



Ronald
McDonald
House
Charities
of Southern
Colorado



Heart Strings

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Emma's Story

Everyone in Emma's family loves to read. At five years old, Emma's natural curiosity and wonder sparked this bright Kindergartener's interest in fantasy favorites, *The Hobbit* and *Harry Potter*.



photo by Chris Gosnell

While reading with her mom one night in September, Emma complained of an earache. Making an appointment for her daughter to be seen, the doctor thought it was an ear infection. The prescribed drops didn't seem to help; Emma's pain persisted. Days turned into weeks with Emma reporting her ear was still hurting – only now, it was accompanied by a high fever and neck ache.

Looking for relief, Emma's parents took her to the emergency room three times. Recommendations included Tylenol for headache, fever and neck pain, with Zofran for Emma's nausea. Now into October, Emma was still complaining; the pain was intolerable. Soon, she became unresponsive. Calling 911, an ambulance came, taking Emma to the ER. This time, she was admitted. Within 24 hours, a spinal tap revealed this young girl had contracted bacterial meningitis.

Once Emma was hospitalized, her mom, Heather, dad, Kyle and brother Jeffery came to stay at our Ronald McDonald House. Time and again, they've expressed how thankful they were to be in such a loving, safe place, just steps away from their Emma.

Because meningitis lives in the cerebral spinal fluid, creating hydrocephalus (excessive accumulation of fluid in the brain) doctors performed an emergency craniectomy (removing part of the skull, allowing her swelling brain room to expand). Sadly, Emma's condition worsened. She had a stroke (the first of many) and began having seizures. The impact has left Emma presenting as a two-month-old. She is unable to eat, swallow, walk or speak.

There's NO PLACE ELSE Emma's family would have been over the next few months than by Emma's side. With their daughter's life hanging in the balance, they knew they needed to be with her - at her bedside – to monitor her condition, talk with the doctors, understand (and follow) the medical protocols and spend time reading together. Heather and Kyle's unwavering

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“One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life — that word is love.” – Sophocles

What a beautiful and deep quote that resonates and remains as true today as it did thousands of years ago.

When I read it, I find it fully describes our Ronald McDonald House community; our amazing volunteers, our program partners, our service clubs and corporate supporters, our staff and our Board Members. They understand this quote, for they live it.

Love is displayed and expressed in so many ways by our Ronald McDonald House community. They happily clean our House to provide others a comfortable place to stay. They host a Family Room, ensuring it's open and available to provide parents and siblings a much needed respite. They come quarterly to deep clean carpets, or to cook meals, and share gifts to families they had never met. They donate their time, expertise, their services, their products. They pray, they hold, they listen. Simply, they love.

It is no coincidence that Ronald McDonald Houses everywhere are considered “The House That Love Built.” It rang as true for the first Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia in 1974, as it did for our House when we opened our doors on February 14, 1987. *It was love that opened our doors, and it is love that keeps our doors open.*

Given in so many ways, love is what provides the spirit of our Charity. It is what is felt the minute a family steps through our doors. It remains with them during their time with us and is remembered forever after. It is what makes the Ronald McDonald House and Family Rooms so near and dear to our families' hearts. It is spiritual and magical, and it's done through you.

Please allow us to express our deepest gratitude to all that engage and give of yourselves, sharing your love in one way or another with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado. You truly free the weight and pain of life for so many children and families through your beautiful acts of love. *We simply could not do it without you!*

Thank you!

Beth Alessio

Executive Director



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, let us know!

Send your email to us at 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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SPRING/SUMMER 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.



hope for Emma's full recovery has remained a constant.

January came and Emma was released from the hospital.

To care for their daughter's needs at home, Kyle, an Army veteran, quit his full time job and completed his certified nurse's assistant (CNA) course to be Emma's primary caregiver. It was a natural fit for Kyle, who had assisted medics while serving in the Army.

Heather said, "Kyle's always been a good dad. I'm not at all surprised by his abilities in caring for Emma." And

care for her, he does. In two

hours' time, Kyle fed Emma through her G-Tube, administered medication, changed her when needed and talked soothingly to his daughter while patting her head to calm her. To assist, Kyle asked "Dr. Bubba" (two-year-old brother Jeffery) for help. Jeffery moved lovingly to his sister, patting her while saying, "It's all right, Emma. I'm here." He smiled a genuine smile at her and then went back to eating his sandwich.

The toll Emma's disease and illness have brought to this small family is evident. Life changed so suddenly and dramatically. Pulling around the clock care is difficult. Kyle hasn't yet cried. "Some days are better than others. There simply isn't time for me to break down." he said. Heather added, "Seeing Emma's things and remembering who she was just a few months ago, is unhelping." It has been helpful for Heather to sit down and lose it for a few minutes. Then, she gets up, blows her nose and goes back to work. "Emma and Jeffery need us to be strong for them." she said. Even the family's dogs, Tuck and Eli have pitched in, snuggling up with their Emma, being a comfort when she's struggling most.

Heather said, "Staying at the Ronald McDonald House meant a lot to us. We didn't have to worry about getting from there to here; we didn't have to worry about cooping Jeff up in a hospital room." She paused, trying to find the right words. "I'm not quite

sure how to put this, but it was like staying at your grandparent's house for the holidays. Everything was so nice and clean and taken care of. You know it's not really your house, *but yet it feels so much like home.*" she added.

Our House did indeed become their "home for the holidays" with costumes and candy for Jeffery on Halloween, a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings and Santa, parties, gifts and a Christmas Store for their family over Christmas. New Year's was a time of reflection, renewed beginnings and hope.

"Honestly, staying with you was a godsend. It gave me a place where I could lay my head down without worrying about the minor details of life," said Kyle. "Little things weren't nearly as pressing." Touching Emma's leg he continued, "*Staying with you let me focus on the big things – the most important things.*"

Their family loves deeply. Holding on to as much normalcy as possible, our staff was surprised by a "Santa sighting" late on Christmas Eve. It turned out to be Kyle, (donning a complete Santa suit) returning from a visit with his girl, wishing her a Merry Christmas.

Heather said, "My grandpa used to say 'God shows himself to you in whatever ways you need it.' We definitely need it now." Emma's long-term prognosis is in the wait and see category. Because of her age and the brain's ability to adapt and heal, her family holds out hope for a full recovery as Emma continues to be seen by a team of professionals who are providing the best care possible.

In the meantime, this little family continues to snuggle up, turning a page and reading Harry Potter aloud. Kyle and Heather aren't sure if Emma can hear or comprehend - but, just in case, they'll keep doing what they know their little girl loves.



24th Annual Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament & Pre-Tourney



We are looking forward to celebrating the 24th anniversary of the Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament on June 13, 2016. This year, we'll again play on the extraordinary course at the Club at Flying Horse with 100% of the proceeds staying local, benefiting the cornerstone programs of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado. Registration will be at 7am, with a Continental breakfast and shotgun start at 8am. A luncheon and awards ceremony will follow in the Clubhouse at Flying Horse.

The Pre-Tourney takes place Sunday, June 12th from 5-8pm. We plan to have plenty of delicious food and drink for all to enjoy while bidding on our live and silent auctions. Ronald McDonald will even join us to entertain both young and old! This two-day event is made possible by the support of our faithful sponsors, Children's Hospital Colorado, Kuni Lexus of Colorado Springs, and McDonald's Southern Colorado Owner Operators. We are honored by our long-standing relationships with these incredible community partners!

For more information, or to sign up to play, contact Beth at golf@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org or 719.375.3871.



2016 Appreciation Dinner

In 2015, volunteers gave 12,031 hours to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado! We are honored and humbled by the fierce commitment of all our volunteers. We were pleased to personally give each of them the recognition and praise they deserve. What a treat to hold our banquet on Monday, April 11th, at a new venue for us – the Norris-Penrose Event Center! Guests feasted their eyes on an expansive view of the Front Range, while enjoying a delicious Italian-themed buffet.

We are so privileged and fortunate to have 35 President's Volunteer Service Award winners! This program was created in 2003 as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The recipients of this award fully demonstrate this kind of commitment to RMHCSC, as well as our community. Thank you all for your devotion to service and for all you do to lift children and families in need to a better tomorrow!



Master woodworker, Gary Wood, proudly displays his workmanship - handcrafted, one-of-a-kind "RonHouses", affixed with plaques to honor our generous community supporters. Thanks, Gary!

<p>Gold Award Winner (500+ hours in 2015)</p> <p>Elizabeth Farley</p> <p>Silver Award Winners (250-499 hours in 2015)</p> <p>Marlene Kelley Eydie Mellin</p> <p>Bronze Award Winners (100-249 hours in 2015)</p> <p>Maggie Adams-Holway Carolyn Ball Diane Bianchi-Bell Kris Burich Linda Burnett Candice Cantwell Marge Colgan Kaki Crystal Trice Dipner Venita Fresquez</p>	<p>Bronze Award Winners (Cont) (100-249 hours in 2015)</p> <p>Pat Hardin Wendell James Zach Lemesany Marsha Magnone Dick Mammenga Bill McDowell Deborah Montemayor Jim Oberhofer Winfield Pate Maria Pipal Sarah Pottenger Tami Pua Konnie Sandras Marlene Scanlon George Schimmack Jean Schimmack Margaret Scott Sandy Sharketti Bert Stephenson Joyce Stephenson Sherri Wells Jan Whitney</p>	<p>Other milestones: 0-4 YEARS</p> <p>Brandi Anderson Carolyn Ball Krista Biondi Adrienne Bohlen Lisa Bomberg Mariah Boost Maria Bueno Kris Burich Linda Burnett Donna Cannoles Candice Cantwell Mallory Cochran Genevieve Cowan Hannah Cowan Star Dalangin Terese Dills Trudy Ellis Liz Farley Haley Frazier Venita Fresquez Heather Gannaway George Gillaspie Carley Grimes Jared Harp Lizette Harris William Herbert</p>	<p>Casey Herringshaw Kim Herzog Scott Huckeba Michelle Hylton Drew Ives Linda Jones Macey Juhl Laurie Kearns Garret Knight Melissa Knight Michael Kraft-Lott Julia Lauzon Anjelite Lovato Joy Maddox Mary Ann Maecker Marsha Magnone Leticia Martinez Kanchana Matson Larry McCants John McGovern Rhonda Mellema Kathy Mikkelsen Laura Moffitt Celena Morgan Annie Mullin Danielle Nicholson Jim Oberhofer Winfield Pate</p>	<p>Perez Family Sarah Pottenger Roni Reynolds Christian Ridings Martha Ruether Marlene Scanlon Margaret Scott Aaron Shelton Marita Shelton Sandy Sharketti Bobbie Simmons Anita Skonicki Jill Smith Stanley Family Bert Stephenson Joyce Stephenson Jane Taggart Lisa Taylor Valerie Thorington Jerry Tolve Ben Turner Sonya Turner Elizabeth Urata Kim Vasquez Julie Vinson Raquel Voeks Caitlin Walton Kathy Walton</p>	<p>Sherri Wells Jan Whitney Tiffany Wiggins Charles Wood Angela Yowell Nychelle Yowell Sarah Zwieg</p> <p>5-9 YEARS</p> <p>Maggie Adams-Holway 5 Joy Bostian 7 Tiffany Bruno 6 Stacy DeYoung 7 Trina DeYoung 7 Pat Hardin 5 Eydie Mellin 6 Deborah Montemayor 6 Kay Richardson 7 Diane Bianchi-Bell 5 Lorrie Coffman 6 Christopher Crump 6 Trice Dipner 5 Wendell James 6 Susan Jendzejec 6 Kyungmee Kim 5 India Loovas 6 Anna Lopez 6 Kimberly Maniee 5</p>	<p>Anne Marsh 6 Anita Pitchford 7 Tami Pua 5 Jane Ridings 6 Konnie Sandras 5 George Schimmack 7 Jean Schimmack 7 Sandy Wiebe 6 Jill Woodford 7</p> <p>10-14 YEARS</p> <p>Kaki Crystal 10 Marlene Kelley 10 Maria Pipal 14</p> <p>15-19 YEARS</p> <p>Joan Godbey 18 Judee Guilmette 17 Richard Mammenga 17</p> <p>20-24 YEARS</p> <p>Debbie Lacey 22</p> <p>25+ YEARS</p> <p>Marge Colgan 28 Duane Klug 25</p>
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Volunteer



Margaret Scott is an Assistant Professor, UCCS College of Education, as well as a dedicated volunteer at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Hospital Central.

"When I first arrived in Colorado Springs not quite four years ago, I was looking for a way to learn about the community, meet new people, and give back to a world that has been so good to me. I found all that at the Memorial RMFR. Volunteering at the Family Room has reinforced the notion that there is a great need for volunteers in this world to help others in their time of need."

"While my intent in volunteering was not to make my life better, my life is better for having met these wonderful families who show such amazing strength. Both the RMFR and House are staffed by a wonderful core of volunteers who donate many hours of time to ensure the families have a place to feel comfortable when away from their own homes. I'm so glad to have found this wonderful organization to be part of!"

HELP WANTED! Our greatest volunteer need is at the RMFR – Memorial. Open 365 days a year and staffed 100% by volunteers, this busy Family Room is currently looking for more caring, devoted volunteers to serve families of hospitalized children.

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

Golf Tournament & Pre-Tourney

The 24th Annual Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament is Monday, June 13th at The Club at Flying Horse, with the Pre-Tourney taking place the night before.



You're invited to join us on Sunday, June 12th at Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame at 5pm for delicious food and spirited bidding at our live and silent auctions!

Questions? Contact Golf@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org or 719.375.3871

Summer Bash



Plans are in the works for our upcoming Summer Bash July 16th. We look forward to this event every year as a way to say "thank you" to our volunteers, supporters, friends, and neighbors! With the invaluable assistance of the Colorado Springs Kiwanis Club, our beautiful backyard is transformed into a magical space where guests can pet and learn about cuddly critters, get a custom face-paint, or decorate cute wooden toys. Food and beverage are always in abundance at our Summer Bash, featuring enough burgers, potato salad, chips, and watermelon to feed an army. We hope to see you all there!

Bowling Tourney

We hope you can join us this summer when we host another lively bowling tourney for all ages! It's a great way to raise money and have fun at the same time! Prizes will be awarded for best team name, best-dressed team, and any other silly thing we can think of. Please join us at a place where scores don't matter and fun is the only outcome! More details to come – we'll post announcements on our Facebook page, our website, and the Volunteer Newsletter.





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=MxHG5CDxOZP04ottUGkx4Q®istryType=GENERIC>

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

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Generous Community Supporters

Mr. Rooter



Last year, the plumbing in our 104-year-old House needed intense repair almost daily, it seemed. Mr Rooter came to the rescue! The basement drain for the washing machines was particularly stubborn and required several different service calls. Every company representative we worked with was courteous, efficient, and extremely knowledgeable. RMHCSC was pleasantly surprised that each bill

submitted would have labor donated, along with the occasional free toilet or dryer hoses. Each dollar we save means more services are available for the families we serve. We highly recommend and sincerely thank the dedicated plumbing professionals at Mr. Rooter! For your plumbing, drain cleaning, or sewer repair needs, call 719.602.2280 or visit them at <http://mrrooter.com/colorado-springs/>.



Handyman Connection:

Recognized as America's original handyman services and home improvement specialists, RMHCSC depends on our local Handyman

Connection for repairs, updates, and remodels. No job is too big or too small for Steve McCoy and his top-notch staff. For your installation, repair, or maintenance needs, call them at 1.800.88.HANDY.

Christmas Décor/Timberline Landscaping, Inc.:



Since 1982, Timberline Landscaping has offered a full range of services – landscape design, construction, and maintenance. RMHCSC is fortunate that this award-winning company donates lawn and garden maintenance for us year-round. You can trust them to make your landscaping dream a reality!

Call 719.638.1000 or visit <http://timberlinelandscaping.com/>.

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

- Safeway - weekly milk & juice donation
- Trader Joe's – twice weekly flower donation
- Waste Management – weekly trash collection & recycle pick-up
- Colorado Coffee Merchants – monthly delivery of coffee beans
- The Gazette – daily newspaper delivery
- Carpet Care Craftsman – quarterly carpet cleaning
- Double G Carpet Care Specialist – quarterly carpet cleaning



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 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**

ways you gave a little love

Dillard's Cookbook



Since 1994, Dillard's has donated more than \$11 million to local RMHC chapters through the sale of Southern Living Christmas Cookbooks. 100% of the proceeds from every cookbook sold benefit local Ronald McDonald Houses. For the 2015 holiday season, RMHCSC received over \$7,000 from the sale of these wonderful gems! Many thanks to Dillard's and all of you who purchase these fabulous cookbooks each year!

Colorado Gives Day



Created by the Community First Foundation, this online giving program provides up-to-date, carefully verified information about more than 1,000 Colorado charities and encourages year round giving to local nonprofits. Last year, we were able to raise \$3,716! We thank everyone who participated and submitted online donations on behalf of RMHCSC!

Ron-A-Thon



Last November, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado teamed for the first time with 95.1 NASH FM for our 3rd Annual Ron-a-Thon to raise money to support the seriously ill children and families we serve. Our generous sponsors, Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, ANB Bank, and Children's Hospital Colorado

helped make this fundraiser a huge success! *We thank you ALL for tuning in and pledging.* Your donations, matching grants from Mountain View Medical Group, Nevada Auto Sales, and RMJ Capital, along with Serenity's challenge - combined with the efforts of the amazing Cutter and Alisha from 95.1 NASH FM - helped RMHCSC raise just over \$29,000 helping support our cornerstone programs, which last year served over 4,000 local kids and their families!

Recycle That



Time for Spring cleaning! Recycle That can help by taking clutter off your hands. Find their bright blue donation boxes all over the Colorado Springs area, including most McDonald's restaurants, as well as behind the RonHouse.

Your disposed clutter of old clothes, shoes, books, and more support the operations of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado.

REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE!

Gingerbread Village



In 2015, we marked our 6th annual Gingerbread Village at Chapel Hills Mall. Chef, Michael Paradiso, and his Pikes Peak Community College Culinary Arts Students surpass our expectations each year with their imaginative (and completely edible!) creations. We auctioned off last year's structures to the highest bidders and were able to raise \$838! Thanks to everyone who volunteered, staffing our Village. See you in November!

Christmas Party at the Ronald McDonald House



Last December, Santa took time out of his incredibly busy schedule to be part of our annual Christmas Party. Joining our families were moms and children from Women Partnering, a local charity, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis, that serves financially vulnerable women and families. Thanks to a mountain of gifts provided by our friends at Robert Half and pizza contributed by Muldoon and Associates, merriment and squeals of joy abounded! Santa spent individual time with every child, making each one feel valued and special. This magical evening was a pleasure to behold!

Christmas Store For Our Families



*Pictured: The Garcia Family,
Mackenzie on the left.*

The generosity of this community is always amazing! We were pleased to again present a Christmas Store for our families of hospitalized children. Offered were new books, games, PJ's, dolls, trucks, and even great gifts for Mom and Dad! No money changed hands; we simply gave overwhelmed and exhausted families a place to do some Christmas "shopping" in a quiet, unhurried setting – our Administrative offices on Boulder Street. We were privileged to meet Mackenzie Garcia, a young dynamo who this holiday season, organized "Operation PJ". Her goal was to collect 1,000 pajamas to give to hospitalized children. RMHCSC was the lucky recipient of hundreds of pajamas, in every size, shape, and color. We just love kids helping kids! A BIG thank you goes out to Helping Everyone Recover and all who donated and made this possible for our families in crisis!

Share-a-Meal Program



After a long, stressful day, have you ever wished you could arrive home to find dinner already on the table? You can grant that wish for our families by becoming a "Guest Chef"! Our Share-a-Meal Program eases the burden on families who don't have time to spend planning, shopping, cooking and cleaning - you are giving them extra time to be with their child who is healing in the hospital. Having one less worry is a valuable benefit to families who are focusing all of their energies on their sick child.

You don't need to be a world-class chef to provide a tasty, home-cooked meal. Volunteers *like you* make a tremendous difference in the lives of families staying at our House. The warm feeling you'll get from helping will feed your soul. Round up your friends, family, and/or coworkers, and share comfort and care by becoming a "Guest Chef" for the families

staying at our House. It's a team-building activity with heart! ♥

All meals are prepared at the Ronald McDonald House or delivered from a restaurant or catering service. Volunteer groups plan the menu, purchase the food, cook and serve the meal, and clean the kitchen afterwards. It is one of the few activities at the House that offers volunteers the opportunity to interact with families staying with us. Meal volunteers are invited to stay and enjoy the meal with our families!

The kitchen is the heart of every home. Being able to provide a hot meal each night is one of the most important ways we can help those we serve feel they are truly staying at their "home-away-from-home".

Interested in helping? Please contact Laura at 719.471.1814 or Laura@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org to get your group on our Meals Calendar. We appreciate your help and thank you for your support!

BUNDLES OF JOY



Bundles of Joy

Many families served at our Ronald McDonald House have premature babies who often require lengthy hospitalizations, surgeries, and extensive medical treatment to help them survive and thrive. With their real homes far away, most parents have not had the opportunity to even plan a baby shower, much less have one. When their newborn is finally released from the hospital, parents often find they are overwhelmed and unprepared for all the things their new little one requires. The support from our Bundles of Joy program provides these families with the basic necessities a new baby requires – so parents will have one less thing to worry about.

Most parents dream of the moment their child is born and being able to hold them only seconds later. For young mother, Kalilah, who gave birth to Eli at just 26 weeks, it was a very long time before she was able to cuddle her precious little boy. Weighing just 2 pounds, 1 ounce at birth, Eli spent 84 days and nights in the NICU at Memorial Hospital Central. Receiving support from family, friends, and strangers was a huge blessing to Eli's family. Kalilah said, "We found friends at the Ronald McDonald House – we were able to connect with one another - supporting each other through difficult times." Kalilah knew Eli was a survivor -- and, survive, he has! He is now a bustling, curious 19-month-old, running around and discovering the world around him. Her experience with prematurity has inspired Kalilah to become part of the Bundles of Joy team. Her contributions of insight, compassion, and empathy are invaluable!

Bundles of Joy provides baby showers for our families for whom birth came much sooner than expected.

Here is a list of the items we include in each shower:

- Onesies
- Sleeping gowns
- Receiving blankets
- Swaddling sleepers
- Disposable diapers
- Cloth diapers
- Bottle brushes
- Handmade items (blankets, sweaters, hats)
- Gift cards for parents (dinner, movie)
- Gifts for Mom (hand cream, bubble bath)

Donations are accepted daily from 9am-7pm at the Ronald McDonald House. 311 N. Logan Ave.

Each Bundles of Joy baby shower costs approximately \$100. If you would like to "adopt" a shower, you can make a monetary donation by going to our website www.rmhsoutherncolorado.org, click the "Donate Now" button and write "Bundles of Joy" in the description box or specify Bundles of Joy on the enclosed remittance envelope. Thank you so much for your support!



DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

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 our online form (www.rmhsoutherncolorado.org) or by calling 855.227.7435.

At no cost to you, we'll pick up the vehicle and tow it to the nearest auction location. The proceeds will stay local and you will likely qualify for a hefty tax deduction. Thank you for your support! www.OneCarHelpsRMHC.org

Donate a vehicle to RMH Today!

Help Us Help Families | www.OneCarHelpsRMHC.com



Since 1987, we have fulfilled our mission of "lifting children and families in need to a better tomorrow" for over 9,000 critically ill children and their families. ♥

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



Always in our Hearts

Felicia Rael & Art Moncivaiz's newborn baby, 1/26/16.

Tyelier & John Graham's daughter, Leyah, 2/20/16.

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!

Tributes

October 16, 2015 - March 15, 2016

Doris Ollestad Honor of Deborah Dowis	Ron & Audrey Markon Honor of Ron Markon	Alice Gallione Honor of Joan Gobjey
John & Teresa Manfredo Honor of Michaela Manfredo	Kay Richardson Honor of Cole James Nelson	Janet Zabukovic Honor of my mother
Joe & Betty Longino Honor of Jonathan Gold	Jim & Sharon Everett Honor of U.S. Military members	Butch & Beth Morrell Honor of Gracie June Morrell
Michael Ferguson Honor of David & Teresa Wardrop	Lora & Stan Cline Honor of Mallory Griffith	Sondra Johnson Honor of Cory Johnson
John & Diana Mauch Honor of Isabella Boyd	Sid & Pat Mabie Honor of Molly Mabie	Ron McCoy Honor of Sean McCoy
Nevada Auto Sales Honor of Bjorn Clayton	Tom & Sue Murphy Honor of Tyler Murphy	Annie Hudson Honor of Frank A. Carter, II
Claire Shogrin Honor of Carolyn Shogrin	John Leutz Honor of Jack Leutz	Sally Anderson Honor of Gray & Lily Pinto
Maria Aragon Honor of Laura Aragon	Dan & Ruth Odell Honor of Naomi Anderson	Lila Steyert Honor of Sky High Hope Camp
David & Jean Anthony Honor of Theresa Anthony	Jon & Colene Cordero Honor of Maya Cordero	Ruth & Mark Oliva Honor of Sutton Oliva
Lisa Colen Honor of Ed & LouAnn DeValois	Toby & Teresa McCaffery Honor of Levi McCaffery	Karen Wright Honor of Pat & Norma Cole
Derek & Heather Knuffke Honor of Amelia Knuffke	Pat & Larry Stacy Honor of Acasia Creek	Thomas & Sallie Tait Honor of Michael Tait
	Juvie Lopez Honor of Kayden Cordova	

Memorials

October 16, 2015 - March 15, 2016

Allan & Lyn Smith Memory of Sterling Michael Davis	Paul & Norma O'Donnell Memory of Jonah Paschall	John & Jaquelyn Taylor Memory of Cheryl Caprice Provence
Charlene Thompson Memory of Jason McCracken	Marion Werner Memory of Carly Yocam	Barbara Maroney Memory of Eileen Maroney
Frank Carter Memory of Pup	Ed & Mary Sather Memory of Edward Sather, Jr.	Charlotte Gissel Memory of Peggy Tolliver
Don & Brenda Graffis Memory of Gordon Brown	Betty Rodosevich Memory of Bob & Mike Keeney	Robert & Dorothy White Memory of Kelti Brinkman
Charlotte Wallace Memory of Joe Wallace	Kris Rohren Memory of Alison Pierce	Barry Cordell Memory of Malcolm Weaver
Bob & Mary Anne Brazil Memory of Courtney Brazil	Gabby Stephens Memory of Oscar Kontchak	Barbara Porter Memory of Jackie Porter
John & Barb Groy Memory of Phyllis McGowan	Ray Murray Memory of Linda Murray	Polly Wells Memory of Timothy & Bill Wells
Charlotte Kenney Memory of Bob & Mike Keeney	Willis & Rose Griffie Memory of Dr. Joseph Pollard	Don & Sharon Dodson Memory of Kelti Brinkman & Lindsay Mar
Curt Croom Memory of Nancy Croom	Patricia & Ernest Romero Memory of John Dilatush	Sharon Boillot Memory of Brian Boillot
Cheryl Bowen Memory of David Bowen	Dave & Sharyl Remme Memory of Terry Roemeling	Teresa Brown Memory of Ed Chmiel
Paula Crawford Memory of Charles Crawford	Jacqueline King Memory of Cecelia Knight	Cynthia Kajah Memory of Janae McCormick
Reuben Burr Memory of Mildred Burr	Sigma Sigma Sigma Memory of Pamela Cole	Patty Borish Memory of Brandon Borish
Thomas Shuey Memory of Jared Shuey	Shirley Burden Memory of Ollie Burden	
Marlene Byerly Memory of Paul Harrison	Jim & Tess Mayes Memory of Justin Mayes	
	Leisa Jolstad Memory of Keghan	



**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.