

Better Together

Sharing the 2019
RMHC Manitoba
Mission



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Manitoba

Keeping families close



Dustin and his mom, Lynda Moncrief, stayed at Ronald McDonald House while Dustin received essential medical care

Threads of Hope - the Moncrief Family's Story

On February 23, 2018, our entire world changed.

Dustin and I arrived in Winnipeg from Kenora for a pediatrician appointment and scheduled MRI. We had an overnight bag and absolutely no premonition of the nightmare that was to come. There are no words to describe the numbness and fear of uncertainty we felt at the time.

A referral made by the nurse led to a call. I answered the phone and the voice on the other end said, "Hi, Lynda. My name's Pat and I'm from Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Manitoba. We have a room available. Why don't you come by when you have time? I'll show you around."

While Dustin was a patient at HSC Children's Hospital,

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two blocks away was a comfortable bed, a warm shower, a home-cooked meal and a true sense you are not alone. Colby, my eldest son, and I could take turns switching off between hospital and rest.

Eventually, Dustin was given day passes and instead of a hotel room, we had a home. It was a place away from the hospital and a place of peace and normalcy surrounded by compassion and care. We have travelled to Winnipeg no less than 40 times and a phone call to welcoming hearts, whenever we needed a home, awaited us.

The staff welcomes and supports the families. They do everything they can to ease the burden of all the little things, while we tend to the big things.

All I can say about the volunteers is, "wow"! We felt privileged to get to know them and their reasons for volunteering. One of the many incredible volunteers we crossed paths with was an RMHC Manitoba volunteer who has been volunteering since 1985. He explained to us, "I lost my daughter to cancer when she was eight-years-old. Her spirit lives on in me while I do these little things." He showed he cared and reassured Dustin about the gifts of modern medicine.

The families at RMHC Manitoba have their own unique stories, and yet, are bound together by one common thread, a sick child. We shared stories, laughed, cried and reassured each other that we are together and we are home.

On May 11, 2019, the community of Kenora and Team Dustin came together to celebrate and give thanks by hosting *Team Dustin's BBQ & Live Music Fundraiser* in support of RMHC Manitoba and the many families they serve.

The event was held over a beautiful day in Lake of the Woods. Together, we ate and laughed while listening to music and stories. Our message was heard, loud and clear - how blessed we feel to have a second home at Ronald McDonald House.

To staff, volunteers, and all those who support RMHC Manitoba, Dustin and I are overwhelmed for all that has been given to us. It's amazing and inspiring, how strangers can come together with one common thread and give so much love.

Thank you." ❤️

- Lynda Moncrief



Lynda Moncrief with her sons, Colby and Dustin



The Moncrief family made many strong connections while staying at Ronald McDonald House including young guests, Logan and Arianna



The Moncrief family had plenty of wonderful support from their local community at their fundraising event in support of RMHC Manitoba

Leadership Message

As RMHC Manitoba enters the holiday season, our hearts are filled with gratitude. Throughout 2019, the RMHC Manitoba Mission was made possible thanks to the generosity, compassion and dedication of a caring community including donors, partners, staff and volunteers. Together, we provide a "home-away-from-home" for families during a time of many challenges.

Each and every day, the RMHC Manitoba Mission is delivered through the Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room. Our Mission is to help families stay together and feel supported as they maneuver through the challenging and confusing journey of childhood illness or injury. This cannot be achieved without a collective alignment and commitment to work together to deliver our Mission of *keeping families close*.

As 2019 draws to a close, RMHC Manitoba will have supported over 2,000 families with overnight accommodations and day use programming. The services RMHC Manitoba provides supports the emotional and physical well-being of the family unit as well as a significant support to the financial burden that accompanies childhood illness or injury. This integral support will save families over 1.35 million dollars annually in costly, out-of-pocket expenses.

We witness the difference the RMHC



Manitoba Mission makes each day. By delivering important services such as accommodations, meals, parking, laundry, transportation, and programming, we are providing families with daily essentials allowing parents to focus on their sick child, their sick child's siblings and each other. Families are stronger together and filled with a deep and full appreciation for all those who are part of the RMHC Manitoba Mission. The hearts of the families we serve overflow with gratitude.

We are truly proud to be an integral part of the circle of care for sick children and their families. We are grateful and strengthened by the strong network of supporters with our hospital partners at HSC Children's Hospital, St. Boniface Hospital and healthcare providers throughout the province. As we continue to move forward with our plans for growth to expand our contribution to family-centered healthcare with the construction of a new Ronald McDonald House, our community connections and supports are deepened and strengthened.

What one accomplishes alone can be good, but what many accomplish together makes a difference. Thank you to all those whose generosity and kindness helps RMHC Manitoba keep families together when they need it most. ***We are better together.***

Happy Holidays!

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Galagan'.

Wendy Galagan, CEO, RMHC Manitoba

Mission Statement

RMHC Manitoba supports the health and well-being of children by providing a "home-away-from-home" and other services for critically ill, chronically ill and seriously injured children and their families.

Board of Directors

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Privacy Statement

Ronald McDonald House Charities Manitoba/ Pediatric Oncology Family Centre of Manitoba Inc. does not sell, trade or release the personal information of its donors.

RMHC Manitoba by the Numbers

2018 Stats

2,208

Families
supported

5,546

Nights of
accommodation

\$1,350,000

Out-of-pocket
expenses saved for
RMHC families

Building a Stronger Foundation for Families



One of the most difficult things to tell a family, that needs the support a Ronald McDonald House offers, is that we can't help them because the House is full. Unfortunately, with only 14 bedrooms in our current House, we have to turn families away on a regular basis.

To address the growing needs of families, RMHC Manitoba is building a new 40 bedroom Ronald McDonald House that will allow us to serve more families than ever before. Property has been secured at 62 Juno Street and preliminary architectural drawings are underway. The Board of Directors, and its Committees, are working diligently to ensure the funds and community support required for such an important undertaking are in place.

186%

RMHC Manitoba Mission
delivery increase

While capital dollars will be required to build the new House, your support for operational funding is needed now more than ever. With 40 rooms, our Mission capacity will increase by **186%** and so will the need for operational funding. We want to ensure we can offer the same warm and welcoming atmosphere, as we do in our current House. Your support of our holiday campaign will help us accomplish that.

We are so grateful for your ongoing and generous support.

Thank you!

Rhonda Lorch, President, RMHC Manitoba

Cart with a Heart: Our Mission On the Go



RMHC Manitoba volunteers, Colleen Hrabi and Bill Miller, during a Cart with a Heart shift



Colleen and Bill serving coffee to HSC Children's Hospital staff

Expanding RMHC Manitoba's reach, our newly-launched Cart with a Heart program provides comfort, care, and support to families outside of Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room, while spreading awareness about its core programs with families and staff.

Kindly supported by the RMHC Canada/RBC Family Wellness Program and McDonald's Restaurants, the Cart rolls out each Monday afternoon and currently visits nine HSC Children's Hospital units, providing coffee, tea, snacks, small toys and information about RMHC Manitoba to families. The Cart also offers coffee and tea to HSC Children's Hospital staff on the units it visits.

Since its launch in the summer of 2019, the Cart has been warmly welcomed by both families and staff. It has also proved to be a rewarding volunteer experience for RMHC Manitoba program volunteers who have committed to this new initiative.

Having volunteered in the Family Room, both Colleen and Bill know the importance and need of amenities and support provided by RMHC Manitoba's two core programs. They also know that parents navigating HSC Children's Hospital for the first time may not be aware of all resources offered by RMHC Manitoba for families.

"While volunteering in the Family Room, we met parents who were spending a lot of time in hospital, but didn't find out about Ronald McDonald Family Room or Ronald McDonald House until much later. Working with the Cart, we help bridge that gap", says Colleen.

"Having been a parent using the Family Room when our son was just a baby, I know how positive an impact RMHC Manitoba has on families. I love the connection we make with parents on a shift with the Cart", says Colleen. "Having those brief moments to give someone a coffee and let them know about the services RMHC Manitoba offers is terrific."

While volunteering, individuals like Bill often meet families experiencing a very stressful day. The Cart allows a small distraction that gives respite from a long day. Aside from an immediate benefit, volunteers are also able to connect with parents directly and build awareness about our programs and all they provide for families.

In its first 12 weeks of operation, Cart with a Heart helped **over 750 families and staff**.

Home is wherever...





...I'm with you. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

Community of Support

The Youngman family, from Dryden, Ontario, were referred to RMHC Manitoba through the NICU at St. Boniface Hospital on July 26th. Their son, Graydon, was born with a membrane across his nasal passages.



As Ronald McDonald House was fully occupied when the family's referral was received, Jordan, Mindy and their two-year-old daughter, Elsa, were on our wait list for four days.

The family was relieved when a room opened up for them. They spent a total of 75 nights in their "home-away-from-home" at Ronald McDonald House.

Jordan and Mindy appreciated the warm and welcoming feel of the House. For them, RMHC Manitoba was a place of calm and respite from the noise and busyness of the hospital ward. Their daughter, Elsa, especially enjoyed playing in the family games room.

"Our son was born with a defect not allowing him to breathe through his nose", says Jordan. "Thanks to RMHC Manitoba, our family stayed together as we supported our son's recovery from surgery. We are forever grateful and blessed as recipients of your generosity!"

Enter to win our Holiday WestJet Raffle!



Support RMHC Manitoba this holiday season by entering to win our Holiday WestJet Raffle in support of families. You could win one roundtrip flight for two guests to any regularly scheduled WestJet destination!*

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at rmhcmanitoba.org or in-person at Ronald McDonald House (566 Bannatyne Avenue) and Ronald McDonald Family Room (CE-3 - 840 Sherbrook St.).

The lucky WestJet raffle winner will be drawn on Tuesday, December 31st, at 12:30 pm at Ronald McDonald House.

By supporting our RMHC Manitoba Holiday WestJet Raffle, you'll be helping thousands of families needing to stay close to their sick or injured children each year.

Best wishes and good luck to all who enter!

*Due to LGCA rules, raffle tickets must be purchased in Manitoba. For a full list of raffle rules and more information, please visit rmhcmanitoba.org



QX104's Morning Show hosts, Brody Jackson and Randy Parker, will be joining us as hosts of our Better Together Donation Drive

Better Together Donation Drive for Families!

On Wednesday, December 4th, tune into QX104 FM (104.1 on the FM dial) to support our Better Together Donation Drive in support of RMHC Manitoba! From 2 pm to 6 pm, we'll be sharing stories from families and our community of supporters about the RMHC Manitoba Mission. Together, we'll be collecting donations for our two core programs - Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room. We invite you to join us and together, keep families close!



Leaving a Legacy for Families



Christopher Mahussier, CFP®, FCSI®
and his daughter, Emma

"I've known about Ronald McDonald House for a number of years, but I never really knew what they did until a few years ago. When my daughter was born, we had to spend a few extra days at the hospital and returned shortly after for a checkup. At the time, it hadn't occurred to me how lucky my family was to live in the city and be able to drive to and from the hospital within the same day.

In 2016, I had taken some time away from work and looked for children's charities to volunteer with. That was when I approached RMHC Manitoba, and was invited for a tour of Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room. That tour was very special. I learned the real Mission of keeping families close. Families supported by RMHC Manitoba may only need to stay overnight, while others might require a much longer stay during their healing journey. I didn't know how to help the children get better, but I realized family togetherness was something I can support.

I first volunteered for RMHC Manitoba at the Hope Couture Fashion Gala and later joined the committee for the Red Shoe Crew Walk. The more time I spend volunteering for RMHC Manitoba, the more I see community members coming together to support a cause close to their hearts.

Philanthropy has become an important part of my financial practice. I recognize that many of the services and organizations the community benefits from are directly supported by private and corporate donors. They simply wouldn't exist without the support of generous donors.

In addition to volunteering, I chose to make a planned gift in my will because I believe modest gifts can add up to make something really special. I'm grateful that I haven't had to use the services of RMHC, but I know that families will always want to be close and I will always want to support that."

-Christopher Mahussier

Growing Stronger Together

"After being rushed to Winnipeg to give birth to our daughter, Coraline, we were unexpectedly thrown into a four-month ordeal filled with surgeries, treatments and hurdles to overcome.

Spending every day at the hospital to care for our little one meant we often struggled to care for ourselves. Ronald McDonald House became our refuge and home. The staff made the space welcoming and warm. It truly felt like they were there to support us while we were supporting our little one. At the House, volunteers would come in and cook meals for the families. This was a huge relief and help. The home-cooked meals also provided opportunities to interact with others. This made our time away from home less lonely and encouraged us to relax and enjoy the people around us.

RMHC Manitoba gave us a home **where** and **when** we needed it most."

- Chelsea Pakulak



McDonald's® Donations Go Digital

McDonald's Restaurant self-service ordering kiosks are helping to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

With the introduction of the kiosks at McDonald's Restaurants in Manitoba, in 2018, a new way to help families needing to be close with their sick or injured child followed. When ordering at the kiosks, donors have an option to pledge \$1 or round up to the nearest dollar to support RMHC Manitoba.

These small, affordable amounts have tangible value for RMHC Manitoba, making each donation meaningful for those who need it most while following the increasing trend of society's digital currency.

Since inception, the generosity at the kiosks has generated over \$65,000 per year for RMHC Manitoba to support its Mission.

Thank you to every person who says "yes" at a kiosk. You are making a difference in the lives of sick children and their families.



McDonald's customers are greeted by McDonald's Crew members that always bring service with a smile



Melissa Beaumont, RMHC Manitoba Board of Directors and Partner, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP

RMHC Manitoba Board of Directors Member Highlight

"I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to become involved with RMHC Manitoba. Not only am I proud to be carrying on the long tradition of Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP lawyers participating on the Board of Directors, the RMHC Manitoba Mission of *keeping families close* resonates with me, personally, as a mom. The staff and volunteers of RMHC Manitoba are amazing and it is a privilege to be able to play a small role in an organization that has such a big impact on families.

Thanks to RMHC Manitoba, families can support each other during some of life's most difficult moments without having to worry about having a safe place to stay. Families take comfort in knowing they have access to a home-cooked meal, a hot shower and a friendly and supportive community, all within minutes of HSC Children's Hospital."

- *Melissa Beaumont*

A Look Back at our 2019 Signature Events



33rd Annual Hope Couture Fashion Gala

March 13, 2019 | RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg

Together, we celebrated a VIVA GLAM evening and raised \$328,000 in support of our Mission!



30th Annual FORE! THE HOUSE Tournament of Champions

September 5, 2019 | Breezy Bend Country Club

This year, we came together and raised over \$186,500 for RMHC Manitoba families!



5th Annual Red Shoe Crew Walk

June 13 - June 24, 2019 | Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Dauphin

The walks and fundraising events collectively raised over \$70,500 in support of our families!

2019 Third Party Event Highlights



On May 8, 2019, \$204,808 was raised on McHappy Day for RMHC Manitoba!



McHappy Day[®]



On June 11, 2019, at the 24th Annual McCain Clear Lake Golf Classic, \$106,000 was raised for RMHC Manitoba! We are so thankful for the wonderful support from this annual event and our McCain partners!

Join us for RMHC Manitoba Special Events in 2020!

- Hope Couture Fashion Gala
The Roaring 20s
March 12th
- McHappy Day
May 6th
- Red Shoe Crew Walk
May 30th - June 7th
- FORE THE HOUSE!
Tournament of Champions
September (date TBD)

We thank all our third party event fundraising champions for their amazing support to our Mission! ❤️

Are you looking for a unique sponsorship opportunity in 2020?



Ronald McDonald House Charities
Manitoba

RMHC Manitoba has 2 valuable options available

Volunteer Sponsor

RMHC Manitoba operates 24 hours a day – 365 days a year! Volunteers are instrumental in delivering RMHC Manitoba's two core programs. Without volunteer support in family services, fundraising, administration, finance and Board of Directors/Committee leadership, we could not serve families facing the challenging journey of childhood illness or injury. If you value volunteerism as much as RMHC Manitoba does, we are looking for you! Become a kind and generous sponsor for our **RMHC Manitoba Volunteer program**.

Your partnership will support the volunteer program including:

- Volunteer training
- Volunteer handbooks
- Food handler safety items (gloves, aprons, hair nets, etc.)
- Parking near the hospital for volunteers
- Volunteer appreciation and awards event
- Volunteer recognition
- Volunteer supplies



Our 12:1 volunteer-to-staff ratio reflects the integral role of RMHC Manitoba volunteers!



Celebrating the inspiring Lorette Ringette Tournament that annually supports RMHC Manitoba

Kids Helping Kids Sponsor

We are looking for that special someone wishing to sponsor our **Kids Helping Kids program**! There are many ways kids are helping other kids facing challenging times. Friendly Manitoba has so many incredible young philanthropists. We have seen kind gestures from donating birthday money, lemonade stands, bake sales, BBQ's, car washes, and more. We are looking for a special sponsor to partner with RMHC Manitoba to recognize and celebrate youth in philanthropy.

Discover other ways to support RMHC Manitoba!

- Adopt a Room program
- Event sponsorship
- Make Fun Matter for Families! Create an online fundraiser at rmhcanada.ca or create a fundraising event
- Monetary donations
- Volunteering
- Wish List donations
- Cook a meal for our families as a Home for Dinner team

It is thanks to our amazing community of supporters that our Mission is able to keep families together every day! Thank you!

For more information on ways to help the RMHC Manitoba Mission, please visit rmhcmanitoba.org, call 204-774-4777 or email info@rmhmanitoba.org