



The Home with a Heart

Keeping families together when they need each other the most.

The Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana | Spring 2014

Proximity to Parents Helped Nic Heal Faster

On New Year's Eve, family and friends joined Matt and Rebecca Lomax at their Acton home to enjoy the end of 2013. As everyone gathered around the TV to ring in 2014 and watch the ball drop in Times Square, the couple noticed their son Nicodeamus kept closing one eye as he looked at the screen.

They were pretty nonplussed until they saw Nicodeamus – nicknamed Nic – doing it again on New Year's Day. The 6-year-old was doing it a lot.

"I asked him what was going on and he said, 'Sometimes if I use two eyes, I see double,'" Matt recalled, adding Nic told his parents he had been experiencing problems with his vision for some time.

The following day, the Lomaxes took Nic to see his pediatrician, who immediately scheduled the boy for an MRI the same afternoon at Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health. By that evening, the worried couple conferred with a neurosurgeon who explained Nic had a very large mass on the back of his brain, an Astrocytoma tumor. The tumor, which measured over 4 centimeters – roughly the size of a golf ball – was attached to the part of the brain that controls motor skills and vision. Nic needed surgery immediately, neurosurgeon Dr. Laurie L. Ackerman told his parents.

"If the Ronald McDonald House wasn't there, I don't know what we would've done or how we would have even coped. Everyone was very friendly, the staff and volunteers. They would give you a hug and words of encouragement. It helped ease our burden," Matt said.

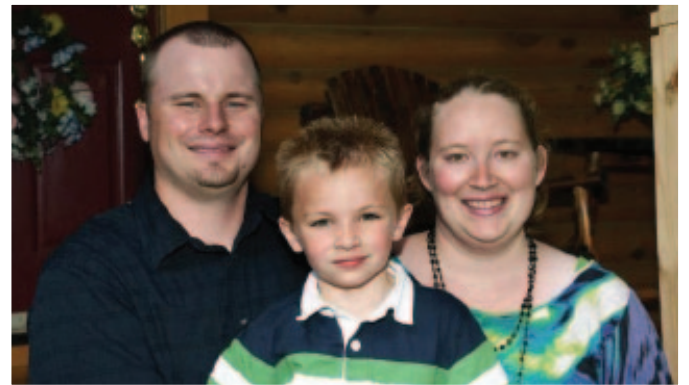
"Everything happened so fast. You can never plan or prepare for something like this," Matt said.

They couldn't have begun to prepare for what was about to happen next.

Nic was diagnosed on Jan. 2 and his surgery was scheduled for Jan. 6 at Riley. On Jan. 5, Indianapolis was walloped by a crippling winter storm that dropped nearly a foot of snow on the city, making streets nearly impassable. The nor'easter was quickly followed by a rush of cold air that caused dangerous below-zero arctic temperatures and shut down the city and restricted travel for several days.

With Nic's scheduled surgery - and the weather - the Lomax's literally couldn't leave Riley. Cindy Hutchison, a guest services volunteer for the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, was the couple's salvation, Matt said.

"She acted as an intermediary and connected us to the House. It was a huge blessing and huge convenience for us not having to drive from the Far-Southeastside to get Downtown to (Riley) to see him every morning . . . It was one less thing to be concerned with. We knew where we could go; we had a base camp to return to every evening. That place was a huge blessing," Matt said.



Matt, Nic and Rebecca.

The couple stayed at the House for one month during Nic's 34-day stay at Riley. Following surgery, Nic lost the ability to speak and swallow, and he couldn't walk, stand or move one of his arms.

"His motor skills were devastated. They have slowly over time retaught him everything," Matt said. Fortunately, the tumor removed wasn't cancerous.

Nic's swift recovery is credited in part to his parents being at the hospital every day, working with him back in his room doing word searches or building things with clay. Seeing both of his parents every day also helped lift his attitude. Their stay at the House allowed them immediate access to their son and hospital staff at Riley.

Now at home, Nic is back in school and back to his regular routine, which includes hanging out at his grandparent's hobby farm where he has a pony. The kindergartner continues to undergo physical and occupational therapy once a week and will soon begin speech therapy at school.

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A Message from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The 1,537 diverse families we cared for last year at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana were on a journey. Some shared only a few days of that journey with us, some weeks, and some even longer. While each family's experience that led them to our House was unique, what brought them all together was the need for holistic support and care that would allow them to be there for their seriously ill child.

The 2013 facts and figures highlighted on these two pages of this newsletter illustrate the diversity of experiences of the families we served, as well as our impact. The staff at the Ronald McDonald House is very small in comparison to the services provided to families and their children, and we know we could not accomplish what we do without our wonderful volunteers, donors and supporters of the House.

On behalf of all the families we served last year and will continue to serve in 2014, we thank you for your steadfast and generous support. Your commitment really does make a difference for so many families when they need it most.

Warm Regards,

Beth Johnson

Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are truly the heart of our House and complement the work of our 13 full-time staff members, making what we do possible every day.

We are so thankful for the service of all of our dedicated volunteers in 2013.

2

319
Volunteers



34,479
Total Hours of Work



\$763,365
Value of Hours Worked



6.95
Years of Average Tenure



712
Home-Cooked Meals



155
Service Projects



In Their Own Words...

Our Guest Families Say Thank You

Thank you for a good night's sleep. It was essential to help my son.

Everyone made my family feel comfortable and cared for.

Our stay was a wonderful experience. We feel blessed each day we have our daughter still with us. Thank you for providing us security while at Riley Hospital.

The volunteers and staff were very sweet and I couldn't have asked for better people. The staff and volunteers acted as though they were family. They wanted to know everything. It felt good. My ability to stay close improved my child's experience and mine.

Ronald McDonald House of Indiana 2013 Highlights

January 1 through December 31, 2013

Total Families Served

Through Combined
RMH Lodging Programs: **1,537**



Economics

Estimated nightly cost of providing a room: **\$80**

Amount families are asked to contribute per night: **\$15**

Average families were able to pay per night: **\$4.26**

Ronald McDonald House on Limestone Street

Service Summary

Families Served: **1,061**

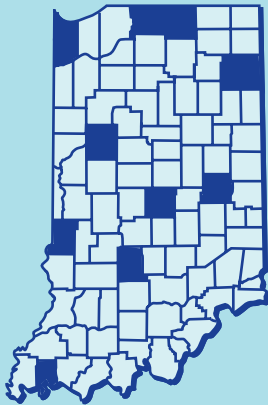
Average Occupancy: **93%**

Average Length of Stay: **13 Nights**

Highest Usage by Geographic Area

Indiana Counties

Lake
Allen
Marion
Elkhart
St. Joseph
Monroe
Henry
Vanderburgh
Tippecanoe
Vigo



Outside Indiana

Illinois
Kentucky
Virginia
Florida
New York

Geographic Areas Served

977 Families from Indiana

80 Families from **18** other states

4 families from **4** other countries



Most Frequent Medical Problems

Prematurity
Heart Disorders
Cancer / Stem Cell Transplant
General Pediatrics
Newborn Pediatrics
Neurological/Brain Disorders
General Surgery
Pulmonary Disorders
Digestive System Disorders
Organ Transplant



Ronald McDonald House at Riley at IU Health

Critical Care Lodging Program

Families Served: **733**

Average Room Occupancy: **84%**

Average Nights per Family: **2.5 Nights**

Top Usage by Hospital Unit

Pediatric ICU
Newborn ICU
Cancer Unit
Infant ICU
Burn Unit



3

Day Service

Total Families Served: **3,993**

Average Daily Visits: **109**

Total Day Visits: **39,938**

Day Services Amenities

Home-like Atmosphere
Day-time Naps
Showers
Laundry
Quick Meals
Cozy Den
Courtyard



Our Mission: The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana provides a supportive home-away-from-home for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving medical care at Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health and other Indianapolis hospitals.

Host a Third-Party Event for the House

The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana is fortunate that community groups, businesses and individuals host events to benefit our families. From dance-a-thons to jean days, 5K races and athletic tournaments, we are grateful to those who choose to support our mission through these events.

If you are interested in organizing and hosting a third-party fundraising event at your business, church, school, or organization, please contact Annual Fund Manager Kasey Kohlmorgen at (317) 267-0605 ext. 209, or by e-mail at kkohlmorgen@rmh-indiana.org.



2014 Third-Party Events

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 27 | Dine-to Donate, Granite City, (Downtown and Carmel, IN locations) |
| April 12 | Carmel Marathon (Carmel, IN) |
| April 26 | April in Paris, Painting with a Twist (Carmel, IN) |
| June 21 | Run for Ronald 5K Run & Walk (NCAA Hall of Fame) |
| Aug. TBD | Corvette Club Car Show |
| Sept. TBD | Gold Wing Riders Association Gathering (Ronald McDonald House) |
| Nov. 28 | Kicks for Kids (Off the Wall Sports, Carmel, IN) |

To get additional information about these upcoming events and more, visit our events page at www.rmh-indiana.org

4



Carmel Marathon to Benefit the House Saturday, April 12

We are excited to announce that the Carmel Marathon has chosen the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana as their charitable partner for 2014. "We're honored to partner with the Ronald McDonald House for 2014," said Todd Oliver, president of Carmel Road Racing Group and race director for the Carmel Marathon Weekend. "The support they provide, no questions asked, is unbelievable. We will be decorating a room at RMH to provide some inspiration to the families staying there. We are very excited about our partnership."

Because of their generous support, we want to offer our help with volunteers at the race. By being a volunteer, you will receive an invitation to the Carmel Marathon State of the Event Address pre-event party and the Volunteer Appreciation post-race party! Parking is free for volunteers, and you'll receive a free t-shirt.

To learn more about the race and to register as a volunteer, visit carmelmarathon.com. You will need to use the password "RMH" to register as a volunteer with our group. Questions? Contact Kasey Kohlmorgen at (317) 267-0605 ext. 209 or by email at kkohlmorgen@rmh-indiana.org.

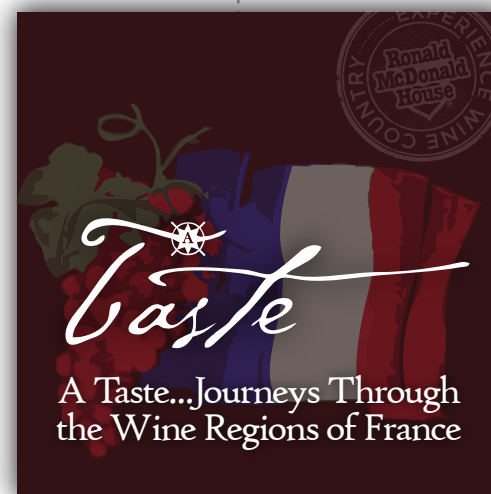


Bring Your Tabs to the 10th Annual Pop Tab Drop on Monument Circle on Friday, July 18!

Start collecting those tabs now, because our 10th Annual Pop Tab Drop is coming early this year! The event has traditionally been held the first Friday in August, but since schools are starting earlier in the summer we are having the Pop tab Drop on Friday, July 18. Don't miss out on what promises to be another tab-u-lous event! There will be fun for all ages, including photo opportunities with the world's largest pop tab, games, music by Pop & the Twisters Band and as always, an appearance by Ronald McDonald.

Mark Your Calendars! 2014 Ronald McDonald House Events

- June 26 28th Annual Swing for Kids Pro-Am Golf Tournament (Broadmoor Country Club)
- July 18 10th Annual Pop Tab Drop on Monument Circle (Monument Circle)
- Sept. 6 Wild, Wild Midwest Sporting Clays Shoot & Barbecue (Izaak Walton Gun club in Kokomo, IN)
- Sept. 26 Volunteer Recognition Celebration (Historic Landmarks)
- Nov. 7 A Taste...Journeys Through the Wine Regions of France (Indiana Roof Ballroom)
- Dec. 4 Winter Wonderland Holiday Open House (Ronald McDonald House)



Go For The Heart

Multi-Level/Multi-Event Partnership Opportunities

Become a 2013 Multi-Level/Multi-Event Partner and Earn:

- ♥ More visibility
- ♥ More benefits
- ♥ More opportunities to help the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana

How it Works:

To qualify as a Gold, Silver or Bronze Partner, select one or more levels of our three signature events. If those totals amount to \$7,500-\$15,000, you will become a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Partner.

Custom Partnership Packages are available.

For more information, contact Special Events Manager Pam Anderson at (317) 267-0605, ext. 227 or by e-mail at panderson@rmh-indiana.org

GOLD \$15,000+	SILVER \$10,000+	BRONZE \$7,500+
<i>Total Event Partnerships</i>	<i>Total Event Partnerships</i>	<i>Total Event Partnerships</i>
Logo and/or Name on all RMHI Special Event Programs	Logo and/or Name on all RMHI Special Event Programs	Logo and/or Name on all RMHI Special Event Programs
Signage, Website and Corporate Link, Newsletters, Press Releases	Signage, Website and Corporate Link, Newsletters, Press Releases	Signage, Website and Corporate Link, Newsletters, Press Releases
Share-A-Night Room Sponsor Plaque	Share-A-Night Room Sponsor Plaque	4 tickets to A Taste Wine Dinner, Special Recognition, Sponsor Gift
10 VIP Tickets to "A Taste" Wine Dinner, Special Recognition, Sponsor Gift	6 tickets to A Taste Wine Dinner, Special Recognition, Sponsor Gift	



Provide the Gift of Togetherness... Share-A-Night, Share Your Heart

Since 1982, the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana has been a home-away-from-home for more than 35,000 families with seriously ill or injured children being treated at Indianapolis-area hospitals. Thanks to community and individual support, the Ronald McDonald House is able to stay open 365 days a year to keep families together when it counts the most. We know that kids heal better when their families can be with them, and no family should ever have to worry about the cost of being at their child's side, especially when they are sick. Though it costs the House \$80 per family per night, each family is only asked to contribute \$15 to offset that cost, but the average we receive is \$4.26.

Because we believe that "togetherness heals" we never turn a family away for an inability to pay. By sponsoring a room at the Ronald McDonald House, you have a direct impact on the lives of families who call a room "home" while their children are receiving lifesaving medical treatment. Your year-long sponsorship will help underwrite the cost of their lodging, enabling us to keep families together when they need it most.

A gift every year helps a family sleep easier every night. To learn more about sponsoring a room at the House, contact Director of Development Joe Schulz at (317) 267-0605, ext. 208 or by email at jschulz@rmh-indiana.org.

We are deeply grateful to our current room sponsors:

Guest Rooms at our Limestone Street Location

Amy Lehner
ASI
Barnes & Thornburg
Carolyn A. Robinson
Coca-Cola
Daniel Thien Family & Friends
Daviss County Relief Sale
Dorothy Wisely
Dr. Pepper
Eric Gordon, Jr. and Family
ERMCO, Inc.
In Memory of Chase Imel
Indiana Apartment Association
Indiana Chemical Trust
Indiana Fever
Indiana Pacers
Indiana Statewide Association of Rural
Electric Cooperatives
Indianapolis Colts/Cory Redding
Foundation
Indy Eleven
IREM - Run for Ronald

James Poore Organization
Jennifer and Greg Sabo Field Family
Foundation
Jus Cuz-We Care
Ken and Barb McCormick
Kicks for Kids
Marsh Supermarkets, Inc.
Mary Frances Rubly
Michael and Melissa Blanding
Monarch Beverage
Murat Shrine
NextGear Capital
Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr. Memorial
Foundation, Inc.
Pearl Gasper
Richard and Donnette McGee
Safelite AutoGlass Foundation
South Central Indiana Corvette Club
Sweet Pea Foundation
The Chamness Family
The Dedicated Volunteers of the Ronald
McDonald House
The Dzwonar Family
The Lake Family
The Staff of the Ronald McDonald House

Thomas Wilson
Turner Construction Company of Indiana,
LLC
Wings of Hope & Indiana Farm Bureau
Insurance
XI Industrial Services, Inc.

Transplant Apartments

Brigham Family Foundation
Duke Energy Foundation
Paul and Judy Estridge
John and Joyce Madorna
Jerry and Gayle Margraf
Sarah and Bill Nowlin

Guest Rooms at our House at Riley

Colby & Cate's Charities
Friends and Family of Caitlin Stiver
The Hinton Family
Indiana University Health
Indiana Members Credit Union
Messer Construction

Foundation Grants Make A Difference

The support we receive from grants makes up an important part of our overall fundraising strategy, and we are continually working to expand our outreach to family, community, and corporate foundations.

The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana is fortunate to have received grants from the following foundations in 2013. To all of our supporters listed below, we express our deepest appreciation for your commitment to our mission and vision. Thank you for supporting the families we serve.

Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.
BMW Constructors Philanthropic Fund
Brigham Family Foundation
The CarMax Foundation
Coffin Family Foundation
Community Foundation of Muncie and
Delaware County, Inc.
The Duke Energy Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
John W. Anderson Foundation

Kosciusko County Community Foundation, Inc.
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
The Mary E. Van Drew Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Mirowski Family Foundation
Moorehead Family Foundation
Nicholas H. Noyes, Jr., Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Tony Stewart Foundation
Wabash Valley Community Foundation, Inc.
Walmart Foundation



What Is Gift Planning?

Gift planning is finding ways to make charitable gifts now or after your lifetime while enjoying financial benefits for yourself. Planned gifts are sometimes referred to as "stop-and-think" gifts because they require some planning and, often, help from your professional advisors. Unlike cash donations, they are typically made from assets in your estate rather than disposable income, and come to fruition upon your death. We hope you'll consider including a gift to the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, this type of gift offers these main benefits:

- **Flexibility.** Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.
- **Versatility.** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.
- **Tax Relief.** If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust. Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate. Or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana receives your gift. When planning a future gift, it's sometimes difficult to determine what size donation will make sense. Emergencies happen, and you need to make sure your family is financially taken care of first. Including a bequest of a percentage of your estate ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how your estate's value fluctuates over the years.

If you have questions regarding Charitable Gift Planning, contact Director of Development Joe Schulz at (317) 267-0605, ext. 208 or by email at jschulz@rmh-indiana.org.



7

Check out our Young Professionals Board

The Young Professionals Board (YPB) serves to further the mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana (RMHI). Specifically, the YPB strives to heighten awareness about the House and serves in a fundraising capacity. Members seek to tap into other young professionals within the Indianapolis community, while creating a networking and social environment for young professionals.

Creating fun and informative events to support and promote RMHI's overall mission has been a focal point and will continue into 2014. Past events include Happy Hour Trivia Bowl, Colts Viewing Parties, and our annual Chili Cook-off! Cooking and serving dinner bi-monthly at the RMHI is a core participation and service event of the YPB – and also serves as a great venue for our new member welcome! For more information as to how you can become involved with the YPB, please visit www.ypbindy.com





**Ronald McDonald House
of Indiana**
435 Limestone Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2819
317.269.2247
www.rmh-indiana.org

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i'm lovin' it®

Together We Make A Difference

Thank you McDonald's of Central Indiana owner/operators, managers and employees.

Since 1982, you have provided a backbone of support that includes:

- ♥ McDonald's owner/operators and leadership serving on our Board of Directors and various committees
- ♥ Event sponsorships, volunteering at our House and serving meals to our families
- ♥ In-store donation boxes and pop tab collection
- ♥ Significant support to build and expand our House
- ♥ Run for Ronald participation, McMiracle on 38th Street and Joy of Giving Holiday Dinner
- ♥ 2013 Mother's Day Celebration

