



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Idaho

Keeping families close

Home Matters

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

Volume 18, Issue 1 | Spring 2017



Emory Grace

A FIGHTER FROM DAY 1

The first six months of my first pregnancy were picture perfect! I had to remind myself I was going to have a baby. No nausea, no high blood pressure, and I was just barely beginning to show. We found out we were having a baby girl at 20 weeks. Yahoo!!

Then at 24 weeks, I began to have chest pain, right upper abdomen pain, shortness of breath and headaches. I gained 12 pounds in 10 days. I decided to go to the ER where I was diagnosed with HELLP (hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, and low platelet count) syndrome, a severe form of pre-eclampsia. Thirty-six scary hours later, my daughter, Emory Grace, was born via emergency C-section. She was 25 weeks and 4 days into her 40 week gestation. Emory was a fighter from day one! A feisty 12.5 inch, 1.5 pound fireball, she overcame the many obstacles of being born four months too early.

Thanks to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House and the amazing staff and volunteers, her family was able to be by her side every single day of the 108 days she spent at

St. Luke's Boise NICU. The RMH allowed me to be a part of my daughter's first and very scary four months of life. From laundry to ready-made meals, a hot shower, and warm conversation, "the House" had it all. The ability to come and go as needed, to be by Emory's side as much as possible was priceless. When I wasn't at the NICU, to be only a couple blocks away was the greatest gift!

Later when I had to return to work, my mom or my husband were allowed to stay in my room so that they could be with Emory when I couldn't. This meant a great deal to our family, as we believe that this closeness of family helped our little girl to heal and grow strong. We are reminded everyday of all the kindness we were shown by all those at "the House." We will forever be grateful to have been fortunate enough to be by Emory's side all that time she was growing strong enough to come home. Emory is now 14 months old and weighs 15 pounds. She is as happy and healthy as any little girl can be.

Forever Grateful - Bobbi Jo, Dan, and Emory, Caldwell, Idaho

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.

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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

We are thrilled that Mary Johnson and Scott Jones have joined the statewide Board for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho.

Mary Johnson



Mary Johnson,

Mary is a McDonald's owner/operator in the Pocatello area and has been involved in supporting the mission of the House for many years. She also serves on the Pocatello/Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce and the City of Pocatello Animal Shelter. She is an active community volunteer and Rotary member.

Scott Jones



Scott Jones,

Scott is the Vice-President of Sales for Regence BlueShield of Idaho and has served as a member of the RMHC's marketing committee for the past year. Relocated to the Treasure Valley two years ago, he has actively engaged in supporting his passions, including the Ronald McDonald House and Boise State Wrestling.

WISH LIST ITEMS AVAILABLE THROUGH

Ordering Wish List items for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho from Amazon.com is a convenient way to support the House. Search for the Idaho RMH Wish List under "Find A List" to view our current needs. Select the items you would like to donate and place your order. The items will be shipped directly to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House and if you include a gift receipt, we'll be able to send you a note when we receive the package.

To help even more, place your [Wish List \(and personal\) order through AmazonSmile](#); 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to RMHC of Idaho. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and login to your Amazon account, then select Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho as your charity of choice. It's that easy!

Our monthly Wish List is still available on our website and you are welcome to deliver any of these items to the House at your convenience. We would love to see you.

CURRENTLY IN NEED:

- Plastic and glass storage containers - all sizes
- White bath towels, hand towels and washcloths
- Individual bags of fruit snacks and chips
- Quick Breakfast Items: granola bars, pop tarts, oatmeal packets
- Vegetable and Olive oil

Thank you for your generosity.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER NOW & IN THE FUTURE

At RMHC of Idaho, we provide strength and support to children and their families by keeping them together when they need it most. Your help allows us to bring comfort and care to these families today. But have you ever considered a gift that would plan for the future?

Many supporters choose to create a giving legacy through planned gifts. Unlike cash donations, planned gifts are typically made from assets in your estate rather than from disposable income, and may come to fruition after your lifetime. Even people of modest means can make a difference through a bequest, life insurance, a retirement plan asset or other estate vehicles.

Find out more about beginning your giving legacy by visiting our website at www.rmhcpghome.org/Idaho.



INVESTING IN CAPACITY AND HELPING RAISE AWARENESS

It's typical for a nonprofit with a smaller budget to have very little to spend on marketing and communications. We are fortunate to have a committee of experts who give of their time, but when it comes to money available in the budget, that's much lower on the priority list than the weekly grocery shopping, repairs and maintenance, or supplies and linens.

In steps Regence BlueShield of Idaho with dedicated grant funds to help Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho with our marketing, communications and awareness. We've been able to take advantage of education opportunities about communication best practices, building a social media strategy and measuring engagement, designing and executing an awareness campaign to share how our mission is keeping families close, and engage a Digital Marketing Intern to focus on developing our messaging.

Companies that are willing to invest in helping non-profit organizations develop new skills and processes make the dollars they invest in their community go a lot further. RMHC of Idaho is honored to have received this high level of support from Regence BlueShield of Idaho for the past three years. Their partnership has been a true game changer for our organization. Thanks to Regence for investing in our vision!



Regence BlueShield of Idaho employees enjoy volunteering at the House.

Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THIS HOUSE A HOME

Facts/Figures

- 9,124 volunteer hours were donated in 2016
- 448 meals were prepared to help nourish guest families
- 1,995 individual volunteers provided their support and service to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House

If you would like to be included on a monthly email that lists available baking, meal preparation, around the House, yard work and special event shifts for the next month please email our Volunteer Coordinator at micaela@rmhcidaho.org.



Garrett Camp and Okland Construction



Noreen, Laurie, Karrie and Kari



Taylor Hartung



ISU Nursing Students



Restored Community Church

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Gina Ahrens and
Hazelle Kaylor



We are always honored to recognize volunteers who show a commitment to service and the families we serve. This year we recognize Gina Ahrens and Hazelle Kaylor as our Volunteers of the Year.

Hazelle initially volunteered by bringing baked goods to the Idaho RMH (before we put in our guidelines that food has to be prepared at the House). When Hazelle and Gina retired they wanted to volunteer together and the Idaho Ronald McDonald House provided that opportunity. Now they have been volunteering once a month for ten years. They work on projects around the House which can include organizing closets or the kitchen drawers, ironing bed skirts, putting away donations, dusting blinds and a variety of other projects... just whatever we happen to need that day. A few years ago they also

started helping organize auction items, putting together the auction baskets and getting everything labeled for our Sporting Clays and J.R. Simplot Memorial Golf Tournament auctions.

The dynamic duo, as some refer to them since they are constantly on the go and talking with each other, choose to volunteer because they enjoy helping the families and the staff. Hazelle shared her experiences with her husband who is part of the Gem State Kiwanis and they now come and prepare dinner a few times a year. Although he doesn't cook at home he is more than willing to cook at the Idaho RMH.

We can't thank Gina and Hazelle enough. They have helped in so many ways these past ten years and we look forward to having them volunteer for many more years to come.



Idaho Air National Guard



Tri Delta



BSU Softball Team

Our Wonderful Volunteers

Volunteers bake treats, make meals, perform projects around the House, do yard work, and help at our fundraising events – anything that needs to be done, they are willing to do. We appreciate these wonderful volunteers who share their time and talent to make the House a welcoming, supportive place to stay for families.

IT'S EASY TO DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

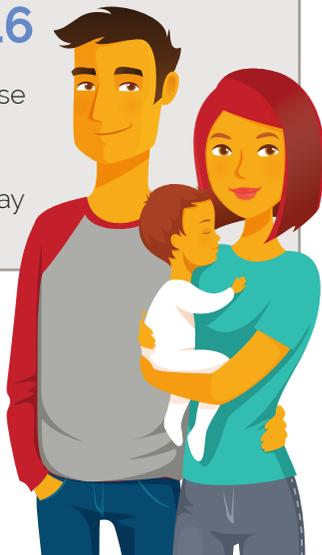


If you think that old car in your driveway isn't worth much, we would like to turn that thinking around. By donating your car, truck, boat, tractor, or RV to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho, you can help provide families a welcoming, supportive place to stay at the Idaho Ronald McDonald House and keep them together during the hospitalization of their seriously ill child.

And on top of that, you can claim a tax deduction for your charitable donation. We'll even come pick up your vehicle at no charge. To donate your vehicle, or to learn more about the program and how it helps, call toll free 855-CARS-HELP (227-7435) or visit our website CarsHelp.org.

KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE IN 2016

572 families used the House
4,553 nights of lodging
9 days was the average stay



Over the past several months, we have put an emphasis on expanding our reach of social media. Through different social media platforms, a large audience can be reached so that we can share our amazing stories and receive the support needed to keep families close to each other and the medical care their children need. Whether we are sharing day to day activities at the House, a celebration for a family, or a message about events and campaigns, we want to keep our followers connected to what is going at the House.

Along with maintaining communication between our current followers, we strive to reach new audiences so that all can hear our mission. Our hopes are to inform people who don't know us about who we are and what we do. You can help us further this goal by simply sharing our stories and messages through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Social media is a team effort and we appreciate your continued love and support through our channels.

WE NEED YOU... TO VOLUNTEER!

Would you like to be more involved with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho? Here's your chance... We are looking for people to volunteer at our Sporting Clays Tournament, work at the Front Desk, and be a member of our auction committee.

Sporting Clays Tournament: June 2 and 3, 2017

There are a wide variety of volunteer positions available including:

- Trapping and Scoring at the Stations
- Parking Attendant
- Taking Pictures



Front Desk Sub: Monday – Friday: 9am – 1pm and 1pm – 5pm

This is ideal for someone with a flexible schedule. You don't have to commit to a regular day or time, instead we will contact you when one of our regular Front Desk volunteers is unable to work their shift.



Auction Committee: Year-Round

Participation on this committee involves planning, executing and evaluating our three annual auctions. You'll be working with other fun and energetic volunteers to make our auctions exciting and profitable.



For additional information about these opportunities, please contact Micaela de Loyola-Carkin, Volunteer Coordinator at micaela@rmhcidaho.org or (208) 336-5478.

JUNE 2ND & 3RD

2017

14TH 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



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Idaho

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

IDAHO SPORTING CLAYS *Tournament*



Friday, June 2, 2017 • Shotgun start at 2:30pm
Saturday, June 3, 2017 • Starting at 8:00am at 10 Minute Intervals until 2:30pm
Black Dog Clays • 7680 Vallejo Road, Boise, ID

For 29 years, Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Idaho has provided a safe, comfortable place to stay at the Idaho Ronald McDonald House for more than 10,500 families whose children are hospitalized or receiving treatment for an illness or injury. The generosity of the community helps keep families close to each other and the medical care their children need. All proceeds from this event are used locally to support RMHC of Idaho.

You can help by being involved in the 14th 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
- Friday Reception Sponsor: \$500
- Equipment Sponsor: \$500
- Award Reception Sponsor: \$500
- Snack Sponsor: \$250
- Station Sponsor: \$225

Register online at <https://rmhcidst.maxgiving.com>.
Sponsorship confirmation must be received by May 5th to be included in promotional materials.

The Tournament is a 100 bird NSCA registered event (NSCA membership not required to participate) 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. Trophies will be awarded to the Tournament high overall score and 1st runner up, and prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each class. The prizes will be distributed at the end of the Tournament after all scores have been posted.

Side games, silent auction, and food and Coca-Cola® products will be available throughout the Tournament. After shooting each day snacks, soft drinks and other beverages will be served.

The side games will open at 11:30am Friday and 7:00am Saturday and are \$10 for 10 targets. These games are a great way to warm up before going out on the range and fun for a friendly contest between teammates.





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www.rmhcidaho.org

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Regence

2017 Community Partner
Organization

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho
EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Benefiting
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho

May 1-14

Honor Your Mom

Make a donation through our online Mother's Day donation site in honor of your Mom, sister, daughter, friend, etc. www.rmhcidaho.org

June 2 & 3

Western States CAT/Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho Sporting Clays Tournament

Black Dog Clays – Boise, ID
More information about the Tournament on Page 7 of this Newsletter

Sept 20

J.R. Simplot Memorial Golf Tournament

Falcon Crest Golf Club – Kuna, ID
Dinner and Charity Auction – Sept 19 JUMP

May 4

Idaho Gives

Statewide 24-hour online giving day

Now - June Smiles for Life/Teammates for Kids Program

Teeth Whitening at Blaisdell Family Dentistry www.blaisdellfamilydentistry.com

Sept 12-18

28th Annual Albertsons Boise Open

Hillcrest Country Club
Purchase your Tournament tickets online (<http://bit.ly/1pv0D5w>) and support RMHC of Idaho.

For more information about these events visit our website at www.rmhcidaho.org or call (208)336-5478.