A LABOUR of LOVE
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VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2013

5 Year Awards

Jacqueline Duclos - Fashion Show Volunteer/Office Relief

Jessica Foster - Annual Newsletter Volunteer

Paula and Greg Goosen - Weekend Managers

Leah Hientz - Office Relief Volunteer

Julie and Vern Lepp - Weekend Managers

Cara McDougall - Weekend Manager

Vivian Nemish - Office Relief Volunteer

Pat Nimchuk - Office Relief Volunteer

Denise Ploss - Office Relief and Weekend Manager

Rose Silzer-Quinn and Brian Quinn - Weekend Managers

Tracey Schreiner - Weekend Manager

10 Year Awards

Sandra and Denis Piche - House Volunteers

15 Year Awards

Rose Drebit - Office Relief Volunteer
Brick by brick, we’re building a new and expanded Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan.

For those of us involved, as donors, volunteers, employees and skilled workers, it’s more than a construction project.

It’s a labour of love that will give Saskatchewan kids the presence, love and support of their families when they need it most.
Saskatoon's premier golf tournament celebrated 28 years in 2013.

Our 21st annual event featured members of the local media and their families and sold out at nearly 300 attendees.

Saskatoon’s premier golf tournament celebrated 28 years in 2013.

Volunteers

9

Kitchen tables around which Saskatchewan families can come together at RMHS

Up from 3 tables in 2012. Our two kitchens and dining room area are the heart of our home, a place to gather, talk and connect. Every day, families come together in the House kitchen to share meals, stories and lives.
McHappy Day 2013

$118,284

It wouldn’t be May without McHappy Day! This special, national fundraiser has been raising funds for RMHC and other local children’s charities for over two decades.

Midtown Christmas Wrapping Event

$18,791

Since 1991, our Annual Gift Wrap at Midtown Plaza has been making Christmas more special, for both gift recipients AND families at the House.

Full-time Staff

(And two part-time.) That’s up from 4 full-time and 1 part-time in 2012. Our staff are enriched by their experiences at the House, dedicated to doing whatever they can to help families with sick children.

210

Up from 125 in 2012. These generous hearts make the House a home every day, by decorating, baking, quilting, fundraising and supporting families any way they can.

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210

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“IF WE CAN HELP PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME SENSE OF NORMALCY SO THAT THEY CAN CONCENTRATE ON GIVING THE CARE FOR THAT CHILD, then that is so important.”
Saskatoon lawyer Doug Osborn has been a Board member for nearly two decades and has served two terms as President.

“I was asked to sit on the Board of Directors by Kieron Kilduff, former Board President, whom I had known since we were in law school together. That was in the Spring of 1996. I didn’t know much about the organization prior to that but after hearing about it, I immediately agreed to join and have served on the Board ever since.”

Doug has seen a lot of change in his time on the Board, but the expansion is certainly the biggest milestone for the House.

“An expansion was always something we were considering, but of course was a number of years in the making. It allows us to provide our service for almost three times as many people and that’s just wonderful, makes my service on the Board even more special, memorable.”

Ronald McDonald House is a passion project for the entire Osborn family. His wife, Irene, and two daughters, Carolyn and Bailey, have volunteered at the house and organized many fundraising events. Doug’s mother Sheila is also a big supporter and served a major role in the Capital Campaign for the expansion. The Osborns see the importance for Saskatoon having a home to support families with sick children.

“Both Doug and I are originally from North Battleford,” said Irene. “Not having the services that Saskatoon has, and having two daughters, we can definitely relate to the need for a place like Ronald McDonald House.”

Irene’s first role was to help out with office duties. Over the years, she took over the design of the home’s beloved Christmas Display, which she continues to install with a friend and her daughters every holiday season. Irene has also served terms as chair of the Fashion Show’s organizing committee – an event which has raised thousands of dollars for the House over the years.

“It’s been a wonderful organization to be involved with,” said Irene, “the incredible staff and volunteers doing all they do around the House and the yard. It’s a really special group of people. It’s a volunteer experience with such tangible benefits, when you see the children at the House in town for treatment, or the siblings of sick kids running around the House.”

“I can’t imagine, even being in the organization this long,” said Doug, “what a family goes through when they have a very sick child, let alone that child needing care however many hundreds of miles away from home. If we can help provide a place for a family to stay that provides at least some sense of normalcy so that they can concentrate on giving the care for that child, then that is so important, for the entire Saskatchewan community.”
Marg has been a part of the Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan’s staff since 2000 in the role of Finance and Office Manager.

“It has been a very satisfying part of my life, it is so rewarding” said Marg. “What is so humbling about this House is that when the families are going through their journey, they allow us to be a part of it, giving us the opportunity to help them in any way we can. They’re on a treadmill, they can’t get off it. You watch the people walk out of this house going to their appointments, and you wonder how they can put one foot in front of the other, but they do, because they have to. And we’re here in the background, ready to do whatever we can.”

While Marg admits that there can be a lot of sadness at the House, she also sees great joy. One of her favourite experiences is watching as premature babies move from that early trauma to going home healthy a few months later. She loves getting to know the families.

The staff typically develops relationships with the parents and siblings of the sick children. Usually, one parent stays with the child at the hospital while the other comes back to the house to get some rest and make a meal.

RMHS staff become friends of the children undergoing chemo treatments over the course of their 2-3 year program.

“We serve approximately 500 families over the course of the year. Some of the families are here for a night, for a month, or even many months. We’ve had a family at the house for over a year.

There’s such a need. It’s terrible, but children get sick, children get cancer, babies are born premature. For me, the expansion just means being able to better serve families, to help more families, and that is so important.”
A LABOUR of LOVE

MOYCA STOFFEL, LABOURER, QUOREX CONSTRUCTION

Moyca is part of the Quorex Construction team, the general contractor designated to renovate and expand Ronald McDonald House. She lends a hand wherever she can, assisting carpenters in getting the job done, doing finishing work. She’s also in charge of safety. Moyca has been there right from the beginning of the project, since construction workers broke ground in September of 2012.

“I put up the fence and I’ll probably be the one to take it down at the end of this project,” said Moyca. “It’s really great to see the whole project from start to finish, to see the beginning and end result. And then seeing the people here and the good that this house does and the smiles it brings is really uplifting. It makes you want to go to work everyday.”

Construction workers made a great deal of progress during the early months of 2013, despite it being one of the coldest (and longest!) winters on record. The house lost just one month of operations while everything was transferred from the old part into the expansion.

“We never missed a day of work. The volunteers brought us fresh baking and warm drinks. Seeing the kids’ smiles, waving at us through the windows – it was pretty incredible. It’s one thing to build a house, but to build a house that helps families in need? That’s a real driver.”

2013 saw the buildings outside walls and roof completed, and the cheerful and tranquil paint colours go on the walls of the second and third floors of the expansion.

“Seeing the paint go on the walls was a real milestone for me. It really brought it all together, made it real.”

“It’s one thing to build a house, but to build a house that helps families in need? That’s a real driver.”

Construction Worker
A LABOUR of

Giving back to the communities in which they operate is a core MNP value, be it through volunteering time, talent or money. The partners typically do this by supporting their own personal charities of choice. In 2013, MNP’s partners decided to do something different, to pool their personal donations toward one individual cause.

“We haven’t done this before as a group,” said Tanya, “but we thought our donations could have a greater impact together. One of the partners came forward with the suggestion of Ronald McDonald House and it was instantly one that was very easy for everyone to get behind.”

The partners have since had the chance to go and cook for families at the House, and to see their gift in action. They are part of the house’s “Rowdy Playroom” – fun-loving people supporting a fun area for the children, a place of escape for kids whose families are facing challenging times.

“There’s an impact on the other children in the family, too, the siblings of sick children and they need some normalcy, too, opportunities for play and laughter. There’s so much stress surrounding these kids. The Rowdy Room is a place where they can go to forget it.”

While Tanya has been with MNP for seventeen years, she and her family moved to Saskatchewan just three years ago when she took over her current position. A mother of two boys, 11 and 13 years old, her husband a school teacher in Martensville, Tanya understands the love of family, and the importance of “home”.

“We haven’t had to go through the challenges the families at RMHS have – I can’t imagine the stress these families go through, having to be away from home for a month or more while their child is sick and needing treatment, not having any of those familiar comforts – if we can do anything to relieve even a small part of the weight of their obligations and burdens, than it’s a good thing.”
Carlos and Kristyn Wells live in Moose Jaw with their three sons. Their youngest son, Cohyn, was born with spina bifida, requiring him to have multiple surgeries since his birth. Over the past eight years, Cohyn has undergone eleven surgeries, and there are more ahead. The Wells’ have stayed at the House many times over the years.

“It’s hard because we don’t have family in Saskatoon,” said Kristyn. “Hotels are expensive and not exactly homey. RMHS is an amazing place. The people there are friendly and always available to help you, if you need it. You feel so at home there.”

As Kristyn stays with Cohyn at the hospital, it’s usually just Carlos and the two older Wells boys who stay at the House. Carlos first heard about RMHS after Cohyn’s second surgery and looked into it right away – he found the family’s first experience at the House a welcome change from their previous trips to Saskatoon.

“The House is a great place. It’s so stress free, close enough to the hospital that you can walk over. They are so family oriented. The staff are wonderful. You can talk to other families going through the same thing. And when you walk in the front door, it’s like walking into a family home, and that makes it enjoyable, comfortable.”

The two older Wells boys love it at the House, too.

“They love playing with the other kids, and the atmosphere. It’s way better than being cooped up in a hotel room!”

Carlos appreciates the kitchen, too, especially the personal cupboard that he can fill with snacks for the kids to grab at their leisure. He enjoys cooking meals at the House, BBQ-ing and visiting with other parents.

“It certainly helps out financially, but that’s not the most amazing part of the House. The stress free atmosphere is the most important benefit… all the other stuff, the kitchen, the people, the incredible staff and volunteers. It’s such a great place.”
When Gloria and Dave Tkachuk’s four-year-old granddaughter contracted a virus, things quickly took a turn for the worse. Within just three nights, Emma moved from the regular pediatric ward to observation and finally to Intensive Care, where she was put on life support. The doctors weren’t able to tell the family how long Emma would be there, or whether she would even recover. The Tkachuks wanted, and needed, to be near their granddaughter and her parents during this difficult time.

Driving back and forth from Battleford was not only costly for the Tkachuks, but made more difficult by the fact that Gloria lives with secondary progressive Multiple Sclerosis and requires a wheelchair. Out of desperation, she contacted RMHS.

“I was so moved by the compassion shown to us. Not only were we offered a room, we felt welcomed and knew that our situation was understood. We were amazed, not only with the facility, but at the staff and volunteers.”

Without the House, the Tkachuks would have had to deal with a significant financial burden during an already difficult time. They’re grateful for an experience that was not only affordable, but warm, accessible and homelike.

“Being able to be near our very sick granddaughter helped us to have the strength to cope and get through each day. Realizing that there was a chance of losing her was extremely difficult; not being able to be with her during that time would have been unbearable.”

Today, Emma is at home and doing well. The Tkachuks remember their time at the House with gratitude, as a “ray of sunshine in an otherwise dark time” of their lives.
Kathy Boechler has been volunteering at the House since before it was built. She has worn many hats since she assisted in the initial fundraising efforts in 1983. She has given tours, baked, chaired the 25th Anniversary Committee and much more. She continues to decorate the house for each change of season and holiday, volunteer at the fashion show and is happy to lend a hand whenever she can.

In 2013, Kathy began work on the House’s Quilt Project, another effort by volunteers to make the house as homey and comfortable as possible.

“As it was expanding, everyone felt it was so important for the House to remain a ‘home not a hotel’, said Kathy. “We thought a great way to do that would be to have homemade quilts sewn by people across Saskatchewan, on the beds, scattered around the rooms. We began by writing letters, making phone calls, championing the project by word of mouth, getting in touch with our province’s quilters.”

Kathy says it’s the simple things that bring a family comfort when faced with hard times. “At the House, you can enjoy an environment as close to your home as possible. You can cook your own comfort food, whenever you want. You’re not dependent upon restaurant menus or schedules. And there’s also such a strong sense of community there, people baking, dropping off casseroles – you are surrounded by kind, supportive people.”

Having lost her own son to cancer, and grateful for the adult equivalent of the House in Vancouver, Kathy can relate to the need for the House in a very immediate way. “During that time, I was so grateful we had a home base where we could do laundry, cook meals, grateful to have a place that helped not only with the financial restrictions, but with the emotional difficulty during that time. It’s not easy when you’ve got a sick child and you’re in a city that’s not your own, staying at a place that’s not your own. The House gives families a comfortable, safe place to be when their lives have been turned upside down – that is so important.”
Thank you BUILDERS

For Every Family

Thank you to the individuals, organizations and companies that gave so generously to our House renovation and expansion campaign, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous. The following list recognizes donors who made their gifts before April 30, 2014.

Although effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list, we acknowledge that errors and omissions may have occurred. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, we apologize and look forward to hearing from you: (306) 244-5700 or mcoverett@rmh.sk.ca

the 2013 Capital Campaign

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A heartfelt thank you to all donors who contributed to Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan in 2013, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous. This list includes donors whose gifts to the House totaled $500 or more and were received by December 31st, 2013.

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Canadian Western Agribition
Canora Kamsack Swan River Parochial District
Cargill Limited
Chemco Electrical Contractors Ltd
Chianti Cafe & Restaurant
Christ Lutheran Ladies CIBC
Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Cornerstone Church - Mennonite
Cornerstone Credit Union
Coronary Artery Rehab Group Inc.
Cossette Communication Inc
Marg Coverett
CWL Clothing Depot Inc
Dart Players of Southern Sask
DCG Philanthropic Services Ltd
Louise deMontarnal
James and Una Dewitt
Douglass Osborn Legal Prof Corp
Susan Dunbar
Dr W Dust Medical Prof Corp
Rose Eberle
Peter Epp
Federated Co-operatives Limited
David and Bonnie Flood
Fraternal Order Of Eagles
Front Line Furniture
Craig and Jenna Gelsinger
Golden West Chapter #38 OES
William and Diane Gow
H & J Klassen Holdings Ltd
Tracy Hansen
Lee and Crystal Harris
Hayley Industrial Electronics
Cecil Hayward
Hugh Helgason
Joe Helperl
High Noon Optimist Club
M R Hnenny
Honourable Order of Blue Goose
Ken Howland and Marcia Clark
Ideal Auto Paint Solutions Information Services Corp Staff
Inner Wheel District #555
Jerry and Janice Johnson
Olga Johnson
Kjell Johnston
Murray Johnston
David Kauth
Kieron Kilduff
Dr Daniel Kirchgesner
Knights of Columbus
Knights Of Columbus #1886
Randy and Cathy Krochak
KS Midtown Plaza LP

M Elaine Lang
Derek Larson
Leader River Hills Lions
WM E Lick
Little Loon Regional Park Board
Local 107 Sask Union of Nurses
Loraas Disposal Services Ltd
Lynbrook Ladies Golf
Lynco Construction Ltd
MacTop Publishing Inc
Manulife Fi’cial-United Way Admin
March Schaffel Architects
Mary J March
Faye Marcoux
Marion M Graham Collegiate
Martensville Lions Project
Maximum Training
Bonnie McAmmond
McCannell Financial Group Ltd
McDonald’s Estevan
McDonald’s Humboldt
McDonald’s Kindersley
McDonald’s Lloydminster
McDonald’s Meadow Lake
McDonald’s Moose Jaw
McDonald’s North Battleford
McDonald’s Prince Albert
McDonald’s Saskatoon
McDonald’s Regina
McDonald’s Weyburn
McDonald’s Yorkton
McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada
IN-KIND SPONSORS

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Coca-Cola Ltd.
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Danone
Ecolab
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La-Z-Boy Furniture
McCain
McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Limited
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Saskatoon Media Group
Seventy-Seven Signs Ltd.
Sheraton Cavalier Hotel
Solar Gardens
Star Produce
The StarPhoenix
Today’s Technology
Varimax Information Systems Inc.
Weber BBQ Shop
Wellington Estate Wines

Special thanks to Creative Fire and sweetmoon photography for their help in producing this annual review.
A LABOUR of LOVE

Your donation to Ronald McDonald House Saskatchewan does more than you know. It brings comfort. It sends encouragement. It gives kids the love and support of their families when they need it most.

Thank you for your support.

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