

Spring / Summer 2025

Heartstrings



**THE
McCullar
Family**



RMHC
of Southern Colorado

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The McCullar Family

“And a little child shall lead them.”

This time, the little child was still in utero.

While living high in the Colorado mountains, serving as directors of the Sky Ranch Ute Trail Christian Camp, baby Gwendolyn let her Mom, Sydney, and Dad, Matthew, know, “it was time.” Two-year-old Sam (“Bub-Bud” as he calls himself) wondered what all the excitement was about.

The nearest doctor was an hour away. This smaller medical facility didn’t have a NICU – thus, they were unable to provide the care and support a premature baby (born earlier than 36 weeks) would require.

Options were Flight For Life to Grand Junction, Denver or Colorado Springs, CO. Quickly assessing the situation, Sydney and Matthew chose Colorado Springs. “It would be easier for family and friends from neighboring states to come,” they said. Sam would remain at the camp, being cared for by friends.

With two doses of magnesium (trying to stop labor and help reduce infection), Sydney arrived at UHealth, Memorial North in Colorado Springs. Matthew jumped in their car and began driving for three+ hours to be with his beloved.



A family with deep faith, they prayed mightily — for safe travel, for their unborn, Gwendolyn, to be healthy and strong, and for two-year-old Sam to know his parents’ love and care. Those prayers were compounded by their community of friends and family who added their voices.

In Colorado Springs, the magnesium continued and steroid shots began, hoping to strengthen baby Gwendolyn’s

lungs should she be born too soon.

Matthew was the first to arrive at our Ronald McDonald House. Soon, he was joined by Sam. They stayed at the House for two weeks while Sydney was hospitalized, on bedrest. Missing her family terribly, pictures of Matthew and Sam at the House helped her feel more connected.

And then... the miracle came. On a routine check, the doctor examining Sydney found she had, “resealed.” As a lifelong physician, he’d only seen that happen three times in his entire career.

After being released from the hospital, Sydney was delighted to join her family at our Ronald McDonald House.

"All we wanted was to be together as a family. Your Ronald McDonald House has forever become a part of our story," Sydney said. Matthew added, "You helped our family be whole during a tumultuous time." "You brought peace and consistency to a season that looked nothing like we what we thought it would."

Sydney's medical team ran a few more tests that confirmed that Gwendolyn wasn't in any danger - she continued to grow and her levels looked good - thus, their family was faced with another decision: Do they pack up and travel four+ hours away, via car, or do they stay in Colorado Springs despite her high-risk pregnancy?

Their family was prepared to head back home, when... Gwendolyn again "led" them. This time, with labor beginning in earnest on February 6th, just one-day shy of 36 weeks' gestation.



Laboring through the night, sweet Gwendolyn Joy, whose namesake means, "Everlasting Joy," arrived on February 7th. For the next two weeks, she was in the NICU, on oxygen.

Their family spent a total of 44 days at our Ronald McDonald House. Becoming a staple, staff, volunteers and other families have become fast friends. One day after follow-up appointments,

they headed back to the Ronald McDonald House. Young Sam asked, "Are we going to our NEW HOUSE?" as he felt at HOME here. "We were enveloped in such care by kindred spirits who had once been strangers," Sydney said.

"You brought peace and consistency to a season that looked nothing like what we thought it would."

Matthew said, "You all loved Sam (and us) so well. He delighted in being seen and being known. Your staff and volunteers engaged with him, getting down on his level, sharing a story. It was magical. Add to that the toddler play area, spending time with the therapy dogs, your outdoor

play space and the train table... he was so happy!" Sydney agreed. "We felt loved and cared for. We were blessed to create relationships." She went on, "You created normalcy for Sam, with structure and kindness." Matthew shared, "There is SUCH a generosity of LOVE here." Everyone who came to visit their family was "blown away" by this mission.

"We were at HOME and at peace." Sydney shared, "When I first arrived and saw the resource cabinet filled with homemade hats and blankets for families like ours, tears of gratitude began to fall." "I feel so loved here."

Matthew said, "*THANK YOU for showing us what radical hospitality looks like. You gave us everything we needed, and then more — going above and beyond.*"

Wanting to thank those whose support made their stay possible, Sydney said, "You provided PEACE during a medical crisis. It moves past whatever comfort we all might find in finances. While you might not see the end of your giving, please know you're helping to change the world. A purchase of PEACE cannot assign a value."

Their family had NO IDEA that Ronald McDonald House Charities would be a part of their journey. "Now," Sydney said, "It's the biggest part." "THANK YOU for being a safe place to be known, to be fed, to cry and to play."

If their family had to, "Rest and wait on the Lord," they are so very grateful they could do both at our Ronald McDonald House.

We celebrate this sweet family and we honor their story. They will forever be part of ours! ❤️

More Than Just a House

2024 at a Glance



Ronald McDonald
House Charities
of Southern Colorado



9,532

Daily Guests at
Ronald McDonald
House®



3,671

Overnight Stays
representing
532 Families



7,993

Ronald McDonald
Family Room®
Guest Visits



8,830

Ronald McDonald
Hospitality Cart
Visits

No one who stays at our House ever receives a bill!



3

Healthy, Nutritious Meals
are available each day



\$75

RMHCSC's cost is \$75
a night to keep a family
together

Saving Families
\$1,101,300

in food and lodging expenses

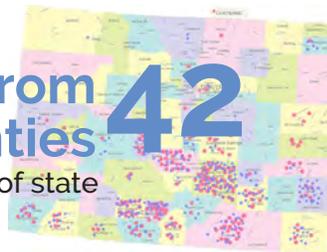


30+ Puppies
provided more
than 400 hours of
comfort

Serving families from
Colorado counties

42

46 Families from out of state



This is all possible because



350
volunteers

gave over 25,979
hours of their time

valued at \$870,037

Caring for families since 1987

Ways You Can Help!

Our **Ronald McDonald House®** and **Ronald McDonald Family Room®** provide healing and support for the moms, dads, siblings and extended family of hospitalized children. It's hard to imagine how much life can change when you have a seriously ill or injured child - until that child is yours. Some families spend days, weeks or months away from home to be near their child's bedside. They bear the emotional burden of their little one's health, well-being and care.

The **Ronald McDonald House®**, across the parking lot from Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs, provides a warm, welcoming environment for up to twenty families each night. With two kitchens,

oversized dining and living rooms, laundry facilities and indoor and outdoor play areas for children, **our House helps families feel at home - even when they can't be.**

Our **Ronald McDonald Family Room®**, located inside Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs, is a peaceful place to catch a moment of solitude, grab something to eat, find time to decompress and accept a caring smile — all within footsteps from their child's hospital room.

If you'd like to help support our mission, check out the QR codes below.

Create an Event

- Garage sale
- Wish list drive
- Bike for bucks
- House party
- Tasting
- Card party
- Cooking
- Car wash



Make a Meal

- Cook with:
 - Your team
 - Your family
 - Your golf pals
 - Friends
 - Neighbors
- Burn buddies
- Hike friends



Donate

- Gift cards
- Be a sustainer
- One-time donor
- Give an old car
- The Legacy Wall
- Food items
- Clothing
- Paper products
- Pool toys
- Car wash



Volunteer

- Help clean
- Volunteer at events
- Organize
- Work the desk
- File
- Decorate
- Work Family Room
- Shirts for families
- Signage
- Answer questions
- Maintain furniture



The Legacy Wall



A warm, beautiful grove of Colorado aspen trees welcomes children and families who stay at our Ronald McDonald House. The Legacy Wall shows how “We are ALL connected, rooted in LOVE.”

Securing a heart-shaped leaf, Legacy Wall supporters place their names - and/or the names of those they wish to honor - on the trees. Each commitment helps ensure critically ill children and their families remain together during times of unforeseen medical crisis, while they receive the unduplicated support and services they need most.

THANK YOU for your consideration! Purchasing a leaf or two means the world to the children and families we serve.

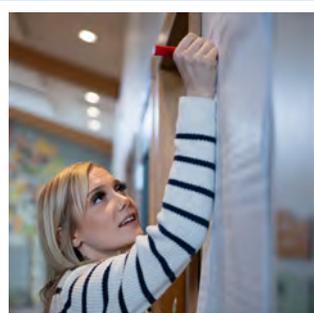


To learn more, please contact Sam Milam, (719) 755-4066 or sam@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org

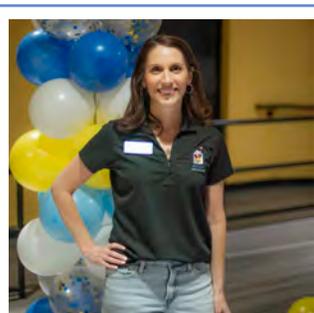
WE



LOVE



IT



HERE

Our Ronald McDonald House is truly a magical place. Everything about our mission — the families, the camaraderie, the positivity, the moments, and our beautiful location — make this House a joy.

We really do love it here. It's so wonderful that we want you to know all the happenings. Make sure to follow us on social media and follow along on our journey!



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**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
of Southern Colorado

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2025 Events

KIDS & CLAYS SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

Join us at the Pikes Peak Gun Club on Friday, June 6th, 2025, from 8 am – 2 pm. This fun event includes: breakfast and lunch; all field fees and gratuities; 100 clay targets; ammunition (12 or 20 gauge); gift bags; hearing and eye protection; silent and live auctions; cold beer (after you shoot) and more! Sign up early as teams are limited. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$250 to \$5,000. Contact Doug Zurek at doug@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org | 719.471.1814



HEART OF THE SUMMER COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Make plans! On August 16th, from 11 am - 2 pm, we'll have an open House featuring food trucks, face painting, a petting zoo and more! Partners who support our mission will be onsite. Sponsorship packages range from \$250 to \$10,000. Contact Alex Lightfoot at alex@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org | 719.471.1814



CAMERON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

You won't want to miss the 33rd Annual Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament at Perry Park Country Club. Join us on October 6th, 2025 for one of the community's top rated golf tournaments. The day includes breakfast, lunch & golf. Come as a single or as a group! A variety of sponsorship & playing packages are available ranging from \$250 to \$10,000. For early sponsorship information and participant packages contact Beth Alessio at beth@rmhcsoutherncolorado.org 719.471.1814

