Evangeline means good news. For mom and dad, Karissa and Ryan, the good news had complications...and came three months early.

Märit Williams Photography
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Dear friends,

This month we celebrate our amazing Volunteers and the gifts of time and talent they so generously share with the children and families we serve. Volunteers truly make our House a home and we couldn’t do all the wonderful things we do for children and families without their help.

For more than 40 years, our treasured volunteers have stepped in and stepped up to make sure families enjoy a warm meal, fresh baked cookies, warm quilts, a sympathetic ear, and a kind smile. Volunteers help to keep our indoor and outdoor spaces beautiful and inviting, support our special events, and provide leadership and expertise as trustees and committee members. From the very beginning, the House has attracted caring individuals willing to roll up their sleeves and get things done to help ill children and their families who have traveled to Rochester for medical care. Our valued volunteers open our doors, and their hearts, to make all who visit the House feel welcome and like family.

The newly installed volunteer recognition piece in our front lobby pays tribute to longtime volunteers who have provided 25 years of service (or more) to the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester. Collectively, these 24 volunteers have contributed 712 years of service in support of our mission. We are humbled by their service and honored to recognize their efforts.

With gratitude and appreciation for the caring hearts and helping hands of Ronald McDonald House volunteers,

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.

Ronald McDonald House
Rochester, MN
Evangeline means good news. For mom and dad, Karissa and Ryan, the good news had complications…and came three months early.

“Karissa was being seen for a routine prenatal appointment when she was diagnosed with severe pre-eclampsia,” Ryan said. “They transported her to Rochester by helicopter.”

“It was scary.”

The result: Evangeline was born three months premature. She suffered from Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)—a hole in her heart—and Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH). And she was at risk for many other things: spontaneous brain bleeding, gastrointestinal complications, eye malformations and loss of vision, cerebral palsy, and more. Because of these complications and their effect on her lungs, Evangeline was placed on oxygen.

But as she grew and reached her original due date, their concerns began to fade.

“She has not had any major complications,” Ryan said. “She has good vision, her gut and stomach work as they should, and she does not show any negative brain functioning symptoms.”

Evangeline is no longer on oxygen and her ASD—which will eventually be closed by catheter or open-heart surgery—does not require medication. Currently, her heart condition “causes her to tire out faster than other children.” But once it is closed, her endurance will be “the same as any other child.”

“Evangeline has monthly follow-up appointments with different specialists and will need surgery in the coming years, but her future is very bright,” said Ryan. “She is strong and healthy and is further developing her personality.”
“She brightens our lives each and every day.”

When Ryan and Karissa arrived in Rochester, they were somewhat familiar with Ronald McDonald House Charities, but the more they learned about the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester…the more they were amazed.

“Living through an acutely traumatic experience—premature delivery of our daughter—and a stressful situation—100-day NICU stay—made the House even more important,” Ryan said. “The people were kind, genuine, caring, and present.”

Among those people were volunteers and staff, who Ryan said, “helped keep him grounded and reminded him how blessed they were as a family.”

The House navigated uncertain times by expanding its services outside the House. Children and families received activity bags and food bags for convenience during extended periods away from the House.

“Evangeline lived in an incubator for many weeks,” said Ryan. “Activity bags had books we could read to her—it helped us feel more connected. We would miss lunch orders, so we utilized food bags and other fresh food items available in the House.”

“It all made a difference.”

The House is supported by many local businesses and individuals. Guest rooms, in-House activities, meals, food bags and activity bags, gas station, grocery store and restaurant gift cards—all are available because of their generous support.

“Thank you,” Ryan said. “You make an impact of a magnitude that I have never experienced. You provide for families who are suffering deeply. You provide comfort for those who desperately need it. I cannot imagine how drastically more difficult my family’s experience would
have been without your generosity. Truly...thank you.”

“Whether it is time, finances, skills—whatever help you provide blesses those who cannot prepare for the road they are traveling that led to Mayo Clinic and the Ronald McDonald House. Please continue to help the kids who are being called to rise up during the most challenging experiences of their lives. Please continue to help the mothers and fathers, who can do nothing but read their sons and daughters a book while they fight for their lives.”

“Please continue to support the House.”

Evangeline and her parents will visit Rochester less frequently as she grows, but they look forward to stopping by their home away from home...the Ronald McDonald House.
April 17-23 is National Volunteer Week!
The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester appreciates all of the volunteers who help make the House a home for thousands of children and families each year. 

Volunteers truly are the heart of the home!

Distinguished Volunteer - Lindsay Young

Lindsay joined as a volunteer in 2005 and is a dynamic individual with a passion for assisting the Ronald McDonald House and giving back to her community in a multitude of ways. She goes above and beyond as a HouseWarmer, family activities volunteer, gardener, and special events volunteer. Lindsay supports the House Dinner program by making and serving meals to families and is a special grocery delivery service. She serves on the Volunteer Committee and Development Committee and is a trusted member of the Medical Advisory Committee. Lindsay is also a current member of the Board of Trustees.

“There is a passion among my fellow volunteers that is very inspirational, and I strive to put that forth in everything I do.” - Lindsay Young

25-Year Volunteer Recognition Wall

In honor and celebration of the volunteers who have given 25 years and more to children and families

40-plus years
Charlene Hawk
George Wilson

35-plus years
Bob Cline
Michele Sursely

30-plus years
Barb Feldt
Dewey Johnson
Kak Johnson
Cindy Nelson
Faye Sargent

25-plus years
Carol Burnham
Barb Henoch
Dan Kelly
Julie Knutson-Pine
Gloria Lewison
Charlie Nelson
Elene Pattinson
Mary Anne Petersen
Joanne Rosener
Dee Schemmel
Paulette Steinberg
Carol Stillman

25 years
Donna Bakeberg
Nina Cecchi
Gretchen Cutshall

Fagan Studios
Children and families are once again enjoying regularly scheduled House activities - Paw Pals, Visiting Artist, music and movement, egg hunts, math and science night, and more!
Over the past two years, the Ronald McDonald House expanded its services beyond its four walls, meeting families where they are at and providing them with support.

Due to the worldwide health crisis, the House Dinner program transitioned to individually packaged, catered meals. In 2021, 7,918 meals—more than double the amount in 2020—were provided to children and families.

Meals are funded by generous donors and supplied by local restaurants, stimulating the Rochester economy. Six restaurants, in particular, have supported these efforts throughout the transition by providing weekly discounted meals and delivery.

Thank you, Canadian Honker, Five West Kitchen and Bar, Hot Chip Burger Bar, North Mr. Pizza, SMOAK BBQ, and Victoria's Ristorante and Wine Bar, for helping the House feed hundreds of families!

Ronald McDonald House

Brian Swancutt

Staff Announcements

Started as House Manager in April
Be a Fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester!
Did you know that you can start your very own fundraising campaign to support Ronald McDonald House of Rochester families? Not everyone has funds to give—creating an online fundraiser is another way you can help families who are seeking the critical medical care that their child needs.

Click here to check out Classy, an online platform integrated within our website that is built just like other popular fundraising websites!

You can become a fundraiser today with just a few clicks. It’s that simple, and the opportunities are endless!

- Celebrate your birthday or another special day in your life!
- Have everything you need? Ask for donations instead of wedding gifts!
- Host a fundraiser in honor/memory of a loved one.

Your online fundraiser will help support family activity programs like pet therapy, campfires, and crafts, as well as daily meals and other necessities.

You can find more information about community fundraisers and other ways you can support the House by visiting our website: https://www.rmhmn.org/community-fundraisers/
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

Major Sponsor
Data Smart
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44TH ANNUAL
SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC
PRESENTED BY think BANK

Monday, June 13, 2022
at SOMERBY GOLF CLUB

Brunch and Registration at 10:00 am
Shotgun Start at 11:00 am

$200 per golfer
($60 is tax deductible)

Register your team of 4 today!

For more information and to register, visit www.rmhmn.org

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COURTESY CORPORATION
UPCOMING EVENTS

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE FAMILY WALK</td>
<td>Saturday, May 28, 11 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER ONLINE</td>
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<td>CANS FOR KIDS with McNeilus Companies</td>
<td>Saturday, June 11, 2022</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SWING YOUR BIRDIE GOLF CLASSIC</td>
<td>Monday, June 13, 2022, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>JOIN WAITING LIST</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.

CONNECT!

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