By all accounts, baby Givenson Saintilma was born to defy the odds. His mother, unable to care for Givenson, had lovingly left him at a hospital in Milot, Haiti, as a newborn in early November 2009. Because of a congenital condition, Givenson required immediate life-saving surgery. Then, at just three days old, underweight and ailing, he was sent to Children of the Promise, a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to helping some of the tens of thousands of orphaned and abandoned children in Haiti. There, caregivers realized he needed surgical expertise in the United States to address several complex medical problems, and they began the process of getting approval for his transfer.

Working on Givenson’s behalf back in the States was the Thimjon family of Minneapolis. They had previously adopted their daughter, Nadia, through Children of the Promise and often helped arrange medical care and find temporary host families for other children in need of treatment in the United States. The Thimjons appealed to the Mayo Clinic for charitable care for Givenson and waited for an answer.

Meantime, disaster struck. A catastrophic earthquake devastated Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010, leaving countless injured, homeless, and worse, dead. While Givenson and Children of the Promise were safe, the ensuing government turmoil, widespread chaos and shortages of basic supplies only underscored the need to expedite the baby’s journey out of Haiti for treatment. The administrative details began to fall into place. First, Mayo Clinic stepped up and offered to treat Givenson — if he could get out of Haiti in the midst of its unfolding crisis. The Thimjons appealed for help, and soon after, the family was

(continued on page 3)
During the last year and a half, our board has worked diligently to explore and discover new opportunities to serve children and families. Today, the board continues to thoughtfully consider this strategic question:

Looking to the future, how will the Ronald McDonald House maintain and enhance the highest quality care we can provide and build strong relationships with the families we serve, while responding to the forces of the new economy and the opportunities it provides?

Keeping our core value at the forefront during this process of discovery — “the needs of our families come first” — our board and staff members reviewed program models that could grow our capacity for compassionate care and expand the reach of our mission for the future.

Throughout this process of exploration, the Ronald McDonald House has remained committed to our central mission: providing a “home away from home” to ill children and their families. We give you our word that in this journey toward “serving more,” we will continue to focus on what we do best, and that’s providing a loving, supportive home to the children and families who depend on us. In addition, our guiding principles of compassion, hospitality with heart, community service, mutual respect, sound management and excellence will serve as a framework as we chart our course.

Above all else on this journey, we remain ever grateful to you, our partners. You are there beside us as we serve children and their families, one child, one family, one moment at a time. Thank you for your support, and for all the moments we’ve shared. You are the heart of our House, and we celebrate your many gifts with humility and the promise that we will be here for families now and in the future. ♥

David Oeth
President, Board of Trustees

Linda Bonow
Executive Director

Cynthia R. Nelson Named Emeritus Trustee

Emeritus Trustees demonstrate distinctive service to the organization. Cindy’s compassion for children and families inspired her to get involved with the House more than 25 years ago. Her gift of experience and her expertise in philanthropy spearheaded a comprehensive development program at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester.

Phil Henoch, Cindy’s nominator and a fellow Emeritus Trustee, describes Cindy this way: “Cindy is a trailblazer, a quiet dynamo whose leadership style I affectionately wish to describe as ‘beautiful background music.’ A true servant-leader, Cindy’s greatest strength is her ability to plant the seeds, water them well and then allow them to grow.” ♥
contacted by Homeland Security officials, who gave the green light for his passage. But putting the plan into action wasn’t easy. Orphanage officials scrambled to get Givenson on a flight out, only to face a standoff with an angry airport guard. Ultimately, Givenson and two other youngsters with medical emergencies flew as lap children with volunteers on a commercial flight, arriving in Minnesota in late January.

With no time to delay, the Thimjons agreed to host Givenson themselves and serve as his guardians. At the time, they thought he’d need just two surgeries and would return to his homeland when he was well enough. They had no idea about the enormity of the challenges in store for Givenson and their family.

A cluster of birth defects

But it didn’t take long to find out. “We lovingly joke that he miserably failed his pre-op physical,” Rachel Thimjon recalls. “And that’s when the whole story of the true extent of his medical needs began to reveal itself.” As it turns out, the tiny baby had a cluster of serious congenital birth defects known as VACTERL Association. VACTERL is an acronym that represents some of the more common conditions, including vertebral abnormalities, anal atresia, cardiac problems, renal conditions and numerous other related birth defects.

At the recommendation of the orphanage director, the Thimjons turned to the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester for housing and support as they traveled from Minneapolis to Mayo for numerous procedures, tests, surgeries and follow-up care. The family has stayed at the House at least a dozen times since Givenson arrived from Haiti. But their very first night at the House is etched forever in their memories.

“It’s a tradition that for the first night of their stay, children receive a handmade blanket,” Rachel says. “Givenson just sort of fell into our lives unexpectedly, and most of the preparations we had made for him were very practical. He was so little, and we had just learned the huge extent of his needs, so to have something that personal given to us, lovingly handmade by someone in the community, it was perfectly sweet, just lovely. And he still has that blanket — it’s been through everything with him.”

Indeed, the Ronald McDonald House has become a second home of sorts for the Thimjons, who are now in the process of legally adopting Givenson and the rest of the Thimjon family – Nadia, Rachel and Jason.

(continued on page 1)
A PLACE TO LAND

already consider him their son. “The House and staff are definitely a refuge for us. Nothing completely mimics home and so we always do our best to get Givenson back to our true home whenever we can. But sometimes those logistics would be just too hard on everyone involved,” Rachel says. “It has been a real blessing to know that when the situation warrants, we have a safe, comfortable, welcoming place to land before, during or following procedures and appointments.”

The House has also helped financially. Although Givenson retroactively was placed on state medical assistance (allowing Mayo Clinic’s charitable care to serve another family in need), related expenses can quickly add up. “We come to the Ronald McDonald House at some of the scariest, most trying, tiring and uncertain times in our lives,” Rachel says. “Sometimes we are awaiting potentially life-altering test results. Sometimes we are exhausted from the rigors of multi-disciplinary interventions and testing. Sometimes we are anxious about a risky surgery and the recovery that lies ahead. It is so nice to know that we do not need to add, on top of all those emotions, the additional worries about how we will arrange and afford accommodations for ourselves surrounding all of this medical care. That is a Godsend that allows us to focus our minds and hearts on our son and his needs, which is what this is really all about.”

Givenson cherishes the handmade blanket he received while staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

Givenson’s journey isn’t over yet. Although he’s thriving and doing well overall, he faces more surgeries and lifelong medical care. “He should lead a full life, and we are eager to see all that the future holds for him,” Rachel says. “I believe that he will accomplish just about anything he sets his determined little mind to doing! He is definitely one of my heroes for all that he has gone through with the grace and ease that he has.”

A Day in the Life of a Pop Tab

Countless people have “pulled” for the Ronald McDonald House through the years, and yet one of the most common questions we hear is: “What exactly do you do with these tabs?” Here, come along with these tiny but mighty pop tabs on a journey that represents the perfect partnership between Ronald McDonald House volunteers and a very caring community of pop tab donors.

On any given day, HouseWarmer volunteers warmly welcome 10 to 15 pop tab donors to the Ronald McDonald House. But once you drop the pop tabs into our large house in the lobby, what exactly happens to those little bits of aluminum you snap open on cans of pop?

Enter pop tab volunteer Dick Redman. Dick has come to the House twice a week for the past three years to help with pop tab donations. Dick empties the large house and removes all the accidental “extras” that are sometimes mixed in with the donated pop tabs. He then organizes the endless stream of little tabs into McDonald’s french fry boxes. Turns out, those french fry boxes are the perfect size for stacking and organizing pop tabs.

Dick has packed as many as 23 of those boxes of pop tabs in a single day. But he’s quick to point out that his most memorable donation was a small sandwich bag full of pop tabs that was brought in by a little girl who had previously stayed at the House. “While my job is rather routine, it’s so nice to see the children my work helps,” Dick says. “The little ones who bring in tabs are the most rewarding part of my job.”

The pop tabs are stored until it’s time for a recycling run. And that’s where the Petersens come in. Since 1999, volunteers Minard and Mary Anne Petersen have donated thousands of hours to the House as Pop Tab Recycling Coordinators. The
Couple serves as quiet pop tab angels, loading their pickup truck with the fry boxes and delivering the aluminum bits to area recyclers.

Mary Anne remembers how it all began. “Ruth (Jensen) was the House Manager on a Saturday morning when I was HouseWarming. She mentioned that the pop tab boxes were really building up in the back room, and they had no one to haul them anymore,” Mary Anne recalls. “I went back to take a look and then told Ruth, ‘I think my husband and I can do that.’ The next week we hauled the tabs to the recyclers, and we have been doing it ever since.”

The Petersens come to the House every two months or so to collect the donated pop tabs and haul them to recyclers. And these little pop tabs add up to more than you might have ever imagined. It takes roughly 1,267 pop tabs to make a pound. Over the past 10 years, an estimated 231,778 pounds of pop tabs have been donated to the Ronald McDonald House — that’s an astounding 293,662,726 tabs! At an average of 50 cents per pound, this means pop tab donations have resulted in an incredible $115,889 in funds to help children and families at the House.

“It’s nice to know that something that doesn’t take that much time really makes a difference to the House,” Mary Anne says. “As a HouseWarmer volunteer, I get to see firsthand how important donations are to the Ronald McDonald House. Even after all these years, it amazes us!”

Thank you to the thousands and thousands of children, former guest families, schools, organizations and individuals from around the United States and the world who have shared the loving mission of the Ronald McDonald House with their communities through the pop tab program. You are all very special to us. Keep up the great work! Here are a few ways you can make sure your pop tab donation makes the biggest impact it can.

• When possible, drop off your tabs at the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester — we love to thank you in person. Many McDonald’s restaurants also accept pop tabs. Check with your local McDonald’s. We don’t recommend mailing tabs because of the expense. Instead, recycle them locally and ask the recycling company to make your check out directly to the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, and you can simply mail that in.

• Be creative and be green! We encourage you to reuse household containers to collect tabs and decorate them in fun, colorful ways. Coffee cans, cottage cheese containers and mayonnaise jars work great. We have stickers you can use if you’d like, or be creative and design your own pop tab containers.

• Check our website at www.rmhmn.org for more ways to make pop tabs a fun and educational project for your family or youth group.
WHERE HOPE HAS A HOME

OUR MISSION
The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota, provides a “home away from home” ... and offers support to families seeking medical care for their children.

OUR FAMILIES
• 890 families from 40 states and 19 countries were served (523 were first-time guests).
• 689 families were on our waiting list and not served.

OUR VOLUNTEERS
• 185 HouseWarmers and Special Project Volunteers (Bake Shop, Child Life, Gardening Angels, Handyman, Pop Tabs).
• 32 individuals have volunteered consistently for 10 or more years.
• 12,000 hours of service were donated, equaling nearly $318,000 in volunteer time.

This data was originally reported in the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester 2010 Annual Impact Report.

Big Red Shoe Store Celebrates Grand Re-Opening

THE BIG RED SHOE STORE HAS A FUN NEW LOOK AND GREAT NEW MERCHANDISE.
There’s something for everyone — and not just shoes! New items include polo shirts, aluminum coffee mugs, key chains, stuffed animals and even baby apparel. Be sure to stop by the next time you’re in Rochester. Purchases made at the store help the children who stay with us and promote the mission of the Ronald McDonald House.

Lauren, a House guest from Michigan, and staff member Jody Bower cut the ribbon at the Big Red Shoe Store Grand Re-Opening on July 5.
"Camp Ronald" Brings Summer Camp to the Kids

Summer camp is a rite of passage for many children. But when your child is ill, it can be difficult for parents to find the time, energy or funds to offer this summer experience to their children. Last summer the Ronald McDonald House program team had an idea — bring summer camp to the kids! “Camp Ronald” was born. This July 21-22, nine children and their siblings staying at the Ronald McDonald House “went to camp.” While never traveling more than a few blocks from the House, the campers participated in all the traditional camp activities, including crafts, beading, campfires and sing-a-longs. The big kids even stayed in tents overnight, and trained therapy dogs provided the “camp dog” presence. Camp leader Matt Rosaaen, along with volunteer teen counselors, helped ensure that all the kids enjoyed their summer camp adventures.

“I’ve always wanted to go to camp but have never been able to. This has been the greatest experience of the summer.”

— Brandon, age 10, Hughesville, MD

The ballpark outings were possible because of a generous donation from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines and the MN TwinsCare program.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

This summer, families from the Ronald McDonald House had two opportunities to take in a Minnesota Twins game at Target Field. Families were treated to a Saturday game against the Texas Rangers and a Father’s Day game against the San Diego Padres. In all, nearly 100 guests, volunteers and staff spent two beautiful summer afternoons at the ball park — and the Twins won both times!

The trips were made possible because of a gift from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines that was made in memory of Twins fan Bruce Merrill, who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 2009, and because of tickets provided by the MN TwinsCare program.

“Bruce witnessed too many young children fighting illnesses during his own treatment at Mayo Clinic. This special day gave many families the chance to spend a day together away from hospitals, treatments and tests,” Jo Merrill, Bruce’s wife, said.

Nearly 100 guests, staff and volunteers enjoyed special time at the ballpark this summer.
1 Collect Wish List items

We’re grateful for the kind and generous Wish List donations we receive from families, community members and organizations throughout the year. Donations of Wish List items save the House thousands of dollars annually, allowing us to put that money to use for other programming. Your generosity also means families are provided with the essentials and comforts of home in their times of need.

Wish List

- Individually wrapped snack items
- International & domestic phone cards
- Disinfectant wipes
- Liquid hand soap
- Liquid disinfectant cleaner
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Facial tissues
- Laundry soap
- Coffee
- Nonperishable food items
- Grocery/gas gift cards

2 Share our story — or your story

Word of mouth is a great way to help our House! Here’s how you can tell our story and spread the word:

TELL YOUR SCHOOL OR EMPLOYER ABOUT OUR POP TAB PROGRAM and our other fundraising events.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK (search for Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, MN Inc.), and encourage your friends to do so, as well. If you’re a former guest family, consider sharing your experience on our Facebook page.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST to receive news and updates online.
Email: info@rmhmn.org to sign up.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.rmhmn.org
Help the House

1. NOT QUITE SURE WHERE TO START? HERE ARE FIVE WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

3. Volunteer your time
   The Ronald McDonald House wouldn’t be possible without the loving support and helping hands of our caring volunteers. There are many ways to share your talents and time with our families. HouseWarmers, for example, volunteer right at the Ronald McDonald House in three-hour shifts, staffing the front desk, greeting guests, accepting donations and assisting with housekeeping duties as needed. We rely on their help seven days a week, all year long.
   If you have a community group that would like to get involved, consider doing a special project or serving a dinner to the families. To learn more about making a difference, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Sue Weber, at 507-282-3955 or by email at sweber@rmhmn.org

4. Make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one
   Honor someone special, a special occasion (weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and retirements) or make a gift in memory of a loved one by making a donation to the Ronald McDonald House in their name.
   If you’d like, the Ronald McDonald House will notify the person you’re honoring. You can choose to have the House send a card on your behalf or give you a personalized card to send along yourself. Your gift will pay tribute to someone special and help them feel good about making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. Visit our website to make a difference today: www.rmhmn.org.

5. Team up with McDonald’s
   McDonald’s is the Ronald McDonald House’s largest corporate partner, and we’re grateful for their support. Now you can help them help us. Here’s how:
   **HAVE A TREAT.** Eat a scrumptious cookie and feel good about doing it! Cookies for Kids is a special fundraiser of our Rochester-area McDonald’s. Fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies are sold in packs of three for $1 or as a baker’s dozen for $3.99. McDonald’s donates all cookie profits to support the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester.
   **FIND HOPE IN A HAPPY MEAL.** Every time someone purchases a McDonald’s Happy Meal, McDonald’s donates a portion of the proceeds to Ronald McDonald House Charities.
   **CHANGE IT UP.** Donate your change at McDonald’s using donation canisters located at the drive-thru or inside at the front counters.
In Remembrance

The Ronald McDonald House receives memorial gifts honoring relatives and friends. The following persons were so remembered from August 1, 2010, through July 31, 2011.

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In Remembrance Continued

(continued from page 10)

Florence Grace
David Gratz
Parents of Ron & Dorothy Greseth
Harlyn Grife
Gynith Groteboer
Jan Gruenhagen
Elwood Guanella
John Haack
Jim Habermann
Nora Hageman
Morgan Hamann
Lincoln Hammerly
Neo Hanenberger
Irene Hanke
Merlin Hanson
Mary Hanzal
Aurelia “Trudy” Harders
Robert Haug
Gregg Haugen
Sarah Haukoos
Charlie Hawk
Sara K Hawkins
Kathryn May Hayden
Perrone
Adeline Heartman
Alexander Heck
Daniel Hedberg
Sarah Hegarty
Gertrude Heimer
Sharon Heintz
Andrew Helgerson
Duwayne Hellickson
Justin Heltemes
Ethan Henderson
Lyle Henderson
Karissa Joy Hendrickson
Arlene Henning
Emily Heusinkveld
Catherine Hiley
Charles F Hiley, Sr
John Hlohinec, Sr
Ted Hoard
Leo Henry Hoeger
Randy Hoffbauer
Kevin Hoffman
Linda Hofstad
Carter John Hogen
Donald P Hollen
Mildred Holst
Alice Howe Murphy
Maurice Howe
Lawrence Hubbard
Jerry Hughes
Sal Hughes
Eric Hungerford
Helen Huseby
Jane Marie Hutchinsion
Richard Ilk
Veronica Ingram
Mary M Ireland
John C Iwins
Kayla Faith Jackson
Orville Jacobson’s daughter-in-law
Mavis Jech
Lois Jeglum
Lois Jenneke
Jodi Johannsen
Marietta Johannsen
Barb Johnson
Cortland Johnson
Donald H. M. Johnson
Doug Johnson
Dylan Marshall Johnson
Jennings Johnson, MD
Kent Johnson
LaVonne Johnson
Michael L Johnson
Rosellen “Roz” Johnson
Scott Matthew Johnson
Harry Jondal
Harold Jones
Payton Jones
Stanley T Jorde
Ethel “Pat” Jordon
Charlotte Josselyn
Irene Joyce
Kristy Juergens
Chang H Juhn
Sandra Julian
Marcy Kalka
Bonnie Kane’s mother
Ron Kangas
Nikos Karagiannis
Linda Kasers
Kim Kauper
Bud Kavanaugh
Matthew Kelley
Margaret Kelly
Sarah Kennedy
Brooke Kessler
Logan Kessler
Doris Kimber
Betty King
Norman King
Eliana Klee
Phyllis Klees
Marish Klein
Victor Stanley Klepetka
Daniel Klomp
Norm Knoop
Mervin Knutson
Jacob Koening
Janelle Kraut
Kathy Krebsbach
Curtis Kroening
Margaret Kronebusch
Gloria Krueger
Leo Kryzer
Diane Kuhn
Matt Kurvinen
Wesley Labare
Mike Ladin
Patrick Laipple
Margaret Lair
Betty Lamecker
Megan LaMotte
Erwin Langworthy
Leonard “Dick” Lano
Joseph N Lantzer
M Jean Lantzer
M. Jean Lantzer
Allen Larson
Darin Larson
Jim Larson
Leah Larson
Percy Larson
Willis Lattimer
Betty Lawer
Susan Lawler’s sister, Lark
Susan Lawler’s daughter-in-law, Wendy
Harriet Lawman
Phyllis Lawson
Donald D Lee
Jerry Lee
Katie Lee
Sabrina Lee
Robert Legare
Margaret Lepp
Janice Leyse
Susan Kay Licht
Elvira Lichtblau
Father of Mark Liebow
Jacob Henry Lischer
Diane Liskow
Susan Lobrek
Laura M Long
Judith Louks
Loved ones
Fran Ludwose
Darla Ludwig
Millie Maack
Earl Machemehl
Mike MacLean
Phyllis Maeder
Jason Maher
Michelle Majernik
Chuck Malin
Rosemary Mandt
Leona Manzow
Arnie Marous
Marvin Marquardt
Krista Martin
Paul Maryne
Edna M Mathews
June Mathison
Jordan Ashley May
Marian Mayer
Lori McAnthie
Carol McCarthy
Joan McDonald
Merlin McDonald
Betty Mcgregor
Marlene McGuire
Peter H McHard
Mary Ester McKay
Jim McManus
Martha Meyes
William Schafer
Mullenbach
Jorge Munoz
Jim Nading
Duke Nash
Barbara Nelson
Elsie Nelson
Helen E Nelson
Lyle Nelson
Richard "Dick" Nelson
Sandy Nerby
Sarah Nessler
Floyd Nettland
Robert Neville-Neil
Bjarne Nielsen
Doris Nienow
Daniel John Nogosek
Helen Lorette Nogosek
Janet R Nogosek
Raymond Miller
Richard (Dick) Miller
Florence L. Mitchell
Ted Mitchell
Herb Milner
Florence Mlynar
Jerry Malloy
Shirley Monson
Kit Marvin Monsrud
Evelyn Morem
Herb Morgenstern
Nicole Morrissey
Patricia Morrissey
Karen Moschell
Chuck Mueller
William Oslevar
Mullenbach
(continued on page 12)
Richard Ostrem
Cory Oswalt
Bill Otte
Delbert Otte
Marian Ottjes
Leland Lee Ottman
Our loved ones lost to cancer
Milred Paine
Dusty Palmer
Agni Pantazi
Terrance Paske
Brian John Patrick
Elizabeth “Betty” Patrin
Lyle Paul
Marilyn Pearson
Max Pearson
Russell Penniston
Jan Perkovich
Clarence Person
Jack & Lila Peshon
Donald J Peterson
Gorden Peterson
Lyle & Mickie Peterson
Morgan Peterson
Percy Peterson
Beneditc T Pfeifer
Dennis W Pfeil
Mary Lee Pichner
Jerry Pickett
Ralph Piehl
Larry J Pint
Joseph Podraza
John Poel linger
Shane & Jan Porter
Jim Potter
Marilyn Potter
Doug Prichard, MD
Richard Prinsen
Jill Quagligano
Donald Quant
Doris Radke Hieb
Shawn Rahman
Travis W Reed
LaVon Rehelt
Cheryl Reicks
Neal Reicks
Don Reinars
Gladys & Bill Reinboldt
Marie Reuter
Jason Rich
Rico
Helen Rigdon
Beulah & Francis Riley
Gale C Riley
Albert Ringen
Miranda Jean Rinn
Paul Ristau
Cory Rittenour
Mary Roberts
Sue Roberts
Max Robinet
Phyllis Roehl
Hubert Rohde
Darlene Roland
Theodore (Ted) Romig
Ione Ronning
Kathy Rosedahl’s Father
Lowell & Joyce Ross
Charles Rowell
Irwin Rubenstein
Harold Rubin
Richard Ruedy
Marion Runerson
Hayley Ryan
Mary Ryan
Jeffery Ryland
Cathy Rzepecki
Deceased members of St Columbas
Leroy Salstrom
Molly Salstrom
Sandy Sammelson
Wilbert “Bill” Sas
Miriam Sather
Kyle Satrom
Christian Savre
Robert Savre
Donald Schad
Herb Schaefer
Paul Schafer, Jr
Rita Schell
Audrey Scherer
James Scherer
Esther Schlee
Brandon Schmidt
Diane Schnell
Bill & Beatta Schott
Thomas “Tom” R Schott
Emily Rose Schoutz
Dorothy Schroeder
Paul Schroeder
Charlene Schuch
Esther Schuck
Lori Schumann
Anne Schuster
Donna Schuster
Maxen Schwanbeck
Frank Scorna
Julie Segebarth
Luverne Selle
Aaron Semenske
Joseph Lee Sengbush
Dean Serabeck
Lael Aireen Jeanette Seruyange
Doris Severied
Joyce Shapiro
Richard “Dick” Sharpnack
Kaylee Shay
Karen Simone
George Simpson
Jon Sivly
Conrad Sletta
Bonnie Sloan
Don Sloan
Donna Smersrud
Alfred & Catherine Smith
Ardith Smith
Ardu Smith
David & Myrtle Smith
Bobbi Smock
Barb Soifer
Alma Solberg
Karen R Solberg
Lucas Sonne
Dorothy Sosinski
Jill Sousa
Nathaniel Specht
Beverly Squire
Richard Srsen
Jeanne Stark
Mildred Stark
Rueben Stark
Elaine Steele
Carole Stelzer
Anita Stensrud
Jeff Stephani
Erlis Steven
Raymond Steven, Sr
Gertrude Stollman
Shirley Stone
Jordan Strabley
Jennie Streblow
Larry Stuart
Raymond Szuberski
Paul Tarars
Perti Taulio
Dorothy Teff
Milton Tenneson
Lowell Tesch
Bert Tester
Jane Thomas
James “Jim” Thompson
Ray Thompson
Natalie Thornton-Webb
Arlene Thorson
Abby Timmerman
Clem Timmerman
Thelma Timmerman
Sherman Toensing
Elaine Tomczak
William Toomey
Diane Torginson
Genevieve Torner
Jackson Tracey
Tony Tschida, Sr
Tru Tumbleson
De Lana Turner
Jeanne L Ulve
Dick Utect
Virginia Utz
Madison Van Leeuwe
Ann Van Meeteren
Bob Vavrich
Chris Vettel
Clifton Vick
Kristi Villeneuve
Vern & Janet Vineyard
Nhut Vo
Luke Vruwink
Donald M Wahl
Rebecca Walch
Jacqueline Walter
Ann Warthesen
Fred Warweg
Owen Michael Weeda
Jane Weible
Whitney Welin
Lessley Robert Wellen Jr
Amy Jean Wentink
Leona West
Delores Westmoreland
Olivia Westphal
Maurine Wheeler
Lisa Wietzke
Millie Wignahl
Herb Wiger
Joyce Wilde
Donna Williams
Gavin Kenneth Williams
Jon Richard “Snuffy” Williams
Lyle Williams
Mark Wilson
Pauline Wilson
Joseph Ernest Winter
Kelly Wirges Sager
Reuben C Wolfgram
Katherine Wooding
Eleanor J Woody
Don Worden
Donna Wurz
Cara Yerke
H Donald Yngsdal
Nancy Young
Charles “Chuck” Zimmerman
Anthony Michael Zimprich

If we’ve missed or misspelled the name of a loved one, please accept our heartfelt apologies and notify us at 507-252-2165 to remedy the error.
We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to all of our families who’ve lost their precious children. While their lives were far too short, their spirit is with us forever. The following children earned their angel wings between Aug. 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011.

Chloe Moxen
Alena (“Ali”)
Evelynn

Gage Jack
Lincoln Parker

Kevin Daniel
Barbara Aisha

Samuel Jonathan
Emily Naomi

Elijah Jackson
Donna

If you would like your angel remembered in our next issue, or if you’d like to include memories of your child in our Angels of Inspiration memory book honoring House children who’ve passed away, contact Paula at pharaldson@rmhmn.org.

Hearts of Gold — Leave a Legacy of Love

Planned giving is a vital part of ensuring the long-term future of the Ronald McDonald House. By remembering us in your will or estate plans, you help make sure that the House can provide a “home away from home” for future generations of guest families.

A planned gift often can help you make a more significant gift than you might have otherwise imagined, without sacrificing security for your own family. Remembering the Ronald McDonald House is simple, and your attorney or financial adviser can guide you through the process.

When you include the Ronald McDonald House in your will, you’re welcomed as a lifetime member of our Hearts of Gold Society. We invite you to let us know about your plans privately or to be recognized through Hearts of Gold. This greatly helps us plan wisely for the future and to thank you now for your commitment to future generations. Gifts of any size are appreciated.

For more information or to share your intentions about a planned gift, please contact Maggie Schoepski, Community Development Director, at 507-252-2165 or by email at mschoepski@rmhmn.org.

“Children are the future. We are so proud to leave a legacy through our will to secure the future for these children and their families at the Ronald McDonald House.”

— George & Cheryl Wilson

HOW TO INCLUDE THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IN YOUR WILL

“I give to the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota Inc., a Minnesota charitable organization, the sum of $ ________________________________ (or ________ percentage of my estate) to be used for the general purposes of the House.”
Pencil It In!

Special events are held throughout the year to help raise awareness and funds for the House.

• **CANS FOR KIDS:**
  Saturday, October 1, 2011

• **FALL GARAGE SALE**
  Saturday, November 12, 2011

• **HEARTS & DIAMONDS SPECTACULAR:**
  Saturday, February 4, 2012

• **CANS FOR KIDS:**
  Saturday, February 11, 2012

• **THE “CRUISE” MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RIDE:**
  Sunday July 22, 2012

• **SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC:**
  Friday, July 27, 2012

For more information about these and other events, call 507-282-3955 or visit www.rmhmn.org.

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**2011 signature events raised more than $80,000 to help children and families.**

**HEARTS & DIAMONDS SPECTACULAR — ITALY MEETS MINNESOTA**

The red carpet was rolled out for 270 guests at the eighth annual Hearts & Diamonds Spectacular, held at Somerby Golf Club in Byron on February 5, 2011. The theme, A Night in Italy, treated guests to a 5-course meal, great opening entertainment by Michael Veldman and Friends of Austin, and after-dinner dancing to the music of the Mod Squad. “We all have important work to do, and we do it better together, one hand helping another,” said guest Cindy Benike. “Rochester has a big heart, and it was evidenced here tonight.” The event raised more than $80,000 to help children and families served by the House. Major sponsors included Sterling State Bank, Hight & Randall Personal Jewelers, Somerby Golf Club and McNeilus Companies.
This year's The “Cruise” set a new fundraising record, raising nearly $134,000.

THE “CRUISE” MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RIDE — IT JUST KEEPS GROWING

Once again, The “Cruise” proved that the community’s generosity just keeps growing. The “Cruise” is the largest charitable motorcycle ride in Southeast Minnesota, and this year’s 11th annual benefit set a new record as 1,530 riders took to the roads on July 24. Together with generous sponsors and friends, the event raised nearly $134,000 to help children and families at the House. Since it began, The “Cruise” has raised more than $830,000 to help the Ronald McDonald House. Major sponsors included Anonymous, Baker’s Square, Paragon Chateau Theatres, City Looks Salon & Spa, Fox 47 KXLT, Rochester Harley-Davidson, Sam’s Club, Sterling State Bank, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, and Wolter & Raak Ltd. Visit www.rmhcruise.com for more information.

Emeritus Trustees Phil Henoch and Tom Winkels greet and thank golfers at this year’s “Birdie.” The event raised more than $34,000 for the House.

33RD ANNUAL SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC

The Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic is recognized as the longest-running charity golf fundraiser in Rochester. This five-person, “best shot” tournament held annually at Willow Creek Golf Course raises funds and brings friends together for a day of fun. This year, 165 golfers took to the links at noon after a delicious lunch. They returned to the clubhouse after 18 holes to partake in the social hour and awards portion of the afternoon, where they also bid on a great array of silent auction items. The event, held July 29, raised more than $34,000 to help children and families. Major sponsors included Wells Fargo Bank, Coca-Cola, McNeilus Companies, Alvin E. Benike General Contractor, and Dunlap & Seeger, P.A.
After 10 months in this room, in this home, we were looking forward to getting to our home in Madrid. When the time got closer to go home, we were filled with nostalgia and appreciation. This place has been there for us. We laughed, we cried, we suffered and lived. We are filled with lots of emotional memories and we will take them forever in our hearts.

In all of this time we have grown spiritually. We have overcome obstacles and difficulties, and we believe that each one of us will be a better person. What is deepest in our hearts is the quality of the good people who we have had the opportunity to meet on our way. Part of us is here with them and part of them we carry with us.

Human beings are naturally good, and we usually find them in desperate and difficult situations, to give support in different ways. And we learned to get and give the best of ourselves. God is in this Home and in the hearts of all the people who are part of this wonderful House.

From today our lives will be different without you, we love you forever. God bless Ronald McDonald House!

The Plaza Family
Madrid, Spain

Translated from Spanish