lounge on recliners, but mostly we went without sleep. We were thrilled when a room became available at the Ronald McDonald House."

The couple had been contemplating the activities they might pursue during their retirement when they learned a RMH would be opening near them. "The RMH was perfect," says Marilyn. "It was something we could both do."

As a couple of 50 years, they partner well together. Marilyn works at the front desk greeting guests, answering phones, signing in new families and explaining how the House works. "I love the people," she says. "Talking to them and knowing I'm helping in some way. Every once in a while, I'm checking somebody in who has been sleeping in their child's room. When they talk about how happy they are to have a bed...I know exactly what they mean."

Meanwhile, Mel is happy to work in the back of the House taking inventory, stocking supplies, filling the vending machine, cleaning and keeping the House in shape. "I think it's my job to provide whatever service I can to allow guests to focus on what's really important — their child," he says.

# VOLUNTEER IMPACT

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE INSIDE  
PARKVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER



TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS



“Having a home base to rest and recharge enabled me to both physically and emotionally support my family in the most testing time of my life. My family and I will be forever grateful for the tremendous care and services Ronald McDonald House provided, which held true to and surpassed their mission!

**Tyler & Monica Macik**

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## THE SNIDER FAMILY

*Jack, Abigail, Chris and Molly*

The Snider family's experience with the Ronald McDonald House at Parkview began in July of 2015 when their daughter, Abigail, was admitted to the newborn intensive care unit.

As Abigail's stay lengthened, and more complications were brought to their attention, Chris and the NICU nurses insisted that Molly look into staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The welcoming staff and volunteers, the clean and quiet rooms and a real mattress – a big change from the hospital room couch – allowed her to get a solid night's sleep.

For the next month, Molly's room became a place of solace and comfort during the numerous exams and tests, and eventual surgery and recovery Abigail went through. Staying at the Ronald McDonald House, rather than driving from Kendallville on a daily basis, allowed her to be at the hospital with their daughter throughout her stay.

The family continues to be grateful for the peace of mind, support and solace the Ronald McDonald House provided to them as they navigated some very dark nights and stormy waters.

