



LOVE NOTES



Ronald McDonald House Volunteer GOES INTERNATIONAL

As she walked through the doors of another Ronald McDonald House in Mendoza, Argentina, Wake Forest University student Lisa Northrop already knew the important role a Ronald McDonald House plays in the lives of families.

Having worked as a RMH Work/Study student at our House for two years, Lisa was quite familiar with the RMH organization. She was in Mendoza because she was participating in a study abroad program and volunteering was a part of the program. Naturally, she picked RMH. Lisa wanted the chance to see how the RMH in her new Argentinean home operated and cared for families.

While volunteering there, Lisa saw that the challenges of having a sick child in the hospital transcend language and cultural differences. She shared, "They were dealing with the same stress the families here in Winston-Salem have. The difficulties of worrying about their children coupled with the fact that they are far from home are universal experiences families encounter here in Winston-Salem and in Mendoza. Like our families, they need love and support." Both Houses are indeed "homes away from home" providing love, support, shelter, and caring.

Our kitchen and dining area is affectionately called "command central" where everyone seems to congregate and where everything seems to happen. Lisa noted that the same is true for the Mendoza House. Just as it is at our House, the kitchen is at the heart of their House. It provides families with a place to gather and cope by sharing their experiences with

others facing similar challenges.

After returning to Wake to complete her junior and senior years, Lisa also continued her work with RMH as a Wake Forest University Work/Study student. She spends a minimum of six hours each week working in the RMH Development Office and plans to stay

involved in the non-profit world when she graduates this spring. Lisa says that her time spent working with the Ronald McDonald House helped to solidify her decision. "I've stayed with the Ronald McDonald House throughout my four years at Wake because it has been an unbelievable experience to work with and learn from people who truly who care about making the House as comfortable as possible for families," she explains. "This has been an unforgettable experience."

Lisa encourages other young adults to get involved with the House through volunteering. "The Ronald McDonald House is an outstanding organization, where all the little things that go into operating it make the lives of families and kids better," she stated. "Families love seeing smiling faces, decorated tables at the holidays, and having fun during Bingo nights and Pet Therapy visits. The Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem is so dynamic – always changing for the better. It is a really great organization!"

The Work/Study program has afforded RMH the service of a number of WFU students in various areas. Their contributions are invaluable and we are grateful to Lisa and all of the Work/Study students for all that they do to support our families.

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SHARON FULCHER-TATOM NEW RMH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is an old saying that goes, “Every end is a new beginning.” With a “new beginning,” comes opportunity. As the newly appointed Ronald McDonald House Executive Director, I am so thrilled about the possibilities and challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to meeting you and having the chance to work together. So far, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of the RMH volunteers, contributors, community friends, and others who make the RMH such a gem in this community and at-large.

Most importantly, I am excited about the opportunity to care for the children and families we



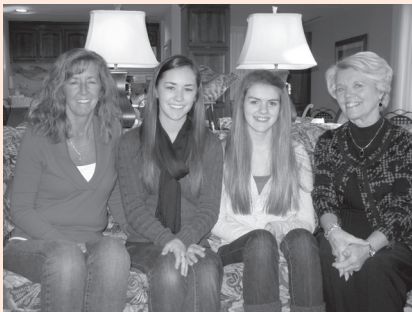
serve every day at our House. A new father said to me, “We couldn’t have done this without your help.” Each day we take part in creating “new beginnings” for those we serve.

Thank you for embracing “new beginnings!” I love that we get to share in the joy of making a difference one life at a time!

Please stop by the House and join me for a visit and a cup of coffee. I look forward to “new beginnings” with all of you.

Sharon Fulcher-Tatom

AROUND THE HOUSE



*The Blakley Family Volunteers—
Kim, Morgan, Gracy, and Carolyn*



*Our cadre of 4-legged volunteers can be counted on
to lend a helping paw or two!*



*Mary Katherine has a heart-to-heart
with Ronald before leaving for home.*

TINY BUT STRONG: BABY NOAH'S STORY



Noah checks out our big House.

Two days after Noah came into the world he was admitted to Brenner Children’s Hospital in Winston-Salem with a heartbreaking diagnosis – cancer. The pregnancy had been healthy and normal for new parents Lucinda and Seth, so finding out their newborn infant was born with cancer was a shock. Noah, a

6.7 pound newborn, was diagnosed with Stage IV Neuroblastoma nerve cancer and he began the first of eight rounds of intense chemotherapy treatments just a few weeks after his birthday.

As Noah fought cancer in the NICU, Lucinda and Seth prayed for their little boy from their room across the street at the Ronald McDonald House. They spent three weeks as guests at the House and were never more than a few minutes from their little boy’s side. Lucinda said, “It was such a comfort knowing that when we couldn’t stay with Baby Noah, we were only seconds away from him.”

Lucinda and Seth call the Family Room inside Brenner “a blessing for us and our family.” There they were able to seek respite in a welcoming and warm space. And, they were able to eat lunch and talk with family and friends – all just a few steps from Noah’s crib.

Ten-month-old Noah is still fighting his cancer and has a tumor on his lung that doctors are watching carefully. Lucinda and Seth say his prognosis right now is good. In fact, she reported that Noah just had his first bath in a tub a few weeks ago! This was a big deal for mom and dad, and Noah loved the soap suds!

Despite the difficulties since his birth, Lucinda shared that Noah is a very happy baby. She and Seth pray that Noah will continue to get stronger and enjoy many more sudsy baths!

Thank you... To these very generous supporters of our Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Rooms:

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Cornerstone Healthcare	Messiah Moravian Church		Winston-Salem Journal
Hot Yoga Therapy	Noel Dreamers		

SPORT A SHIRT, SHARE A NIGHT IS APRIL 15TH!

Let's make our seventh annual Sport a Shirt, Share a Night the biggest ever! Support the children and families staying in the Ronald McDonald Houses of North Carolina by purchasing a \$10 tee shirt and wearing it on April 15th. Last year over 20,000 caring people across the state purchased tee shirts and our goal is to sell over 25,000 this year. **WE NEED YOU!** Businesses, civic groups, churches, other organizations, and individuals will be joining the fun. Everyone is "going red" this year, and so are we! Sport a Shirt, Share a Night shirts are red and you'll look fabulous sporting one!

Sponsor support makes it possible for all the proceeds to go directly to the Houses. This year we have more sponsors than ever! Special thanks to our volunteers at Oracle Packaging who are folding the shirts for our House again this year!

Please plan to participate by becoming a team coordinator and promoting Sport a Shirt, Share a Night to your friends and coworkers. Visit www.rmhwinstonsalem.org for more details or email Mindy Bloom, Director of Development, at MindyB@rmhwinstonsalem.org. You can also reach her at (336) 970-5658.



Ronald McDonald House

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The Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem, Inc. provides a "home away from home" for families of children who are receiving medical care in our community's hospitals. The House and Family Room programs offer physical comforts, emotional support, education, and referral services designed to promote the well-being of the whole family.

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DOES NOT SHARE DONOR INFORMATION. FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF WINSTON-SALEM, INC. AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT (919) 733-4510. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE.

WISH LIST

By donating any of the following items, you will be helping to keep our House and Family Rooms ready to meet the needs of our guests.

Laundry Detergent

Microwavable Single-Serve Meals: soup, macaroni, stew, pasta, etc.

Single-Serve Items: oatmeal, cereal, pop tarts, fruit cups, granola bars, cookies, pretzels, chips, trail mix, and crackers

Garbage Bags: 39 gallon

Hand Sanitizers

Laundry Detergent

Floor Dusting Sheets (Swiffer)

Cups: hot and cold

Knives, Forks, and Spoons: sturdy plastic

Gift Cards: groceries, gas, restaurants, super stores, etc...

\$82: adopt a family for a night

\$2,870: adopt all 35 families staying here for a night



Looking for Other Ways to Help?

Donate At Your Convenience

It costs \$82.00 per night to provide a bedroom for a family staying at our House. Families staying with us are asked to pay only \$10.00 per night. Often our families cannot even pay this small amount, and we are asked to waive the fee. Please give as generously as you can; and when you give, you have the option of making the donation in honor or memory of someone.

Online



Access our website, www.rmhwinstonsalem.org, where we have partnered with Groundspring.org to facilitate secure online credit card transactions using Visa, MasterCard and American Express charge cards. Donors will receive contribution receipts from both Groundspring.org and the House. One-time or recurring donations can also be set up through the website.

Envelope

Send in your donation in the enclosed envelope. Giving levels and payment options are outlined for your information.

