“Hailey is our tough, little bug,” said Tracie, Hailey’s mom. “Nothing is going to stop her—she is going to keep fighting.”

(Photography by Malorie Girres Photography, Graettinger, Iowa)
FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

Hello warm weather and sunny days!

Summer has arrived in Rochester, Minn., and with it a renewed energy and excitement as more families find shelter and support at the Ronald McDonald House. Our summer schedule is filling up quickly with many family friendly activities, including: Kids in the Kitchen, Camp Ronald – Outdoor Adventures, doodle sketch kits, dandelion painting and Holiday in July. We are thrilled to have so many fun activities planned for children and families in the coming months.

Summer is also the season for two of our special events. We extend heartfelt thanks to all our friends who are supporting and participating in our 43rd Annual Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic on Monday, June 14, at Somerby Golf Club. We are pleased to announce the event has SOLD OUT! If you are unable to join us at the Birdie, please consider participating in the 7th Annual Ronald McDonald House Family Walk on Saturday, September 11. The Family Walk is a great family activity – we hope to see you there!

June is a month for celebration as we start to welcome HouseWarmer volunteers back to the House for weekend shifts. We are looking forward to fully reinstating all volunteers over the next few months, with an eye on a return to typical operations by fall. We have missed our volunteers and the caring support they so generously provide to children and families staying at the House! Their acts of kindness and compassion make a tremendous difference and help to brighten the days of those who call us their home away from home.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission and those we serve. We are grateful for all you do to support children and families who find shelter and support at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minn.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer!
Peggy Elliott, Executive Director

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

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"Hailey is our tough, little bug," said Tracie, Hailey’s mom. "Nothing is going to stop her—she is going to keep fighting."

Tracie was thrilled when she became pregnant with Hailey. Her anticipation grew with every appointment; she was excited to meet her daughter. There were no complications or indications that anything was out of the ordinary or wrong.

That changed quickly.

Hailey was born with a heart condition—coarctation of the aorta. It is a narrowing of the large blood vessel that delivers oxygen-rich blood to the body. It forces the heart to work much harder. And it is both rare and life-threatening.

But coarctation of the aorta wasn’t the only challenge Hailey faced. She struggled with pneumonia, ventricular septal defect, tracheostomy, feeding tube, and more. Her lungs are not fully developed and she deals with scoliosis. She also suffers from Noonan syndrome, which impacts her growth and hormones.

After traveling to South Dakota and Michigan for medical care…Hailey ended up at Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

"Mayo Clinic is a wonderful place," Tracie said. "They care for their patients so well and provide a very personal experience.

"It’s where we needed to be.”

The family has visited Rochester and Mayo Clinic for their other two children as well. Their son was born two months early and required a stay in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), while their other daughter had a negative reaction to an antibiotic and required hospitalization. Both fully recovered and are doing very well.

"Mayo is our saving grace," said Tracie.

Hailey has visited Rochester and Mayo Clinic more than 20 times for appointments, treatments, and surgeries. For 16 of those visits and a total of 171 nights…Tracie has stayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester. She knew a little bit about Ronald McDonald Houses, but she learned a lot more on her first visit.

A few family members have stayed at the House occasionally, but Tracie said she has stayed by herself the majority of visits. Even Hailey has been inpatient more often than not.

"The House is such a blessing," said Tracie. "It provides comfort and security. Because Hailey is
often inpatient...I am staying at the House alone. But I don’t feel alone.

“When I leave the hospital... it feels like I am going home.”

The times Hailey has stayed at the House, she has found so much joy and happiness. She formed a very special bond with the Family Activity Coordinator and is always excited for mailbox “treasures,” which are donated by friends of the House.

“Activities and mailbox items are things for her to look forward to on our trips,” Tracie said. “And she rarely keeps anything; she gives it to her brother and sister or her friends.

“She has such a big heart.”

Other people with big hearts are volunteers. The House had 1,620 volunteers for 19,088 hours in 2019. Volunteers share time, expertise, and compassion with children and families and are truly the heart of the House.

“House volunteers are helpful, sweet, welcoming... wonderful,” said Tracie. “So many people care for us—care for my daughter.

“The House is our home and the volunteers and staff are our family.”

Because Hailey needs frequent care, they have also experienced the disappointment of being on the waiting list and not receiving a room at the House.

The Ronald McDonald House expanded from 42 guest rooms to 70 in 2019. Thousands of donors supported the expansion through the capital campaign and made the expanded House a reality. The House—which is now the largest in the state of Minnesota and one of the largest in the country and the world—hopes its added capacity will greatly reduce wait times for children and families.

“The expansion means so much,” said Tracie. “As a family who needs constant medical care... it is a significant financial and emotional burden. The donors make it possible for us to be in Rochester at Mayo Clinic at the Ronald McDonald House.

“Their donations are saving her life.”

While Hailey is doing very well, her future is still uncertain. As Tracie described: heart conditions are tricky. But the family takes it one day at a time, enjoys every moment together, and hopes for a full and complete life.

“It’s a different world when you have a sick child,” Tracie said. “But Hailey is incredible strong and brave.”
FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota, Inc
children and families enjoyed painting fun and inspirational
ceramic mugs from Color Me Mine!

Jorgenson Family Story

Hear the inspirational story of Kallen and the Jorgenson family
and their 345 nights at the Ronald McDonald House
of Rochester, Minnesota!

CLICK HERE TO WATCH

(Production by Fagan Studios)
The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota, is located on 2nd St. SW and within walking distance of world-renowned Mayo Clinic.
For more than 26 years, Think Bank has supported the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester.

Steady financial support, hours of community service, countless in-kind donations, House Dinners, and sponsorship of the annual Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic has had an immeasurable impact on the House and those who call it home.

Employees at Think Bank bring warmth, comfort, and love to the families at the Ronald McDonald House.

**Why does Think Bank choose to support the children and families at the Ronald McDonald House?**

We get as much as we give when we support sick children and their families in their time of need. We are inspired and energized by the families staying at the House, as well as the staff and other volunteers. The Ronald McDonald House is laser-focused on its mission of providing a home away from home for those they serve, and it’s rewarding to know that we are advancing this important mission when we donate to the organization or volunteer our time and talents.

**What do Think Bank employees enjoy most about participating in the Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic?**

As the primary sponsor of Swing Your Birdie, we are privileged to be able to send about 20 employees to help host the event each summer. Everyone on Team Think wants a chance to volunteer for such a worthy cause! It is also rewarding to see first-hand how community members come out in force to support the Ronald McDonald House and enjoy a fun day on the course.

**Think Bank is very committed to the Rochester community - how can organizations and businesses follow its lead in regards to corporate volunteerism and philanthropy?**

Go for it! Everyone wins when companies join forces with local nonprofits to serve their community. You’ll find meaning and fulfillment, and help make your community a better place to live, work, and play!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CANS FOR KIDS</strong> with McNeilus Companies</td>
<td>Saturday, June 12, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
<td><a href="#">LEARN MORE</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC</strong></td>
<td>SOLD OUT</td>
<td>presented by Think Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FAMILY WALK</strong></td>
<td>SAVE THE DATE</td>
<td>sponsored by Data-Smart Computers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday, June 13, 2022</td>
<td>a Med City Marathon event</td>
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<td>Saturday, Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td><a href="#">REGISTER NOW</a></td>
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SHARE YOUR STORY!

Each family who has stayed at the House has a unique and beautiful story!

Your story is the reason people support the House!

Contact Jacob Dreyer, Communications Director, for more information.