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Mission Statement

“Friends of Saskatchewan Children Providing a Home with Open Arms for Families of Sick Children... Always.”

New Logo
Ronald McDonald Houses

The 12 Ronald McDonald Houses across Canada are excited to launch a new logo this year! The logo was developed to reflect our core values and to honour the heritage of the organization.

A Dream Came True
Rod & Loralee Orthner

We always dreamed of having a child of our own and being a family. Joyously, Rod and I were expecting our first child in July of 2009. You can imagine our shock, fear, surprise and alarm when our precious son, Karlson, came on April 22nd, 2009. I was twenty six and a half weeks pregnant which made him almost fourteen weeks early.

Karlson was born at the Cypress Regional Hospital in Swift Current. Shortly after he was born, the N.I.C.U. team from the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon came to pick him up and told us to be prepared to stay until his approximate due date. At this time, they also made us aware of Ronald McDonald House. I was a bit familiar with the house, but would soon become a whole lot more familiar with it as it became our home for ninety three days.

To say that it was our “Home Away From Home” was an understatement. We were fast made to feel welcome and at home. Lorraine, Marg, Susan, and the countless volunteers made us feel like we belonged and were at home. Never did a day go by that someone did not ask how Karlson was doing. They were always wanting daily progress reports. The friendly smiles, hugs if you needed, fresh baked cookies and cakes, hot cooked meals at the end of a long day and so much more, made our stay in Saskatoon so much easier.

During our stay, we made many friends with other families who were also staying at the House. These families were going through similar things and became a great support network for us too. There was always a pot of coffee on and someone to listen who understood what we were going through. To this day we are still in contact with some of these families and enjoy sharing stories of our children’s progress.

Another one of the many great things about the house is its location. It is conveniently located near the hospital. This was nice as it allowed us to be close to Karlson. It was a short walk back and forth so if we needed a break we could walk to the House and relax, rest, eat, regroup
and then return to the hospital. Ronald McDonald House’s picturesque location close to the river made for a nice afternoon walk for some fresh air and some much needed physical activity. It also was a great thought clearing activity.

Today Karlson is fourteen pounds and is doing wonderfully. Our time in Saskatoon and our stay at Ronald McDonald House seems like a distant memory. However, we will never forget our friends at the House for the love and support the home away from home provided for us. We can never thank you enough for “Giving sick children what they need most - their families.”

President’s Message
This past year has been a very exciting one for Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan. This October marked the one year anniversary of our new Executive Director Susan Clarkson’s arrival at RMH. Susan, along with our House Manager Lorraine Johannsen and Administrator Marg Coverett have really gelled as a team and we are very excited about the very positive energy coming from these three outstanding individuals. Susan’s expertise and energy have combined to put our RMH Saskatchewan in a great position for the future. By now I think that everyone is aware that we are proud owners of the lot immediately adjacent to the House; this acquisition puts us in the enviable position of being able to expand without the necessity of having to look elsewhere, in an already established neighborhood. It has been apparent to the Board for some time that the existing building would not meet the needs of expanded health care services offered at Royal University Hospital. However, we thought it to be prudent to not proceed with expansion plans until such time as plans for the new Children’s Hospital were finalized. Unfortunately though, we have seen more and more months in which the House has to turn families away due to a lack of space. This is a trend that has been consistent for the last couple of years and shows no signs of let-up. Our mandate is to provide accommodation to families of sick children who are required to travel to Saskatoon for health care. With that in mind, Friends of Saskatchewan Children Inc., the legal entity responsible for Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan, has decided that an expansion is necessary. Currently we are investigating what exactly our expanded facility should look like and how it will connect to the existing building. This is a very exciting development and challenge that we are preparing to take to the next level.

We are grateful for the financial support and hard work of our dedicated volunteers and sponsors, each of whom are an integral part of making Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan the very special place that it is. Thank you to each and every one of you.
Our life started like everyone’s should: married and two beautiful boys. Tragedy struck for us the first time when our second son Cole had West Nile Encephalitis. He had severe seizures and was very sick. The whole first year of his life involved testing and speculation of other illnesses. Over time he seemed to improve and stayed on medication for his seizures for a few years. Shortly after Cole’s first birthday we found out that we were expecting baby number three, excited to welcome our new addition.

We were told that our chances of our baby having Down syndrome were very high and they would have to do more testing. We were devastated, but at the same time I knew whatever God had planned for us He would give us the strength to get through it. May 4th 2005, I was rushed to Saskatoon by ambulance and two hours later I delivered a very sick little girl. Avery had birth defects and muscle skeletal deformities from head to toe. The doctor went over a huge list of all her medical problems and ended by saying, we are not sure she will make the first 24 hrs. There are no words to describe the feelings that went through our minds that night.

That day we mourned the normalcy of our daughter, but gained the innocence and purity of a Special Needs Angel. Avery was born with Rubienstein-Taybi Syndrome, a very rare genetic syndrome. She is now 4 yrs old and is tube fed, unable to walk or talk. The surgeries and procedures she has gone through. . . no one should ever have to encounter in a lifetime, but she is the strongest person we know and our hero!!

Without the support of the Ronald McDonald House these last six years of hospitalizations, appointments and surgeries would have been a whole lot more difficult. At first I was not keen on the idea of sharing all the facilities, but in the last six years we have been there we have never had to wait to use any of their facilities as everyone comes and goes at very different times. When tragedy strikes and it seems like everyone else’s life goes on there is always someone at the house that understands and can offer support or a shoulder to cry on when no one else can imagine the pain. The staff at RMH are truly amazing and special people. To Lorraine, Marg, all of the staff and all the wonderful volunteers, I think I can speak for most of the families which stay at RMH, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the support you give and the love you show to every family and their sick children. When I think of all the support you have given our family in the last six years it brings tears to my eyes. To all that are involved with this great House, from donations to sponsors and volunteers, you are all greatly appreciated and you truly give sick children what they need most, their families.

God bless the House that love built!!!

“Grant me the dignity of meeting me on my own terms.
Recognize that we are equally alien to each other, that my ways of being are not merely damaged versions of yours.”
Volunteers

Group photo of volunteers, board members and staff who attended the Annual Volunteer Banquet held at the Western Development Museum on October 5th.

Danny Mantyka & Ernie Biggs of Shaungnessy Electric Inc. arranged a donation of Christmas lights & clips from Canadian Tire, Preston Crossing and the lift from RCS Equipment Rental to “Light Up The House” for the holidays.

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/

Help Us Cheer Wish List

The Families
D.V.D.’s, Gift Certificates - restaurants, hair & spa salon, movies, taxi & hospital parking

The Children
D.V.D.’s, dolls, trucks, craft kits

The House
HE liquid laundry soap, swiffers, bounce sheets, hand soap refills

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Our Families

Ivy Huxted of Waldeck, SK is completely taken with “Teig’s” kitty.

Jessica Becks of Lloydminster, AB made everyone smile, giggle and love her completely.

B.J. & Jody Scheirlinck of McMahon, SK are very happy to be taking baby Logan home to the farm.

Mom Jennifer Dumas and Grandma April Nickel, of Flin Flon, MB celebrated St. Patrick’s day with twins, Noah & Nolan Fitzpatrick.

Tammie & baby Keeston of Pinehouse Lake, SK are very warm and cozy snuggling on the couch.
Dawson & Kimberley Frey of Meadow Lake, SK are having a great time enjoying some free time in the playroom.

Erik Sandager of Preeceville, SK is one of our youngest House fund raisers. He organized a lemonade stand on the family farm to thank RMH for looking after his mom Kim and little brother Ian.

Leona & Dean Bear of LaRonge, SK are very happy to be leaving and going home after Dean’s successful surgery.

A J Myles, a beautiful little baby boy, of Lloydminster, AB came to Saskatoon on June 16th and left on Oct. 26th. AJ has overcome many medical obstacles and it was a day of smiles when the family left the House to go home.
Ronald McDonald came to visit to share some magic and Owen Clarke of Conquest, SK shared some of his own magic with Ronald.

Proud parents Joe & Lauren Carnahan of Swift Current, SK are anticipating a wonderful life with their precious baby daughter Gracie.

Michelle and daughter Deshayne Thompson of LaRonge, SK are always welcomed at the House as they inspire everyone around them.

Raymond, Bodiene & daughter Rhiannon Dussion of The Pas, MB stayed at RMH in the spring of 2001 when Rhiannon was born 3 months premature weighing 2lbs 7oz. Grandparents Kimberly & Joseph Laliberty and Aunt Jolene, of Saskatoon, SK came with the family to reminisce and to quietly express their gratitude with a $5,000 donation.

Trevor & Christi Sauvie of Paradise Hill, SK are thrilled to be the new parents of baby Brooklyn.
The Opportunity

Adopt-A-Room at the House

We have rooms available for adoption. The cost of adopting a room is $10,000.00. This amount can be pledged over three years. A wall plaque will be placed on the door of the room that is adopted.

Our Adopt-A-Room partners will receive the Bob McLeod limited edition print of the Saskatchewan Ronald McDonald House, in the concluding year of the donation.

Our Adopt-A-Room partners will receive the option of a one-time acknowledgement in a local newspaper - the newspaper of your choice - in the concluding year of the donation.

Our Adopt-A-Room partners will be recognized on our website.

Our Adopt-A-Room partners, and their guests, will be invited to a VIP reception, at the House, to honour your room adoption.

Adopt-A-Room Champions

New

Tom & Dale Webb - “In loving Memory of Maria Vienna Lloyd 1998-2006”

Announcing Re-Adoptions!

Tom McLellan - “In loving Memory of Eileen McLellan”

Clint & Carol Forster
Fund Raisers

Our Newsletter Mail Out continues to be our biggest fundraiser. Thanks to All of You that so generously donate to our organization.

McDonald’s Saskatoon & Regina

Proceeds of $8,300 from the Coin Box collection from October 1st thru to December 31st were donated to the House.

McHappy Day

Saskatchewan’s Ronald McDonald House is so very grateful for the extraordinary efforts of the McDonald’s Restaurants in Meadow Lake, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon and Yorkton, who raised $51,284.50 for the House, on McHappy Day 2009 – May 6th. To the entire McDonald’s Team, Ronald, the volunteers, the media, and the many McDonald’s customers who supported McHappy Day 2009, we thank you and congratulate you!

Media Fashion Show

The Fashion Show held on November 10th, 2009 was an outstanding success with the addition of new sponsorships, raising $34,000.00. Thank you to the models, sponsors, media, volunteers and those attending.

Rotary Club of Saskatoon

Donated $5,000 to the House in May.

Ladies Golf Classic

Thank you to the Presenting Sponsors – Saskatchewan Blue Cross and Dakota Dunes Casino along with the Corporate Sponsors, Donors and golfers, the event held in June raised $30,500.

Midtown Plaza

The Christmas Wrap held in December 2008 at the Midtown Plaza was again a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers and to everyone who made a donation and in return had their gifts wrapped. Your tremendous support generated $10,000 for the House.

Cargill

“Fore the Houses Golf Tournament” which was held in Toronto, ON June 19th raised $9,773.12 for each House in Canada.
Meskanaw-Ethelton 4-H Beef Club Charity Heifer Auction

For the second year this dedicated club choose Ronald McDonald House as their charity. The charity heifer sale was in Melfort, SK on July 6th and raised approximately $11,000. Thank you to rural Saskatchewan for the outstanding support.

Third Party Fundraisers
You can download a Special Event Application form from our website and host a House fundraiser  http://www.rmh.sk.ca/waystohelp/planafunfundraiser/

Some of the other fundraisers for the House were . . .
McDonald’s & Prince Albert Raiders Hockey game night, Prince Albert, SK

McDonald’s & Weyburn Independent Prairie Riders Ride, Weyburn, SK

An Evening with Al Nelson Weitzel Yuel Art Auction, Saskatoon, SK

Portage Mutual Golf Tournament, Saskatoon, SK

Hitachi Canadian Industries and The Hitachi Foundation (US)
In August, Hitachi donated $8,600 for the purchase of new kitchen tables and chairs.

Ronald McDonald House Lottery

On November 20th, Marie Abbott of Regina, SK was awarded the grand prize of the beautiful home in Regina, SK. Winning ticket #04590.

Glen Scrimshaw Art Auction

Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon, Ronald McDonald House, The Saskatoon Community Foundation and The Saskatoon SPCA would like to extend our sincere thanks to: Saskatchewan Artist Glen Scrimshaw. Over $30,000.00 was raised for our charities at the Guiding Lights Multi-Charity Art Benefit, which featured the Breathtaking Original works of Canadian Artist Glen Scrimshaw. We would like to thank him on behalf of all of our boards, Supporters, members, volunteers and staff for his Overwhelming generosity and thoughtfulness.

PBR Pro Bull Riding
On April 17th and 18th in Prince Albert, SK PBR (Professional Bull Riders) donated $5,000 to the House for the fourth consecutive year.
Mark Your Calendars!

**Gift Wrap at Midtown Plaza**
Our 12th Annual Ronald McDonald House Christmas Gift Wrap @ Midtown Plaza will kick-off December 2nd and run thru till Christmas Eve. Your continued support is both needed and appreciated. Thanks to the generosity of the Midtown Plaza and our many wonderful volunteers.

**2010 Ronald McDonald House Ladies Golf Classic**
Celebrating 25 years of golf, on Monday, June 7th and Tuesday, June 8th. Golf committee will be “Putting On The Ritz” in conjunction with the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Ronald McDonald House.

**25th Anniversary of Saskatchewan Ronald McDonald House**
September 12th, 2010 will be the 25th anniversary of Ronald McDonald House and the celebrations will be joyous.

**2010 Ronald McDonald House Media Fashion Show**
Each November, every year is a sellout, this the 18th promises to compliment the 25th Anniversary of the Saskatchewan Ronald McDonald House.

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### Susan’s Salutations

When I accepted the position of Executive Director of Saskatchewan’s Ronald McDonald House, on October 1st, 2008, it quickly became very apparent to me that I had some huge shoes to fill – and they weren’t Ronald’s!

During her term as Executive Director, Sandee Day poured her heart and soul into the House. She, along with other key individuals, service clubs, volunteers and businesses, laid the foundation, raised the roof, and finally opened the Ronald McDonald House doors to Saskatchewan families on September 12th, 1985.

It is only fitting that Sandee’s House legacy should live on. An endowment fund has been established at the Saskatoon Community Foundation, in her name, in honour and in celebration of Sandee’s cornerstone work for the House. Annual grants from this fund, will ensure an “in perpetuity” source for House operating dollars. Contributions to this fund will be gratefully accepted by the Saskatoon Community Foundation.

Children’s Healthcare in this province is changing. At the House, we have new ways of keeping track of our families, our donors and our volunteers and we have launched some exciting new fundraising initiatives. However, some things should never change, and honouring Sandee Day’s “forever” House legacy is one of those things.

To contribute to the Sandee Day Ronald McDonald House Fund please contact the Saskatoon Community Foundation directly.
Gifts

Estates
Edith Marie Holmes

In Celebration

Wedding ~ Kaveri Bittira & Christian Braid
Birthday ~ Hunter Drohomereskio
Courage ~ Tyler Griffin & Family

In Celebration of a Champion
Did you Know - Saskatchewan Blue Cross has been a Title Sponsor of the Ladies Golf Tournament for 20 years and we are grateful for such long term Friends.

In Honour of

Campbell, Helen    Horst, Corin    McCrea, Paul    Roberts, Marie
Chandler, Claire Elise    Korol, Sherri    McCullough, Francesca    Rohel, Jonah
Empey, Betty & Harold    Nelson, Sharon    Meier, Louis    Roper, Dale
Haas, Joyce & Peter    Otterson, Seth    Milley, Brian    Sack, Ryley

In Memory Of

Andrusiak, Derek    Galbraith, Kenneth    McCawan, Allan    Smith, Norm
Arcus, Chris    Gilchrist, Geoff    McCre, Paul    White, John
Ardell, Brad    Gin, Braden    McCullough, Francesca    Wathen, Frances
Barr, Ruby    Greve, Elaine    Meier, Louis    White, John
Bazin, MaKenzie    Greve, Gordon    Milley, Brian    Wathen, Frances
Bell, Jean    Heffernan, Cory    Morpurgo, Marie    Wathen, Frances
Bloomquist, Raymond    Hoyseth, Elmer    Morpungo, Marie    White, John
Burgess, Anita    Hromek, Lillian    Morpungo, Marie    Wathen, Frances
Cann, Lawrence    Joynt, Lorraine    Morpungo, Marie    White, John
Cherepuschak, Beryl    Kroeker, Maureen    Myers, Doris    Ulrich, Ruth
Clark, Kenneth    Lawrence, Robert    Nickel, Hans    Wathen, Frances
Cleroux, Kirby    Little, Danny    Panchuk, Eli    White, John
Denysiuk, Helen    Long, Robbie    Parentau, Hubert    White, John
Denysiuk, Harry    Lyall-Gray, Anna May    Perreault, Grandma B    Witzel, Mary Lou
Dinkel, Fritz    Matthews, Doug    Reid, Daisy
Elliott, Austen    McDonald, Ronald    Rennie, Helen

In Kind

SureLock (T S) Security Ltd
A great company that has donated the monitoring system and expertise to electronically secure the House, thank you.

Supremex
Our thanks for the donation of envelopes for the newsletter mail out.