



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE SASKATCHEWAN

Fall 2011



the Cookie Sheet

News and Notes from Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan

Shaw Family

Dave, Tyler, Joanne and Michael



On June 29, 2011, my wife Joanne and I arrived in Saskatoon with our two sons, Michael and Tyler. We were quite apprehensive over what was to occur over the span of the next few weeks.

Our 13 year old son, Michael, was to undergo two major surgeries on his back. Michael has neurofibromatosis, or NF for short. NF is a condition caused by an alteration of the gene, and occurs at the time of conception. It can be passed down from the child's parents, or in some cases, such as Michael's, the mutation of the gene just

"happens".

NF causes the body to grow tumors. As it is coded into the gene, the body "thinks" this is normal. The tumors are not cancerous, but rather they are made up of fibrous material similar to muscle tissue. These tumors are called fibromas. Michael had a large fibroma growing beside his spine. The tumor had, over the years, caused curvature of the spine, and Mike was to have surgery to correct this.

Michael's first surgery was to remove the fibroma, harvest a rib (for use in

making replacement discs for any that were damaged in his spine) and to release some muscles in his back. It was scheduled for early in the morning on June 30. He would then be in traction for two weeks to pull his spine straight. Then the second surgery to insert titanium rods and brackets and screws to hold his spine straight would take place.

Mike had been diagnosed with this condition when he was 2 years old. Joanne and I had often wished for someone to talk to; someone who also faced day to day life with this disease. We had corresponded with a few people with the condition; however they were mostly in the United States. We never met anyone face-to-face who had NF to the same degree that Mike has. Over the years we had come to feel as if we were facing this alone...

We arrived at Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon and were greeted by the wonderful volunteers and staff. We were extremely impressed with the entire facility and were happy to have a place to stay that was close to the Royal University Hospital.

Board Members

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Ken Howland

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House Manager

Lorraine Johannson

Administration

Marg Coverett

Housekeeper

Debra Taylor

Glovelyn Wad-As

Resident Evening Supervisor

Irene Hildebrandt

Privacy Statement

Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan/The Friends of Saskatchewan Children Inc does not sell, trade or lease the personal information of its donors.

As Joanne and I sat out on the patio of RMH, enjoying the summer evening and talking about the surgery that was to happen early the next morning, a woman came outside and asked if we were Michael's parents. We thought he had gotten into some trouble or broken a rule of the house or something. We couldn't have been more wrong. What she told us next left us totally astounded...

Michael had been talking to her inside the house and told her about his upcoming surgery. The woman was Carol Jennings. From talking to Mike, she correctly guessed that he had NF. How? She and her husband Robin were staying at the house with their two children April and Dawson. They were there while their 13 year old daughter, Desiree, who was having surgery to correct curvature of the spine caused by her neurofibromatosis.

A chill ran down my spine. HERE was a family dealing with the same things we dealt with on a daily basis! Our children were even the same age! As we compared notes about our two children, we were amazed by the similarities in our stories and circumstances.

Desiree had already had the first surgery and was waiting to have the second. Our two families would wind up staying together at RMH for two weeks out of the 26 days that we stayed with Michael. Over this time, we became

good friends with the Jennings. They are wonderful people, understanding, caring, supportive, and fun to be around.

Michael is at home now. His surgeries were a success, and he stands tall and straight now!

We keep in touch with Carol and Robin and their kids to this day by phone, email, texting, etc. We plan to visit each other's homes and maybe to go camping together. In short, we received an answer to our long-time wish: someone in our area of Saskatchewan that we could share experiences with... someone who would understand this journey through life with this condition known as neurofibromatosis. . . .

After meeting the Jennings, and the other parents and kids staying at the House, all facing the terrible or scary or heartbreaking circumstances that come with having a sick or injured child, we learned that Ronald McDonald House is so much more than just a place to stay.

It is a place that offers support and hope. A place for parents to find comfort in the company of each other. A place run by caring, wonderful people. A place of encouragement.

And sometimes, such as in our case, a wish can be granted!

Mission Statement

“Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan provides a supportive home away from home in Saskatoon for the families of sick children.”

President's Message . Ken Howland



The last sentence in my 2010 President's Message was: "We anticipate making a decision about expansion in early 2011". The decision has been made.

Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan will be expanded from 13 bedrooms to approximately 30 bedrooms. There is sufficient property at our current site to allow an addition to the existing House while maintaining our proximity to Royal University Hospital where the Children's Hospital will be constructed in the next few years.

This expansion will assist the House in meeting the housing needs of Saskatchewan families who have a child requiring medical treatment in Saskatoon. The reality is that we could not accommodate 296 families who asked to stay at the House in 2010 and this was a significant contributing factor in our decision.

We have engaged March Schaffel Architects Ltd. to complete design work and we anticipate commencing construction in the fall of 2012.

Gerald Grandey, former President and CEO of Cameco, and Doug Osborn, a Past President of the House, will co-chair the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the expansion. We expect to have the Capital Campaign in full swing in early 2012 and we hope you will consider being involved in this exciting endeavour for our House. Feel free to contact the House in this regard.

During the hectic months ahead as we continue to operate the House while having contractors on site building the expansion addition, we will rely on our staff and volunteers to ensure that the House remains a "home away from home" for families from across Saskatchewan. Our volunteers commit countless hours to serving families and we appreciate their dedication and commitment.

Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan remains financially stable through the generous support of donors, both individual and corporate, and the many fund raising events dedicated to the House throughout Saskatchewan. McDonald's restaurants across Saskatchewan and Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada are very generous in their support of the House. Thank you to all our donors.

Gail Eagle and Jim Flath joined our Board in 2011 and we look forward to their contributions to our governance responsibilities.

There were several staff changes in 2011. Lorraine Johannson, House Manager, and Willy Nagy, Housekeeper, retired. Susan Clarkson's term as Executive Director concluded in August. The Board thanks these former employees for their commitment to the House and wishes them well in the future.

The Board was pleased to announce the appointment of Evelyn Novak as Executive Director in September and we look forward to her contributions as we undergo major changes in the size and operation of the House.

2012 will be an exciting and challenging year for Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan. It is gratifying to know that within the relatively near future, we will be able to accommodate more families and to assist them as they cope with the medical needs of their child.



Ottenbreit Family

Avery, Deb, Randy and Eli



Our family is made up of Deb & Randy (parents) and our kids – Eli and Avery. Both our kids were born extremely prematurely and as a result have cerebral palsy. We were fortunate 20 years and 18 years ago to have a wonderful NICU in Regina. At 30 weeks for Eli, we spent 54 days in NICU. With Avery born at 25 weeks, we spent 134 days in NICU. We were lucky to live in Regina and be able to go home at night and sleep in our own beds.

We really only discovered how lucky we were, when Avery, at the age of seven years, required her first orthopaedic surgery. This is when we were first introduced to Ronald McDonald House. It wasn't long before we realized how fortunate we were to be in Saskatoon at RUH, but more importantly at Ronald McDonald House. Over the next several years, we would have many more orthopaedic surgeries and have the good fortune of having a "home" away from

home at Ronald McDonald House.

The staff; Lorraine, Marg, Evelyn, Irene, Willy and countless volunteers are wonderful! They always have been comforting, encouraging, hopeful, kind, supportive, caring and loving to our family. Someone is always there to provide support and friendship. Over the years, we have really come to think of these people as part of our family.

During one of our more recent visits, Avery was hospitalized at RUH and we lived at Ronald McDonald House from November 2, 2010 until April 14, 2011. Avery had experienced a medical error overdose and the staff at RMH was there with us every step of the way.

The little thoughtful expressions like chocolates, flowers, a can of Comet, a new pot for cooking porridge, a big green frog to sleep with (since Randy only came up on the weekends) were so appreciated. Although we found

ourselves in a terrible medical situation with Avery, staying at RMH made me feel safe and part of a family. The friends that we have met, shared stories with and many bags of chips will be close to our family forever. The volunteers that prepare meals, endless cookies and the best ever pumpkin cinnamon buns are so appreciated.

We often joked about the number of holidays that we spent at Ronald McDonald House and whether we would still be around for the next significant date. As we arrived just after Halloween, we managed to enjoy all the left over candy and treats. We had the best Christmas dinner even though it was the worst Christmas that our family had ever lived through. Avery was having a very difficult time medically and we missed our families very much. Randy, Eli and I were able to leave the hospital and enjoy a tremendous meal with another family and the volunteer hosts for the holidays. The house was decorated so beautifully, the little Christmas village was out and everyone in the house got presents!

I don't know that we can ever express our gratitude or thank all those that have played a part in our lives at Ronald McDonald House. To the wonderful staff and volunteers for providing us with a "special home" and a "special family", whenever we need it, THANK YOU!

Vision Statement

"Giving sick children what they need most . . . the presence and support of their families"

Our Volunteers

The Heart of the Home

5 Year Award

Marcel D'Eon

10 Year Awards

Robbie Curtis

Jack Moldenhauer

15 Year Awards

Doug Osborn

25 year awards

Georgine Anderson

In Memory



Raelene Lyn Robson

July 9th, 1975 ~ October 10th, 2011

Jessica Foster of Prairie Thistle Designs volunteers her expertise and knowledge in the production of the newsletters; you can view her website @ <http://www.prairiethistle.com>

20 year awards

Presented by Ken Howland



Olga Johnson



Lou Anne Turcotte



Marlene Fitchell



25 year awards



Helen Campbell

We Are Families!



Dawson, Robin, April, Carol and Desiree Jennings of Canora, SK developed new family friendships during their stay.



Tara Aubichon and Jeff McIntyre of Patuanak, SK were bursting with pride and happiness with their baby Mathias McIntyre.



Laurel Clement of Dugald, MB with daughter Corrine Clement of Humboldt, SK were sewing tiny sheets and mitts for premature babies at Royal University Hospital.



Carrley and Caitlyn Blythe of Paradise Hill, SK shared their beautiful happy smiles with everyone in the House.



Andrea, Baby Genvieve, Max and Terrence Lavallee of Meadow Lake, SK bring a lot of enthusiastic energy to everyone in the House.





Mrs. Bella Stevenson of Pelican Narrows, SK finally going home with baby Bryce; she shared gentleness and kindness with all the families and volunteers.

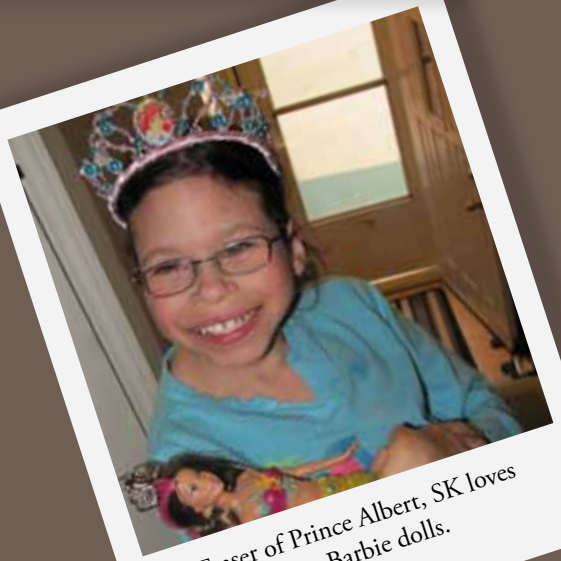


Constanico, baby Connie and Leannie Pujante of Humboldt, SK are very appreciative of the House.



Natasha and baby Nathan Peddle, of Lloydminster, SK are very happy to be going home to be with the entire family.

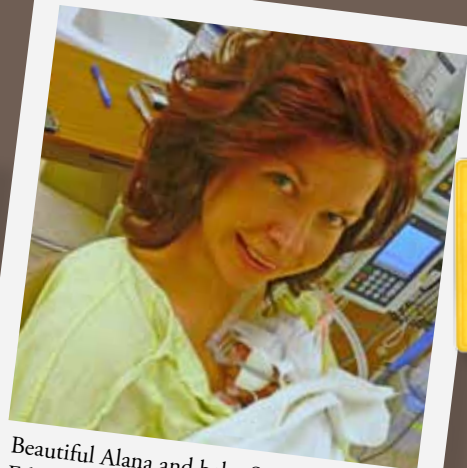
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Lexi Fraser of Prince Albert, SK loves playing with her Barbie dolls.



Saskatchewan Roughriders thrilled Donovan Fraser of Prince Albert, SK with a visit to RMHS to meet families staying at the House.



Beautiful Alana and baby Sean Wilson, of Edmonton, AB flew home where all family and friends were anxiously waiting.

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Without You

Through Your Support of our annual Newsletter RMHS is able to raise significant funds for the House. Thanks to All of You that so generously donate. You raised over \$98,492 last year!!

House Events/Third Party Fundraising

Media Fashion Show

Our 18th Annual Fashion Show held on November 10th, 2010 raised \$29,000 for the House from the support of those in attendance; the models, media, volunteers and Sponsors

Platinum

Bayer Crop Science ~ Cameco

Gold

Mega Group / Brand Source

Silver

SaskTel ~ Sheraton Cavalier Hotel ~ TD Canada Trust ~ WestJet

Knights of Columbus 2010 Dream Home Lottery

In December 2010 the Knights of Columbus presented \$41,000 of the proceeds of the 2010 Home Lottery to RMHS and have again chosen to support the House for the 2011 **Knights of Columbus Dream Lottery**

Midtown Plaza Annual Gift Wrap



This is an annual event held in December at the Midtown Plaza. Your tremendous support of our 2010 Gift Wrap generated \$13,800.00 for the House. Since 1991, the total raised to date is over \$113,800.00

McDonald's



Proceeds from the Saskatoon and Regina McDonald's coin boxes of \$45,855 were collected for the House from January thru to October of 2011. Prince Albert McDonald's coin boxes collected \$3,530

McHappy Day ~ May 11th, 2011

Estevan, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Yorkton McDonald Stores Supported RMHS raising \$92,333

Thank you!
from Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan

On McHappy Day® (May 11) one dollar from every Big Mac® sandwich, Happy Meal® and premium Roast Coffee sold at this McDonald's location went to Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan.

On behalf of children and families who stay with us each year, thank you!

You raised: \$92,333

At Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan, families are greeted with a warm welcome, a comfortable stay and cookies cooling on the kitchen counter – one of many ways our volunteers make the House feel like home.

Visit us at rmh.sk.ca



Creighton Community School

On May 20th, 2010 Kindergarten & Grade Six students held a first annual mini marathon of one kilometer raising \$1,300 for Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan and \$1,300 Ronald McDonald House Winnipeg

Maximum Training for the Trucking Industry

The 11th Annual Whack Truck Golf Tournament held in June was again very successful with **Maximum Training for the Trucking Industry** donating **\$7,000** to Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan

The 26th Annual Ladies Golf Classic

In June raised **\$40,000** for the House. Our thanks to the golfers, patrons and

Presenting Sponsor
Dakota Dunes Casino

Banquet Sponsor
Rick & Laurie Hopkinson

Hole Sponsors
Chianti Café & Restaurant ~ Coca Cola Ltd ~ Kilduff
Wealth Advisory Group ~ McDonald's Restaurants ~
Mega Group/Brand Source ~ Sangster's Health Centres ~
Saskatoon Fastprint ~ SGCC ~ Saskatoon Media Group ~
Seventy-Seven Signs ~ The Star Phoenix

Silent Auction Flights
WestJet ~ Mega Group/Brand Source

Cargill

Annual "Cargill FORE! the Houses Golf Tournament" held in June, in Toronto, ON raised **\$7,900.00 for each House** in Canada



Meskanaw Ethelton 4-H Club Charity Heifer Auction

In July for the third year, this fantastic club of outstanding young people chose the House and donated \$6,000 from the sale proceeds



Katie Wright, Justin Cay, Andrew Boyle, Layne Cay, Colton Chabot, Christine Boyle, Brooklyn Chabot, Bo Chabot

Saboroso Brazillian Steak House

New to Saskatoon and wanting to give back to the community, Saboroso invited friends and family for their soft opening on Sept. 16th & 17th asking each invited guest to bring a donation and a wish gift for RMHS, raising **\$3,380**



Mark Your Calendars!

Gift Wrap at Midtown Plaza

Dec 1st ~ Dec 24th, 2011

Park Town Hotel

\$5 per Guestroom to RMHS

Dec 18th ~ 30th, 2011

The Rick Hansen Foundation 25th Anniversary Tour @ RMHS

Tuesday, Feb 7th, 2012

McDonald's & PA Raiders

Hockey Game Night

February 2012 TBA

Clunie-Cooper Memorial Professional Bull Riding

Prince Albert, SK

Friday, April 6th, 2012

McHappy Day

May 2nd, 2012

11th Annual Whack Truck Maximum Training Golf Tournament

June 1st, 2012

2012 RMHS Ladies Golf Classic

July 16th & July 17th, 2012

2012 RMHS Media Fashion Show

November 2012 TBA

Around The House with Evelyn Novak



It is my privilege to say hello through my first Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan (RMHS) newsletter. I am celebrating my first three months here at the House and what a wonderful few months it has been! It's obvious from the moment you walk through the doors that Ronald McDonald House is a special place. The House provides families with a warm, welcoming environment and respite during the stress of having a child receive medical treatment. It is wonderful to see the children's eyes light up when they are playing in the House and they visit the special toy room. All who come to the House – both young and old – enjoy the homemade cookies from the cookie jars!

We are so blessed to have our volunteers who are the foundation of the House. Giving time is a precious thing but our volunteers do even more. Volunteers make our families feel comfortable and cared for at the House. My thanks go out to each and every volunteer for their commitment and support.

House families are asked for a \$10 per night room fee, although actual costs for housing a family are \$75 per night. We house 13 families every night and have had to turn away many families in the past few months due to lack of space. We are looking forward to our much needed expansion.

During this Holiday season, you may want to consider a holiday "in honor" gift of the cost of a family stay (\$75), or the "in honor" gift of housing all 13 families at RMHS for one night (\$975). Your gift would help us continue to provide comfort and hope to our families.

Ronald McDonald House truly is a House that love built and a place where love continues to grow every day. You are welcome to come and visit us. Coffee is always on and there are fresh baked cookies in the jar!



Wish List

The Babies

Gifts to 36 months, musical, teaching, playing

The Girls ~ Sugar & Spice

Craft Kits, Lalaloopsy dolls & fashions, Baby Alive, Baby Dolls

The Boys ~ Puppy Dog's Tails

Trucks, cars, NHL mini sticks, Ninjago, Cars, Star Wars Lego

The Teens

iPod Nano, Digital Cameras, Sports books, caps

The Mums & Dads

Gift Certificates – restaurants, groceries, Taxis, Hospital Parking Passes

The House

DVDs, HE liquid laundry soap, body wash, tooth brushes, hair brushes, combs, liquid hand soap

“Every child along with his/her siblings receives a present from the Toy Cupboard when leaving Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan”

A Farewell Hug from Lorraine



Sixteen years ago I started volunteering at the House and not once imagined this was the beginning of one of the best times of my life.

Ronald McDonald House is such a special place with, I believe, an Angel on the Roof. The kindness of the donors from Saskatoon and around the Province is absolutely remarkable. Not once have we had a “no” when needing something for the families, Saskatoon has taken the House to its heart.

Our doors are open 365 days of the year with committed volunteers every day baking, cleaning, cooking, working in the yard and the office with a smile on their face for the families that are here.

The families never fail to amaze me with their inner strength and compassion for others staying at the house. After long days at the hospital they still find time to talk and support each other.

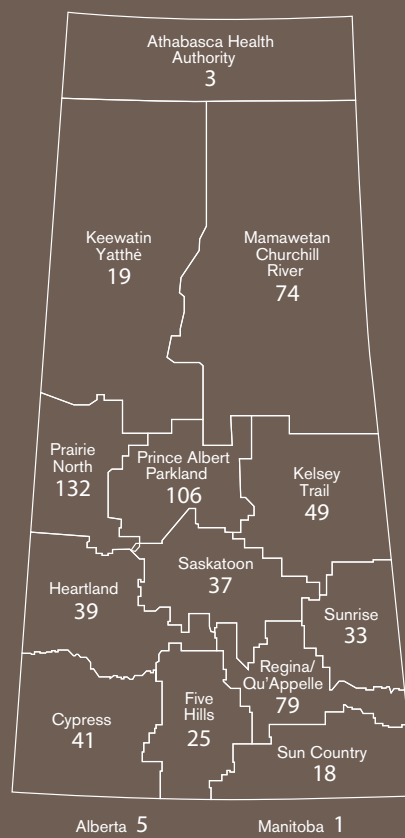
The dedicated staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and guests are all excited about expansion and with continued support

from our donors; Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan will continue to be a beacon in the RMH family.

You have all taught me how beautiful the human spirit is, I thank you for that and wish you the very best. I know many of the families have a long road ahead but you will persevere and hopefully will be rewarded with health and happiness.

I will never forget you,
Hugs, Lorraine

Regions where our families came from in 2010



Gifts

“In honour of” gifts recognize or celebrate special occasions of individuals, family, and friends, while “memorial” gifts are made in lasting memory of loved ones. Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan thanks those family members and friends who have paid tribute to special individuals.



At Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan, we understand that gift planning is not a “cookie cutter” process. We believe that each major gift is as unique, special and personal as a hand-rolled gingersnap. Over the years, the House has been the grateful beneficiary of Bequests and In Memory Of donations. Now we are also able to accept gifts of publicly traded securities, and life insurance policies. Your professional advisor can tell you about the associated tax and legal advantages.

In Honour of

Benjamin Borges	Mr and Mrs Kevan Howard	Avery Ottenbreit
CKHS Open Mic	Peter Husli	Brian and Rose Quinn
Sheila Denysiuk	Lorraine Johannson	David Rau
Hunter Drohomereski	Dr Daniel Kirchgerner	Liz Rempel
Tillie Fahlman	Sherri Korol	Jay Riel
Donovan Fraser	Allison Lach	Jade Smith
Chad and Pat Fraser	Deanna and Doug Lyon	Linda Thauberger
Abby Sarah Goddard	Mary Monuik	Jaeden Sean Wilson
Bill Gould	Sarah Morgan	
James L Henry	Sharon Nelson	

In Memory of

Derek Andrusiak	Cory Heffernan	Raelene Lyn Robson
Sterling Douglas Bacon	Jack Heffernan	Philip Rondeau
Ross Bateman	Elmer Hoyseth	Tanya Ruiters
Edna Blackport	Lillian Hromek	Riley Sack
Georgette Blanchard	Carmen Knittig	Ross Scharf
Jason Bosch	Nettie Kozakavich	Jack Schoenau
Elva Brown	Anna May Lyall Gray	Morris Shaw
Lawrence Carey	Brad McCrimmon	Joshua van Os Solsten
Mark Carson	Ronald McDonald	Jack Stevenson
Gerald Chupa	Jack Metcalf	Sid Stimpson
Dorothy Craig	Ina Miller	Carl Strom
Jules Cyrenne	John Montgomery	Jim Tanner
Dallas Day	Keith Morrison	Rose Terry
George Eiwanger	Leona Nelson	John Tluchak
Jean Elliott	Joey Nimchuk	Vicki Tluchak
Geoffrey Gilchrist	Donelda Pearson	Doris Wickstrom
Abby Sarah Goddard	Cecil Radchenko	Sandra Wickstrom
Richard Gursky	Ralph Reiber	Hugh Williams
Elsie Hayes	Minnie Rempel	

Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds are created by a gift that is not spent, instead it is invested to generate earnings. Annually, these earnings are used to support operations at Ronald McDonald House

Saskatchewan.

The Sandee Day Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan Fund has been established at the Saskatoon Community Foundation