



**Ronald
McDonald
House
Charities**
of Southern
Colorado



Heart Strings

Fall/Winter 2016

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Cameron
Memorial Golf
Tournament and
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The Davis Family Story

You may have not met me, but you have meant the world to me and my family. My husband Aaron and I are forever grateful for you. If you will, I would love the opportunity to share with you my family's story, and how you have helped us through very difficult times.

Being pregnant with my first baby while working in a medium security male prison in Buena Vista brought both dreams of hope and complete nightmares. I dreamed of what my child would look like, what her future held and I had nightmares that if I had complications at work, the prison's medical doctors would hold me there until help could arrive. Potentially, my daughter's place of birth on her birth certificate could say "Buena Vista Correctional Facility." It was a terrifying thought.

Luckily I was not at work when I went to my doctor after feeling like something "just wasn't right." My doctor immediately hospitalized me and had me on bedrest for a week. He then decided that it was best I was transported to a larger hospital. Frightened, it was my amazing doctor that gave me hope. He gave me hope that being in the Colorado Springs hospital would give my baby the best hopes of survival at 28 weeks pregnant.

Four weeks of hospitalization brought us the opportunity to meet our precious Serenity Aryn, born at 32 weeks and weighing 4 pounds, 1 ounce. She was the baby we had dreamed about for 5 years! Whisked away to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Serenity spent the next 5 weeks in the hospital.

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In 2010, when I was first invited to join the Board of Directors of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado (RMHCSC), I thought I knew what the Ronald McDonald House was all about. As a practicing pediatrician for 25 years, I had interacted with parents of patients who were staying at the House, and I appreciated that, because of the House, parents were able to stay close to their child who was ill. I knew that families were relieved to not have the financial burden of a hotel, meals and transportation when their child was hospitalized. I was interested in giving back to this

organization that was dedicated to the emotional well-being of families during their child's illness.

What I did not realize then, was the scope of the dedication and passion with which all associated with RMHCSC bring to the table. Not only is the House an oasis of comfort for families during terrifying times with a sick child, but the other RMHCSC programs touch the lives of hundreds of other families as well. The Family Rooms at each of the hospitals allow local families to have a refuge steps away from their children, out of the hubbub of the hospital wards, and allows parents to regroup emotionally. The Care Mobile takes medical and dental care out to children in communities that otherwise do not have any access to necessary care.

All of these things happen as a result of the tireless efforts of a tiny staff, with a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers. The unbelievable generosity of time from volunteers, some of whom have worked with RMHCSC for decades, is humbling. I recently spoke to a couple of volunteers who told me: "It is my honor to volunteer", "It is a pleasure" and "It is so rewarding to work at the Family Room" - - this from people who are donating their time for strangers faced with adversity.

What started as an interest in supporting a local charity as a Board member has morphed into a tremendous appreciation for the Ronald McDonald House Charities community. My professional enthusiasm for pediatrics has deepened, knowing that so many others are there to support my patients and their families when faced with the challenge of serious illness. It is a truly amazing organization!

Thank you!

Laura Boschert, MD



Living in the "green" state, we're conscientious about the environment.

If you're interested in receiving HeartStrings via email, helping RMHCSC save on printing and postage costs, please send your email to sam@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org. Thanks!



WANT TO BE FRIENDS?

Receive updates and news at **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado's** facebook page!



"Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado lifts children and families in need to a better tomorrow."

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FALL/WINTER 2016

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Volunteering: If you are interested in volunteering for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado, please contact Nicole Noll 719.471.1814 or Nicole@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org

Donors: We appreciate all your efforts in volunteer time and/or financial giving.

Our nurses that came alongside me during my bed rest and during Serenity's hospitalization are givers of hope. They met me on some of my hardest days when we questioned why, and days where the poking, prodding, and tests seemed all too much. But the nurses kept us so full of hope, as we were the fortunate ones, and eventually we would take our baby home.

During our stay with Serenity in the hospital, thankfully one of our nurses suggested we stay at the Ronald McDonald House. Being greeted by volunteers when we walked into the House for the first time, we knew we were home. It is beautiful, warm and inviting, a house built with love and full of hopes and dreams: hopes and dreams that everything will be okay with our critically ill daughter. The House is where families come together and support each other and the community comes together and supports us with gifts of meals, hygiene products, supplies, etc., allowing us to take care of ourselves. Being with other families that understood one another's magnitude of emotion and stress, we stood together and gave hope to one another every time a family was able to go home with their baby, hope that we would be there soon. The Ronald McDonald House is a magical place that lifted and supported us during our most difficult times, and we are forever thankful.



A few years later we were expecting another baby, Sterling Michael. We went from having a 34-week healthy baby checkup on Friday to a baby shower on Saturday to devastating news on Sunday that our beautiful son would not be born alive. Going from having a dream that we would have a son to planning his funeral is nothing I would wish on anyone. The nurses who cared for me during this most horrific time when I would deliver and meet Sterling, and then have to say goodbye were also givers of hope. They gave me hope that I would survive, that the sun would shine again, that they will always remember me and my son's name.

I was a Board Member for the Ronald McDonald House when Sterling passed. The Board came alongside us and wanted to plant a garden in Sterling's name. With the amazing donations and support of volunteers, our dream of a beautiful garden to give families a moment of peace and a moment to remember their hopes and dreams again in serenity is what we accomplished. To a grieving parent, this gave me hope that Sterling would never be forgotten and his short life would bless other families wherever their journey was leading them.

Throughout our journey with Sterling, our nurses inspired us to dream and hope for a rainbow baby. A rainbow baby is the ultimate hope that you can love again after a loss, makes the sun shine again, and gives you hope that you can hold a baby again. For my husband Aaron and me, that person is our precious second daughter Addy Faith. Addy brings us so much hope and love to us each and every day. Together, she and Serenity gift us with countless smiles and we are forever blessed being their mom and dad.

Thank you for allowing me to share our journey thus far with you, our wonderful supporters. I remain on the Board of Directors for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado as this organization is so very near and dear to my heart. Without the support of our donors, volunteers and groups who come alongside our charity, so many families would never experience the love and hope that the Ronald McDonald House provides every single day of the year, and so many families would not be able to stay near their critically ill child, as the enormous cost to do so would be prohibitive. It is because of you the Ronald McDonald House made a difference for our family and will continue to make a difference for so many more families for many, many years to come. We appreciate you!



Treasure Davis

24th Annual Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament & Pre-Tourney



Photo by Chris Gosnell
Pictured: Troy and Brian Vigil, Micah Pauldino and Nick Nosewicz

In our 29th year of providing services to families with seriously ill children, we were pleased to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament and Pre-Tourney this past June, with 100% of the proceeds staying locally, benefitting the cornerstone programs of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado.

We continue to be honored by our long-standing relationships with these fabulous sponsors: Children's Hospital Colorado, McDonald's, Lexus of Colorado Springs, and Lexus Champions for Charity. We sincerely thank them for their support in making this two-day event possible. Please support them with your patronage!

The live and silent auctions, held at Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame on Sunday, June 12th, were a big hit with the crowd due to the invaluable help of hard-working volunteers and board members, as well as the generous donations from our community. We were proud to again offer a chance to bid on Lexus Champions for Charity's incredible golf

trip to Pebble Beach, along with many other incredible prizes. The evening featured music by modern outlaw country band, Ryan Chrys & the Rough Cuts – awarded "2016 Entertainer of the Year" by the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame. In addition to excellent music, our honored guests also feasted on delicious food from Texas Roadhouse, La Casita, Bubba's 33, desserts from Safeway and beverages from Cheer's Liquor Mart, Bristol Brewing and Coca-Cola.

Early the next day, the enthusiastic golfers were treated to a continental breakfast at The Club at Flying Horse. Everyone had a fantastic day on the links, (with only a short pause for a rain shower!), followed by sunshine and an awards luncheon. The winning team was Troy Vigil, Brian Vigil, Micah Pauldino and Nick Nosewicz. CONGRATULATIONS, Golfers!



4th Annual Ron-A-Thon with Nash FM

It was our pleasure to again team up with 95.1 NASH FM on Thursday, November 10th for our all day Ron-a-Thon. Friends Cutter and Alisha offered up excellent incentives to the kind folks in our community who called in pledges of support for seriously ill children and their families. We were THRILLED to raise \$41,110.00 in support of our cornerstone programs, which served almost 4,000 local kids and their families last year. We're grateful for everyone who tuned in and made a pledge!

When 12 year old Serenity Davis presented "Serenity's Challenge", the support poured in. Heartfelt thanks to Treasure Davis Team of Remax Properties, the Ashley Family, the William's family, Stacey Knott, Todd McMillan with McDonald's at Garden of the Gods and North Academy & Voyager and Marco's Pizza.

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, Phone Bank Sponsor, Children's Hospital Colorado and Tote Board Sponsors, ANB Bank and AIM Home Health Care.



Volunteer

We would like to introduce you to two extraordinary volunteers: Richard "Doc" and Norma Taylor. Norma



has been involved with RMHCSC since we opened in 1987 through her sorority, the Zeta Tau Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha. This incredible group of ladies has helped for nearly 30 years through donations of pantry items for the House as well as helping each October by hand-addressing envelopes for our annual Direct Mail fundraiser. Several years ago, Norma let us know her group was happy to address the entire mailing list, which had previously been divided up among several different groups. What a tremendous help this has been for one of our biggest fundraisers! Her husband, Doc, had been handling mailings for the Boy Scouts for many years. He noticed our mailing list had some duplicate accounts and other minor issues. With our blessing, Doc took our Direct Mail data and created multiple spreadsheets that enabled us to "clean up" our mailing list. We are eternally grateful to this amazing couple who have put in innumerable volunteer hours behind the scenes to help us!

There are so many different ways to volunteer with us – individually, in pairs, as part of a group, or even behind the scenes, like Doc and Norma! If you can help, please contact Nicole Noll, Volunteer Coordinator at 719.471.1814 or Nicole@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org.

Partner with us

We appreciate your ongoing financial support of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado! Every donation, regardless of size, adds up and assists RMHCSC as we serve those in need. Maintaining your trust is of utmost importance to us. You may view our Annual Report at www.rmhcsoutherncolorado.org/. We know your choices of where to give are many – thanks for continuing to partner with us.

Combined Federal Campaign

If you or someone you know is a federal employee, please consider designating Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado as your charity of choice in the Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC number is 90242.



How can you help?

Do you know of a group, business, corporation, organization or service club who would like to learn more about Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado? Our Speaker's Bureau would love the opportunity to share our mission, cornerstone programs and families stories with them!

Call Sam at 719.375.3871 or E-mail: sam@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)



CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas raising millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible nonprofit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

If you or someone you know is a federal employee, please consider designating Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado as your charity of choice. Our CFC number is 90242.

Festival of Lights



We're looking forward to participating the 32nd Annual Festival of Lights parade on Saturday, December 3rd at 5:50pm in downtown Colorado Springs! The theme for this year is "Home for the Holidays" – look for us marching with the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile strung with hundreds of tiny lights!

NORAD Tracks Santa



NORAD started the tradition of tracking Santa's world journey in 1955 after a local store's advertisement for kids to call Santa on a special "hotline" included a misprinted telephone number. Instead of reaching Mr. Kris Kringle, the number put kids through to the CONAD Commander-in-Chief's operations "hotline." The Director of Operations, Colonel Harry Shoup, received the first "Santa" call and had his staff check radar data to see if there was any indication of Santa making his way south from the North Pole. Indeed, there were signs of Santa, and children who called in were given an update on Santa's position. Thus, the tradition was born. www.noradsanta.org/.

We love our partnership with NORAD Tracks Santa! The website, filled with games, videos, recipes, and lots of other great stuff for kids of all ages, will restart on December 1, 2016. Be sure and check it out!

"Like" them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/noradsanta>

Gingerbread Village

Now in our 7th year, Gingerbread Village, 2016 will be open for public view beginning Friday, November 25th through Sunday, December 11th at Chapel Hills Mall, second floor, outside Dillard's. You are cordially invited to bring the family to see what fresh, new creations have been designed by this year's food artists! Read more about Gingerbread Village on page 8.



Colorado Gives Day



For the 6th consecutive year, Community First Foundation and FirstBank are partnering to present Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Colorado Gives provides current and in-depth information on 1,800+ local charities. In 2015, RMHCSC raised \$3,716! Thanks to everyone who donated online!<https://www.coloradogives.org/>. Read more about Colorado Gives on page 7.



WISH LIST

FOR THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AND
THE RONALD MCDONALD FAMILY ROOMS

FOOD

- ♥ Chips – Single Serve
- ♥ Cookies – Single Serve
- ♥ Mac & Cheese – Singles
- ♥ Trail Mix – Single Serve
- ♥ Granola Bars
- ♥ Pop Tarts
- ♥ Cookie Mixes
- ♥ Cup-a-Soup
- ♥ Crackers – Single Serve
- ♥ Pudding Cups
- ♥ Beefaroni, Spaghetti-O's
- ♥ Cereal – Single Serve
- ♥ Bagels
- ♥ Fruit Cups
- ♥ Applesauce – Singles
- ♥ Fruit Snacks
- ♥ Cake Mixes
- ♥ Pretzels – Single Serve

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- ♥ Pledge Dusting Cloths
- ♥ Powdered Laundry Detergent
- ♥ Color Safe Bleach
- ♥ Dryer Sheets
- ♥ Air Fresheners-NOT Electric
- ♥ Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- ♥ Dishwasher Tablets
- ♥ Paper Towels
- ♥ Small Trash Bags
- ♥ Food Handling Gloves
- ♥ Clorox Wipes
- ♥ Hand Sanitizer
- ♥ Swiffer Products
- ♥ Furniture Polish
- ♥ Lysol Spray

GIFT CARDS

- ♥ Safeway
- ♥ King Soopers
- ♥ Albertson's
- ♥ Michael's
- ♥ Costco
- ♥ Sam's Club
- ♥ Target
- ♥ Walmart
- ♥ Lowe's
- ♥ Home Depot
- ♥ Kohl's
- ♥ Restaurants

LINENS

- ♥ NEW – QUEEN Flat & Fitted WHITE Sheets
- ♥ NEW – TWIN Flat & Fitted BEIGE Sheets
- ♥ NEW – STANDARD Pillows
- ♥ ALLEREASE Zippered Mattress Covers
- ♥ ALLEREASE Zippered Pillow Covers

OFFICE

- ♥ DRY Erase Markers – ALL COLORS
- ♥ 8 1/2 x 11 20# Copy Paper
- ♥ Postage Stamps: First Class (Forever)
- ♥ Postage Stamps: Postcard

FAMILY LODGING

- ♥ One Night Lodging (our cost) for a family at Ronald McDonald House - \$50.00
- ♥ One Week Lodging (our cost) for a family at Ronald McDonald House - \$350.00

Target Registry

Help us restock our kitchens in the House & Family Rooms.
It's easy - simply follow this link to the Target website
<https://www-secure.target.com/gift-registry/giftgiver?registryId=w10oZyqTd9JIDznaetkn2Q#1>
or go to Target.com, click on Registries, enter Ronald House for the name. Thank you for your help!

Your generous support will assist the programs of:
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado
311 North Logan Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80909 (719) 471-1814

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado
311 North Logan Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-471-1814 • www.rmhcsontherncolorado.org

Generous Community Supporters



Christmas Décor/Timberline Landscaping, Inc.

For many years, Christmas Décor by Timberline has enhanced the holiday beauty of our Ronald McDonald House with festive roof lighting, holiday wreaths, greenery and distinctive window lighting.

Let Timberline light up your Christmas holiday or special event!

Call 719.638.1000 or www.timberlinelandscaping.com/

Mr. Rooter



Plumbing is an aspect of your home or business that you take for granted, until something goes horribly wrong. Don't neglect proper plumbing care any longer! Mr. Rooter Plumbing provides quality residential and commercial plumbing services to Colorado Springs, Cascade, Black Forest, Manitou Springs, Fountain, and the surrounding areas.

For your plumbing, drain cleaning, or sewer repair needs, call 719.602.2280 or visit them at www.mrrooter.com/.

Handyman Connection



RMHCSC depends on our local Handyman Connection for repairs, updates, and remodels. No job is too big or too small for Shaun McCarthy and his top-notch staff. They proudly hold over 20 years of experienced craftsmanship and a satisfaction guarantee that will give you peace of mind.

For your installation, repair, or maintenance needs, call them at 1.800.88.HANDY.

Many thanks to these ongoing supporters for providing these services free-of-charge:



Carpet Care Craftsman – quarterly carpet cleaning



Double G Carpet Care Specialist – quarterly carpet cleaning



Safeway – weekly milk & juice donation



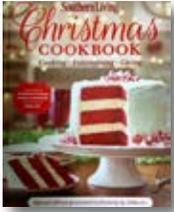
The Gazette – daily newspaper delivery



Trader Joe's – twice weekly fresh flower donation

ways to give a little love

Dillard's Cookbook



For years, the families we serve have been blessed by Dillard's generosity and caring, as they annually compile a beautiful Southern Living Cookbook, (two books in one). Filled with cooking, entertaining and giving ideas for the holidays, they make GREAT GIFTS! Just \$10, these books are available NOW at any Dillard's register in Chapel Hills Mall, or at our Ronald McDonald House. 100% of the proceeds stay local in support of our families with hospitalized children.

Colorado Gives Day



Since its inception in 2010, Colorado Gives Day has raised \$111.5 million for Colorado nonprofits, making it among the most successful giving days in the nation. Last year alone, donors gave more than 123,000 individual donations to 1,884 nonprofits totaling \$28.4 million, breaking all previous records. RMHCSC is proud to participate in this event again this year, taking place Tuesday, December 6, 2016, during a 24-hour period starting at midnight. <https://www.coloradogives.org>

Donate Your Vehicle

Donate a vehicle to RMH Today!



Help Us Help Families | www.OneCarHelpsRMHC.com



Help us help kids! It's child's play to help families of critically ill children during challenging times. Simply submit your contact information by completing an online form, <https://www.onecarhelpsrmhc.com/> or by calling 855.227.7435. At no cost to you, your vehicle will be picked up and towed to the nearest auction location. The proceeds stay local and you will likely qualify for a hefty tax deduction. Thank you for your consideration and your support!

Corporate Supporter Highlight



For nearly 30 years, our Ronald McDonald House has been a safe place for families in crisis to stay, just steps away from their critically ill, hospitalized child. Around the holidays, those days and nights have been made even more bright, thanks to the caring of our friends from Timberline Landscaping.

During this time of year, we all long to be "home for the holidays". For families staying at our House, our home-away-from-home becomes theirs, allowing them to stay near their seriously ill children. For years, Christmas Decor by Timberline Landscaping has been decorating and lighting our House, making it so inviting and picture perfect.

Owner, Tim Emick's commitment and care continued. Last year, Timberline Landscaping took over our landscape maintenance and lawn care needs, maintaining our lawns, Healing Garden, and vegetable and flower gardens. His crew also ensures our sprinkler systems are in top working order.

Their support continued, providing even more! For the care and safety of the families we serve, Tim and his crew now provide snow and ice removal from all of our walks and driveways, keeping paths to the hospital clean and clear.

We can't thank them enough! If you have needs, please contact Tim and his crew from Timberline Landscaping and Christmas Decor, 719.638.1000 or www.timberlinelandscaping.com/.



Gingerbread Village 2016



The tradition of making gingerbread houses dates back to early 13th century Europe, when master bakers began to create large, intricate works of art with this fragrant dough. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado is proud to carry on this rich heritage with the help of Chef Michael Paradiso and his culinary arts students from Pikes Peak Community College.



This year marks our 7th Annual Gingerbread Village display at Chapel Hills Mall. Open for public viewing beginning Friday, November 25th through Sunday, December 11th. It is our pleasure to share Gingerbread Village with our remarkable community as a way to say, "Thanks for your ongoing support!" Join in the fun on the second floor, just outside Dillard's. We hope to see you there! Want to volunteer? Email sam@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org.



Meals that Heal



For our families, long, stressful days spent in the hospital are often unpredictable as the health and well-being of their seriously ill child hangs in the balance.

Meals that Heal ensures there is always a warm, nutritious meal prepared and waiting for families staying at our House. Served promptly at 6 pm, moms, dads, siblings and extended family benefit from the normalcy and routine that comes from gathering around a table for dinner each night. Truly, something seemingly so small as sustenance helps families take better care of themselves, regaining the strength they need to be better able and prepared to support and care for their critically ill child.

Our "Guest Chefs" ease the burdens families in crisis face by preparing and sharing a meal. Not needing to come up with meals on their own, Meals that Heal gives families even more time to spend with their critically ill child.

Certainly, you don't need to be a world class chef to provide a tasty, home-cooked meal for our families to enjoy - your gift of time and a nutritious dinner makes a tremendous difference. You'll find you feel great knowing you've helped lift the load for families in need.

Meals that Heal are prepared at our House, or they can also be delivered from a restaurant or catering service.

For meals prepared at our House, volunteers plan a menu, purchase the needed food items, then prepare and can even serve the meal, if desired. Part of the magic is from interactions with the families you're serving.



If you'd like to be a Meals that Heal provider, contact Laura at 719.471.1814 or laura@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org to get on our Meals that Heal calendar. Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado's Cornerstone Programs



Ronald McDonald House

The doors opened to "The House That Love Built" at 311 North Logan Avenue in Colorado Springs, Colorado on February 14th, 1987. Since that time, our Ronald McDonald House has served over 9,000 families with critically ill children who are receiving the best possible medical care at area hospitals. Primarily, families come from Southern Colorado, Northern New Mexico and Western Kansas. Staying at our House allows families to be just steps away from their seriously ill child. Studies show family centered care helps children heal faster and cope better. In addition, parents are able to stay connected to their child's medical team, understanding and keeping up with complicated protocols and treatment plans.

In 2015, **249 families** stayed at our Ronald McDonald House while their critically ill children were hospitalized.



Ronald McDonald Family Room

When a child is critically or seriously ill, family and friends don't want to leave their bedside; as often, too much can change, and quickly. The Ronald McDonald Family Rooms located in Memorial Hospital, St. Francis Medical Center and inside the new Children's Hospital Colorado Outpatient Specialty Care location offer the needed amenities, allowing families and friends to be within steps of their hospitalized child. Open 365 days a year, 12 hours a day, the Family Rooms are staffed 100% by volunteers, who greet our guests into a warm, relaxing, home-like environment where they can relax and recharge. Amenities include comfortable seating areas, food and beverages, laptops with internet access, a kitchen, play room, resource library, private lockers and showering and laundry facilities.

In 2015, **1,425 families** were served by the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms. An additional **61 families** stayed in the sleeping rooms and in the family room at St. Francis Medical Center.



Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is the World's first "green" Care Mobile. A collaborative partnership between Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado and Peak Vista Community Health Centers, the Care Mobile's mission is "to provide exceptional health care to children and their families by reducing community-wide geographic access barriers." Our 40' Care Mobile travels to eight counties along the Front Range, providing both preventative and restorative medical and dental care to children 0-21 who are uninsured and underinsured.

In 2015, the Care Mobile provided medical and dental care **1,165 times**

Bundles Of Joy



Newborns come with lots of needs - especially premature ones. Our Bundles of Joy program provides the most needed items to families with new little ones. Our support and care of families is during their critically ill child's hospitalization, when the baby is discharged, and when everyone gets to go home! Here is a sweet story from a family who stayed with us this past spring:

"I was brought to Memorial Hospital Central by ambulance from Pueblo when my placenta started leaking at 31 weeks. After two days, the doctors determined it was time to deliver my daughter via C-section. Jordie Lynn was delivered April 22, 2016, weighing just 3lbs, 13.5oz.

Jordie Lynn,
3 months old

She was very healthy, but required medical interventions that most babies born at 31 weeks would require like oxygen, antibiotics, and feeding support via a nasogastric tube.

I remained in the hospital for six days and the time came for me to be discharged without my baby. On the day I left, a hospital social worker mentioned that there was a Ronald McDonald House across the street from the hospital and she could write us a referral to stay there so we could spend additional time with our hospitalized daughter. While at the House, I was especially pleased when I received a very special welcome care package and a Bundles of Joy baby care package upon departure. Each item was carefully chosen to provide me with all the resources needed during my stay and all the basic necessities for my baby for our transition home. There were even hand-crafted items in each care package including a hat and scarf, baby blanket, and a bag. I am still overwhelmed by the generosity and thoughtfulness! The smallest things made such a big difference for us during this difficult time.

After 87 long days, Jordie was finally able to come home to our family. I often meet other families of NICU preemies, a culture one is not otherwise familiar with until experiencing it firsthand. Others mention the hospitality they also experienced during their time at the Ronald McDonald House. Our family cannot thank you enough, you TRULY made a difference during such a difficult time!"

-Submitted by Mel Hohnbaum

Summer Bash



to everyone who helped make this event memorable!

Our annual celebration of summertime was held on July 16th in the spacious backyard of our beloved home-away-from-home. Beautiful blue skies and warm breezes greeted our guests – volunteers, supporters, friends, RonHouse families, and neighbors. With the invaluable assistance of the Colorado Springs Kiwanis Club, everyone enjoyed burgers, brats, and all the fixings. Ronald McDonald stopped by to amaze young and old alike with his fun magic tricks. Sprout and Petey, Memorial Hospital's therapy mini horses, paid us a visit to the delight of everyone. Several Olympic athletes were also on hand to provide custom face painting for the little ones. Thanks



Pop Tabs



Little things can make a big difference! You can help support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado by collecting the little tabs you pull to open soda, soup or other aluminum cans. The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the House's expenses. Collecting tabs can be an easy and fun project. Tabs can be dropped off at the House any day between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00

p.m. Many groups, such as schools, corporations, clubs and committees, participate in this program and it's a simple way to make a big difference. Koscove Metal, locally owned and operated since 1917, is our recycling partner. They buy the aluminum at market rate and even make an additional charitable contribution. Please contact Ronda Riley for further information. Ronda@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org/.

Pop Tab Fun Facts

- Approximately one million pull tabs = 800 pounds
- Approximately 1,430 pull tabs = one pound
- Approximately 63,360 pull tabs = 1 mile



Since 1987, we have fulfilled our mission of *"lifting children and families in need to a better tomorrow."* Over 9,000 critically ill children and their families have stayed at our Ronald McDonald House, with nearly 4,000 children and families being served annually by our cornerstone programs. ♥

Here are just a precious few of those children who thank you for your continued support.



Tributes

March 16, 2016 - October 15, 2016

Dona Canaan in honor of Michael Canaan

Eric Henderson in honor of Andy Dewan

James & Tiffany Harding in honor of Champ & Rocky Harding

Susan Sullivan in honor of Armendariz baby

Ray & Tami Brown in honor of Trey Brown

Sally Little in honor of Donna, Gary & Bailey Proctor

Sally Little in honor of Jeff, Tina & Elizabeth Little

Memorials

March 16, 2016 - October 15, 2016

Jacqueline King in memory of Cecelia Marie Knight

Curt Croom in memory of Nancy Croom

Ashwin Kesaria in memory of Devan Jablonski

Michael Jablonski in memory of Devan Michael Jablonski

Mary Mayes in memory of Justin Kalas

Lyn DeDual in memory of Sterling Michael Davis

Thomas Shuey in memory of Jared Shuey

Lila Steyert in memory of Diana Leonard

Miriam Novak in memory of Ed Warnell

Lila Steyert in memory of Mac McWilliams

Pam Martens in memory of Tazmun R. Heeks

Jim Mayes in memory of Justin Mayes

Marion Werner in memory of Carlye Blake Yocam

Wally & Phyllis Mosher in memory of William Wright

Jeanette Ciccone in memory of James Ciccone

Reuben Burr in memory of Rosie Burr

Willis & Janene Shuey in memory of Jared Shuey

Deborah Dunn in memory of Diane Mutzebaugh-Alvarado

William & Norene Piquette in memory of Sandra Marie Chastain

Annette Mutzebaugh in memory of Diane Renee Mutzebaugh

Out of respect for the privacy of our donors, we've chosen to not print names or amounts given.

Please know we so appreciate every gift!



**Ronald McDonald House
of Southern Colorado**
311 North Logan Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

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Our Mission:

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado (RMHC)
lifts children and Families in need
to a better tomorrow.



IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION, RMHCSC PROVIDES:

- ♥ The Ronald McDonald House - a "home-away-from-home" for Families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment nearby.
- ♥ The Ronald McDonald Family Rooms - retreats inside Children's Hospital Colorado at Memorial Hospital, Children's Hospital Colorado Outpatient Specialty Care and St. Francis Medical Center where Families receive respite and regain their energy while remaining near their hospitalized child.
- ♥ The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile - a mobile medical and dental clinic serving children and Families in the Pikes Peak Region, in partnership with Peak Vista Community Health Centers.