

“The Ronald McDonald House was our saving grace.”

On June 13, 2016, Jason and Jennifer Kojro-Badziak received the call they had been waiting on for eighteen long months—they were going to be the adoptive parents to a then two month old baby boy, Lincoln. Lincoln was born at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, which was about three and a half hours from their home in Illinois. Lincoln was born over two months premature at a little over two pounds. “As his lungs did not fully develop, he was on oxygen the day we met him,” Jennifer remembers. “We were made aware of his current, and possibly, future medical condition(s). On the long trip home, my husband and I decided to follow our hearts and move forward with the adoption.”

The next week, Jennifer and Jason learned Lincoln would need multiple surgeries. “I was his mom now, and I knew that I did not want him going through any other moments in this life alone,” says Jennifer. On the morning of the surgeries, a friend drove Jennifer to Fort Wayne, so she was in Lincoln’s room when he came out of surgery. Following the surgery, the newborn intensive care nurses referred Jennifer for a room at the Ronald McDonald House. “It was so comforting,” Jennifer remembers. “A volunteer met me in the unit and walked with me to the Ronald McDonald House. She was so kind, and she knew exactly what to say and do to keep me comfortable. I was amazed with everything the House offered. The first night, I had a warm meal baked by a volunteer. For months, the Ronald McDonald House was our saving grace. Every weekend when we drove out to see our son, we always had a place to lay our heads. We always had food and drinks. We had a haven to relax and settle our nerves. We always had someone to talk with, and as much as we tried, they never expected or wanted us to lift a finger. We were clearly told this is a place we do not have to worry about anything, except our baby boy.

“By giving us this home away from home, the Ronald McDonald House allowed us to bond with our new son. We will be forever grateful to the Ronald McDonald House for helping nurture our family.”



“Lincoln was the name our son was given by the care givers at birth. We have renamed him Jakob Lincoln.”



Jennifer and Jason with Jakob Lincoln on the day they became mom and dad.

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Message from the Executive Director



*Lisa Pacula, Executive Director
RMHC of Northeast Indiana*

As the year winds down, and the holidays approach, I am mindful of gratitude.

Gratitude for my personal blessings, and the blessing of comfort, care and love our donors and supporters provide to the hundreds of families who have stayed in the Ronald McDonald House this year.

I am grateful for the 103 volunteers that care for families day in and out. I am grateful for groups that take time to come into the RMH to make and serve meals. I'm grateful for the sponsors and attendees that support our events and give so generously. I am most grateful that the Ronald McDonald House is a place where families like the Kojro-Badziaks can feel supported. As Jennifer Kojro-Badziak tearfully recounted, "We will never forget the Ronald McDonald House. You helped make us a family."

Team RMHC



This was Ronald McDonald House Charities fifth year as a Fort4Fitness charity partner. As a charity partner, Fort4Fitness donates a portion of each team member's registration to the Ronald McDonald House.

Team RMHC had a great showing with 378 runners and walkers. Team members enjoyed a pre-race pasta party on Wednesday and a reunion area following the Kids and Seniors marathon on Friday. On Saturday, Team RMHC hosted a cheer section on the course to encourage all the participants and a reunion area inside Parkview Field to celebrate with team members. Thanks so much to the Team RMHC sponsors and donors who raised over \$28,000 for RMH families!



2016 Team RMHC Sponsors



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The following donors made an operational gift of \$100 or more to the Ronald McDonald House between January 1, 2016 and October 31, 2016. If you would like to make a donation, please call 260-266-3593, or visit www.RMHC-NEIndiana.org.

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Families find support in the RMH, but they also find cereal, crackers, breakfast bars, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and much more. We could use your help keeping our pantry full. Visit our website, rmhc-neindiana.org/get-involved/wishlist/, for our current wish list. Thank you!

Rhinestone RODEO

Our 7th annual Rhinestone Rodeo was a great night of friends and fun all to support RMH families. Guests enjoyed delicious cowboy cuisine capped off with our famous gourmet S'mores and a caramel apple bar. Guests heard from a past RMH family on the impact the Ronald McDonald House had on them. The Hubie Ashcraft Band joined the party and kept the dance floor full all night. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests, we raised over \$175,000 for Ronald McDonald House families!



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Partners in Service

Pastor Henry Graf learned of the Ronald McDonald House while his daughter, Adeline, was hospitalized, first, at Parkview Hospital Randallia, and later, at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. Pastor Graf and his wife, Tricia, found the RMH to be a wonderful place to "escape the hospital." During their stay at Riley they witnessed volunteers coming in to cook and serve meals. These experiences gave Pastor Graf the idea to partner with the Ronald McDonald House at Parkview. The staff and congregants took to the idea. For their first time, the entire staff served together. Now, Promise has a calendar of service dates with a staff leader assigned to each date, so they can answer questions and guide the group. Promise also gives their congregation opportunities to donate food items to the Ronald McDonald House.

"Being a past RMH guest, I know that cooking, or even eating a meal, becomes a last priority when your child is sick. I'm glad we can help provide this for the families!"

-Allison Slusher, Promise Member

The Ronald McDonald House is always looking for new businesses and groups who are interested in serving guest families. Learn how you can be a Partner in Service, call 260-266-3598 or email leslie.blakley@parkview.com.



Promise Ministries' MUMs ladies during a volunteer evening at the RMH.