



Donate the gift of
togetherness
 for those who need it most.



PLEASE HELP US KEEP FAMILIES CLOSE ♥

Allow us to provide all the comforts of home for sick children and their families during life's most challenging times.

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

Payment Details: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ Cheque
 Cheques made payable to Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba
 Charitable tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20.00 or more.

_____ I have left a donation to RMHC MB in my will.
 _____ I would like to speak to someone about leaving a
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Card # _____
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Keeping the Wiebe family close.

Life has never been easy for the Wiebe family.

John and Trudy Wiebe were swept up in love and the excitement of starting their new family. They couldn't contain their happiness when their first-born son, Marshall, came into their lives. Tragically, the family's dreams were shattered when a doctor told them Marshall was affected by Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), and would be for the rest of his life.

DMD would cause Marshall's muscles to become feeble and eventually break down. His muscles were compromised as early as age three, with his hip, pelvic, thigh, and shoulder muscles being the first to weaken. By the time he reached his early teen years, his heart and respiratory muscles started to wear out. But the worst was yet to come...

Last March, Marshall's lung collapsed after he contracted pneumonia. An ambulance raced the 16-year-old to HSC Children's Hospital, from Rosenfeld, MB. He needed life-saving treatment as soon as possible. As their son fought to stay alive, John and Trudy had no idea where they would stay in Winnipeg and how long they would need to stay there. Upon arrival at the Hospital, they found an answer in Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba, an organization providing comfort and accommodations to rural families with sick or seriously injured children receiving hospital care nearby.

For over a month, the Ronald McDonald Family Room® offered John and Trudy, a place to stay between taking turns being by Marshall's side. It was a place where they could sleep, eat, shower, retreat, and talk with other families who were going through a similar, difficult situation. The Wiebes stayed overnight in the space for 31 days.

Trudy recalls, "For days on end, I would stay with Marshall throughout the night. During the day, John would often watch

over him while I caught up on sleep in the Family Room. If I didn't have that, how do you rejuvenate? How do you stay strong and healthy to be there for your child if you don't have a place to sleep? Being an hour and a half from home, you can't just drive back and take a nap. That's not how it works."

Because of your donation, you provided 31 days in a quiet, comfortable space where John and Trudy could communicate with each other, offer each other support, and reflect on their son's devastating critical condition.

After 31 days, Marshall's condition improved and he moved from an intensive care unit to a special care unit. John and Trudy were able to spend the next number of months at Ronald McDonald House, down the street from where Marshall was receiving treatment.

John and Trudy describe how Marshall reflected their mood during visits. "When I've had a lot of stress, he has cried, but when I've reflected calmness, he's peaceful and he's happy. He appreciated the benefits Ronald McDonald House offered because he knew we were being taken care of in a calm and compassionate environment," explains John.

Near the end of Marshall's hospital treatment period, he was able to visit with his family at Ronald McDonald House. His brothers, sisters, and friends visited him and stayed at the House on weekends. It was a place for their entire family to play games, eat meals, watch movies, and spend quality time together. "Ronald McDonald House was a place to live a semi-normal life. There aren't words to explain how much I appreciate this place," describes Trudy.

The Wiebes stayed at Ronald McDonald House and the Family Room for 122 days in total. Can you imagine being so far from where you live and work for that

length of time? Because of you, John and Trudy estimate they saved over \$10,000 in expenses needed to support their family of four children during this time, an amount most families could not afford.

"Without Ronald McDonald House we would be in such financial trouble. I don't think we could properly be there for Marshall. If this organization wasn't here, I'd have to go back to work, but staying here is just about free so it helps us support our son," admits John.

During his time at the House, Marshall was able to experience stress relieving activities such as a Mexican fiesta-themed dinner night, haircuts from MC College, and tickets to local movie theatres and sporting events. These were just some of what was offered to Marshall, allowing him to live like a normal teenager again.

Thankfully, Marshall overcame his illness and he became strong enough to leave the hospital and return home with his family.

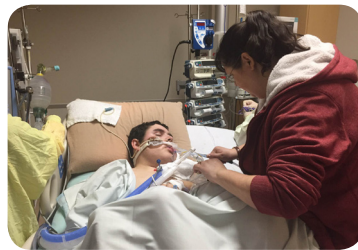
"Your love for your child is the greatest love on earth," says John, tears welling up in his eyes. "You hope, and you fight so hard, and you pray, and you wish for the best. In our case, with time, he has gotten better and we are so thankful."

Each year, hundreds of families like the Wiebes need Ronald McDonald House's services to be there for their sick children. We provide care, accommodations, and meaningful programming to over 600 sick children and their families each year, but we cannot do it alone. Families need you to help them stay together and heal together.

From the bottom of our hearts, we ask you to please give what you can to help keep our families close. ♥



Marshall, in the early stages of his treatment at HSC Children's Hospital



Trudy and John spent long hours by their son to offer support



MC College volunteers gave haircuts to Marshall and other House guests



John, Marshall, and friends at our Mexican Fiesta Dinner Night



(Clockwise from left) Emily, Zac, Trudy, John, Kathleen, and Marshall Wiebe at a Winnipeg Goldeyes game, thanks to RMH