

The Gaffer Family

Finding a Home-Away-From-Home at the RMH

For many years I was told pregnancy would be difficult for me. Despite the odds, I was thrilled to find out that I was expecting. I began having complications early in my pregnancy and was ordered on bed rest. I was also horribly sick.

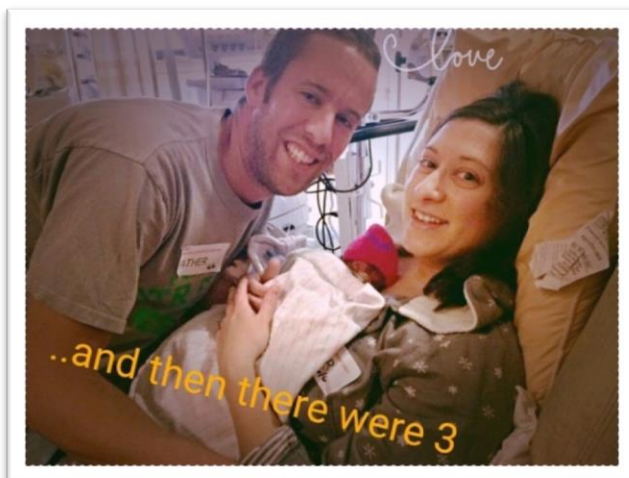
At 18 weeks I started to feel better and enjoy my pregnancy, finally! I was 25 weeks along when I woke up with terrible pain. I fell back asleep and when I woke up again I felt a new sensation that told me something was terribly wrong.

I called my doctor, and she suspected that I had a prolapsed umbilical cord. My doctor told me to go to the hospital immediately. As soon as I walked in a nurse took me back to labor and delivery. The next thing I knew there were nurses everywhere rushing in to prep me for surgery. In the operating room I had an amazing team of doctors and nurses working to save my baby's life. When I woke up, my husband was there and so was Everly Faith; she was just 1 pound 10 ounces, but she was alive and doing well.

As soon as I was released from the hospital we moved in to the Ronald McDonald House. I needed to stay near Everly because I couldn't drive and I was providing breast milk around the clock.

We absolutely LOVED the Ronald McDonald House at Parkview. There was always food and almost anything else a family needed. If we asked for it, someone at the RMH seemed to find it! The best thing that the RMH provides though is just simply a BED!! After being in the hospital with our daughter all day it was so nice to have a bed to climb into for a couple of hours of sleep. The staff and volunteers are always so encouraging and positive which is a big help when you are faced with so much uncertainty. We began our stay at the Ronald McDonald House at Parkview on June 1st. Everly was transferred to Riley Hospital when fluid was discovered on her brain. We ended our stay at the RMH in Indianapolis on August 26th, when, thankfully, we were transported closer to our home and spent the last 2 weeks of Everly's hospital stay in our own house! We have a long road ahead of us as we wait and see how Everly grows physically and developmentally. While Fort Wayne was our favorite, we are so grateful for the stays we had in both Ronald McDonald Houses.

Some day we hope to be able to support and help the RMH to be a blessing to others in need as well!



Corey, Anny & Everly Gaffer on May 29, 2015

Our Impact

We have served **515 families** to date.

We have provided families with **2,864 nights of stay in the RMH.**

We have served **over 150 meals.**



Everly in October, following surgery

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Message from the Executive Director



*Lisa Pacula, Executive Director
RMHC of Northeast Indiana*

The air is crisper and the leaves are coloring and dropping from the trees. Once again the sign that the holidays will soon be upon us and another year in the Ronald McDonald House will have passed.

I was so very blessed and privileged, this past September, to spend a long weekend with our featured Rhinestone Rodeo family, Fred and Fran Hill. Fred and Fran helped found the first Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia in 1974 when their little girl Kimberly was diagnosed with leukemia. What a wonderful experience to hear their life story and witness their great passion for Ronald McDonald House Charities. From just one little girl and one House in 1974 we have grown to 358 Houses in over 30 countries today.

Our community continues to strongly support Ronald McDonald House families. Whether it's a generous contribution to our recent expansion, attending an event, supporting our annual operations, or simply dropping coins in the canister at a McDonald's Restaurant; you have allowed us to welcome 551 families this year at no cost to them. In the words of Fran Hill, "We thank all of the people for all of the love."

Friends of the House



Meal providers are so appreciated in the Ronald McDonald House. Groups like, Midwest Eye Consultants, not only donate meals, but take the opportunity to come in and serve RMH families. The Midwest Eye "minions" went a step further and dressed up and brought Halloween goodies for our guests and patients.



Thirty-One is a global RMHC sponsor and donates, annually, 100s of their utility bags featuring the charity logo for RMH guests. Locally, many Thirty-One dealers make regular pantry donations. Marissa, used her commission to donate Thirty-One bags filled with toiletries for RMH families.



In May, the Ronald McDonald House at Parkview became one of the largest in-hospital Ronald McDonald Houses in the world with the opening of the newly expanded 10,500 square foot, 15 guestroom House. “We are grateful to Parkview for the gift of space and our generous donors for supporting this project,” said Executive Director Lisa Pacula.

The expansion project also allowed for the remodeling of the exterior hallways leading to the Ronald McDonald House. Parents, guests and visitors are now welcomed by a large sign marking the location of the RMH as well as the pictures and stories of past Ronald McDonald House guests.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the RMH we would love to show you around – give us a call (260-266-3590) to arrange a visit.

“Telling a family they
will have to wait for a
room is so difficult;
thanks to these four new
guest rooms we will
have the ability to serve
over 100 additional
families each year. “

Lisa Pacula
Executive Director



*Ronald poses
in front of the
new Ronald McDonald House
sign which welcomes guests as they enter
the hospital.*



*Of the four, newly added guestrooms, two feature two double beds,
which is helpful for families staying in the House with children. All
15 guestrooms offer comfortable Tempurpedic mattresses and
La-Z-Boy recliners.*



*Visitors are able to learn about the RMH through the stories of past families
that are featured in the hallway leading to the Ronald McDonald House.*

Mark Your Calendar

McDonald's Coupon Books

November

Beginning November 27, you can make a \$5 donation to the Ronald McDonald House at any area McDonald's restaurant and receive a book of McDonald's coupons and buy one get one free Komets and Mad Ants tickets. The coupons are valued at over \$60!

Ride RMHC

Kreager Park

North River Road Fort Wayne

Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 1 P.M.

Join us for our third annual charity cycling event. Whether you are a serious cyclist or a family looking for a fun Sunday ride you will have a great day. Choose from a Greenway ride up to 15 miles, or a 25, 45, or 65 mile route.

Make a Difference: Volunteer

Driven by compassion and dedication to our families, volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House are essential to our cause. Volunteers must be over 21 years of age. However, a compassionate heart and serving spirit are the greatest requirements for RMH volunteers.

RMH volunteers complete a training program and shadow a current volunteer before beginning their regular shift.

RMH volunteers provide for the daily needs of guests in the House, and there is something for everyone! Volunteers are the friendly faces that greet and check guests in and out of the House, as well as perform light housework, answer phones and perform basic data entry.

Thanks to the generous service of our volunteers, the Ronald McDonald House is always able to offer our families the comforts of home.

Ronald McDonald House volunteers serve a three hour shift every other week. Shifts available:

Sun-Sat 9A.M-12P.M.

Sun-Sat 12P.M.-3P.M.

Sun-Sat 3P.M-6P.M.

Mon-Fri 6P.M.-9P.M.



"I volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House with the hope that I can help our guests by bringing a smile or lending a hand. I come to volunteer at the House with nothing and leave full, pleased that perhaps I made a difference for someone."

Jackie Claussen, RMH Volunteer

Join the Ronald McDonald House volunteer team today!

Apply online at rmhc-neindiana.org/how-to-help, or contact
Program Manager Leslie Blakely at **(260)266-3598** or
leslie.blakely@parkview.com.

Rhinestone Rodeo

A Great Night for a Great Cause

What a night for the 6th annual Rhinestone Rodeo! Guests gathered at a new location, the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation, and were treated to a gorgeous venue. Sodexo once again delighted our guests with an amazing menu; most popular was the guacamole and salsa bar and the carved beef tenderloin – delicious!

Rodeo guests showed amazing support for our families by raising \$50,000 during our live Fund a Family program during the evening. In all, the Rhinestone Rodeo raised over \$137,000 for Ronald McDonald House families!

The rest of the evening was spent listening, dancing and singing along with the *Hubie Ashcraft Band* who performed for their 6th straight year. The evening wasn't complete without a stop by the campfire room for a s'more or candy apple.

We hope you can join us next year. Mark your calendar for **Friday, September 9, 2016.**

Thanks to our Rhinestone Rodeo Sponsors

McDonald's Fort Wayne Area Operators
Parkview Health
Shambaugh and Son
Sodexo Healthcare
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Three Rivers FCU
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Dr. Timothy & Sally Grissom
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Hubie and Travis of the Hubie Ashcraft Band doing what they do best.

Members of the 2016 Rhinestone Rodeo Committee

Donor List

The following donors made an operational gift to the Ronald McDonald House between January 1, 2015 and October 19, 2015. If you would like to make a donation, please call 260-266-3593, or visit www.RMHC-NEIndiana.org.

\$10,001 and up

McDonald's Northern Indiana
Operators
Parkview Health

\$2,001-\$5,000

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\$1,001 - \$2,000

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\$251-\$500

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\$51-\$250

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Whitley County Council on Aging
Woodburn United Methodist Church
Zimmerman Metal Sales

Ways You Can Help

Be a “Fan” of the RMH

Take a minute to visit our website, www.rmhc-neindiana.org, and link to our social media pages. Following the RMH through social media is a great way to learn about special events and House needs. When you share our posts you're helping to make even more people aware of the work of the Ronald McDonald House at Parkview!



Meal Providers

RMH guests need good food to keep up their strength and stay healthy. Providing a meal for RMH families is a great activity for your family, office staff or small group. You can prepare and serve your semi-homemade meal in the House for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Contact the House for details on food prep guidelines and to schedule your meal.

Wish List Drives

As the holiday season approaches, many churches and schools are looking for different community organizations to support. A wish list drive is a wonderful way to support the RMH. Our current wish list is on the back page of this newsletter and can always be found on our website. RMH families depend on the food and meals the RMH provides to sustain them through their stay. Contact us and we will pick up your collection or provide directions for drop off at the House.



As a Fort4Fitness Charity partner, our 333 member Run4Ronald team raised \$25,000!



Run4Ronald Sponsors

*Parkview Health
McDonald's Fort Wayne Area Operators
Professional Emergency Physicians
PPG Cardiology
Ortho Northeast
Heritage Parts*



The second annual Ride RMHC Charity Cycling event brought out 275 riders and raised over \$34,000 for RMH families.



Members of the Red Shoe Crew raised money and had fun at their Pub Crawl.

Ride RMHC Sponsors

*McDonald's Fort Wayne Area Operators
Parkview Health
Steel Dynamics, Inc.
OmniSource
Tooth Acres Dentistry
CDW Healthcare
Lake City Bank
FedEx
JAT of Fort Wayne
Sweetwater Sound*

*psst, we
could use...*



Individual boxes of cereal

Individual bags of chips, pretzels
and nuts

Pop Tarts

Cereal bars/Granola bars

Crackers (Peanut Butter, Cheese)

Microwavable cups of mac &
cheese

Single serve peanut butter

Sweet snacks (Individual packages
of cookies, brownies, Rice Krispie
Treats)

Applesauce/Fruit/Pudding Cups

Hard candy or individually
wrapped chocolate

Disinfectant Wipes

Dishwasher Soap

Laundry Soap

Softener Sheets or Liquid

**Travel-Size Deodorant
(Men & Women)**

Facial Tissue

Small Shaving Creams

**Individually wrapped
toothbrushes**

Travel Size Toothpaste

*Items in **red** indicate an urgent need.

For infection control and the safety of our guest families, we are not able to accept
USED or PREVIOUSLY OWNED ITEMS. This includes books, clothing, puzzles or
stuffed animals. This policy includes stuffed animals that have not been played with
but have been on display or on shelves in a home (example: Beanie Baby collections).

*Give a little **LOVE***

*The power to keep families together
is in your hands*

When you support the Ronald McDonald House you are part of an amazing program that opens its arms to parents in need. Thanks to generous support from our partners, and donors like you, there is never a charge to families to stay in the Ronald McDonald House. When you support the Ronald McDonald House, you give a family comfort, convenience and most importantly, togetherness.

You can ***Give a little LOVE*** to the Ronald McDonald house today by visiting our website, <https://rmhc-neindiana.org/how-to-help/donate/>.