



The Home with a Heart

Keeping families together when they need each other the most.

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

Young Philanthropist Gives Back to the House that Helped Her Parents

Nearly 19 years ago, a baby girl named Amy was born to Adolf and Susi Lehner of Elkhart, IN. Shortly after Amy was born, doctors became concerned about her because her lips would turn blue during nursing. After running some tests, they discovered Amy's heart was not working properly and she was rushed to Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health in Indianapolis for immediate heart surgery. For the next 22 days, while Amy was recuperating in the hospital, Adolf and Susi stayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana where they could be close to their baby girl.

Only seven years later, Amy needed another open heart surgery—and once again her parents turned to the House for comfort and refuge. Amy even remembers being at the House during her second surgery. "I just remember everyone being so friendly to us," she said. As a 7-year-old, she especially enjoyed the House's library and remembers reading lots of books during her stay.

Even though Amy was young at the time, the House made a lasting impression on her life. Now strong and healthy, Amy is continually serving and influencing those around her. Between pop tab collecting and donating money from her part-time jobs, Amy says it's important to her to support the House. "I want to help the Ronald McDonald House impact the lives of others as they did mine," Amy said.



Amy with her parents, Susi and Adolf.

Most recently, this past April while a senior at Jimtown High School, Amy organized and hosted a fundraiser to benefit the House. The event, held at St. Mark's Church in Mishawaka, IN, featured a dinner, raffle drawings, a presentation on the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana's history and Raise the Bar Drumline.



Guests enjoyed entertainment by Raise the Bar Drumline.

More than 60 guests attended the event and it raised more than \$6,000 for the House – exceeding Amy's goal of \$5,000. Amy's mother is very proud of her daughter's example, saying "It's amazing to take something so awful and turn it into such a blessing."

Amy no longer faces heart issues; she now only has regular check-ups. She is a freshman at Ball State and plans on studying nursing.

Congratulations Amy!

As this newsletter was going to press, we learned that Amy won the Outstanding Young Adult award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Indiana Chapter (AFP-IC).

We were proud to nominate Amy for this award, and look forward to honoring her at the 2013 Indiana Philanthropy Awards Luncheon on November 15.



A Message from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As you read this edition of The Home with a Heart I hope it will give you a real understanding of why it's so important for families to be together during their child's illness. Both Amy's parents (see story on pg.1) and Katie's parents (see story below) found strength, comfort and support by being able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House when their children needed them most.

Togetherness is at the core of what we do on a daily basis at the Ronald McDonald House. Last year thousands of donors and hundreds of volunteers came together to provide this gift of togetherness to 1,402 families with critically ill children receiving lifesaving treatment at local hospitals, primarily Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health.

We are so grateful to all who support our mission. There are those who make meals for our families, support and volunteer their time to work at fundraising events, gather wish list items to fill our pantries and collect pop tabs and donate monetarily.

Together we care, and together we make a difference.

Warm Regards,

Beth Johnson

Remember Katie. Donate Life.

Organ donation probably isn't something people often think about, but friends of Katie McBurnett certainly do. Advocating for organ donation and education has become their passion – their way of carrying on the legacy of their friend who lived every day to its fullest.

Katie struggled with a heart condition called cardiomyopathy, which doctors discovered after she became very ill with flu-like symptoms during Christmas vacation in 2006. Katie was hospitalized at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health and put on a portable Ventricular Assist Device (VAD), which helped pump her enlarged heart. She was also added to a heart transplant waiting list

Katie and her family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, as she adjusted to her life-stabilizing equipment, and eventually, she returned home. Then, after months of waiting, the call came that a heart suitable for transplant was available for Katie.

Katie underwent surgery and was hospitalized at Riley for nine days after her transplant. After that, she spent a month recovering at RMHI's apartments before going home. Things were looking up: She worked with a tutor so she could start her sophomore year of high school in the fall. She celebrated her first "heart birthday" on March 29, one year after her transplant.

But on Sept. 18, 2012 – five and half years after her transplant – Katie passed away. To keep her spirit alive, Katie's family and friends continued the tradition of celebrating her "heart birthday" by serving breakfast to families at the House.

Efforts to honor Katie didn't stop there. Close friends Lindsey Thompson and Kimberly McDaniel co-founded Remember Katie. Donate Life, an effort to advocate for organ donation and education.

"That's the most important thing –getting more people to become donors," said Lindsey, a senior in graphic design at the Art Institute of Indianapolis.

Lindsey and Kimberly, a psychology major at IUPUI, visit middle schools to educate students about organ donation, dispel myths about the process and explain how to become a donor. To date, they have talked to more than 200 students. They also are raising money to benefit the Ronald McDonald House and Donate Life Indiana through the sale of wristbands and vinyl decals.



From Left: Katie's friends, Kimberly and Lindsey, and Katie's mom, celebrate her "heart birthday" by serving breakfast at the House.

To learn more about Katie and organ donation, go to <http://rememberkatedonatel.wix.com/remember-katie>

To buy a wristband or decal, go to <http://www.etsy.com/shop/RememberKatie>

Fast facts:

- Every 10 minutes, another person is added to the transplant waiting list.
 - In 2011, almost 29,000 U.S. lives were saved through organ transplants. However, more than 110,000 people are waiting for life-saving organ transplants.
 - One person can save up to eight lives with their organs.
- Source: Remember Katie Donate Life handout

How to become a donor:

Check the organ donation box at the BMV the next time you renew your driver's license. Also, fill out the simple form at www.donatelifelifeindiana.org to ensure that your organs go to people who desperately need them. Fill your family in on the decision, and make sure everyone who is important to you knows about your choice to donate life.

Taste

JOURNEYS TO CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana

There's still time to join us for "A Taste Journeys to California Wine Country"

**Friday, November 1, 2013, 7 - 11 PM
Indiana Roof Ballroom
140 West Washington Street, Indianapolis**

FEATURING

Master of Ceremonies – **Scott Sander**, WISH-TV Morning News Anchor

Honorary Chair and Local Wine Aficionado – **Jill Ditmire**, Mass Avenue Wine Shoppe & Café

Distinctive wines showcasing 13 wineries from Napa & Sonoma Valleys, presented by Monarch Beverage

SWING

To the sights and sounds of Kelleen Strutz, the Allen Burke Jazz Ensemble & The FIVE STAR Dance Studio

STROLL AND SAVOR

A flavorful fusion of diverse culinary ethnicities including Italian, Spanish, Asian and Country French influences and farm to table delicacies. The Indiana Roof Ballroom Chefs will recreate recipes from Napa and Sonoma including a healthy array of Artisan cheeses, figs, vegetables, specialty meats and pastas and a delectable mandarin orange cheesecake. Also participating is local favorite, the California Pizza Kitchen, who will present scrumptious appetizers to complement the menu.

SHOP

The Wine Country Marketplace Silent Auction features 100 tantalizing packages including:

- Fine wine collections and in-home wine tasting experiences
- Travel escapes including: a VIP Sonoma Wine Tour for 2 with Southwest plane tickets, 2 nights at Glen Lyon Cottage in Sonoma, a week's stay at Martha's Vineyard, and trips to Chicago, New York, Hawaii, and the Grand Prix in Florida
- Justin Timberlake concert tickets, Broadway tickets to Wicked, and Colts tickets, along with an Andrew Luck signed jersey and football collectibles
- Specialty gift items, gourmet goodies and tastes and treasures from around the world

GiveSmart
Maximizing Fundraising Revenue

Auctions By Give Smart Technology is providing unique technology prior to and during our Taste event so everyone has the opportunity to shop in the California Wine Country Marketplace/Silent Auction – even if you are not present at the event. The auction site opens on October 24 and closes on November 1, 2013 at 9:45 p.m. Visit www.rmh-indiana.org for instructions on how to participate. It's easy and fun!

COST

Reserved seats are \$100 each, a reserved table of 10 guests is \$1,000 and table partnerships are \$1,500. Tickets can be purchased online at www.rmh-indiana.org. Tickets are limited, so don't delay.

ATTIRE

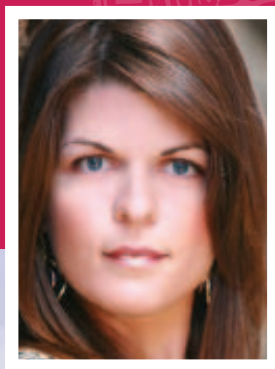
California Chic/Cocktail

CONTACT

Pam Anderson, Special Events Manager
(317) 269-2247, ext. 227, panderson@rmh-indiana.org



Scott Sander
Master of Ceremonies



Kelleen Strutz
Featured vocalist and pianist

Thank You Taste Partners

Wine Partner



Dinner Partner

Indiana University Health

Experience Partners

Barnes & Thornburg
Nordstrom
Wilson Industrial Sales

Entertainment Partner

BSA LifeStructures

Multimedia Partner

Carrier Corporation

Décor Partner

Banjo Corporation

Wine Garden Partner

Simon Property Group

Marketplace Silent Auction Partner

First Merchants Bank

Wine Station Partner

Valeo

Cuisine Station Partner

Fifth Third Bank

An evening of fine California wine, cuisine, art, entertainment & silent auction



Ronald McDonald House of Indiana Pro Am Golf Tournament

It was a great day of golf, food and fun at Broadmoor Country Club on June 27. We had a wonderful turn out and we sold every item in our silent auction!

A special thanks to Pete Wojtowicz, our tournament chair for 27 years, and to our special guest and dinner emcee, Jenny Anchondo.

Thank You Partners!

Presenting – **Coca-Cola**
 Dinner – **Dr Pepper**
 Shirts – **Klosterman Baking Company (KBI)**
 Pro – **Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health**
 Lunch – **Bandy Carroll Hellige**
 Hole-In-One Cash – **McDonald's USA, LLC**
 Golf Cart – **OmniSource**
 Escape to Paradise Silent Auction – **ERMCO**
 Trophy – **NextGear Capital**
 Double Eagle – **Barnes and Thornburg**
 Eagle – **BSA LifeStructures, James Poore Organization, Katz, Sapper & Miller, McDonalds USA, LLC**
 Multi-Birdie – **Pete Wojtowicz, EGP**
 Hole-In-One Contest – **Ray Skillman NE Buick GMC**
 Steak – **OSI Group**
 Goodie-Bags – **Atkins & Company, Indiana Members Credit Union**
 Reception – **Prairie Farms, Raymond James**



Jenny Anchondo, James Poore, and Chris Lake, RMHI board member.

Refreshment – **Steamatic**
 Entertainment – **Shane's Landscape & Outdoor Living**
 Hole Partners – **La-Z-Boy, Indianapolis Fruit, Post Road English Garden**



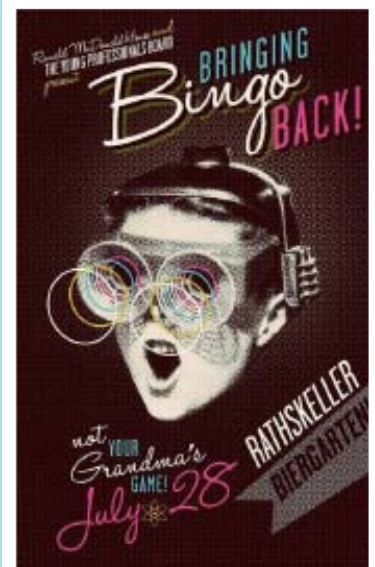
Run for Ronald

Hundreds of runners and walkers participated in the 7th Annual Run for Ronald on June 15. The 5K course for all ages began at the NCAA Hall of Champions and followed the beautiful Indianapolis Downtown Canal. Thank you **Institute of Real Estate Management** for another great event!



Bringing Bingo Back!

Our Young Professional Board hosted an event at the Rathskeller Biergarten on July 28, called Bringing Bingo Back! Many thanks to presenting partner Mark E. Lux, Insurance, Inc. along with IndyHipHop Dot Com (Hot 96.3), The Rathskeller, RONLEWHORN, and Foresight Financial Management for helping to put on a great event.



9th Annual Pop Tab Drop on Monument Circle

Visitors from all over the state stopped by to drop off their tabs at the 9th annual Pop Tab Drop on Monument Circle on August 9. By the end of the event, more than 10 million pop tabs were collected!



Annual Corvette Club Car Show

Car enthusiasts enjoyed the annual Corvette Club show sponsored by the South Central Indiana Corvette Club on Aug. 10 at Hubler Chevrolet. The group has raised more than \$80,000 for the Ronald McDonald House since 1995.



Annual Goldwing Riders Trek

Goldwing Riders from around the state made their annual trek to the Ronald McDonald House on Sept. 7 to drop off monetary donations, pop tabs and household items from our wish list. The group has donated more than \$40,000 since 1995, millions of pop tabs and thousands of dollars in household items.



Wild, Wild Midwest Sporting Clays Shoot

Shooters had a "blast" at the Wild, Wild Midwest Sporting Clays Shoot and Barbecue on Sept. 7 at the Howard County Izaak Walton League of America in Kokomo.

Thank You Partners!

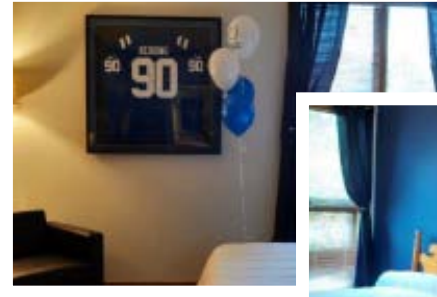
Presenting – **Dr Pepper**
American Equity Mortgage
Coca-cola
Daystar Directional Drilling
Famous Dave's
Howard County Izaak Walton
League of America

Kids & Clays
Kincaid's Meat Market
La-Z-Boy
Superior Oil
Vectren

AROUND THE HOUSE



Cory Redding with the Colts was very excited to unveil the Indianapolis Colts guest room at the House. Thanks to his generosity, the families staying in Room 20 will be able to enjoy the new Colts-themed room, complete with a framed #90



football jersey. The Indianapolis Colts organization has been a longtime partner of the House and now thanks to Cory Redding and his continued support, we have a room to honor him and the rest of the Colts.



Indianapolis 500 Princess Erika Burghardt dropped off a huge donation of food from a food drive she helped coordinate at Woodland and Mintonye Elementary Schools in Lafayette, IN. She was hoping to collect a total of 500 items and ended up with 3,000 items! When asked what she used to motivate the kids she explained that the class from each school who collected the most items would win a ride in a pace car around their school and have their photo taken with the pace car while drinking milk.



Sydney Clements and her brother Jackson stopped by the House to deliver more than three million pop tabs that their school, Whiteland Elementary, collected. The pop tab drive was organized in memory of their brother Carter. The Clements were houseguests while Carter was being cared for at Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health.



A big thank you to our friends at Brooksource for providing a delicious meal, fresh baked cookies and many wish list items for families visiting our Ronald McDonald House at Riley.

In honor of our 30th anniversary, McDonald's of Central Indiana donated 30 cents of every Shamrock Shake sold in the month of March to the House. We were pleasantly surprised and deeply grateful when they presented the House with a check for more than \$100,000 from the "30 Years. 30 Cents. 30 Days." campaign! In honor of their ongoing commitment and support of our House, our north wing dining area is now officially known as the "McDonald's of Central Indiana Dining Room."





Your Spare Change Changes Lives

Whether you're driving through or dining in, please remember the donation boxes at your local McDonald's. Your spare change helps support the children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana.

Host an Event for the House and Help Children Heal



Kicks for Kids, Bunny Rock 5k

The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana is honored to be the beneficiary of community events organized by individuals, local organizations, schools and businesses.

These events range from bake sales and car washes to soccer tournaments and organized runs, walks and bike races. Whether you are considering a large event or one that is fairly simple, our fundraising guidelines and event application will help you get started. Visit our website at www.rmh-indiana.org for more information, or contact Kelly Thien, Communications and Marketing Manager, at (317) 269-2247, ext. 207 or kthien@rmh-indiana.org.



Donate a Vehicle and Help Children 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:

Support the Ronald McDonald House by saving money on your house!



The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana will receive a \$25 donation for every home that registers for a free home energy assessment through the Energizing Indiana home assessment program. The assessments can lower energy bills, improve in-home air quality and increase the value of the home overall. Inspectors will install energy-savers such as light bulbs, showerheads and sink aerators, and assess the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems to determine if they are operating efficiently. Once the energy assessment is complete, a comprehensive report will be sent detailing what can be done to start saving energy and make the home more comfortable.

For more information and to sign up for a free home energy assessment, please visit our website at www.rmh-indiana.org.

Did you know?

Many companies match charitable donations. Find out if your company does, and make your donation work twice as hard.

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● 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.



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

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Kicks FOR Kids
 ALL DAY INDOOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE OF INDIANA
Friday, November 29
 For more information, visit: www.offthewallsports.net



NR Road Racing presents a "chocolaty" good time to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana

Saturday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m.
Military Park at White River State Park

Enjoy a family-friendly three mile course. Yes, there will still be water stations, but for those of you with a sweet tooth, you can also have a little pieces of "chocolaty joy" throughout the course.

To learn more and to register to participate or volunteer, visit nrroadracing.com

Winter Wonderland
 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
 Thursday, December 5
 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Highlights include:

- * Cookies and cocoa throughout the day
- * Lunch at noon by City Barbeque
- * Appearances by Santa Claus in the afternoon, Ronald McDonald in the evening
- * Dinner at 6 p.m. by Olive Branch Church and F.R.O.G. Ministries
- * Ceremonial lighting of the House's exterior holiday decorations at 7 p.m.

Our Holiday Open House is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items to stock the House's food pantries.

Holiday Wish List

Please help us make the holidays special for the 58 families staying at the House by donating the following new and unused items:

- * Baby toys
- * Children's toys
- * Hats, gloves, scarves, slippers and socks for all sizes
- * Body wash and chapstick
- * Thermal mugs
- * Wal-mart and Meijer gift cards
- * Gas and phone cards
- * Kroger gift cards

For more information, contact Operations Director Dennis Craig at (317) 267-0605, ext. 205.