



love notes

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SPRING 2008



Interested in learning more about the Campaign for Ronald McDonald House?

Please contact Mickey Kangur, Campaign Coordinator at (336) 723-0228 x38 or MickeyK@rmhwinstonsalem.org.

EXPANSION HIGHLIGHTS

Ronald McDonald House

- 14 bedrooms for nearly 700 more families each year
- Enlarged kitchen and dining room
- New recreation facilities
- Multi-purpose rooms for arts and crafts, community meetings, and other events

Family Room at Forsyth Medical Center

- Stocked kitchen with fresh coffee and snacks
- Laundry facilities and shower
- Comfortable seating with computer access
- Playroom for siblings of nursery patients

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE WILL EXPAND AND CARE FOR MORE FAMILIES!

For the past 23 years, our Ronald McDonald House has been a “home away from home” for families who have come to Winston-Salem to get excellent healthcare for their sick children. Almost 15,000 families have stayed at the House and received what they needed most – physical comforts, emotional encouragement, education, and the support of a caring staff and network of families in similar circumstances. But we are no longer meeting the needs for many that need our help. *From 2004-2007 almost 1,500 families were referred to the House, but not admitted due to a lack of space.*

An extensive two-year study confirmed the need to expand our Ronald McDonald House. The project has two parts: an addition to the current facility, and a new Family Room in Forsyth Medical Center.

The planned 14-bedroom addition on land adjacent to the existing facility will increase the total number of families that can stay each night to 31. An enlarged kitchen, new play areas, and living areas will be a part of the project. Upon completion, this expansion will provide 700 more families the opportunity to stay at our House each year and benefit from the many resources that are offered.

Also included in the expansion is the new Family Room at Forsyth Medical Center. The 1,300 square foot room is operated by a corps of specially trained volunteers just like the Family Room at Brenner Children’s Hospital. This room provides nursery parents a place of respite while being right down the hall from their child’s bedside.

We are proud to introduce **The Campaign for Ronald McDonald House: Caring for families caring for children.** Phil and Jean Waugh have graciously agreed to chair this \$3,500,000 campaign which will fund the much needed expansion to the Ronald McDonald House. The Waughs have energized volunteers in our community to step forward to support our vital plans for growth, and we need you. We have always counted on your help through volunteering and giving, and we hope we can do so now. The coming months will bring much more news about the expansion and we look forward to your joining us in **The Campaign for Ronald McDonald House: Caring for families caring for children.**

Board of Directors
Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem

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LAURA'S LETTER

LAURA ESLEECK, PRESIDENT RMH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“Resolution Calls for a New View of Charity” is the title of an editorial that appeared in the *Winston-Salem Journal* on New Year’s Eve. Written by reporter Mark Rutledge, the article started with, “Let it be my New Year’s resolution to be more thankful for what I have.” Mr. Rutledge had visited families at the Greenville, N.C. Ronald McDonald House on Christmas Eve knowing that this was where these families would be spending Christmas. Like the families who stay at our Ronald McDonald House, these families were hoping for good news about their child - the best Christmas gift that they could possibly receive. By the end of his visit, Mr. Rutledge had been touched by their stories and how important the Ronald McDonald House had been to each of them.

Our challenge is to hear the stories of the families who stay at our House or visit our Family Rooms at Brenner Children’s Hospital and in the Sara Lee Center for Women’s Health at Forsyth Medical Center. Listen to the stories, and share them with your friends and others in our community. The Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem is a tremendous asset to our community, and it is indeed one that I have added to my list of “things for which I am thankful.” I know you will add it to yours.

SCRAPBOOK



Bria shares a smile with Kelly.



Arts and Crafts Day is Lauina’s favorite at the house.



Emily has lots to say when she visits the house.

SPORT A SHIRT, SHARE A NIGHT



Sport a Shirt (\ˈspɔrt\ ˈā\ ˈʃhərt\) Wear a special shirt that celebrates the families staying at our Ronald McDonald House.

Share a Night (\ˈʃer\ ˈā\ ˈnīt\) Help to underwrite a night’s stay at the Ronald McDonald House.

Join 15,000 people throughout North Carolina by purchasing and wearing a special tee shirt on April 18th. *Sport a Shirt, Share a Night* shirts may be purchased through the Ronald McDonald House, or from team coordinators at schools and businesses.

For more information about participating, contact Mindy Bloom at (336) 723-0228 x19 or MindyB@rmhwinstonsalem.org, or check our website www.rmhwinstonsalem.org.



OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Both girls commented that getting here was a long process. Since Ewing's sarcoma is so rare, doctors eliminated other diseases before identifying this cancer as their maladies. Before starting treatments, the girls experienced constant pains and cramps and found little relief. Now, well into their treatments, the girls are much more comfortable. Jennifer commented that, "the absence of pain is wonderful. I feel better, and I don't experience the aches and pains that have been so familiar. Staying at the House makes everything seem better." CJ remarked that "I had my first full night of sleep in a long while here at the Ronald McDonald House." Jennifer and CJ stay at the House with their families when they are undergoing outpatient treatments and in the hospital during their 5-day intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Jennifer and her family have been staying with us since November. They spent Christmas here and experienced the legendary generosity of our community. This was CJ and her family's first stay at the House. Both sets of parents understand what each is going through and they are sharing their experiences as they navigate the unfamiliar territory of having a sick child in a community other than in their own hometowns.

Having Ewing's sarcoma is not a choice either teen or their parents would have made. But having a "soul sister" who finishes a sentence started by the other is something neither has had before. It is true at the Ronald McDonald House, and everywhere that opposites attract, and what a gift that has been for these two young teens.

Teenagers Jennifer and Cassandra (CJ) were eating dinner in our Ronald McDonald House kitchen on a recent Thursday night. They were talking about prom dresses, school plays, shopping, and hanging out with friends. Those are the some of the things to which they are looking forward; but for now, their hanging out time will be shared between the Ronald McDonald House and the cancer treatment center in the hospital. Both girls have stage four Ewing's sarcoma, a rare cancer found in bones or soft tissues.

Jennifer, a high school senior, is from Tazewell, Virginia, and she is an artist, music lover and enjoys hunting and sports. Sophomore CJ is from Hickory, N.C. She is a singer, actor, and shopper. Each has little in common with the other; however, they are bound together because of their diagnoses and because of the rarity of their conditions – less than 300 cases of Ewing's sarcoma are diagnosed in the United States in people age 20 or younger each year! They are also tied to each other because they are receiving cancer treatment in Winston-Salem, and staying here at the House, their "home away from home."

TEENS WITH HEART

Accepting applications from 15-18 year olds for this summer's TEENS WITH HEART program. Ideal candidates are energetic, enthusiastic, and willing to work in a fun and nurturing environment.

Interested?

Contact Abby Bowman
at (336) 723-0228 x11
or

AbbyB@rmhwinstonsalem.org



WANTED

FORSYTH FAMILY ROOM VOLUNTEERS

Part-time volunteers for three-hour shifts in the new Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Forsyth Medical Center needed. Must be proficient in people skills and warm smiles. For more information, call Judy Sangimino at (336) 723-0228 x39 or JudyS@rmhwinstonsalem.org.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to these very generous supporters of our Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald House Family Room:

ACR Supply Company
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 Bender Apparel & Sign Graphics, Inc
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 Time Warner Cable
 Triad Guaranty
 Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center
 Wake Forest University Baptist Medical
 Center Human Resources Departments
 Waterford Homeowners Association
 Winston-Salem Journal



FAMILY WISH LIST

The following items keep the House and Family Rooms ready to meet the needs of our guests. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions and thank you for thinking of us!

- 39-GALLON TRASH BAGS to keep the kitchen clean.
- SWIFFER CLOTHS (dry) for easy floor cleaning.
- PAPER TOWELS for quick and easy cleanup of spills.
- DISPOSABLE SILVERWARE for meals without dishes.
- 12 OZ HOT AND COLD CUPS for a refreshing beverage.
- SUGAR AND CREAMER for a hot cup of coffee.
- INDIVIDUAL BAGS OF CHIPS, CRACKERS & COOKIES for snacking on the go.
- PREPAID PHONE CARDS (60 min. and above) so families can keep in touch.
- \$73 to adopt a family for a night.
- \$1,241 to adopt the seventeen families who stay here each night.
- \$3.5 MILLION to fund The Campaign for Ronald McDonald House: Caring for families caring for children.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: RMHWINSTONSALEM.ORG FOR WISH LIST UPDATES

LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO GIVE?

Donate at Your Convenience

It costs \$73.00 per night to operate one room for one family staying at our House. Families staying with us are asked to pay only \$5.00 per night. But 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. Volunteers at the House will mail tribute and memorial notes on a timely basis.

Online

Access our website, www.rmhwinstonsalem.org, where we have partnered with Network for Good 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 Ronald McDonald 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.

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.

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RMHWINSTONSALEM.ORG

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Ronald McDonald House

