



The Home with a Heart

Keeping families together when they need each other the most.

The Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana | December 2013

Being Together Means Everything to Family of Cancer Patient

Last summer Carl Bronislawski was planning to leave home, he just didn't think he'd be traveling to Indianapolis. The 18 year old was on his way to college at Ave Maria in Naples, Florida with a football scholarship, when his life suddenly took a dramatic turn.

"He was working out with a trainer and we thought he had a hernia," says his Mom, Susan. "It turned out to be testicular cancer. It threw us for a loop!"

Doctors quickly operated on Carl to remove the cancer and gave him a 50/50 chance of reoccurrence. Unfortunately, after being away at college for only two weeks, new scans showed his markers were elevated. Now Carl is receiving chemotherapy treatment at IU Health Simon Cancer Center. He and his family travel all the way from Orlando to see Dr. Einhorn and the cancer specialists there.

"It sounds crazy, but we found IU Health and Dr. Einhorn through Google," Susan explains. "We just started researching specialists, because we wanted the best. We read that it's highly curable if you get the correct treatment." Dr. Einhorn, who is known for his past treatment of Lance Armstrong, developed the protocols for treatment for testicular cancer. "We liked that he was the one who came up with the protocols for treatment," says Susan. "Most doctors have the cure rate in the high 90s. Dr. Einhorn's is 100 percent. That's all we needed to hear."



Carl with Dr. Einhorn.

After meeting Dr. Einhorn and his staff, Susan knew they were in the right place. The only problem was where the family would stay during extended visits to Indianapolis. "My husband and I work in the hospitality industry and we just didn't know what to expect, traveling with someone going through chemo. We didn't know who to stay with, then someone suggested we call Ronald McDonald House."

"We have met so many wonderful people along the way. Ronald McDonald House and IU Health have been amazing. I don't know what we would have done without them."

The staff at the House, set to work quickly. "I didn't expect it to be so easy," says Susan. We talked on the phone about what services they have, and then we just showed up. We stay there eight days, then we go home for 10 days, then back again. Every time they call and have everything all set up for us. It's like family now."

Carl took off his first semester in college, but plans to start online classes in January and then return to school and his football team next summer. Despite the bumpy road, Carl is tackling cancer the same way he tackles life. "He's a strong kid," says Susan. "He overcame dyslexia in school and went on to get good grades and go off to college with a scholarship. Now he has cancer and he'll get through this."

Susan urges all parents to talk to their pediatrician about checking young boys for testicular cancer, which is rare but tends to target young males between the ages of 15 and 30. "Parents aren't educated on this--we don't even know to look for it. It's not in the protocol for pediatricians to check for it, this cancer doesn't hurt so boys might not say anything," says Susan.

Susan is extremely thankful for the care her family has received both from IU Health and the Ronald McDonald House. "We have met so many wonderful people along the way. Ronald McDonald House and IU Health have been amazing. I don't know what we would have done without them."

A Message from Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, every night 58 families call our Ronald McDonald House “home” while their children receive lifesaving treatment at Riley Hospital for children at IU Health and other Indianapolis-area hospitals.

What you may not know is that every month, more than a hundred families get to leave our Ronald McDonald House. Whether they’ve been here a day, a week, a month, or a year, we celebrate their return to the comfortable, familiar surroundings of their own homes. I would like to share with you an update on the Kinnaird family—one of the families that stayed with us for almost a year. You may recall their story from our March newsletter.

In November 2012, Daniel and Katie Kinnaird of New Castle, IN, along with their son Jonah, became guests at our House while their 2-year old son Caleb was in Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health waiting to get a heart transplant. Caleb was born with tricuspid atresia, a heart valve defect that made it difficult to get the oxygen he needed. Because of problems with his immune system, about half of the potential donors had to be eliminated. What they thought would be a two-to three-month stay turned into 11 months. During this time our House became their home and their support. We shared in their ups and downs and we did everything we could to make their stay as comfortable as possible as they waited.

On September 25, 2013, Caleb received the gift of a new heart. He waited 321 days, the longest any inpatient child in Indiana has ever spent waiting for a heart transplant. And I’m thrilled to report that today, Caleb is healthy, happy and at home with his family, which includes a new baby sister, Lucy.

The Kinnaird family has so much to be thankful for this holiday season and so do we here at the House. We are thankful for our loving and caring community of supporters that give our families the gift of togetherness when they need each other the most.

From all of us here at the House, thank you for making this past year brighter for the families who stayed with us.

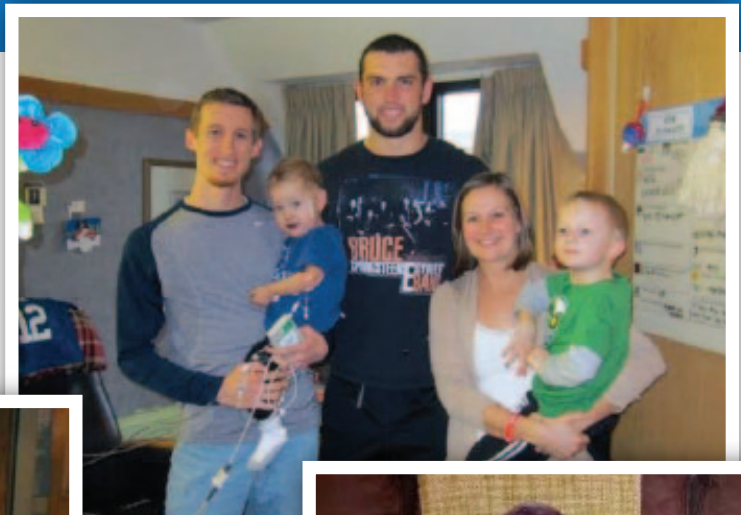
Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Beth Johnson



Caleb in the hospital.



Caleb and his family get a surprise visit from Andrew Luck.



Caleb goes home.



Caleb and his new baby sister, Lucy.

The Power to Keep Families Together Is In Your Hands

Research shows that children heal faster and cope better with family by their side.

Since 1982, your support has helped more than 35,000 families stay together and stay strong through difficult circumstances. Families who call the House “home”, are asked to contribute just \$15 per night for their stay, but no family has ever been turned away for an inability to pay. Your gift, regardless of the amount, supports Ronald McDonald House families so they can focus on what really matters—their child’s healing. **Please consider using the envelope provided in this newsletter to make a donation today or donate online at www.rmh-indiana.org.**

Gift Categories:

- \$15 One night stay for a single family
- \$30 Weekend stay for a single family
- \$50 Provides supplies we need to make our House a Home
- \$105 One week stay for a single family
- \$250 Helps us to keep our pantries stocked with food
- \$450 One month stay for a single family

Gifts can also show support of a child, a family, or the House as follows:

- \$500 places a Heart on the Heart Wall at our Limestone Street location
- \$1,000 places a Leaf on the Tree located in our House at Riley Hospital at IU Health
- \$4,000 places an Annual Room Sponsorship Nameplate on one of the guest room doors

For more information on ways to support the House, visit www.rmh-indiana.org.



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Donate That Old Clunker of Yours This Holiday Season and Help a Child Heal.

If you think that old car in your driveway isn’t worth much, think again. By donating your car, truck, boat or RV to Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, you can help provide families with a home-away-from-home and keep them together during the hospitalization of a seriously ill child.

Through our partnership with One Car, One Difference®, a national vehicle donation program operated by Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc. (IAA), the process of donating your vehicle is simple and quick. Here’s how it works:

● Donate your vehicle.

Visit www.onecarhelpsrhm.com or call (855) 426-2477. Enter in your contact information as well as information about your vehicle (year, make, model and approximate mileage).

● IAA picks up the vehicle.

At no cost to you, IAA will tow the vehicle to the local auction. Or, if you prefer, you can drop off the vehicle yourself. For the auction location, call (855) 426-2477.

● Your vehicle is sold at an auction.

IAA cleans the donated vehicle to make sure its top notch for the auction. This will help to get the highest sale price.

● You get the sales receipt to file for a tax deduction.

Not only will you make a difference to seriously ill or injured children and their families, you may even get a tax break!

● Proceeds go to our House.

Cash from the auction will be donated to our House to continue to help provide a home-away-from-home for families of critically ill or injured children.

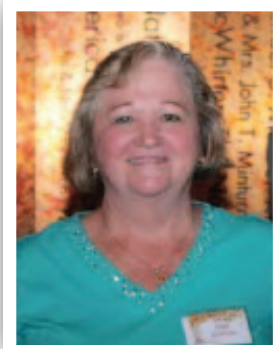
For more information, visit www.rmh-indiana.org or www.onecarhelpsrhm.com

Celebrating our Volunteers

Our wonderful Ronald McDonald House volunteers make a difference in the lives of all the families that come through our doors--by cooking, by hosting, by listening, by nurturing, by simply being there and helping. On Sept. 27, we celebrated our volunteers for their many contributions to the House and to the more than 1,400 families we serve every year.

Lori Kleiman Awards

Lori Kleiman was a very special volunteer valued for her generosity, creativity and compassion. Since her passing, the House recognizes volunteers who most exemplify her dedication and values. This year, the Ronald McDonald House presented the Lori Kleiman Award to Rega Kowalski, Karen Lewandowski and Karen McGugin.

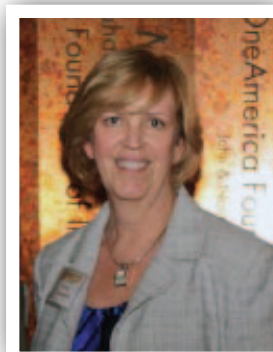


Rega Kowalski made her mark on the House quickly, having joined us just a year and a half ago in March 2012, after retiring from a career in management and personnel. A few descriptors that come to mind when thinking about Rega include fun-loving, outgoing, organized and energetically determined. Rega is a true leader and doesn't hesitate to jump right in to projects needing her energy and organizing skills.

She also eagerly fills in as a substitute when needed. She can be found bustling around the House emptying dishwashers, doing laundry and assisting with anything and everything. She always reminds us that she lives close by and to call if we need anything.

If you looked up the words reliable and dedicated in the dictionary we are positive you would see a picture of **Karen Lewandowski**. She began volunteering in April 1990, and is a virtual fixture on the Tuesday evening shift between our Limestone Street and Riley Hospital locations. She puts in so many volunteer hours that she has won the President's Bronze Award for three consecutive years.

Some words that were often repeated by those who nominated her are: caring, compassionate, entertaining and fun to be around. Among her most valued contributions is her role as a mentor with the volunteer training program. Karen is among our best mentors in terms of her thoroughness and encouraging attitude with new volunteers.



Karen McGugin began volunteering with us in January 2010, and has demonstrated a true passion for the House and our mission. Given her history of volunteering throughout the city for everything from charity walks and runs, various conventions and the 500 Festival, we are very fortunate that she is able to fit us into her busy schedule!

Karen is truly dedicated to our House at Riley. She is scheduled to cover two morning shifts each week but usually comes in four times a week. She arrives early to make coffee so she can have it ready for our guests at 9 a.m. sharp. She can then be found making up beds, whipping up lunch in the kitchen or registering new guests at the front desk. She has excellent rapport with our guest families and as a result, they get to know her, and often ask about her on the days she isn't there.



President's Service Awards

Several volunteers received recognition by President Obama for recording 100 or more service hours to the House in 2012.

Gold Award Recipients

(Serving 500+ hours)

Michael Rhinaman
Linda Satterfield

Silver Award Recipients

(Serving 250-499 hours)

Christin Enochs
Cindy Hutchison
Nancy Iles
Karen McGugin
Joan Watson

Bronze Award Recipients

(Serving 100-249 hours)

Harold Aron
Juanna Brennan
Jennifer Cannady
Karen Devansky
Marcia Dougherty
Linda Duke
Theresa Errard
Bert Harvey
Ernie Harvey
Terri Hawkins
Lisa Hull
Woody Hurst
Kyle Just
Debbie Kiesel
Rega Kowalski
Diana Laybold
Karen Lewandowski
Dale Roberts
Mercedes Roots
Bob Schofield
Leah Shubert
Lane Sims
Bob Skorjanc
Marge Vogel
Shirley Yegerlehner

Helping Hands Award

These individuals, companies and organizations were recognized for responding to the needs of our families through generous in-kind gifts and support of our mission.

Allan Bowers
Stan Bunting, Sam's Club/Greenwood
Huston-Lynn Enterprises / McDonald's
Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU)
Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health



RMHI Executive Director Beth Johnson presents the Helping Hands award to IMCU employees.

Taste

JOURNEYS TO CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY
Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana

We are grateful to the more than 450 friends, supporters and volunteers who attended our Taste...Journeys to California Wine Country Dinner Extravaganza on Nov.1 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

The journey featured WISH -TV's Scott Sander as our emcee for the evening, 13 world-class wineries from Napa and Sonoma Valleys presented by Monarch Beverage and extraordinary entertainment by Kelleen Strutz, The Allen Burke Jazz Ensemble & The Five Star Dance Studio. Guests strolled and enjoyed the décor presented by Post Road English Garden and Impact group, savored California cuisine from the Indiana Roof Ballroom and California Pizza Kitchen and shopped in the Wine Country Marketplace featuring 100 outstanding silent auction packages.



Dancers from the Five Star Dance Studios captivated the audience.

A big thank you to Jill Ditmire, WFYI and honorary chair, Jennifer Dzwonar, planning chair, Elaine Shaffer, auction chair, and the entire planning committee who created an inspired journey of all the senses, and most importantly, the heart.



Scott Sander, emcee for the evening.



Kelleen Strutz and The Allen Burke Jazz Ensemble entertained guest throughout the night.



A sampling of the silent auction and the delicious California cuisine.

Thank you to our Partners:

Gold Partners



Silver Partner



Bronze Partners



Dinner Partner



Wine Partner



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NORDSTROM

Entertainment Partner



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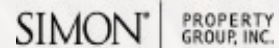
Multimedia Partner



Décor Partner



Wine Garden Partner



Marketplace Silent Auction Partner



Wine Station Partner



Cuisine Station Partner



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our Winter Wonderland Holiday Open House on Dec. 5. Special thanks to the following individuals and groups who helped make the day festive and special for our families and guests:

Entertainment & Special Guests

Broad Ripple Magnet High School for the Arts & Humanities
 Varsity Singers
 F.R.O.G. Ministry and Grace Point Praise Team
 Students of the Harp School, Inc.
 Michael Rhinaman, Sound
 Ronald McDonald
 Santa and Mrs. Claus
 Santa's Elves - Brittney Williams, Mrs. Pam Trcka
 Scott Trcka, Midwest Scouting Supervisor Philadelphia Phillies
 Phillie Phanatic
 Mill Milos, Major League Scout Minnesota Twins
 Bill Bryk, Major League Scout/Asst. GM Arizona Diamondbacks
 Jessica Trcka, Ball State University Student Athletic Trainer

Lunch

City Barbeque

Dinner

Olive Branch Christian Church
 Walmart
 Desserts by Grace Point Church

Santa's Cookie & Candyland Shoppe Donors

Craig Ito, Head Cookie Elf
 Olive Branch Christian Church
 Girl Scouts and Special Elves

Holiday Décor

Christmas Décor Lighting
 Head Elf Linda Satterfield and House Volunteers



On her birthday each year Shelby doesn't ask for presents. Instead, she asks for donations for her favorite charities. Shelby recently presented a gift of over \$600 to the House and now our Heart Wall has a heart with her name on it. Thanks, Shelby! You are a great role model.



The Daisy Girl Scout Troop 440 stopped by for a tour and dropped off some pop tabs and items from our wish list. Thank you, girls! We enjoyed your visit with us.



A big thanks to Waphahani High School culinary class for making a delicious breakfast for our families to enjoy!

We are very grateful for NR Road Racing for organizing three 5K races this fall to benefit our House—Glow in the Night 5K on Oct. 12, the Chocolate 5K on Nov. 9 and Go Santa Go on Nov. 30. Check out their website at nrroadracing.com for information on more fun races held throughout the year.



Wow! Students in the Southport High School robotics program donated more than 12,000 items from our wish list. We are so grateful!



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A big thanks to the North Central men's basketball team who spent several hours moving our holiday decorations out of storage so our volunteer elves could decorate the House for the holidays. Thanks again, guys! We couldn't have done it without you.





**Ronald McDonald House
of Indiana**
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GIVE CHILDREN THE BEST GIFT OF ALL
Their Families

*Give the gift of togetherness to families staying
at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana*



**Please donate today at
www.rmh-indiana.org.**

Thank you.