

Keeping Families Close - The Macik Family

Soon-to-be-parents Monica and Tyler Macik of Indianapolis were visiting Monica's family when, without any previous warning, Monica began to experience severe pain that led her to the Parkview Women's and Children's Hospital. Shortly after arriving at the hospital, Monica had an emergency C-section and delivered her son, Nolan, at 35 weeks. Unbeknownst to Monica, she had developed HELLP syndrome (Hemolytic Anemia Elevated Liver Enzymes and Low Platelets) a rare but serious complication during her pregnancy. Nolan was taken to the newborn Intensive Care Unit, and because of her complications, Monica was rushed to the surgical ICU. New dad Tyler found himself trying to care for his newborn son, while racing across the hospital to check on his wife.

"Staying in the Ronald McDonald House was a huge help," remembers Tyler. "I had a chance to separate myself from the turmoil for a short time. I refused to leave the hospital until they were both OK, which is why the Ronald McDonald House was so amazing. The food, showers, guestrooms and Tempur - Pedic mattresses were all a huge help."

"The staff and volunteers made a point of talking and checking on me. It helped."

"It gave me peace of mind to know Tyler had a place to come back to, a home base," remembers Monica. "The Ronald McDonald House gave me a place to rest and recharge and enabled me to both physically and emotionally support my family in the most testing time of my life," says Tyler. "My family and I will be forever grateful for the tremendous care and services the Ronald McDonald House provided!"



Mark Your Calendar

7th Annual Rhinestone Rodeo
- Friday, September 9, 2016

Team RMHC – Fort4Fitness
Charity Partner

Friday, September 30:
Kids and Seniors Marathon
Saturday, October 1:
4 Mile, 10K, Half and Full
Marathon

Monica, Tyler and baby Nolan are doing great and enjoying their new family.

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Lisa Pacula, Executive Director
Tel 260-266-3591
lisa.pacula@parkview.com

Teresa White, Director of
Development & Communications
Tel 260-266-3593
teresa.white@parkview.com

Leslie Blakley, Program Manager
Tel 260-266-3598
leslie.blakley@parkview.com

Kelly Mikolajczyk, Administrative &
Program Coordinator
Tel 260-266-3592
kelly.mikolajczyk@parkview.com

Ronald McDonald House at Parkview

11109 Parkview Plaza Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845
Tel 260-266-3590
Fax 260-266-3599



Message from the Executive Director



*Lisa Pacula, Executive Director
RMHC of Northeast Indiana*

"The House that Love Built." Over the past couple of months, I have watched how this simple phrase captures the true meaning of the Ronald McDonald House. The House itself is beautiful, that's true, but the real foundation of this home, is **Love**.

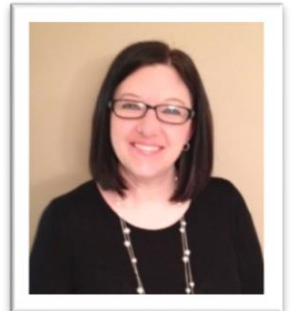
Love comes in the form of a former guest whose son suffered a traumatic brain injury nine years ago, and now comes weekly to support a new guest whose son has similar struggles. These two women, who met for the first time in the RMH, bond through the shared experience of a mother's love, hurt, hope and determination for their sons. They speak a language only they can understand and provide

loving encouragement when needed most during an unimaginable journey. The RMH provides the safe, warm place to meet for comfort and encouragement.

Thanks to your generous and consistent support of the Ronald McDonald House, with gifts of time, meals, money, and wish list items, families like these will always find a home in the Ronald McDonald House.

Happenings around the House

Meet the newest face in the Ronald McDonald House, Kelly Mikolajczyk (pronounced: Michael – eye – check). As administrative and program coordinator, Kelly is responsible for organizing programs in the House, maintaining the database, and performing various other administrative functions. Working with the community and building strong relationships is important to Kelly, and she already has a passion for the RMH program and families.



Kelly is relatively new to the area having spent the last 15 years living in Orlando, Florida. While in Florida, Kelly met her husband, John, while they were both working at Sea World. A desire to be closer to family, and raise her kids in the Midwest, brought Kelly back to Indiana. Kelly is mom to 8-year-old Lucy, 6-year-old Bryan and her 21-year-old stepson, Kevin. In her free time, Kelly enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, exploring new restaurants, attending festivals, reading and walking her dog, Jarvis.

After four months on the job, Kelly says her favorite, and most surprising part, about the RMH is the volunteers. "They are lovely and generous people and absolutely critical to the day to day operation of our program."

Donor List

The following donors made an operational gift of \$100 or more to the Ronald McDonald House between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2016. If you would like to make a donation, please call 260-266-3593, or visit www.RMHC-NEIndiana.org.

\$10,000 +

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Ride RMHC 2016



Two hundred and seventy five riders, along with blue skies and warm temperatures, made the 2016 Ride RMHC event a huge success. Newbie riders, families with kids, serious, and even competitive cyclists, came out to enjoy the day. Local bike shops, Summit City and Fort Wayne Outfitters, were available before the ride to take care of any last minute issues. Past RMH families thanked riders and shared with them how their involvement impacts the House and the families that use it. Riders came together after their rides to mingle and enjoy a late lunch. Thanks to our generous sponsors and riders, over \$37,000 was raised for RMH families!

Thanks to our 2016 Sponsors

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Wish List

*psst, we
could use...*



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Individual boxes of cereal | Individually wrapped toothbrushes |
| Individual bags of chips, pretzels and nuts | Travel size toothpaste |
| Pop Tarts | Travel size mouthwash |
| Crackers (peanut butter, cheese) | Travel size deodorant (men & women) |
| Individually sized sweet snacks (Little Debbie's, Rice Krispy treats, fruit snacks) | Travel size shampoo & conditioner |
| Applesauce/Fruit/Pudding cups | Small shaving cream |
| Hard candy or individually wrapped chocolate | Facial tissue |
| | Laundry soap |

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).

How You Can Help

Inside the Ronald McDonald House families find many amenities to help make them comfortable during their child's hospital stay. Families also find a team of compassionate and supportive volunteers dedicated to meeting the physical and emotional needs of guest families.

The RMH currently has volunteer opportunities available on weekdays, weekends or evenings. Volunteers are asked to fill a three hour shift every other week and make a one year commitment to the organization. Volunteers go through one-on-one training and work alongside a seasoned volunteer as they are learning. RMH volunteers answer phones, give tours, accept and process donations, register guest families and, most importantly, offer a smile and a listening ear.

Meal Providers are also a needed and much appreciated part of the RMH. Guest families crave a warm, homemade meal while they are in the hospital. Businesses, families or any small group of 4-6 people can prepare a meal in the House. For dates, details, and menu suggestions contact the RMH program manager, Leslie Blakley, at leslie.blakley@parkview.com or 260-266-3598.



Companies, like GameStop, support RMH families by coming in to prepare a semi-homemade meal. This group served up a delicious bbq dinner that guests loved.



RMH volunteers also help out at various special events. This group of volunteers helped represent the RMH at the Three Rivers Festival Parade.