

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® MANITOBA'S

## HEARTSTRINGS

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST



## FINDING STRENGTH IN EACH OTHER

### ONE MOTHER'S STORY OF HOPE

Imagine living a peaceful, small town life with your loving husband and your two young children, when all of a sudden, you are told one of them has cancer.

Alyx Delaloye is seven years old and lives with her mom, Jody, dad Reg, and nine-year-old brother, Hayden in Neepawa, Manitoba, a town over two hours away from Winnipeg.

The family recalls a time when they had two happy, active, and healthy children and when this started to drastically change.

In June 2014, Jody noticed Alyx's left leg started aching, even walking was difficult. The pain became so intense she refused to play her favourite sports, baseball or soccer. After a doctor's appointment, it was assumed she was simply experiencing growing pains.

In mid-July, Alyx's parents started noticing more unusual symptoms in their daughter. Alyx looked extremely pale and lethargic. She even started napping during the day. "For a little girl who despises day-time naps, it was strange to hear Alyx wanting to sleep during daylight hours," says Jody. Many bruises appeared on her legs and chest, her appetite was poor, and she was rapidly losing weight.

After witnessing this extreme change in their daughter's health and personality, the family knew something had to be wrong with Alyx. After a blood test on her showed signs of severe irregularity, the Delaloye family were told they had to drive from Neepawa to the HSC Children's Hospital in Winnipeg as soon as possible for extensive, emergency testing.

After some initial testing they were told the gut-wrenching diagnosis that Alyx had leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. She was experiencing all the symptoms of the disease. The lymph nodes in her neck and groin were swollen and her liver and spleen were enlarged. Not only that, but Alyx was suffering from a rare blood infection as well.

"I immediately got angry and told the oncologist that she was wrong. I then stood up to go to her and fainted. I laid on the floor screaming and crying because I couldn't believe what I just heard," says Jody Delaloye, remembering hearing the news of her seven-year-old daughter, Alyx's illness.

After being told they may need to spend the night in Winnipeg, the family ended up having to stay an entire month to be by Alyx while she was receiving emergency treatment for her diagnosis. Fortunately, Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba was available to offer them a comforting place to stay during this challenging time.

The family became very thankful for the many ways Ronald McDonald House made their lives a little easier. "For me to stay at Ronald McDonald House, it was very convenient. If I needed to be at the hospital quick it was a short walk, about two blocks away. They have a big kitchen there if you need to cook yourself meals and the staff is amazing. We have become close with a lot of them," Reg, Alyx's father explains.

Extremely distressed by the news, the emotional toll it took on the Delaloyes was almost unbearable. However, they were thankful to find a helpful support system in Ronald McDonald House.

"My favourite part about the House is that it's so convenient for me. I have so many stresses in my life right now that it's just nice



The Delaloye family enjoying a dinner together at Ronald McDonald House Manitoba. (Clock-wise from bottom-left, Alyx, Jody, Hayden, and Reg Delaloye)

# CONTACT US

## Ronald McDonald House Manitoba

566 Bannatyne Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0G7  
Tel: 204 774-4777  
Fax: 204 774-2160

## Ronald McDonald Family Room

Children's Hospital -  
HSC Winnipeg  
CE322 - 840 Sherbrook Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1S1  
Tel: 204 787-4627  
Fax: 204 787-4629

[www.rmhmanitoba.org](http://www.rmhmanitoba.org)

Twitter: @RMHManitoba  
Facebook: Ronald McDonald  
House Manitoba



Ronald McDonald takes time to clown around with children at RMHMB during one of his many visits throughout the year

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 - "FINDING STRENGTH IN EACH OTHER"

to call and ask if they have a room. When they confirm it, you can breathe a little easier", says Jody with a relieved sigh.

After numerous antibiotics, blood and platelet transfusions, spinal taps, chemotherapy, steroids, and medication, Alyx's condition was in remission and her body became free of leukemia cells.

Despite this good news, the Delaloye family's journey is far from over. The treatment time for a female patient with leukemia is over two years and Alyx has regularly undergone chemotherapy in Winnipeg since receiving the news. Her mom Jody, now drives in with her every nine days from Neepawa for treatments.

The Delaloye Family is just one of over 600 families Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba helps annually. This number is 20% higher than where it was two years ago thanks to generous donations allowing our organization to continue operations and expand its development.

Jody explains, "It's like a family to us and definitely home away from home."



Jody and Alyx Delaloye

## HELP US KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

When a child like Alyx is undergoing treatment for a serious illness or injury, being together to act as a strong support system for each other becomes extremely important. The Delaloye family does not know what they would have done if it wasn't for Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba offering them a place to stay with all the comforts of home while being just minutes away from the HSC Children's Hospital. We graciously accept any donation large or small, to help ensure we continue to provide families like the Delaloyes access to healthy meals, programs that reduce stress and financial burden, and a safe, caring community.

## HELP SUPPORT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES MANITOBA

Help provide a "home away from home" for children and families during life's most challenging times.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Details:  Visa  Mastercard  Cheque

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques made payable to Ronald McDonald House Manitoba  
Charitable tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20.00 or more.

I have left a donation to RMHMB in my will.

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.rmhmanitoba.org)  
[info@rmhmanitoba.org](mailto:info@rmhmanitoba.org)



# SPECIAL EVENTS



## UP-AND-COMING

### 26TH ANNUAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

Our 25th Annual Tournament of Champions Golf Tournament was held on September 4th, 2014 at Breezy Bend Country Club. This year's event was incredibly successful with our supporters helping to raise \$120,000, a record amount in support of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba.

Our golfers worked their way through Breezy Bend's beautiful 18-hole golf course with an exciting spread of food, drinks, giveaways, and entertainment to experience throughout the day.

Don't miss this year's upcoming Tournament of Champions event at Breezy Bend Country Club on September 10th, 2015!



Terry Snell of Lawton Partners and friends at the 2014 Tournament of Champions.

### 1ST ANNUAL RED SHOE CREW WALK

We are excited to announce a new fundraising event this year! Join us for the 3 km, Red Shoe Crew Walk taking place at Assiniboine Park on September 26th, 2015.

We are also happy to present this event in rural communities as well. In addition to Winnipeg, Brandon, Steinbach, Winkler, and Dauphin will each be holding their own Red Shoe Crew Walks with Ronald McDonald House Manitoba advocate families at each location, sharing their stories.

Walkers will have the opportunity to raise pledges in support of Ronald McDonald House Manitoba! Depending on how much money participants raise, they can earn a snazzy new pair of red shoelaces, an event T-shirt, the chance to win a pair of WestJet tickets, and even a pair of official Ronald McDonald shoes!

Join us in walking to support Ronald McDonald House Charities, get some exercise, meet one of our advocate families, get some fresh air, and win some fantastic prizes!

To participate in the event, please call Pat Battellino at 204.783.9523 or send her an email at [pat@rmhmanitoba.org](mailto:pat@rmhmanitoba.org).

## A LOOK BACK

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba relies on the support of our dedicated group of over 150 volunteers to help provide a warm and comfortable "home away from home" for families.

On November 6th, 2014, our annual Volunteer Appreciation Night was held to recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to our organization. Our volunteers tasted their way through various olive oils and balsamic vinegars at Oliv Tasting Room.

Volunteers Brendan Madden, Britta Spiring, and Katherine Wightman's noteworthy, volunteering efforts in the past year were recognized with awards during the evening. A great evening was had by all as we took the opportunity to say thank you for their service to the organization.

Ronald McDonald House would not be the warm and comfortable space it is without its volunteers giving their time to help out whenever possible. If you are interested in volunteering your time to our organization or would like a tour, call Kasia James at 204.787.4626 or email her at [kasia@rmhmanitoba.org](mailto:kasia@rmhmanitoba.org) for more information.



Katherine Wightman accepts award for her volunteer efforts from CEO, Allison Kesler

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## CHRISTMAS DONATION GROCERY PURCHASE



**January 28<sup>th</sup>** - We were able to purchase over \$130 in groceries for the House thanks to the generous gift card donations given to us throughout the Christmas season.

## OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS



**February 20<sup>th</sup>** - Volunteers from Oak Park High School came by to wash some of our play room's much-loved toys.

## LOWRY FAMILY DONATION



**February 26<sup>th</sup>** - House guests, the Lowry family, donated over \$800 worth of groceries and supplies from an Amazing Race-inspired birthday party for their daughter, Kayden.

## DUFRESNE FURNITURE ADOPT-A-ROOM



**March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Dufresne Furniture is the newest supporter of our Adopt-A-Room program. We thank them for their generous donation to RMH!

## WINNIPEG JETS HOCKEY TICKETS



**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation graciously sent hockey fans, Katrina and her family to a Winnipeg Jets game.

## SCORE! FOR THE HOUSE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT



**March 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>** - Cargill & RMHC Northern Alberta raised over \$55,000 for Western Canadian RMHC Houses!

## 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 Wendy Galagan at 204.774.4777 or [galagan.wendy@rmhmanitoba.org](mailto:galagan.wendy@rmhmanitoba.org)



Volunteers from 24-7 Intouch made RMH guests a lovely taco dinner



# HOUSE HAPPENINGS

## RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOM CELEBRATES 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

For the last five years, Ronald McDonald Family Room has extended the reach of Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba into the walls of the HSC Children's Hospital in Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre. Located on the third floor of the hospital, the 3,500 square foot space offers families a place to recharge, allowing them to remain close to their child in pediatric care. This space is currently the largest of its kind in the world.

Offering all the comforts of home, the Family Room features a full kitchen, dining room, living room, computer, Wi-Fi access, laundry and shower facilities as well as three sleeping rooms on site to provide a place to rest to families in the most critical situations. The location also offers a wide variety of programming including movie nights, arts & crafts sessions, holidays meals, mini massages, even visits from Ronald McDonald himself.

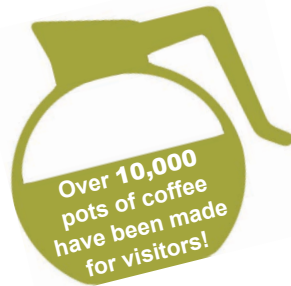
**OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS...**



120,000 guests have visited the Family room since its opening in May 2010.



The Family Room has provided 4,000 nights of accommodations to families.



Over 10,000 pots of coffee have been made for visitors!



Soup making and baking specialists, Pat and Rand Shipman

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Fridays are known as "Soup Fridays" at Ronald McDonald House Charities® Manitoba thanks to volunteers Rand & Pat. The couple have stopped by every Friday for the last year and a half to create a delicious soup/cookie combination for lunch.

Rand says he picked up his love of soup making from his family who were often busy cooking up the comforting meal. The soups Rand makes are thick with high-protein ingredients such as assorted beans and meats. They even serve as a meal on their own. "Soup gives the ability for guests to grab something fast and nutritious," he explains.

Never needing a recipe, the couple will bring ingredients from home combined with ingredients from our "Help Yourself Fridge" or pantry. Pat's specialty is making scrumptious cookies. "Nothing is better than tea and cookies," she says with grin.

## THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

As Ronald McDonald House Manitoba's newest program, our partnership with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program has been very popular with our House guests of all ages.

Animal therapy offers comfort for guests as well as many other benefits including stress relief, improved self-esteem, and an increased sense of well-being and social interaction.

Ronald McDonald House Manitoba looks forward to many more visits of our four-legged friends in the future.



Born in Winkler, MB, Ronald McDonald Family Room guest, Maverick (in the middle between his two brothers) was born with severe congenital heart defects and made the trip to the Children's Stollery Hospital of Alberta in Edmonton for treatment. Together with Ronald McDonald House Charities® Northern Alberta, we have helped Maverick and his family through their journey. This close-knit network of RMHC houses is often helpful for families needing to travel out of province for needed medical treatments for their child.



Alyx Delaloye made a furry friend when pet therapy dog, Max came to visit Ronald McDonald House MB.

# 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 October 2014 to March 2015

24-7 Intouch Inc.	Craig McIntosh	Hendrik Mills	Canada Limited	Brokers	The Legend
A. C. Wilton	Crawford and	Homestead	McDonald's	RBC Royal Bank	The Winkler
Investments Ltd.	Company	Manitoba Inc.	Restaurants of	Reg & Ingrid Penner	Community
ABCO Services &	Dairyworld Division	Husni-Wajih Zeid	Manitoba Limited	Richard and Joan	Foundation
Supply Ltd.	of Saputo Milk	Impact Security	Michel Saint Hilaire	Esau	The Winnipeg Sun
Air-Rite Refrigeration	Danamark Water	Jeremy & Maureen	Microsoft Canada	Robert Stremich	Trudy & Gordon
& Mechanical Inc.	Care	Gordon	Mike Pilat	Ronald McDonald	Doerksen
Alan & Joanne	Dave Coverdale	John & Beverley	Mondetta Clothing	House Charities	Veron Consultants
Maxwell	Disney Store	Schubert	Co.	Rotary Club	Inc.
Ambassador	Douglas Fawcett	John Kennedy	Morden Sommerfeld	of Winnipeg-	Visual Lizard
Mechanical Corp.	Dr. Emmett & Karen	Johnson Waste	Sunday School	Assiniboine	Wawanesa Life
Angela Chapdelaine	Elves	Management	Mother Parkers Tea	Royal Canadian	WCPD Foundation
Belfor Property	Dynasty Bath &	Kimberley Silver	& Coffee Inc.	Legion #60 - Souris	WestJet
Restoration	Kitchen Centre	Kristina Braun	Mr. Electric of	Branch	WGI Westman
BFI Waste Services	Eco-Green for	Kruger Products	Winnipeg	Ruth & Randy	Group Inc.
Bison Men's Chorus	Lawns and Trees	Limited	Murray Moffatt	Reimer - Katie Cares	Wildwood Transport
BMO Nesbitt Burns	Ecolab	Lasha Orzechowski	New Flyer Industries	Ryan Turner	Inc.
BrandSource	Ellement	La-Z-Boy	Northern Grit	Sherry Thiessen	Winnipeg Building &
Cadillac Fairview	Epic Information	Legion Ladies	Number Ten	Silver Jeans Co.	Decorating Ltd.
Corporation Limited	Solutions	Auxiliary BR # 14	Architectural Group	Simone Orzechowski	Winnipeg Canadian
Canadian Jewellery	Exchange Income	Lindsay & Jeff Evans	Odanah Farms Ltd.	Sobering	Transit Curling
Group	Corporation	Lowe Mechanical	Odyssey Dental	Investments Inc.	Winnipeg Goldeyes
Cargiill Limited	Forbes Bros. Ltd.	Services Ltd.	P.C. Home	Son's Bakery	Field of Dreams
Carswell - a	Gendis Inc.	Mad About Style	Restoration Ltd.	Spectra Energy	Foundation
Thomson Reuters	Georgian Bay	Boutique	Payworks	St. John Ambulance	Winnipeg High
business	Development Ltd.	Manitoba Hydro	Penny Oliver	Pet Therapy	School Football
City Bread Co. Ltd.	GFS Winnipeg	Maple Grove Colony	Petals West Inc.	Program	League
Clint Moffat & Sons	Giftpact Foundation	Ltd	Piston Ring	Stampin' Up	Winnipeg Parking
Ltd.	Inc.	Max Zbirun	Polo Park Shopping	TJ Stroud	Authority
Coca-Cola (Canada)	Grants International	McCaine Electric	Centre	Taillieu Construction	Winnipeg Police
Ltd.	Inc.	Limited	Prairie Mills Flour	Ltd.	Service Division #31
Connexion Industries	Harold Dueck	McCain Foods	Purves Redmond	Terracon	Winnipeg Symphony
Cossette	Health Sciences	(Canada)	Limited	Development Ltd.	Orchestra
Communication	Centre Security	McDonald's	Qualico	The Dufresne	
Group	Department	Restaurants of	Ranger Insurance	Foundation Inc.	

## 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

Gift cards to Superstore, Walmart or Costco  
Sugar  
Margarine squares  
Individual sized yogurt  
Frozen vegetables  
Frozen dinners  
Canned chicken & beef broth  
Canned tomatoes  
Ketchup & mustard

Relish  
Mayonnaise  
Salt & pepper  
Fresh fruit  
Eggs  
Bagels  
Chocolate chips  
Raisins & dried cranberries  
Frozen fruit for baking  
Cereal  
Vegetable, chicken, or beef stock

### LAUNDRY SUPPLIES

Dishwashing detergent  
HE (high efficiency) laundry detergent  
Fabric softener sheets  
Plastic garbage bags (green & white kitchen bags)  
Windex & Clorox  
Mr. Clean Magic Erasers  
Lysol disinfecting wipes  
Microfiber cloths

### OFFICE SUPPLIES

Paper (8.5"x 11", white)  
Post-it notes  
Letter size file folders  
Masking, packing, & Scotch Tape

### RECREATIONAL ITEMS

Ottoman (blue or beige)  
Barbecue  
Tickets to special events  
Movie passes  
New Release Family DVDs