

heart strings



HELPING GIVE SICK CHILDREN WHAT THEY NEED MOST... THEIR FAMILIES

FROM THE FAMILY ROOM TO THE LIVING ROOM: *EXTENDING THE WALLS OF HOME*

It is a pretty typical Friday morning at the Yarema household, as Jan and Kelly serve breakfast to 2 year old Luc while older brother Andrew watches cartoons on the couch nearby. The problem is, Luc is too busy playing floor hockey in the kitchen to eat.

“He’s making up for the months he wasn’t moving,” laughs Jan, a reminder that it wasn’t long ago that the Yaremas faced some of the most difficult months of their lives.

In October of 2013, 17 month old Luc was hospitalized with a severe case of croup. Symptoms included respiratory distress, and quickly progressed into a serious rash that covered his entire body. When Luc later went into life-threatening septic shock, Jan knew that she needed to be closer to her son.

“I said ‘That’s it. I’m not staying home anymore,’” and that is when a clinical resource nurse introduced them to the Ronald McDonald Family Room – a space on the third floor of Winnipeg’s Children’s Hospital designed to extend the walls of Ronald McDonald House to the hospital and serve all families who need a comfortable place to rest and relax just steps from their child’s bedside. “Life is so precious. Our little ones are so precious,” adds Kelly, “When something like this happens you are the voice of your child and you have to be close at hand.”

Luc was eventually diagnosed with both Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) and Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare combination of immune disorders treated with chemotherapy and steroids. “It was very frightening for us,” reflects Jan, “When you have somebody come in and say ‘I’ve never seen so many infusion pumps in one room’, your heart just kind of stops.”

The Yaremas credit the Family Room for being a support – a “home away from home” – during a very difficult time. In addition to providing a space for cooking, laundry, and sleeping just steps from the NICU, the Family Room offers a comforting and supportive environment for families during difficult times.



“They provided a shoulder to cry on when you’re really in desperate need of someone to talk to,” explains Kelly, “Sometimes people just need a hug, someone to ask ‘How are you doing? How is your little guy?’ The Family Room is a place for that human touch.”

The Family Room also provided the Yaremas, like many other families, with a cost-free means of remaining close to their son. “At the time Luc got sick, we were a one income family and I had to take a leave of absence without pay,” explains Kelly, “If we wouldn’t have had the Family Room, we would have tried to stay as close as possible, whether it was sleeping in our car or staying at a hotel. The costs would have been crazy.”

After eight weeks of treatment, and 57 nights in the Family Room, Luc was finally discharged on December 31st, 2013. Kelly and Jan had prepared themselves for Luc to undergo a bone marrow transplant – which would mean many more months in the hospital – but results from a January spinal tap miraculously showed that Luc’s HLH was inactive. He was walking by February and his immune system was back to normal by March.

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Contact Us

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Ronald McDonald Family Room

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Ronald McDonald takes time to read and play games with children at RMHMB during one of his many visits throughout the year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 - "FROM THE FAMILY ROOM TO THE LIVING ROOM"

As Jan shares a photo of Luc during his treatments, the energetic boy refusing to eat his pancakes in favour of kitchen floor hockey is virtually unrecognizable. "It has been amazing to see him recover so fast," says Kelly.



The Yaremas have since become more involved with Ronald McDonald House Manitoba, acting as the advocate family at both our Fashion Gala and McHappy Day fundraising events, sharing their story and stressing the importance of the programs and services provided by the House and Family Room.

"You see the pamphlets and hear the commercials, but we truly cannot stress enough the importance of supporting Ronald McDonald House," shares Jan.

"Whether it's one dollar or a hundred dollars, when you're thinking of a charity of choice, you should be thinking of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba," adds Kelly, "Nothing else matters in the world when your kid becomes sick."

The Yarema family is just one family of hundreds that are supported each year by Ronald McDonald House Manitoba and Ronald McDonald Family Room, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and our effort to provide safe and supportive spaces just steps from their child's bedside.

"During those eight weeks, the only constant in our life was the Ronald McDonald Family Room," recounts Kelly, "I think for a while we even started calling it 'home'."

HELP US TODAY.

Sometimes the best news a family can hear when they are going through one of the most difficult times in their lives is that there is a place they can stay. With your support, Ronald McDonald House Manitoba can continue to support children and families that need a safe and caring place to stay just minutes away from their child at the Children's Hospital. A donation to RMHMB helps to guarantee access to healthy meals, a number of programs that reduce stress and financial burden, and a safe, caring community here at the House.

Will you help us today with your donation?

HELP SUPPORT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE MANITOBA

We need your help to keep providing children and families with a "home away from home" during very difficult times.

Name: _____

Donation: 30\$ 50\$ \$100 Other: _____

Address: _____

Payment Details: Visa Mastercard Cheque

Cheques made payable to Ronald McDonald House Manitoba

Charitable tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20.00 or more.

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Card #: _____

I have left a donation to RMHMB in my will.

I would like to speak to someone about leaving a donation to RMHMB in my will.

Name on Card: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Mail to: Ronald McDonald House Manitoba
566 Bannatyne Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0G7

Contact: 204 774-4777
www.rmhmanitoba.org
info@rmhmanitoba.org

house happenings

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2014 has been an exciting year so far at Ronald McDonald House Manitoba, with both our Fashion Gala and McHappy Day fundraising events raising record amounts to support both the House and Ronald McDonald Family Room. With most of our major fundraising events behind us, we need your help to continue raising funds to support the programs and services we offer to families and children who need it most.



RMHMB CEO Allison Kesler with House visitor Dane Kaleta

We are also so thankful for all of the support we have received from third party events over the last few months. To have groups and individuals out in our community raising funds and spreading awareness about Ronald McDonald House and its mission is so important, and we could not be more grateful.

The Yarema family's story is powerful and inspiring, and it is just one of many that unfold here at the House. Whether it is long-term illness, serious injury, or unexpected emergency – Ronald McDonald House Manitoba relies on your support to keep acting as a "home away from home" for these families.

family room

The Ronald McDonald Family Room is a 3500 square foot space on the third floor of Winnipeg's Children's Hospital designed to extend the walls and comforts of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba to a hospital setting and serve all families who need a comfortable place to rest and relax while remaining close to their children. The space includes all the comforts of home, including a kitchen, living area, laundry facilities, and three sleeping rooms for families who wish to stay close to their children overnight.

The Family Room also provides important programming like movie nights and visits from Ronald McDonald, all of which help make those who use the space feel more at home. In 2014, this programming has expanded to offer families more art-focused activities like hand knitting and canvas and clay pot painting.

2014 FAMILY ROOM FACTS

- 13 292 guests have spent time in our common area so far this year.
- 119 families have stayed in our sleeping rooms for a total of 482 nights.
- Our Family Room volunteers have contributed 3207 hours of their time.

ADOPT A ROOM

Ronald McDonald House Manitoba provides so much more than just a place to stay – we offer families a place of safety, comfort, and compassion that they can call home. Like any home, our House requires regular maintenance and renovations to help keep our families as comfortable as possible during difficult times.

Our Adopt-A-Room program helps raise funds to ensure that we can continue to provide warm, safe, and affordable accommodations for our families. By adopting one of our bedrooms or common spaces at the House or Family Room, you are helping to support the purchase of utilities, renovations, program supplies, or groceries.

To learn more about the Adopt-A-Room program or to learn how your company can adopt a space at Ronald McDonald House Manitoba, please contact RMHMB CEO Allison Kesler at allison@rmhmanitoba.org.

Special thanks to Cargill Specialty Seeds and Oils, Lowe Mechanical, and the Winnipeg Goldeyes Field of Dreams Foundation for their continued support of the Adopt-A-Room program.



special events

28TH ANNUAL HOPE COUTURE FASHION GALA

Friday, May 9th marked the date of the 28th Annual Hope Couture Fashion Gala, presented by TD Bank, in support of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. Hosted by Tracy Koga (Shaw TV) and Brody Jackson (QX 104) at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, it was an incredible night that helped raise funds and awareness for RMHMB and its programs.

One highlight of the evening was a panel discussion hosted by Tracy Koga that included Allison Kesler, CEO of RMHMB, Dr. Geoff Cuvelier, a pediatric oncologist with CancerCare Manitoba, and Jan and Kelly Yarema, who bravely shared their son Luc's story with the packed audience. The panel provided guests with a thorough understanding of just how valuable Ronald McDonald House Manitoba and its programs are to children, families, and medical staff alike.

With a fresh take on fashion and the introduction of new elements, the show itself was described by many attendees as the best ever. Joining the Polo Park collection this year were boutique fashions from Normandy Shop, Aevi Spa Salon Boutique, Therapy Boutique, and Mad About Style. If that's not enough, the show was accompanied by two unbelievable aerial performances by Momentum Aerial and Acrobatic Troupe.

As always, there were many amazing prizes in the Lane of Hope Raffle, joined this year by the first ever silent auction, and incredible Couture Collection prizes courtesy of WestJet, Independent Jewellers, Mercedes Benz, and La-Z-Boy.

Thanks to the invaluable support of our Presenting Sponsor TD Bank, our numerous monetary, in-kind, and table sponsors, prize donors, committee members, volunteers, and ticket purchasers, we raised over \$150 000 at this year's event – a record for the House and an incredible support to the programs and services RMHMB provides to families and children who need it most.



McHAPPY DAY 2014

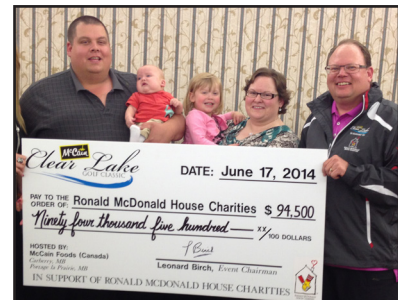


On May 7th, McDonald's Restaurants all over Manitoba were busy raising money for Ronald McDonald House as part of McHappy Day. On this whirlwind day, \$1 from each Big Mac, Happy Meal, or McCafe Beverage purchase went directly towards supporting the House and its programs.

We were happy to be joined by the Yarema family as well as Annie and Florence Chartrand, who have experience with both Ronald McDonald House Manitoba and Ronald McDonald Family Room. Their support, along with community support from athletes like Olympian Patrick Chan, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the Winnipeg Goldeyes, as well as a number of radio and television personalities, helped to make this day a huge success.

This year's McHappy Day raised over \$72 000 in Winnipeg alone – we could not be more excited about how great the day was, and could not be more thankful to McDonald's Restaurants and all the community supporters of McHappy Day. Thank you!

MCCAIN CLEAR LAKE CLASSIC



Every year, the team at McCain Foods hosts an incredible golf tournament for guests from all over Canada in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada. The event has raised over \$1 million dollars since its inception and is a major source of funding for Ronald McDonald Houses across Canada.

This year, Ronald McDonald House Manitoba was thrilled to learn that McCain Foods was not only presenting RMHCC with a cheque for \$94 500, but ensured that half of the money raised was allocated to the Manitoba House. This unexpected donation will have a huge impact on the quality of the programs and services offered to families and children staying at the House and the Family Room.

community support

RBC VOLUNTEER WEEK



April 9th-14th - RBC's incredible Volunteer Week featured activities with our children, help with spring cleaning around the House, and over \$5000 in donations!

H.S. PAUL SCHOOL



June 12th - Staff and students at H.S. Paul School raised \$2327 in support of the House in memory of Reina Rybuck.

KALETA FAMILY BBQ



June 20th - Curtis and Kendra Kaleta, guests of the House, hosted a barbecue and rainbow auction in Dauphin, MB raising over \$8000 in support of RMHMB.

FORESTERS



July 5th - Volunteers from Foresters spent their Saturday giving the House's fences a fresh coat of paint!

CARSTAR AND GOLDEYES



July 9th - Carstar and the Goldeyes visited and donated a SkySuite for our families.

CHARITY BARREL RACE



August 29th - The Northern Lights Barrel Futurity and Derby raised over \$10 000 for RMHMB!

HOME FOR DINNER

Home for Dinner is a volunteer-based program at Ronald McDonald House Manitoba where groups provide home-cooked meals for families staying at the House. It has quickly become one of our most popular volunteer programs.

We are so fortunate to have had over 70 sponsored Home for Dinner evenings so far in 2014, and look forward to watching that number grow as new groups become involved in the program.

If you would like to learn more about participating in Home for Dinner, contact Kerry at (204) 774-4777 or kerry@rmhmanitoba.org



thank you

The following organizations and individuals have contributed to Ronald McDonald House Manitoba and our programs with monetary and in-kind donations over \$500 from April to September 2014

All Charities Campaign	Milk Dakota Lock & Safe Ltd.	Centre Security Department Homestead	Gillam Manitoba Opera	Mr. Electric of Winnipeg	Pet Therapy Program
Allyson & Robert Brown	Danamark Water Care	Manitoba Inc. Independent	Manitoba Public Insurance	Northern Grit Payworks	Stampin' Up Stantec
Alpha Delta Pi Foundation	Dauphin's Country Fest	Jewellers Investors Group	Manitoba Public Insurance Employees	Petals West Inc. Polo Park Shopping Centre	Sunflower Festival Committee
Bell Media Radio Winnipeg	Diageo	Charitable Giving Program	Mary Anne Rudy McCain Foods (Canada) Ltd.	Prairie Mills Flour Provincial Exhibition Of Manitoba	Tara & Mackenzie Gair
BFI Waste Services	Dr. Tony Krawat	James A Richardson & Sons	McCaine Electric Ltd.	Ranger Insurance Brokers	Terracon Development Ltd.
BrandSource	Eco-Green for Lawns and Trees	John Kennedy	McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Ltd.	Ray & Laurel Clement	The Kinette Club of Winnipeg Inc.
Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited	Ecolab	John Letwin	McDonald's Restaurants of Manitoba	RBC Royal Bank	The Winnipeg Sun
Canadian Tire #223	Edward Becenko	Kathleen Kolba	McRim Service Centre-Corporate Protection Group Inc.	Richlu Sportswear Ltd.	Visual Lizard Inc.
Cargill Seeds & Oils	Edward Pilat	Kruger Products Limited	Michel St. Hilaire-Artist-Studio 69	Riverbend Transportation & Logistics Inc.	WestJet
Cervus Equipment	Egg Farmers of Canada	La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries	Microsoft Canada	Ronald McDonald House Charities	Windy Bay Colony Farms Ltd.
Chris & Tenley Cameron	Elizabeth Seitter	Larry Rich	Mike Pilat	Sandi Caputo	Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball Club
City Bread Co. Ltd.	Epic Information Solutions	Louis Riel School Division	Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee Inc.	Shaw Cable	Winnipeg Jets
Coca-Cola (Canada) Ltd.	Federation des producteurs d'oeufs du Quebec	Lowe Mechanical Services Ltd.		Sherry Thiessen	Winnipeg Parking Authority
Coldwell Banker Real Estate Confidence	Foresters G4S Secure Solutions (Canada) Ltd.	Manitoba Egg Farmers		Spectra Energy	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
Management Ltd. Cossette	Solutions (Canada) Ltd.	Manitoba Hydro -		St. John Ambulance	
Dairyworld	Genevie Henderson	Brandon			
Division of Saputo	Health Sciences	Manitoba Hydro -			

WISH LIST

On behalf of our families, volunteers, and staff, a heartfelt thank you for your support. Your outstanding generosity has helped to check off many of the items on our Wish List. The items below are still in need and will help us continue to support families.

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Individual size yogurts
Frozen dinners
Single serving snacks
Frozen Minute Maid orange juice
Baking margarine
Potatoes
Frozen vegetables
Dishwashing detergent
Dishwashing rinse aid

LAUNDRY SUPPLIES

HE laundry soap
Fabric softener
Stain remover

OFFICE SUPPLIES

Paper (8.5"x11", white)
Post-it notes
Letter size file folders
Masking Tape
Packing Tape
Scotch Tape

RECREATIONAL ITEMS

Movie passes
Tickets to special events
Tickets to sporting events
Toys 'R Us gift cards
Gas gift cards
Restaurant gift cards
New baby strollers
New Little Tikes wagon
New board games for all ages

MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLIES

Lysol disinfectant wipes
Heavy duty canister vacuum
Lysol spray
Lavender Pine Sol
Garbage bags (small, white)
Garbage bags (large, white)
Long distance calling cards