"I stayed at the House nine years ago. I still have my blanket and I use it all the time."

(Noni, former guest of the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester)
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Dear friends,

A common theme in our newsletter this month is the impact our community of supporters has on mission advancement at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester.

We would not be able to provide shelter and support to families seeking medical care for their children without this dedication and selflessness. We are grateful for the time, resources, and love that many share to make sure children and families are safe, warm, and supported when they are here in Rochester. Whether it is visiting the House with therapy dogs, making a handmade blanket, preparing a warm meal, sponsoring or participating in an event, or sharing time and expertise as a volunteer - our caring community is vitally important to children and families who find shelter and compassionate support at the House.

Together, we have supported thousands of families since opening our doors in 1980. Rarely a week goes by that we do not receive a heartfelt message, handwritten note, monetary donation, or phone call from a former guest, extending their gratitude for the support they or a loved one received at the House. Many want to pay it forward for future families who will come to Rochester for medical care for their child - what a beautiful way to honor our mission!

The countless small and large acts of kindness shared by our community of supporters leave a lasting and loving impression on those we serve.

With gratitude and appreciation for our entire Ronald McDonald House of Rochester community of supporters,

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.
Every child who stays at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester receives a handmade quilt or blanket, donated by supporters of the House who are generous with their time, money, and talents. They make a huge difference!

Carah was 16 years old when she stayed at the House in 2012 and still has her blanket (she is 26 now). She even had her senior pictures for school taken with her blanket!

Trent received a quilt from the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester during his stay 18 years ago! Next week is the 18th anniversary of his car accident. His family is grateful for the love and support they received from the House during their six-month stay.

Sarah loves her quilt and snuggles with it daily! It has seen many smiles and tears through her journey. The love it shares provides warmth to her heart and brings a smile to her face knowing the House cares for her well-being and is cheering her on.

Rory with her Ronald McDonald House of Rochester blanket! She received it in September of 2017 when she was 10 months old.

Five-year-old Tucker has been traveling to Rochester for medical care for years. While appointments are not fun, he is comforted by the blanket he received from the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester.

Andrea (mom) used her RMH blanket when her little one was in the NICU nearly five years ago. Her daughter uses it now!
Greyson loved to hug his blankets at night.

Alyssa (mom) stayed at the RMH after fetal surgery while her son was in the NICU during the holidays of 2018. They still love their blankets!

Rachel has a bunch of blankets from the House and she cherishes them all!

Tina (mom) said they travel from Missouri and her daughter always uses her blanket from the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester for their flights.

Oliver and his big brother cuddle up with the blankets they received when they stayed at the House in 2017.

Timothy’s family still has his blanket from their year-long stay at the House 2008-2009.
Talia’s RMH blanket brings her comfort while receiving care at Mayo. We are very grateful to those that make and donate blankets.

Tiffany (mom) said he doesn’t go anywhere without his RMH shark blanket. It travels with him everywhere he goes. Every admission, every surgery, every sleepless night away from home...it’s by his side. He has a whole stack of blankets in his closet, but this one stays in his hands.

Beckett still has his blanket from August 2017 when he was born with a cardiac defect and required open heart surgery and stayed at the House for 3 weeks.

Grace and her family stayed at the RMH in 2012-2013. Sadly, she passed away in 2014. Her family still has her very first blanket she received when they moved into the House. The House remains near and dear to their hearts.
It was such a huge help for Chloe and our family to have this lovely gift of warmth while she was in the NICU/PICU for 129 days. It was the wrap-able, snug-able “hug” we needed day in and day out to help us mentally and physically get through such a hard part of our journey. Thankfully, today we are happy and healthy. Chloe will be four in June and we are so blessed. The blanket was such a deeply meaningful gift.

Ryker got his blanket when he was born. He will be 4 next week and loves his blanket!
The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester welcomed Paw Pals back to the House over the final two weeks of February!
The House Dinner program is in full swing with the help of registered volunteers! Thanks to generous donations, we are able to provide meals to families seven nights a week! We have created fantastic partnerships with local restaurants to provide catered meals, as well as providing more home-cooked style meals! If you are interested in learning more about sponsoring a dinner or becoming a volunteer to provide on-site support in making and packaging meals, please visit https://www.rmhmn.org/dinner/ or contact Katie Arnott at 507-252-2161.
The 19th Annual Hearts & Diamonds Spectacular was held on Saturday, February 5. This year’s event included a prepared meal and floral arrangement for attendees, a virtual program featuring the Gigstad family, as well as a live diamond raffle and silent auction.

More than 240 people participated in this year’s virtual event in the comfort of their homes ensuring the health and safety of all. A special thanks to all attendees and to the 2022 Hearts and Diamonds sponsors for helping to raise more than $160,000! Your continued dedication to the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester mission is unwavering and our families have the support they need because of you!

Sponsors for this year’s event included:
- Presenting Sponsor: Sterling State Bank
- Exclusive Diamond Sponsor: Hight and Randall Personal Jeweler
- Event Sponsor: Somerby Golf Club
- Major Sponsors: Knutson Construction and Rochester Motor Cars
- Matching Gift Sponsor: Mayo Clinic
- Heartfelt Sponsor: Fagan Studios

SAVE THE DATE
20th Annual Hearts and Diamonds Spectacular
Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023
8TH ANNUAL

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

FAMILY WALK

A MEDCITY MARATHON EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022 AT 11:00AM

MAYO CIVIC CENTER

- REGISTRATION: $15
- KIDS WALK FREE!
- REGISTER AT
  WWW.RMHMN.ORG

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>CANS FOR KIDS with McNeilus Companies</td>
<td>Saturday, March 19, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMILY WALK sponsored by Data-Smart Computers a Med City Marathon event</td>
<td>Saturday, May 28, 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC</td>
<td>SAVE THE DATE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monday, June 13, 2022</td>
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