



# Home Matters

— Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Idaho, Inc. —

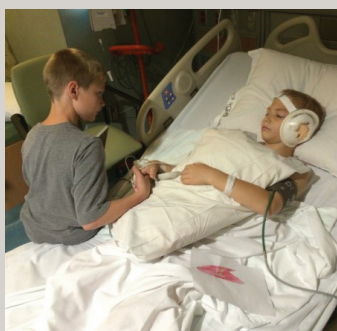
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This past summer brought quite a journey for Collin and our family. This adventure created strength, courage, hope, laughter, and appreciation for a gift that we will hold in our hearts forever.

In a situation where the best medical treatment for our son Collin was 2000 miles away from home, we were welcomed into a home that would become our haven through the weeks of recovery after Collin's surgery. I still look back months later in awe of how amazing it is that the Idaho Ronald McDonald House provided us with such remarkable strength in the face of adversity. How does one place provide so many layers of support without missing a beat? There are so many factors involved in providing the depth of support we received. Compassion, love, warm meals, freshly baked cookies, laughter, numerous local excursions and the support of the other families were all parts we needed to get through all of this. These small everyday acts of human kindness and generosity were not just given to us, but were truly an essence of each staff member and volunteer that was a part of the Ronald McDonald House and surrounding community.

As parents we have been through a great deal; with many struggles and losses to become parents, both our boys born premature in a high risk situation, Collin undergoing heart surgery, removal of a tumor, GI issues, hemangioma, torticollis, and being partially deaf has taught us many lessons I would not wish upon anyone. I went into this surgery in Idaho thinking I had it all pulled together and that



I was prepared to face this next challenge for Collin. After 16 hours of surgery, I was brought to my knees once again. The day after Collin's surgery, with a need to ground myself, I embarked on a 12 mile run along the Greenbelt (a gift in itself!). I came across a monument that wrapped my emotions into something that made sense and gave me the ability to re-center myself for what our purpose was in Idaho. All we had to do was believe...

Our family instantly fell in love with Boise, Idaho. Each day brought so many acts of kindness and generosity. Boise became our place of hope when our world seemed to be falling apart. The Ronald McDonald House certainly had a power and strength within their walls that gave us the network of support and gift of togetherness when we needed it the most. We were able to focus on Collin and supporting him through his recovery, while everything else seemed to appear right when we needed it.

I would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the Ronald McDonald House; whether big or small it all added up to the moments that changed our lives and touched our hearts forever. I don't think we could ever express in words the life changing moments we were engulfed in from everyone's generosity. I am so grateful for the life lessons we were able to show our boys on how your actions can mean so much to someone else when they need it. The boys made new friends and Collin had the ability to spend time with kids in the same condition as him. A friend of ours told us,



"I think this trip holds a much bigger picture and meaning than what is immediate". I know this is true and in some way I know our family will take what we have been given by the Idaho Ronald McDonald House and surrounding community and be able to return this great gift back to someone else down the road.

Thank you so much for everything,  
*Brian, Lisa, Hayden, and Collin Baker*

## Mission Statement

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Idaho operates the Idaho Ronald McDonald House® to provide a temporary home away from home for families of ill or injured children receiving treatment at Boise medical facilities. In addition, the Charity invests in community programs that promote the health and well-being of children.

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Home Matters is a publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Idaho, Inc.

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## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Tonya Kardas and Joan Whitacre joined the Board of Directors for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho in the Fall of 2014. Kardas and Whitacre will each serve a three year term on the Board.

Tonya Kardas



Kardas is the Nursing Director at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and has worked as a certified Oncology nurse for over 14 years. She works closely with the Family Maternal Child Center and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She brings skills in leadership and family centered care to the organization.

Joan Whitacre



Whitacre is the owner of Carol's Design House and an interior designer. She has an extensive background in business, construction and design. She has also worked as a CPA and corporate controller. She was involved with the Idaho Ronald McDonald House on a refurbishing project and is excited to share her skills with an organization that fulfills a critical need in the community.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF HOUSE OPERATIONS

Kelly Houston Staskey



Kelly joined the RMHC team in early February, coming to us with a strong background in the nonprofit and public sector. Previously, she was Executive Director of Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, where she administered Idaho's AmeriCorps program and Idaho's Promise.

Kelly is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House. She serves as a resource to families and the program staff, working with guests, referring agencies and in-kind donors. She has been impressed with the large number of people in the community who support the House through volunteering or donating. She is most excited to see the direct impact the House makes on families when their children are in the hospital, and how meaningful it is that the House relieves parents of the stress and worry of finding and paying for a place to stay.

Please stop by and say hello to Kelly, she'd be delighted to meet you!

MAY 29TH & 30TH

2015

12TH ANNUAL

Sporting Clays is a clay target game designed to simulate field shooting. On the Sporting Clays course, shooters will be presented with a variety of targets that duplicate the flight path of game birds.

**100 Bird NSCA Registered Event**

**12-Gauge Ammunition Provided**

**Participant Prizes & Meals**

**Side Games**

**Silent Auction**

**Friday Evening  
Reception**



**Register online at**  
**<https://rmhcidst.maxgiving.com>**



**Friday, May 29, 2015 • Shotgun start at 1:00pm • Reception Starts after Shooting**  
**Saturday, May 30, 2015 • Starting at 8:00am at 10 Minute Intervals until 2:30pm**  
**Black Dog Clays • 7680 Vallejo Road, Boise, ID**

For over 27 years, the Idaho Ronald McDonald House® has provided a safe, comfortable haven for more than 9,800 families whose children are hospitalized or receiving treatment for an illness or injury. The generosity of this community helps ensure that this House remains a "home away from home" for families at a time when they need it most.

You can help by being involved in the 12th Annual Western States CAT Sporting Clays Tournament fundraiser at Black Dog Clays in Boise as a sponsor, individual shooter, auction/prize donor, or volunteer

- Corporate/Team Sponsor: \$1,250
- Side Game Sponsor: \$500
- Individual Registration: \$150
- Saturday Re-Entry: \$115
- Station Sponsor: \$225
- Shotgun Raffle Ticket: \$25
- Auction/Prize Donor
- Volunteer

Register online at [rmhcidst.maxgiving.com](https://rmhcidst.maxgiving.com). Sponsorship confirmation must be received by May 1st to be included in promotional materials.

All participants are invited to join us Friday after the Tournament at the range from 4:00pm to 6:30pm for a fun evening with food provided by Calle 75 Street Tacos, beverages, the silent auction, and shotgun raffle. It's a great time to socialize with other Sporting Clays enthusiasts and Idaho RMH supporters.

Side games, silent auction, raffle, and food and beverages will be available throughout the Tournament. Side games are \$10 for 10 targets and will open at 11:00am Friday and 7:00am Saturday. These games are a great way to warm up before going out on the range and fun for a friendly contest between teammates.

The Tournament is a 100 bird NSCA registered event and will be scored using the Lewis Class system which gives shooters of different abilities a more equitable chance to win a prize. The number of classes will be determined by the total number of participants from both Friday and Saturday. Awards are given to the Tournament high overall score and runner up, and prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each class. The prizes will be awarded at the end of the Tournament after all scores have been posted.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellie Pharis at (208) 336-5478 or [ellie@rmhcidaho.org](mailto:ellie@rmhcidaho.org)

**Tournament will be held  
rain or shine.**





# VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THIS HOUSE A HOME





# Scott Stolhand **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Scott Stolhand



Every year we have the honor of recognizing one of our volunteers with the Volunteer of the Year Award. As an organization that relies on volunteers we are very fortunate to have individuals who are committed to our mission and provide support to the families we serve; a few of these volunteers have been with us since the House opened in 1988.

This year it was our pleasure to award Scott Stolhand with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Scott started volunteering in 2009 and is willing to do anything and everything to help the Idaho RMH and the families we serve. Every week Scott takes the recycling collected at the House to the recyclers; he'll work on any maintenance, building, or other odd job that needs attention; and during our fundraising events he assists with set up, tear down, and whatever else we ask. Scott is always someone we look forward to working with because of his abilities and willingness to help...and we would be remiss not to mention his sense of humor that keeps us all laughing.

Thank you Scott for sharing your talent and time.

# **Mary Hansen** **Retires From** **the Recycling** **Program**



*Idaho RMH Staff honored Mary at a luncheon and surprised her with a clutch made from pull-tabs!*

A big part of the Ronald McDonald House fundraising efforts is done through our recycling program and one woman spearheaded this program from the beginning, Mary Hansen. She volunteered as the Recycling Program Manager starting in January 1997 and has developed this program over the years. She formed relationships with recycling centers around Idaho, encouraged businesses, schools and individuals to recycle on behalf of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House, and has served as our liaison - always willing to speak to groups, go to presentations and pick up pounds upon pounds of pull tabs to recycle. Her work has been tireless and we sincerely appreciate all the time, effort and love she has put into this program. We wish her the best and appreciate her development and sustainability of the recycling program.



# VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

Beginning this spring, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho is part of a new national RMHC Vehicle Donation Program. We are excited to partner on a national level with the RMHC system and Insurance Auto Auctions.

It's easy! Simply donate your car, truck, RV or boat (it can even be picked up free of charge), and we'll steer you through the paperwork. Then, RMHC of Idaho gets the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle, while you get the tax donation! You can call 1-855-CARS-HELP or visit [carshelp.org](http://carshelp.org) to learn more today.

No pushing required.



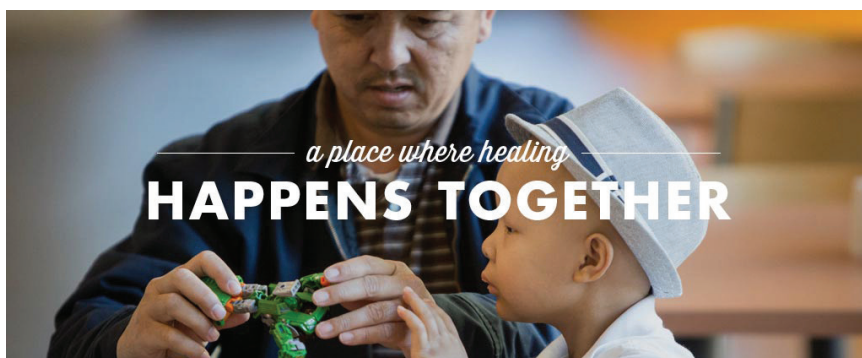
Donate your vehicle and we'll pick it up for free.

It's child's play to help us help the families of hospitalized, seriously ill children. We'll pick up your car, truck, RV or boat free of charge and steer you through the paperwork. Then, we get the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle, while a hefty tax deduction rolls your way. Call or visit our website for more information.



RONALD MCDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES\*  
IDAHO

1-855-CARS-HELP  
1-855-227-7435  
[CarsHelp.org](http://CarsHelp.org)



We are all in this together and your help is what makes it happen. RMHC of Idaho relies on the generosity of thousands of donors, volunteers and a supportive and caring community. There are so many ways to make a difference.

- Make a general donation at anytime
- Volunteer at the House to make a meal, bake or clean up around the House
- Purchase a few items from our Wish List and deliver them to the House or order items online through our Amazon.com Wish List and have them shipped directly to the House.
- Host a fundraiser to benefit the Idaho RMH
- Take advantage of your company's matching gift program
- Become a sustaining donor
- Start an online fundraiser
- Shop online through Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate a percentage of your qualified purchase to the Idaho RMH
- "Like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter. Share the RMHC of Idaho message with your network.

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE® PROGRAM IMPACT

The Ronald McDonald Houses' **proximity to hospitals** provides important benefits for children and their caregivers, such as improved psychological well-being and better perceptions of their child's recovery.\*



\*Frank et al. Families, Systems, & Health (2013)  
©2015 RMHC







A heartfelt thank you to all who have generously donated items from our Wish List to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House. Our guests are very grateful for the thoughtful ways our supporters make their stay more comfortable.

Items currently needed at the Idaho Ronald McDonald House are listed below. When you are shopping for your family consider adding a few things to your cart for the families at the Idaho RMH. Your generosity helps make this House a comfortable, welcoming home away from home for families who travel to Boise for the medical care their child needs.

#### **+ GIFT CARDS**

Winco  
Fred Meyer  
Walgreens  
Regal Cinemas  
Gas Cards

#### **+ HOUSEHOLD**

Large Hot or Cold Beverage Cups  
Non-Stick Frying Pans – All Sizes  
Non-Stick or Regular Pots and  
Pans – All Sizes  
Cooling Racks  
Cookie Sheets

#### **+ LINENS & THINGS**

Queen 400-count Egyptian  
Cotton Sheets  
Royal Velvet Egyptian-Cotton Blankets  
(Queen) (JC Penney)  
Standard Size Bed Pillows  
Royal Velvet Bedspreads  
(Queen) (JC Penney)  
White Bath Mats  
Kitchen Hand Towels

#### **+ CLEANING SUPPLIES**

Mr. Clean Magic Erasers  
Dish Scrubbers / Steel Wool Pads  
Dishwasher Detergent  
Sanitizing Wipes  
Tide Laundry Detergent

#### **+ FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

Fresh Fruit – Oranges, Grapes,  
Bananas  
Ground Coffee  
Juice Boxes  
Individually Packaged Snack Foods

#### **+ PERSONAL ITEMS**

Hand Sanitizer – Travel Size  
Body lotions / scrubs

#### **+ ITEMS FOR WELCOME BAGS**

Adult To-Go Cups  
Women's and Men's Slippers –  
All Sizes  
Women's and Men's Sweatpants  
and Sweatshirts

#### **+ GARDENING TOOLS**

Gloves  
Hand tools  
Rakes  
Outdoor Garbage Bags

The Wish List can also be found on our website ([www.rmhcidaho.org](http://www.rmhcidaho.org)) or if it is more convenient, you can order items from our online Wish List at Amazon.com. No matter the size of your donation to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House, it is warmly received and greatly appreciated.

**For the safety of our guest families all donated items must be new, not past expiration dates, and in original packaging.**



# Regence

With the support of Regence BlueShield of Idaho this past year, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho was able to surpass all goals to raise understanding and awareness of our mission across Idaho. Being selected as a Community Partner Organization was a true game changer for us in 2014 and we are so grateful to be named a Regence Community Partner Organization again in 2015! Regence community partner organizations receive comprehensive assistance through financial grants (\$50,000 for us this year!), event support, board member involvement, featured

placement in an annual employee giving campaign and the efforts of employee volunteers. The continuation of such broad support will strengthen our ability to engage volunteers and donors, and allow us to focus on essential messaging to further heighten visibility for the House. Watch for more information leading up to Idaho Gives on May 7. This community partnership has exciting potential for long-lasting, meaningful impact – that builds on the generosity and continued commitment of Regence BlueShield of Idaho.



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# Regence

2015 Community Partner Organization



## Ronald McDonald House EVENTS



May 29 & 30 Western States CAT/  
Idaho Ronald McDonald House  
**Sporting Clays Tournament**  
Black Dog Clays – Boise, ID  
*More information about the Tournament on  
Page 3 of this Newsletter*

September 23 **J.R. Simplot Memorial  
Golf Tournament**  
Falcon Crest Golf Club – Kuna, ID  
**Dinner and Charity Auction – Sept 22**  
Stueckle Sky Center,  
Boise State University Campus

*For more information about these events visit our website  
at [www.rmhcidaho.org](http://www.rmhcidaho.org) or call (208)336-5478.*

Community

## EVENTS

*Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House*



- May 1-10 **Lovin' #forRMHC**  
Stop in at any McDonald's and purchase a "Heart"  
for just \$1. Your donation helps keep families together.
- May 7 **Idaho Gives**  
Statewide 24-hour online giving day
- May 16 & 17 **10th Annual Matthew Long  
Memorial Golf Tournament**  
Quail Ridge Golf Course  
Baker City, OR
- Now — June **Smiles for Life/Teammates  
for Kids Program**  
Teeth Whitening at Blaisdell Family Dentistry  
[www.blaisdellfamilydentistry.com](http://www.blaisdellfamilydentistry.com)
- July 6-12 **26th Annual Albertsons Boise Open**  
presented by Kraft  
Hillcrest Country Club  
Purchase your Tournament tickets online  
(<http://bit.ly/1GkK3Yp>) and support the Idaho RMH.