



TOGETHERNESS HELPS HEAL FAMILY FROM AFGHANISTAN

When you look into baby Nima’s deep brown eyes you see a light and depth that melts your heart. Nima’s mother and father, Zohrah Rajabi and Zarif Ahmad Akbarian respectively have traveled thousands of miles from Afghanistan to give their beautiful baby boy the best chance to live.

“We know Nima is very sick, but we also know that he has wonderful doctors caring for him now,” says Zarif, who is also a physician and epidemiologist from Herat, Afghanistan’s third largest city.

Nima was born with an esophageal disorder that makes it difficult for him to breath, swallow and digest food properly. When he arrived at Riley Hospital at IU Health this past June, he was underweight, malnourished and his condition was deteriorating.



Nima and his father, Zarif.

Back home, Zohrah and Zarif watched as their life savings disappeared. Afghanistan does not have the medical facilities or specialists needed to treat baby Nima, requiring his family to travel to Iran to seek treatment. Since his birth on Nov. 14, 2014 Nima has undergone two surgeries and subsequent hospitalizations in Iran. Each time, doctors assured his parents that their son would soon begin to heal. Unfortunately, the procedures did not work.

What happened next was a series of fortunate events that led the family to Indianapolis. While traveling to the United States to speak at a conference, Zarif ran into a colleague at the Washington, D.C. airport. They had just a few minutes to talk and Zarif shared Nima’s story. His colleague contacted Jim and Roberta Graham with the Brownsburg Rotary Club, the same couple who helped bring Qudrat Wardak to the United States from

Afghanistan 10 years ago. Jim contacted Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health and shortly after, Nima became the fifth Afghan child brought to Indianapolis for treatment through the Gift of Life program.

“I cannot find words in my language to tell you how grateful we are,” says Zarif.

“We were so worried for Nima and we were worried about where we would stay. And then they brought us here to this house,” said Zarif. “This is like our house. Everyone is so kind to us and cares for us.”

Before doctors could perform the life-saving surgery to fix Nima’s esophagus and trachea, he was put on a high calorie formula, fed to him through a tube in his stomach. Nima gained weight and became strong enough to leave the hospital to spend time with Zohrah and Zarif at the Ronald McDonald House while waiting for his surgery.

Nima had his surgery mid-August and is getting stronger every day. After 11 days post-operation Nima is once again back at the House healing while staying close to his parents. Zohrah and Zarif hope to return to Afghanistan by end of September to reunite Nima with his two sisters and brother.

“I cannot find words in my language to tell you how grateful we are,” says Zarif. “Being together helps Nima and it helps with our stress. When we are here, we feel better.”



Nima and his parents, Zohrah and Zarif.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Wow, what an exciting first half of 2015! As you will read in this newsletter, we have had the pleasure of serving families near and far including baby Nima and his parents from Afghanistan, a family from Jordan, another from the Ivory Coast and of course, hundreds of families from right here in the Hoosier state. Thanks to our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, donors and corporate partners we are able to provide comfort and care 365 days a year. Throughout this newsletter you'll see pictures of our partners and volunteers who are dedicated to helping families heal together.

As we started 2015, I shared with all of our staff and supporters that this year "more is more." We will serve more families, we will provide more opportunities for our families and we will provide more ways for the community to connect with our work. So far we are holding to that promise and, as a result, we are serving more families than last year. As of June 30, we have increased our overnight stays by about 8% over 2014 with an average occupancy rate of 96%. Our House at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health has already seen nearly 18,000 visits which is about a 9% increase over last year. Additionally, we are partnering with new organizations that are providing valuable services for our families both now and when they return home.

This summer we also adopted a new value statement: I CARE:

- **Innovation:** We aim for continuous improvement to provide the highest level of comfort and care for our families.
- **Compassion:** We seek to listen, understand and serve.
- **Accountability:** We strive for the highest level of integrity and transparency with all of our partners and stakeholders.
- **Respect:** We treat all people with dignity, compassion and respect.
- **Excellence:** We embrace our mission and passionately commit to creating the best home-away-from-home for our families.

As you can see we've been busy, but there is so much more to come during 2015. Throughout the newsletter you'll learn about more ways to connect, more ways to pitch-in and more ways to help us provide a little comfort and care to our families in need. Thank you all so much for your enthusiastic support! I look forward to seeing you around the House.

Best wishes,



Michelle Study-Campbell

Do you enjoy...

PLANNING FUN AND ENGAGING EVENTS?

WORKING WITH A GROUP OF ENERGETIC AND LIKE-MINDED YOUNG PROFESSIONALS?

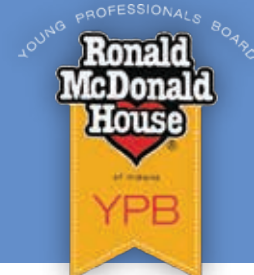
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Then consider becoming a member of our Young Professionals Board (YPB)! Join our close-knit group of motivated, young philanthropists to make friends, network and provide support for Ronald McDonald House families. Engagement opportunities include volunteering, fundraising and heightening awareness of the RMHI mission.

For more information, please visit ypbindy.com or email rmoehle@rmhindiana.org.



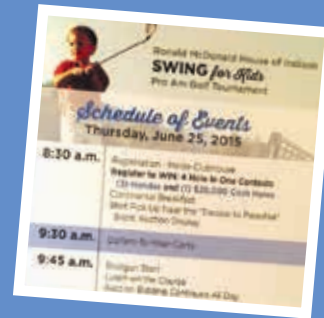
The "Mustache Gang" at the 3rd Annual YPB Bingo—just one of many fun ways the YPB raises money to support the House!



AROUND THE HOUSE



The 9th annual **Heroes for the House 5k** (formerly Run for Ronald) hosted by **Indiana Real Estate Management** was a huge success. We greatly appreciate the donations and hard work of everyone who helps make this event possible.



Another fantastic golf tournament is in the hole. Golf pros and amateurs alike enjoyed a spectacular day of golf at our **29th Annual "Swing for Kids" Pro-Am Golf Tournament** on June 25 at the Broadmoor Country Club. A special thanks to **Coca-Cola**, our presenting sponsor.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT OUR HOUSE AND FAMILIES IN SO MANY WAYS.



The crew from **GameStop** prepared a wonderful dinner for our families and even set up gaming systems for our families to enjoy.



Sara with **Damage Doctors** comes in once a month to make her "world famous" breakfast burritos for our families!



Our friends with **Cummins, Inc.** recently stopped by to donate 170 welcome bags for our families.



We had a great time and collected close to 11 million pop tabs at our **11th Annual Pop Tab & Coin Drop on Monument Circle** on July 17. It was a fun-filled afternoon with live music by **Pop and the Twisters**, face painting by **Willing**

Hands Designs and delicious food and treats served up by **Scratchtruck, Big Ron's Bistro** and the **Flying Cupcake**.



NASCAR driver Jamie McMurray made a pit stop at our House before this year's Brickyard 400 to dish up some ice cream and meet families.





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Taste

A Taste...Journeys to the Wine Regions of Italy
Presented by NextGear Capital
Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana

Get ready to journey through the Wine Regions of Italy on November 6, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. Experience a decadent and delicious Italian adventure extraordinaire -- a journey of all the senses, and particularly the heart for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana.

Guests will...

- **Savor** fine Italian wines compliments of our 8th year wine sponsor, Monarch Beverage Company
- **Sample** sumptuous cuisine infused with the region's vibrant aromas and flavors
- **Stroll** and explore the spectacular sights and sounds of Italy
- **Shop** for treasures in a lavish Gallerie d'Italia Marketplace Silent Auction featuring a trip for two to Italy!

Trip to Italy highlights include:

- Two round trip tickets and three nights at the Hotel Pierre in Florence and three nights at the Fonte Dei Medici in Chianti
- Small group visits to the Uffizi and Academia Galleries
- Cooking class at Fonte dei Medici, including wine tasting and dinner at the famous Osteria Di Passignano.
- Wine tasting at the Antinori Chianti Classico cellars in Bargino

To purchase tickets online, visit our website at www.rmhindiana.org.
For more information, contact Pam Anderson at panderson@rmhindiana.org
or (317) 269-2247, ext. 227. Grazie!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Home For The Holidays

Tuesday, December 1, from 2 - 7 p.m.

Enjoy holiday entertainment, hors'd oeuvres and the ceremonial lighting of the House.

GET YOUR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DEBIT CARD FROM INDIANA MEMBERS CREDIT UNION

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) is offering an exclusive debit card for the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana. The debit card is available for issue at all 24 of IMCU's Central Indiana locations. Every time the card is used, IMCU will make a contribution to the House. Help support the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana and get your debit card today! Visit any IMCU location at imcu.com for details!

