Twice the Heart

If you were to glance into Noel and Linsey Rippy’s world for a day, you might think you’re viewing a typical American family. Linsey might be making breakfast while Noel gets ready for work. Six-year-old Madi may be practicing for dance class. Three-year-old Sydney may be watching Toy Story. Again. But it wouldn’t take you long to learn that the Rippy’s story is far from typical.

Madi

The Rippy’s road to Rochester’s Ronald McDonald House began in 2006, with the birth of their daughter, Madi. Though she was small for her age, Madi seemed to be a “normal, happy baby,” says her mom.

Then, in October of 2008, everything changed. Madi woke up from her afternoon nap unable to focus or stand. At Minneapolis’ Children’s Hospital, doctors discovered that the two year old had had a series of strokes. Follow-up tests divulged the cause: dilated cardiomyopathy.

“Her heart was so huge it was practically collapsing her left lung,” says Linsey.

In dilated cardiomyopathy, the heart becomes so enlarged that it can’t pump properly. The Rippys were told that 30 percent of children with the condition get better; 30 percent get worse; and 30 percent stay the same.

“We were optimistic,” says Linsey. “We thought, ‘She’s going to get better.’”

The next summer, the Rippys—now with new baby Sydney in tow—came down to Mayo Clinic for a “just in case” transplant screening for Madi. While medications were regulating Madi’s condition, they wanted to be safe. Madi was listed as a Status 7 on the transplant list—“inactive, but just in case,” says Linsey.

By late July 2009, the Rippys had fallen into a normal routine. And then their world was turned upside down. Madi experienced a severe drug reaction that caused her to be rushed to the hospital where a temporary pacemaker was inserted. Days later, as the Rippys prepared to take their daughter home, another problem arose. Madi had developed irregular heartbeats. Her medical team decided it best to put in a permanent pacemaker.

The Rippys suddenly found themselves in the pre-operating room where Madi faced open-heart surgery. And while she did well during the surgery, she faced serious complications afterwards. It was then that Madi’s healthcare team decided to send her to Mayo Clinic.

The family was scheduled to leave for Rochester on August 7. “So we’re making plans,” says Linsey. “We have the baby. We’re trying to figure out things with my husband’s job. And then, all of a sudden, on August 5, Mayo calls. Dr. Driscoll (Madi’s cardiologist) decided that she should come down earlier—that she’d leave by ambulance that afternoon.”

Madi’s first day at Mayo was spent doing tests and, says Linsey, “just figuring her out.” The medical team also bumped her up to Status 1A on the transplant list, “so if that perfect heart comes along, we can consider it.”

That night, exhausted, Noel, Linsey and baby Sydney fell asleep in the parents’ room across from Madi’s room. At 6 a.m. the next morning they heard a knock on the door.

“I opened the door and a nurse was standing there, crying,” remembers Linsey. “I thought my child had died. But then she said, ‘They found a heart!’”

They’d been on the transplant list a total of 18 hours. “Had we gone down [to Mayo] when we were supposed to, we would’ve missed this opportunity,” Linsey says. “It felt like it was meant to be. A Godsend.”

After a successful transplant surgery, Madi’s new heart started pumping on its own. But six hours later, more problems arose. Due to the trauma from surgery, the heart started decompensating—causing Madi to be put on a “bedside bypass” (continued on page 3)
EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

The Ronald McDonald House is hope for nearly 1,000 families with ill children each year. However, sadly hundreds of families in need find disappointment and heartbreak because we just don’t have the space to serve them. For these families, hearing “we can put you on the waiting list” is the last thing they want to hear. Some returning families tell us that they no longer even call the House, because they know we are full.

Take a look at the numbers below. For the past several years, we’ve seen a steady increase in the number of families who need the Ronald McDonald House. It’s a privilege to be able to help these families and to do our part in the circle of care. However, the number of families we turn away is way too high. This year, occupancy demand has been off the charts. While we served 398 families in the first two quarters of the year, we turned away 540! Clearly we need a solution and we’re looking closely at best options. The House staff and Board of Trustees have been exploring options to increase our capacity and reduce the growing numbers of families we have been unable to serve. The Board has approved the goal of increasing the House’s physical capacity and the staff and Board have been exploring options to achieve this goal. We remain committed to serving our mission of being a “Home away from Home” for families with ill children.

You make our mission possible. On behalf of these families, thank you for your commitment to the Ronald McDonald House.

David Oeth
President, Board of Trustees

Linda Bonow
Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

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

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
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*deceased
machine for five days. “The heart decided to take a break,” says Linsey.

During this time, the Rippys—who’d been on the waiting list for the Ronald McDonald House—were given a room, where they’d live for nearly three months. As the family made the House their home, 3-1/2-year-old Madi recuperated—but not without more challenges. “Because her old heart was so huge and her new heart was so tiny, blood had pooled around it,” says Linsey. “If they hadn’t figured out what it was, she would’ve died.”

But Madi’s medical team did figure it out—and the little girl, who is now six years old, has defined resilience. “She’s happy and she’s extremely healthy for being immune suppressed,” says Linsey. “She’s strong and is a testament to what you want post-transplant.”

Sydney

For the two years following Madi’s transplant, the Rippys returned to a “normal” life—and watched their daughters grow up. To be safe, doctors regularly monitored Sydney, but she seemed fine.

Then, on October 14, 2011, the unthinkable happened. At a check-up, doctors discovered that Sydney, too, had dilated cardiomyopathy.

“I left the room,” says Linsey. “I left and I went and laid in the bathroom at the transplant center because I thought I was going to throw up or pass out. I thought, ‘How can I do this again?’”

Doctors were able to stabilize Sydney’s heart function with medication and the Rippys returned home hopeful that Sydney’s journey would be easier than Madi’s had been.

But in spring 2012, Sydney—who was now three years old—started acting tired and not wanting to eat. On April 15, Sydney started vomiting and Noel brought her to Children’s Hospital.

“As soon as they walked in the door, she started seizing,” says Linsey. “They took her back to the trauma bay, where they did CPR on her for 28 minutes. And they got her back.”

The next days were traumatic ones. A “hypothermia protocol” put Sydney in an induced state of hypothermia for four days to help prevent a post-arrest brain injury. On April 20, she went into cardiac arrest again, this time requiring 18 minutes of CPR.

Like her big sister before her, Sydney was put on a bypass machine, allowing her heart and lungs some much-needed rest. Following another procedure—this one to relieve pressure in her heart by punching a hole between her atria—the Rippys were told it was time to return to Mayo Clinic.

There, Sydney was put on the transplant list. “I never dreamed in a million years that we’d have to do this again,” says Linsey.

Just two days later, they got the call. On April 25, 2012, the Rippys sent their second daughter into the operating room for a heart transplant.

Sydney’s recovery—most of which has been spent as an outpatient at Rochester’s Ronald McDonald House—has gone smoothly. “She’s doing extremely well,” says Linsey. “The cardiologist says the heart looks great, that her heart function is wonderful.”

Two kids, two transplants

“Two kids and two transplants? It’s unheard of,” says Linsey. “Dr. Driscoll has been doing this for a long time and he’s never had two kids in one family with heart transplants.”

Aside from the girls’ medical issues, the disruption of the family’s daily lives has proven challenging, as well. “It’s been a struggle,” Linsey says. “And we’re so thankful for the House.”

The Ronald McDonald House, Linsey says, helps make tough days easier. “There are so many good things around here. The fact they have Child Life Specialist on staff is huge. Because Sydney’s in isolation, they’ve brought toys for her to play with right to the room. The other day, they brought in a dollhouse and she just loves it.”

Linsey also counts the kitchen (“even though all Sydney wants is peanut butter and jelly!”), the access to activities (“Both girls like to go down for the pet visits”), and the kid-friendly amenities (“Madi could play with the train set all day long!”) as blessings during both girls’ recoveries.

Despite the challenges the Rippys have faced, they know they have much to be thankful for. At the time of this writing, three-year-old Sydney is two months out from surgery—and, says Linsey, is into everything. But Linsey’s not surprised. She’s seen it before.

“With Madi, I asked the transplant doctor: ‘What did you put in this thing?’ I’m convinced you turbo-charged it!’ And with Sydney, even when she had a bad heart she was crazy. So I’m expecting to be even more wiped out when she’s fully recovered!”

The Rippys are grateful for their daughters’ newfound energy—and the donors and doctors who helped them get it. “With cardiomyopathy, you’re tired. You can’t do a lot of things,” says Linsey. “It’s nice for them to have a future where they won’t sit on the sidelines.”

www.rmhmn.org
Reflections on a night of volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House

by Axel Gumbel, Mayo Clinic Public Affairs Department

Tonight I am thankful to come home to a healthy family. It’s a simple appreciation I realized after co-workers and I volunteered to cook and serve dinner at the Ronald McDonald House.

We whipped up baked chicken, cheesy potatoes, stuffing, green beans, broccoli salad, homemade rolls and pies. I baked nine pies for the occasion. While it was a lot of work, I could and would have baked 9 more, knowing why I was doing it. If a home cooked meal helps these families forget about their health troubles for just a fleeting moment, our mission is accomplished. Some of my favorite memories include a little boy in his wheelchair, wearing Batman clothes from top to bottom. He was proud to tell us that even his underwear has Batman on it. And the mother, who, during a quiet moment in a hallway, thanked me for “all you do for us”, even though all I did was bake some pies. She was simply thankful for a gesture that seems so normal to the rest of us.

Dinner. We eat it every night. It’s nothing special. But for these families it may just give them the energy they need to make it through one more day of treatment. One more day of hoping for a better outcome for their child. Knowing that our simple act of cooking and serving dinner can make such a difference in these peoples’ lives is simply humbling.

I’m proud to have been part of this effort. I’m grateful to have gotten yet another chance to realize just how very lucky I am. And I’m thankful to have spent this special evening with co-workers and friends.

Interested in Lending-A-Hand?

The Lend-A-Hand service program is a new way to share great opportunities for groups, large and small, who would like to help the Ronald McDonald House. Our House is a large “home away from home” and while we ask our 42 guest families to help keep our House clean, extra TLC is always appreciated. Your group size can range from 2 to 15 people. On occasion, we do have unique needs where we could use even larger groups for specific projects.

Lend-A-Hand service groups can range in ages, depending on the project, so even young children can help the families at the House. If the service project is done at the House, we ask that children be 10 years and older to participate. While some service opportunities require completion at the House, other projects may be completed offsite.

Lend-A-Hand service opportunities may include:

• Cleaning and reorganizing guest floor and Community Room kitchens
• Outside clean up: pulling weeds, washing outside windows, picking up garbage, etc.
• Washing walls
• Vacuuming
• Storage room organization
• Breakfast Bags: decorating breakfast bags, providing supplies needed and assembling
• Making fleece tie blankets, sizes: Teen 4’x6’ and Infant/Youth 3’x 5’

Contact Sue Weber, Volunteer Coordinator at 507-282-3955 or email sweber@rmhmn.org to learn more about how your group can help the House.
3 Ways You Can Help the House

1. Collect Wish List Items

We are grateful for the generous Wish List donations we receive from families, community members and organizations. Donations of Wish List items save our House thousands of dollars each year. Because of your generosity, our families are provided with the comforts of home in their times of need.

2. 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 time and talents with our families. HouseWarmers, for example, volunteer at the 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.

To learn about more volunteer opportunities for individuals or groups, please refer to our website, www.rmhmn.org or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Weber, at 507-282-3955 or email at sweber@rmhmn.org.

3. Make a Gift in Honor or Memory of a Loved One

Honor a special occasion or milestone (weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and retirements) or make a gift in memory of a loved one by giving a donation to Ronald McDonald House in their name.

The Ronald McDonald House will then notify the recipient of your generosity by sending a card on your behalf. 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

Wish List

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwasher detergent packs
- Antibacterial disinfectant wipes
- All purpose cleaner
- Liquid hand soap
- Individually wrapped snack items
- Nonperishable food items
**OUR MISSION IN ACTION...**

**Bella Voce**
The young women of Bella Voce keep the kids entertained by teaching them about music in a fun and exciting way.

**Bedtime Stories**
The ADK Sorority of retired teachers did a fabulous job collecting and donating books to the kids here at the House. The kids especially enjoyed the bedtime stories from some of the area’s best story-tellers.

**Dream Night at the Minnesota Zoo**
RMH families once again enjoyed Dream Night at the MN Zoo. There were many up-close encounters that kept our families smiling and on their toes.

**Hooray Beads**
The Hooray Bead Program is an incentive program for children that rewards them for milestones they have achieved or accomplished while staying at the House. It provides families with a fun and creative way to record their child’s House journey.

**Lemonade Stand**
To say thank you to our community, the kids from the House held a lemonade stand. They had so much fun giving out lemonade and buttons they had made. We truly appreciate all who stopped by, including our friends at the Rochester Fire Department!

**Arch with a Heart**
The re-built McDonald’s near Apache Mall opened nearly one year ago and continues to share our mission and the stories of several Ronald McDonald House children. This is the first Ronald McDonald House Charities inspired Restaurant & Play Place.
2012 Special Event Highlights

Thank you community! Because you care, three signature events raise awareness of our mission and much needed funds to support it.

HEARTS & DIAMONDS SPECTACULAR – A LITTLE SPARKLE IN THE MOONLIGHT

The 9th annual Hearts & Diamonds Spectacular delivered an elegant evening of dinner, diamonds & dancing. Thank you to the 280 people who attended this event on Saturday, February 4 at Somerby Golf Club. The evening included entertainment by Michael Veldman & Friends and Synergy. The event raised nearly $80,000. “Knowing we are helping families is important. They need to know we care.” said guests Karen and Jeff Manthey. Major sponsors included Sterling State Bank, Hight & Randall Personal Jewelers, Somerby Golf Club, and McNeilus Companies.

THE “CRUISE” MOTORCYCLE BENEFIT RIDE

On Sunday, July 22, windows rattled and hearts pounded as 1,240 riders rode through Southeast Minnesota enjoying the scenery and curving roads surrounding Rochester, Mazeppa, Kellogg and Eyota. This year’s “Cruise” raised $132,178.56! The “Cruise”, in 12 short years, has raised a monumental $1,000,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. Congratulations to “Cruise” participants, sponsors and committee members for the continued success of this event. Your generosity of time and money continues to help children and families at the Ronald McDonald House. Major sponsors included Anonymous, Baker’s Square, Charter, City Looks Salon & Spa, Rochester Harley-Davidson, Sam’s Club, Sterling State Bank and Treasure Island Resort & Casino.

SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC

The 34th annual Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic was held on Friday, July 27 at Willow Creek Golf Course. This five-person, best shot tournament is recognized as the longest-running charity golf fundraiser in Rochester. 140 golfers enjoyed a beautiful summer day on the links while they raised money to help children and families served by the House. This year’s “Birdie” raised over $31,000! Major sponsors included Wells Fargo Bank, Coca-Cola, McNeilus Companies, Alvin E. Benike General Contractor, and Dunlap & Seeger, P.A.

Calendar of Events

- CANS FOR KIDS: Saturday, October 6, 2012
- HEARTS & DIAMONDS SPECTACULAR: Saturday, February 2, 2013
- CANS FOR KIDS: February 9, 2013
- SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC: Friday, July 26, 2013

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

The Ronald McDonald House receives memorial gifts honoring relatives and friends. The following persons were remembered from August 1, 2011, through July 31, 2012.

(continued on page 9)
In Remembrance Continued

(continued from page 8)

Richard Haman
Peter Hansen
Bruce D Hanson
Erwin Hanson
Yvonne Hanzal
Alice Hare
Archie Harper
Robert Haug
Dale Haugen
Gregg Haugen
Sarah Haukoos
Sara K Hawkins
Darlys Hecker
Sarah Hegarty
June Hegwood
Marie Heine
Andrew Helgerson
Lyle Henderson
Emily Herring
Michaela Hiley
Charles Hiley, Jr
Charles F Hiley, Sr
Steve Hilgenberg
Dean Hilke
Ronald Hill
Billy Hugh Hines
Charlie Hiscock
Emma Hiscock
Kevin Hoffman
Carter John Hogen
Faith Holy
Danny Host
Verdelle Hoth
Rachel Houdak
Fred Howarth
Ethan Hungerford
Caitlyn Hunter
Helen Huseby
Lyle Hutton
Lucy Ide
Mary Ireland
John C Ivins
Gabriel Jacobson
Jackie Janski
Laverna Jedlicka
Peggy Jensee
Paul Jenkins
Marjorie Jensen
Rudy Jensen
Ruth Jensen
Jordy Johns
Doug Johnson
Dylan Marshall Johnson
Eleanor Johnson
Eugene Johnson
Kenneth Johnson
Kent Johnson
Michael L Johnson
Louise Jones
Arnold Jorgenson
Dolores Jorgenson
Marissa Joyce
Marcy Kalka
Matthew Kelley
Jason Kelly
Margaret Kelly
Pat Kelly
Betty Kemmerer
Brooke Kessler
Logan Kessler
Jerry J Keyser
Gordon Kimber
John King
Norman King
Marisa Klein
Lisa Klindworth
Anne Klotz
Loretta Knees kern
Al Knudson
Bernice Kolling
Wayne Konickson
Marge Kor
Mrs. Owen Korso
Jan Kotajarvi
Kristi Ann Kraling
Helen Kramlinger
Kathy Krebsbach
Katherine Kroening
Raeburn Kuschel
Denise Kutzke
Patrick Laipple
Fred Langrock
Erwin Langworthy
Ardelle Larson
Darin Larson
David Larson
Betty Lauer
Tony Laurich
Jack Lawler
Doris Lawrenz
Ernest Lee
Jerry Lee
Katie Lee
Margaret Lee
Sabrina Lee
Paul Lehman
Lisa Lendworth
Dorothy Lepley
Dewin Lester
Florence Lewandowski
Eileen Lewis
Mary Ellen Lieberherr
Tarah Nicole Lieberstein
Miles Linscheid
Ronald Linscheid
Ava Liverseed
Wendi Liverseed
Judy Livingston
Albert Lofthammer
Dan Lohman
Chad Lombard
Glenn LoPour
Loved ones
Ethan James Luckhardt
Darla Ludwig
Katherine Lutjen
Austin Scott Lyke
Lorna Lynch
Bill Macken
Mike MacLean
Nancy Maddox
Dorothy C Mader
Chuck Malin
Bill Mallory
Ava Lynn Manley
Rachel Mann
Edna M Marcellus
Donna Marcott
Marian & Sigrid
Lawrence “Butch” Marquette
Krista Martin
Rick Martin
Waldo Marzolf
Robert Masyga
Bernard Matzke
Jordan Ashley May
Mary Ann Mayer
Olive Mayer
Alice McCabe
Rick McCabe
Merlin McDonald
Robb McDonald
C Dennis McDonough
Barbara McFadden
William McFarland
Maggie McNeil
Weston McNeilus
Margaret McRait
Margaret Mellinger
Francis Meredith
Carl Mergen
Lynn Michel
Noah Miller
Wayne Miller
Florence L Mitchell
Ted Mitchell
Florence Mlynar
Linnie Mocadlo
Dick Montville
Bruce C Morcomb
Nicole Morrissey
George Moyer
Dorthea Mueller
Emil Mueller
Kenneth Mueller
Troy Mueller
William Schafer
Mullenaich
Jorge Munoz
Avis Myers
Lillian Myhre
Jim Nading
Glen S Nelson
David & Marleen
Nelson’s Aunt
Norman Neperman
Sarah Nessler
Sharon Neville
Robert Neville-Neil
Everett Nichols
Brice Robert Nickel
Helene Nickel
Merlin F Nickel
Jeff Nielsen
Daniel John Nogosek
Helen Lorette Nogosek
Janet R Nogosek
John Nogosek
Joseph Charles Nogosek
Rufus Nogosek
Gary Nolden
Patrick O’Brien
Philip O’Brien
Colleen O’Connell
Chris Oertli
Robert O’Gorman
Betty Ohmann
Roland Olmstead
Sharon Olson
Robert W O’Neil
Cory Oswalt
Lee Ottman
Evelyn Overton
Brian John Patrick
Russell Penniston
Sandra Pencz
Jan Perovich
Michael Perrigo
Kathryn May Hayden
Perrone
Jack & Lila Peshon
Al Peterson
Bette Hedstrom Peterson
Gerald Peterson
Lyle & Mickie Peterson
Lowell Peterson, MD
Morgan Peterson

(continued on page 10)
In Remembrance Continued

(continued from page 9)

Percy Peterson
Bobbie Phillips
Larry J Pint
Gordon Polkowske
Diane Poppe
Evelyn “Steph” Porter
Karl Potach
Madge Potter
Michelle Pries
Don Pryor
James M Przytulski, Sr
Betty Puterbaugh
Jay Quandahl
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Farouk Qubty
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Sue Roberts
Lloyd Robinson
Nettie Robinson
Anthony M Robles
Mary Mahoney Roetheer
Daniel Roever
Natalie Rogers
Judie Rogge
Lynn Rogich
Jerome Rognes
Lloyd Rogstad
Hubert Rohde
Robert Rosciewski
Milt Rosenblad
Laura Roso
Betsy Ross
Robert Rossman
Mireille “Mary” Rostad
Lucille Rother
Charles Rowell
Richard Ruedy
Brian Ruhd
Gladys Rule
Heidi Rule
Marion Runerson
Salmena Runkle
Hilbert Rupprecht
Frances Rutz
Hannah Rysavy
Virgil Sackett
Kelly Wirges Sager
Deceased members of St. Columban
Ernest Salic, Sr
Phyllis Salic
Sandy Sammelson
Jeff Sandeno
J Scott Sanders, MD
Burton Sandok
Jarret Santee
Robert Satern
Kyle Satrom
Robert Sauer
John Sawyer
Thomas Schaefer
William Schaller
Cora Schiller-Andersen
Patricia Schlink
Edwin Schmeichel
Brandon Schmidt
Gene Schmidt
Russell Schneiderman
Tom Schoepski
Bill Schoon
Bill & Beatta Schott
Thomas “Tom” R Schott
Dorothy Schroeder
Irma Schroeder
Paul Schroeder
Donna Schuster
John Schuster
“Scotty” Scott
Julie Segebarth
Nancy Selby
Richard Selby, Sr
Aaron Semenske
Joseph Lee Sengbush
Genevieve Sentowski
Lael Aireen Jeanette
Seruyange
Sumitra Sethi
Harold Sheldon
Clyde Shives
Alex & Olivia Siebenaler
Curt Siebenaler
Frank Simmons
George Simpson
Clinton Sinclair
Jon Silvy
Marcia Skauge
Bruce Slade
Alfred & Catherine Smith
Ally Smith
Patty Smith
Ray & Margie Smith
Barb Soifer
Sam Soifer
Delores J Sommers
Glen & Dorothy Soper
Phil Sorenson
Donald Spelhaug
Jeanne Stark
Mildred Stark
Rueben Stark
Candace Staudacher
Jon R Stehley
Carole Stelter
Jeff Stephani
Paul Stier
Melvin & Myrna Stolp
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Nate Tesch
Les & Lucille Thompson
Ray Thompson
Verlie Thompson
Natalie Thornton-Webb
Harry Tiedeman
Doris Timm
Abby Timmerman
Clem Timmerman
Thelma Timmerman
Jackson Tracey
Georgia Traxel
Becky Tri
Parents of Frederick &
Barbara Trummer
Tony Tschida, Sr
Denise Tucker
Agnes Rose Turriff
Aldna Ufford
Jeanne L Ulve
David C Utz
Virginia Utz
Leo A Vachal
Diane Vagts
Esther Van House
Jeff Van Kirk
Madison VanLeeuwe
Thomas Vaplon
Chris Vettel
Blair Voter
Luke Vruwink
Elsi Motske Waechter
Ned Waldman
Joe Walsh
Phyllis Walz
Robert Ward
Ed Warren
Sandi Wayne
Dorcas Weber
Martha Webster
Deno Wedes
Owen Michael Weeda
Bernard Wegman
Jay Weichselbaum
Whitney Welin
Jeffery Weller Jr
Margaret Wells
Jim Wempe
Barbara J Wentink
Marian Wentworth
Arlin Wentz
H Kirke Wheeler
Dolly Wilbur
Joseph Wilgenbusch
Robert Willett
Bette Williams
Gavin Kenneth Williams
Jon Richard “Snuffy”
Williams
George S Wilson, Jr
Lance Wilson
Velma Wilgen
Alberta Wolfe
Grace Wood
Katherine Wooding
Eleanore J Woody
Dan Wroge
John Ylvisaker
H Donald Yngsdal
Lauren Young
Evan & Ethan Zielke
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, 2011, and July 31, 2012.

Carlos
Nathan
Charlene
Mariana
Taryn
Gwyneth
Isabell
Dylan
Sofia
Alyson
Kentin

Sadly, we don’t always know when a child dies …but we always care.

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.

Year End Giving

Give the Gift of Love for the Holidays

The children and families we serve find great comfort in knowing that a caring community supports our mission. Giving in honor or celebration of friends and family makes your gift even more special. We are here because you care.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of a year-end gift to help children and families.

Hearts of Gold

Remember the Ronald McDonald House in your Will

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

Remembering the Ronald McDonald House is simple. Often a planned gift can help you make a more significant gift than you might have otherwise imagined -- without sacrificing income or security for your own family.

Please contact Maggie Schoepski, Community Development Director for more information or to share your intentions at 507-252-2165 or mschoepski@rmhmn.org.

EXAMPLE OF HOW TO INCLUDE THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF ROCHESTER IN YOUR WILL CORRECTLY:

“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.”

EIN# 41-1344744
Love Letters from Our Families

Thank you for allowing us to stay at your wonderful house. What a blessing it has been! The staff and volunteers have been so uplifting and bring such joy and care to all the guests.

– Gardiner Family, Kentucky

A big “thanks” again for all the accommodations and thoughtfulness while we stayed there for a month when our premature son was in the NICU. We are telling everyone about RMH and to save pop tabs, donate, etc. Thanks again, you all have big hearts!

– Demmer Family, Minnesota

How can we ever thank you enough? Our lives were turned upside down by the premature birth of our daughter. Thanks to you we were able to stay close to her. You are forever etched in our hearts. Bless you all.

– Rudenick Family, Minnesota

It’s nice to have a place like the Ronald McDonald House where everyone understands what you’re going through and everyone cares. Here, you’re not alone.

– Turner Family, Illinois