

Letters From Home

Ronald McDonald House® Manitoba



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A letter from Faith...

Hello! My name is Faith Bell-Valentino. I am from Schreiber, Ontario. I am 12 years old, going into 7th grade.

I was playing manhunter with a few of my friends. When I was running downhill, I tripped on a rock and tried to stop my fall by grabbing a line that was close to the ground. I did not know it was a live wire and I got electrocuted.

So when I came to Winnipeg, there is a Ronald McDonald Family Room on the third floor of the Children's Hospital so I went down there to play for a while.

Then I was told about the Ronald McDonald House on Bannatyne Avenue. So that is where my mom and me stayed for four weeks.



It is a wonderful place to be when you are not feeling well. The staff and the other people that come here are very nice. You feel like you are at home. There is so many things you can play with, for all ages.

You feel like you are all family here at the Ronald McDonald House.

Love, Faith

June-August 2011

We served over **150 families** at Ronald McDonald House.

We served **91 families** from **Manitoba**, **32** from **Ontario** and even a family from **Belize!**

We welcomed over **4,800 guests** through the doors of our Ronald McDonald Family Room®.



Manoir Ronald McDonald House
MANITOBA



Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director
Ronald McDonald House Manitoba

Message from our Executive Director

As I reflect on Faith's story, I am reminded of the personal triumphs that families endure every day with a sick child. Families walk through our doors with their own stories, not unlike Faith's. Our values reflect in everything we do to provide a safe, comfortable, compassionate home away from home.

Not unlike any other home, there is a time when areas need to be updated. As we plan for 2012, we have identified necessary projects around the House such as new flooring in all bedrooms, updated artwork, energy efficient lighting and appliances. Your continued support allows us to reach these goals and help more families and children like Faith.

The Ronald McDonald Family Room® continues to see a record number of guests come through our doors. Recently, we replaced our washer and dryer after 3,000 loads of laundry in just one year! Families tell us all the time, "it's an oasis inside the hospital and I'm not sure what we do if you weren't here."

Every day we are reminded of the hope, courage and love these families have and it is truly amazing. I encourage everyone to think of the families who stay at Ronald McDonald House and please help us continue to "keep families together."

All the best,

Stacey Grocholski

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*Term ending September 2011

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Home for Dinner



Friends from WestJet stop by the House to prepare a home-cooked meal for our very deserving families. They chose the theme of "breakfast for dinner" and it was a huge success!

Imagine being hours away from home, caring for your sick child, and feeling like your 'normal' life has been completely interrupted.

Many families feel this way until they arrive at Ronald McDonald House.

"We strive to provide as many comforts of home as we can," says House Manager Kerry Mushumanski. "One of those comforts is offering a home-cooked meal at least once a week."

In order to facilitate our "Home for Dinner" program, we rely on small groups of volunteers who would like to make a difference for our families.

Meals can be cooked in our spacious

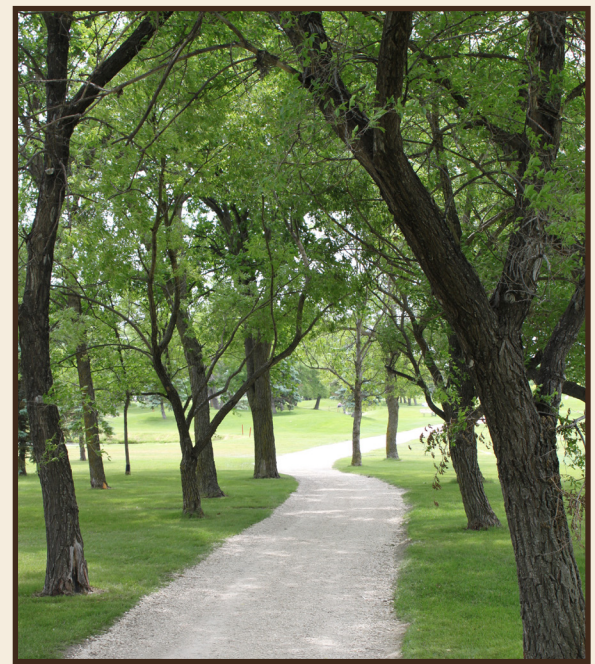
kitchen and served buffet-style to families who are staying at the House that night. Leftovers are packaged in the fridge for families who are still at the hospital so they can enjoy a reheated meal when they return to the House later in the evening.

Typically, this program runs every Thursday night with dinner being served at 5:00 p.m., but exceptions can be made for groups who aren't available that day. Families look forward to this weekly treat, as it gives them a chance to relax and enjoy a home-cooked meal.

To schedule your Home for Dinner program, call (204) 774-4777 or email kerry@rmhmanitoba.org



The team from The Winning Combination flaunts the "Mercedes-for-a-Weekend" prize they sponsored.



It was a beautiful day on the links at Glendale Golf and Country Club.

Tournament of Champions raises record \$59,000

On Tuesday, June 21 we held our sold-out 22nd Annual Ronald McDonald House Manitoba Tournament of Champions.

Despite a forecast calling for certain rain, the weather held out and over 150 golfers enjoyed 18 holes on the beautifully maintained grounds of the Glendale Golf and Country Club. Our move to this course and was met with nothing but compliments from our loyal golfers.

"It's amazing to see the dedication to this tournament after over 20 years," says Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director for Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. "It certainly is a testament to the loyal support we have from our sponsors and golfers."

Throughout the day, participants enjoyed food and beverage holes and nobody went hungry, especially after the 3-course meal served for dinner.

Joe Aiello, morning show co-host with 92 CITI FM, kept the crowd entertained with his quick wit throughout dinner and the evening's program.

The day was capped off by an exciting live auction, featuring items like Winnipeg Jets memorabilia, framed artwork, patio furniture and trips to Las Vegas, Orlando, and Churchill.

Ronald McDonald House Manitoba wishes to thank all of our sponsors, golfers and volunteers for another wonderful and successful day.

In particular, our platinum sponsors were a huge help. Thank you to Cangene, Wicker World, and The Winning Combination for "teeing off" at this level of support!

Gold sponsors included City Bread, Winpark Dorchester Properties, and WestJet.

Silver sponsors were Anchor Products, Crosier Kilgour & Partners Ltd., Exchange Income Corporation, Greystone Managed Investments Inc., Payworks, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, Uniglobe Geo Travel, and WGI Westman Group Inc.

In the bronze category we were happy to have support from Caspian, Coca-Cola, Duraco Windows, Lavergne Draward & Associates Inc., Manitoba Lotteries, McCain Foods, RBC Royal Bank, and Welders Supplies.

Over \$59,000 was raised to support Ronald McDonald House Manitoba and its programs like the Ronald McDonald Family Room. This is a record breaking amount for the tournament and we couldn't have done it without your support.



The team from Wicker World shows off one of their beautiful furniture sets our golfers could win.



Guests of honour: Amy, Morris & Claudette Foidart

Volunteers needed



Volunteers Marj, Colleen, and Diane join Family Room Manager Kristin Mitchell for some toy organizing!

Ronald McDonald House Manitoba relies heavily on the ongoing support and dedication of over 150 shift volunteers to ensure our programs run smoothly.

We are currently seeking applications from candidates who are over 18 and wish to make a difference in the lives of families with sick children.

Shifts are available seven days a week, in the morning, afternoon, and evening (until 9:00 p.m.)

Duties vary depending on the shift, but can include anything that ensures the comfort of our

families like baking, light cleaning, interacting with families and children, office tasks, and leading recreation activities.

All backgrounds and skills are welcome, and no volunteer history is necessary. We welcome experience of all kinds!

Applicants must provide clean criminal record and child abuse registry checks. We will reimburse the cost for these after 3 months of volunteering.

For more information or to receive an application form call (204) 774-4777 or visit www.rmhmanitoba.org to apply online.

Manitoba Family Room program recognized internationally

Every second year, Ronald McDonald House Charities® hosts an international conference, inviting all chapters from around the world to participate in a forum that includes educational sessions and an opportunity to share successes and challenges.

The highlight of this conference is the “Best Bets” awards dinner, where chapters are recognized for going above and beyond in serving their communities and families in need.

This year Ronald McDonald House Manitoba put forward a “Best Bets” nomination in the “Reach” category, showcasing our expanded programming through the Ronald McDonald Family Room in Children’s Hospital.

In addition to this nomination, RMH Manitoba was asked to participate in the Resource Connection Centre, an all-day showcase of the world’s best practices. We were honoured to be part of this trade show and enjoyed the opportunity to share our success with other chapters.

Another exciting surprise was being featured in the RMHC “Global Highlights” booklet, that featured exceptional programs from around the world.

While we did not win a “Best Bet” award in our category, we were humbled to be in the

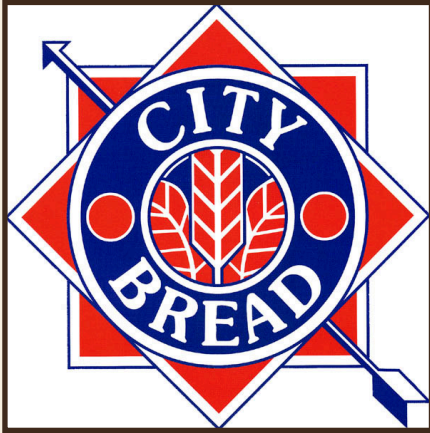
same category as many other deserving Houses. The winning program was a television broadcast series from RMHC Taiwan and we couldn’t be more excited for this new member of the RMHC family.

We look forward to the 2013 conference when we’ll surely have another exciting program to showcase to the world!



Our moment of stardom on the big screens at the “Best Bets” awards dinner.

Sponsor Spotlight: City Bread



At RMH Manitoba we strive to provide the comforts of home on a regular basis to our deserving families.

One such comfort is the availability of coffee, snacks, and food supplies. Families often arrive at our doorstep having gone through the stress of admitting their sick child to the hospital and don't have groceries or supplies.

City Bread is one of our special donors at both the House and Family Room. They provide a monthly bread donation that allows our families to make sandwiches for

lunch, toast for breakfast, or just enjoy a snack to tide them over until the next meal.

"We're so happy to have City Bread on board because it allows us to concentrate on providing other supplies that families need," says Stacey Grocholski, Executive Director at Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. "Families really appreciate having fresh bread for meals."

Thank you City Bread for continuing to provide healthy food for our families!

Mike Pilat Memorial Golf Tournament

Michael Adam Pilat was the youngest of Dr. Ed and Stella Pilat's seven sons and was excited to be finishing off his last credit before graduating from River East Collegiate.

He had a job he loved and lots of close friends and family. Tragically, at the age of 19, he was killed in a car accident on Dec. 6, 2002.

The family decided to offer two scholarships in Mike's name to graduating students from River East Collegiate.

To raise money for these scholarships, and to keep his memory alive and celebrate his life and love of sport, the family started a golf tournament.

The Mike Pilat Charity Classic raised well over the amount needed for the scholarship commitment, so the family decided to give away the remaining money to a selected children's charity. Numerous charities have benefitted from our tournament every year since then.

We have just finished our 9th annual Mike Pilat Charity Classic tournament and are very excited to be partnering with Ronald McDonald House Manitoba for the next three years through their Adopt-a-Room program.

This program is exactly what the family looks for in selecting our charities: benefitting children, community, and being able to remember Mike through our donation.

We thank RMH for allowing us to participate in this great program as we continue to remember our dear son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend, Michael Adam Pilat.



Local Organizations Support RMH Manitoba

Assiniboine Credit Union

Ronald McDonald House Manitoba was the fortunate recipient of funds raised at this year's Assiniboine Credit Union member appreciation BBQ on Friday, June 24. The event was held at their branch at 5930 Roblin Boulevard and was well-attended by members of the local Charleswood community.

Hot dogs, drinks, and chips were served free to all members, but ACU asked for a donation to support Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. This is their second year hosting the BBQ and also the second year they have chosen to support us. This year they raised over \$200 in donations!

Mr. Electric

Mr. Electric is a great supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Canada and they recently hosted a car show in support of the Manitoba House.

Chuck Lewis, owner of the local Mr. Electric chapter, organized the event on July 1, along with a team of employees and volunteers.

The show was held at the Red River College parking lot and over \$800 was raised in support of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. The beautiful weather attracted many visitors who enjoyed the sights of the polished cars.

All Charities Campaign

All Charities is a workplace campaign that enables government employees to donate to charities of their choice through the convenience of payroll deduction or a one-time gift by cash or cheque.

On June 21, 2011 All Charities presented a cheque to RMH Manitoba for over \$5,700! Board member Laura Workman gratefully accepted the cheque on behalf of the House.

We are so thankful to all the employees who chose RMH as their charity of choice for 2010-2011. We couldn't continue to do what we do without you and look forward to a continued partnership for the 2011-2012 year.

Thank You

Third Party Events

- Assiniboine Credit Union (Member Appreciation BBQ)
- Children's Charity Golf Classic (in honour of the Smart family)
- Creighton Community School
- Sheldon & Michelle Malley
- Minnedosa UCT
- Mr. Electric Winnipeg
- Chris Preachuk
- Jeff & Mandy Preachuk
- Tom & Ursula Preachuk
- Jennifer Wilken

If you would like to host a third party event in support of RMH Manitoba, visit our website to download a "Special Event Application Form"

Events can be anything you dream of! Car washes, bake sales, cut-a-thons, or even birthday parties. Third party events allow us to keep our fundraising costs low, while raising important dollars for our operations and programming.

Mark Your Calendar!



May 2012 - date to be confirmed soon!

McDonald's Restaurants in Winnipeg and select locations in Manitoba

HOPE COUTURE FASHION SHOW

Thursday April 19, 2012
Winnipeg Convention Centre



Tuesday June 19, 2012
Glendale Golf and Country Club

McCain Clear Lake Golf Classic surpasses \$1 million mark

On Tuesday, June 14, 160 enthusiastic golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the scenic Clear Lake Golf Course in Riding Mountain National Park to support Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC) of Canada.

In its 16th year, Leonard Birch - Event Chairman, expressed a "heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated volunteers,

the generous sponsors and the golfers that make each year a success."

RMHC has become a very important charity to all those involved as is evident by those that return year after year.

This year's one day fundraiser netted a cheque for \$90,000, which was presented to Devon Friedman, Manager of Communications & Development of Ronald

McDonald House Charities of Canada by Leonard Birch.

To date, this fantastic event has raised over \$1.1 million to support keeping families together.

Thank you McCain, your sponsors and dedicated golfers for making such a huge impact in the lives of families with sick children across Manitoba and Canada.



Ronald practices his swing from a not-so-convenient location!



Leonard Birch (McCain) presents Devon Friedman (RMHC Canada) with a cheque for \$90,000.

psst, we could use...



Wish List

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Movie passes | Nintendo Wii games |
| Tickets to events | Xbox 360 games |
| Paper (white, 8.5" x 11") | PS2 & PS3 games |
| Serving platters | Dolls |
| Canned goods (soups, etc.) | DVD player |
| Kraft Dinner | Xbox 360 |
| Frozen dinners | Family DVDs |
| Sugar (white/brown) | Fabric softener |
| Chocolate chips | Stain remover |
| Raisins | Toothbrushes |
| Coconut | Hand cream |
| Flour (white) | Disinfectant wipes |
| Baking margarine | Lysol spray |
| Potatoes | Lavender pine sol |
| Frozen vegetables | Garbage bags (small white, large green) |
| Single serving snacks | Batteries |
| Ziploc bags | |
| Stroller (x2) | Gift cards for: |
| Baby monitors (x4) | Grocery stores |
| | Toys 'R Us |
| | Restaurants |
| | Walmart |
| | Gas stations |

Thank you for your support!

The following organizations and individuals have contributed through cash donations (excluding event sponsors) over \$500 to Ronald McDonald House® and its programs from June 2011 through August 2011.

All Charities Campaign

Children's Charity Golf Classic

Creighton Community School

Confidence Management Ltd.

Fort Richmond Collegiate

John Taylor Collegiate

Sheldon & Michelle Malley

McDonald's Restaurants

Minnedosa UCT

Mr. Electric of Winnipeg

Mike Pilat Golf Tournament

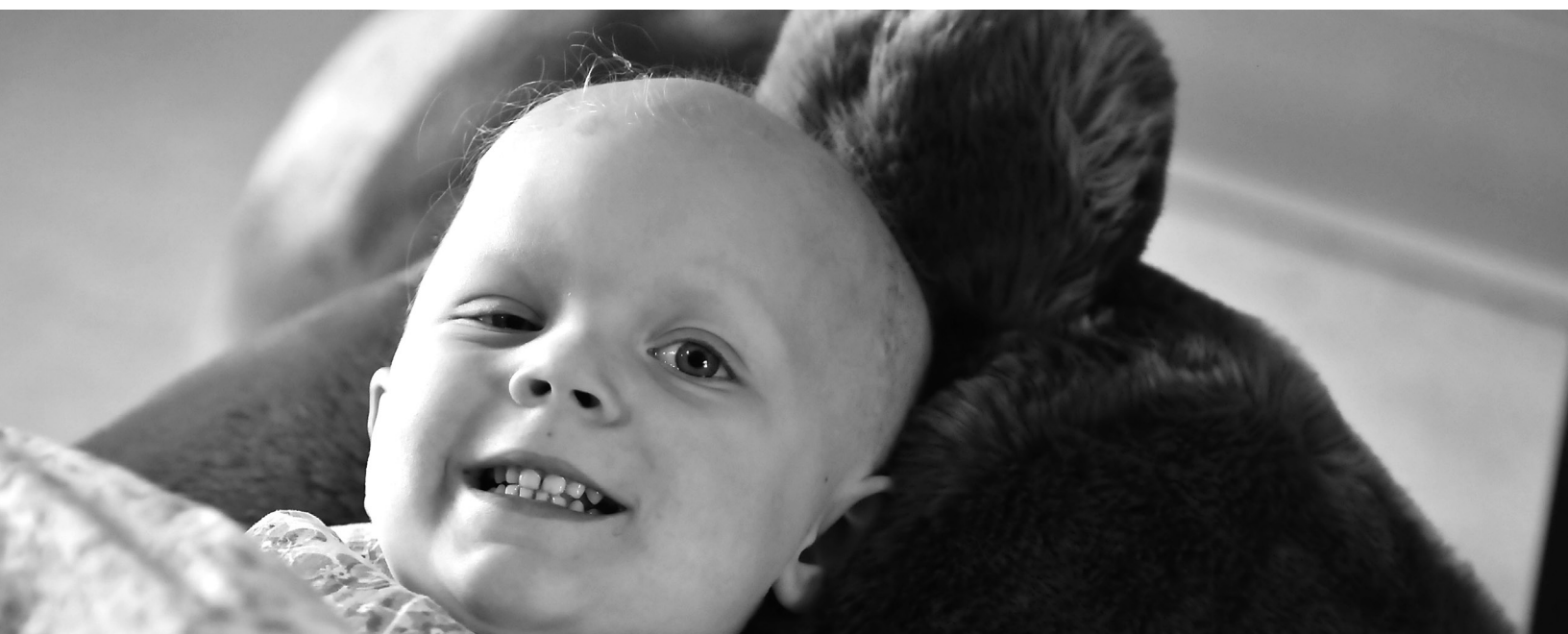
RBC Royal Bank

Sellors & Associates

St. John's High School

TD Waterhouse Private Client
Services

The Winnipeg Foundation



For more information, visit www.rmhmanitoba.org