



Ronald
McDonald
House®
Rochester, MN

news from the heart

AUGUST 2022

www.rmhmh.org



One year after sharing her story...
Hannah is preparing for her 18th birthday and college graduation!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester is welcoming more children and families daily to the House and to the community of Rochester.

Short-term stays are increasing because of our expansion, reducing both cost and stress on parents. The House is full of laughter, love, and a place of respite for those who stay here.

Volunteers are busy supporting families, House Dinners are being prepared and served to families by our caring community volunteers, and families are enjoying the many activities that are provided after a long day of medical care.

As the House continues to be a home for families, the need for support - financial, in-kind, and volunteer - has never been greater.

As one of the largest Ronald McDonald Houses in the world, we need to expand our reach and increase our support system to best serve those in need.

We want to thank you for your continued support as we serve more families each and every day.



Paula Haraldson and Jammie McGuire
Co-Interim Executive Directors

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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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Rochester, MN

After graduating from high school and enrolling at Pearl River Community College (Poplarville, Miss.) when she was 16 years old, Hannah is now preparing for her 18th birthday...and her college graduation.

She will graduate in May with an associate's degree in medical billing and coding.

"I want to do something in the medical field, so I can help others," said Hannah. "Billing and coding is a job I can do remotely, for flexibility with my own health."



Hannah and her mother, Heather, are back at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester after a series of medical issues. Hannah has had three blood stream infections and two bouts with COVID in a six-month span.



Blood stream infections typically result in illness - high fever and serious sickness. But because she is on immune-suppressing medication and has a weak immune system, her body did not show the typical signs.

"We were supposed to be in Rochester for two weeks, but because of the infections, Mayo needs to monitor her progress and evaluate her response for three additional weeks," Heather said.

"I don't want the infections to linger, so I want to have a plan," said Hannah. "Every infection increases the risk for permanent issues and complications."

Before the infections, Hannah's health has been "as good as can be expected." The family is meeting with hematologists to discuss future treatments and genetics counseling for panels to understand how she will progress.

Hannah's current circumstances have not slowed her down. She enrolled in summer classes to stay on track and worked at a local dry cleaning shop for a few hours a day, a few days a week.

But for the current five-week stretch, the House is their home. And for the first time in five years, when Heather called about a room...one was immediately available.

"It is huge," said Heather. "We started appointments as soon as we arrived, and if we were on a waiting list...it would have been very hard."

"Instead, we were here. We were home."

Those aren't the only changes from their most recent stays. The House reopened common spaces and reinstated activities. Hannah frequents the Craft Room and Game Room and both enjoy House Dinners with other children and families and volunteers.



"The activities are so much fun and so relaxing," Hannah said. "It has been a while since we have been able to spend time with other people."

Hannah made a new friend at the first House Dinner she attended; a common occurrence for the outgoing teenager.



"It's my favorite part of the House," said Hannah. "I never feel alone."

And the House continues to be a place of respite and refuge for the entire family.

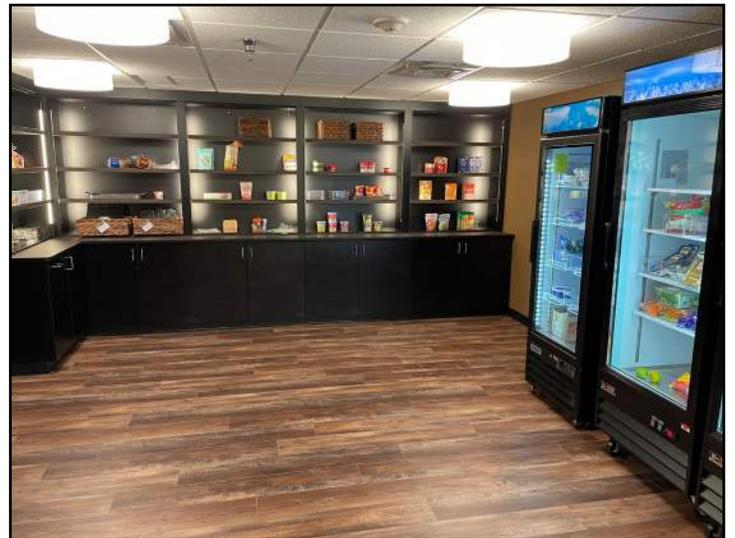
"With Hannah fighting infection, it is so reassuring to be at the House," said Heather. "The volunteers keep everything so clean and safe."

"My dad appreciates when we are at the House because he knows we are receiving the best care," Hannah said.

Heather also mentioned the recently

renovated Fresh Food Co-Op, which provides children and families with fresh and healthy options during their stay.

"When you plan to be somewhere for two weeks and you end up staying for more than one month, it is a strain emotionally and financially," said Heather. "The House makes it better."



"If we have to be away from home, there is no place that we would rather be."

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT
Read Hannah's story from 2021
[CLICK HERE](#)

SUMMER CAMP

The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester hosted Summer Camp for children and families! Activities included sidewalk chalk, bubbles, painting, scavenger hunt, LEGO kits, water balloons, campfire, s'mores, and more!



From all of us at the Ronald McDonald House, thank you for participating in the 44th Annual Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic Presented by Think Bank!

Congratulations to the tournament winners:

1st Place: Nick Pederson, John Morgan, Justin Schoville, Bill Grinde

2nd Place: Robbie Benike, Matt Humphrey, Eric Deutsch, Matt Fox

Most Honest: Emily Demers, Kayla Sprout, Mark Zoller, Bryan Morcomb

Flight Prizes sponsored by Indoor Golf Center:

Longest Drive | Women: Cindy Smith

Longest Drive | Men: John Morgan

Longest Putt: Jing Wong

Putting Contest: Chad DeCook

Par 3 Poker: Tom Wernimont



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For 44 years, the Birdie has raise vital funds to support families during their time of need. Whether this is your first year golfing, or if you have participated for many, thank you. Thank you for the love you have shared with families who stay at our Ronald McDonald House. You have made a difference. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE
45th Annual Swing Your Birdie Golf Classic
Monday, June 12, 2023 at Somerby Golf Club

NATIONAL MAKE A WILL MONTH

At the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, we work hard to make sure our families are well-cared for.

You can do the same for your family by creating a will or updating an already established one.

Three reasons why having a will is important:

- It's a powerful document that protects your property and your loved ones.
- It can provide peace and comfort to your loved ones.
- It lets you create a legacy that will live on.



Celebrate National Make a Will Month with us by downloading our Estate Guide and [make a will for free!](#)

While you are writing your will, you have the opportunity to join others who have supported the mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester by [including legacy gifts](#) in their wills.

**For more information, please contact:
Lauren Brown, Development Officer
(P: 507-424-3216 E: lbrown@rmhmn.org)
or visit rmhmn.giftlegacy.com**

**Do you have some time to share volunteering?
Are you able to help maintain a welcoming and sanitary environment?**

WE NEED YOU!

We are in need of growing our volunteer family to help us support the day-to-day needs of the House and families! Our HouseWarmers provide support for general housekeeping of public spaces, laundry support, front desk receptionist duties, guest family interaction, and so much more!

We also have dinner support opportunities to prepare and serve dinner to families, along with dinner hosting opportunities to welcome and work with community groups providing meals to families.

If you enjoy being outside, we have gardening opportunities as well!



Becoming a volunteer is easy!

To learn more and apply, please visit <https://www.rmhmh.org/housewarmer/>.



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<https://www.rmhmh.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANS FOR KIDS
with McNeilus Companies

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022

Ronald McDonald House Staff Announcements



Darci
Rush

Started as
Hospitality Associate
in July

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.

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