



EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON

by Michael Marin

Everyone has a story and it is this common theme that in my opinion, brings us together in ways we cannot usually predict. Some end in what we term death, while others begin in what we term life.

The part of our story we would like to share starts with the amazing process of life coming into form, in this instance, our son Tameer Marin.

Early complications led to his first helicopter ride (we haven't even been in a helicopter!) and a brief, if not wild, stay in the Boise NICU for two and a half weeks. There, it seems, our son had a reaction to a drug which had a large impact on his hearing. It was also there that a whole world of dedicated teams and individuals brought their complex, amazing work to light.

Tameer went home with us with an indication of hearing issues and upon our first audiology appointment, we learned that a mild situation had been diagnosed. Upon our next appointment a month or so later, it had been dialed up

several notches to severe in both ears. Choosing the color of his hearing aids was the least of our concerns, though because stories need color, we chose blue and red (top and bottom), yet when red was out of stock, it was blue and blue. The Infant Toddler program and a local pediatrician assisted as did a multitude of other factors we simply refer to as, "This interesting phase of the journey".

We practice an intentioned lifestyle to support Tameer in any way...things such as co-sleeping; breast milk from my beautiful wife Eliska and a host of donor mothers, organic juice, probiotics, homeopathics, detoxing drugs and chelating heavy metals for inflammation and brain health, and a slew of herbs. In Chinese medicine the kidneys tie into the ears and since antibiotics can damage the auditory hair cells, we wanted to cover that base with something potent. Along with these came alternative therapies such as acupuncture, massage, reiki, craniosacral, reflexology, voice over toning, magnet therapy, acupressure, drumming, laughing, playing intentional meditation, prayer, being around

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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

Welcome to the newest members of the RMHC of Idaho Board of Directors. Elizabeth and Marcene joined us in January 2018 and will each serve a three year term.



Elizabeth Criner,
Managing Partner Veritas Advisors LLP

Active in health policy and government affairs, Elizabeth brings a wealth of experience and support to the Board. She is committed to the role that RMHC plays in the support of the families of patients at the children's hospital and is looking forward to becoming more involved. Past involvement in other community and nonprofit boards include the Red Cross, IACI and the Chamber.



Marcene Taylor,
Owner MTI, Construction Cost Planning
and Budget Management

Marcene's area of expertise is in developing budgets and construction cost estimates for capital projects, which makes her a perfect fit as RMHC of Idaho explores growth in the Ronald McDonald House program. She has twenty years of experience and serves as the national president of the American Society of Professional Estimators. Marcene has supported the mission of the House

for several years through the Western States CAT Sporting Clays tournament and is excited to be a part of the new growth opportunities ahead. She also serves on the board of the Help Up Foundation, a Veteran's group in Boise.

Everything Happens for a Reason ~ Continued From Page 1

animals (dogs mostly, some horses) and of course mom's, my, and our families' love. Eliska's family came all the way from Slovakia early on.

So now the WOW! We missed a couple of audiology appointments due to my needing extensive knee surgery and though my caring wife had her hands full taking care of two needy men, she was rewarded with amazing news when we finally got to the audiologist in Boise. Tameer's hearing had normalized in the left ear! So he can hear high pitches for speech.

We were steeped in gratitude and Tameer said in his own words that he, "knew it months ago and that was why he kept pulling the hearing aids off and putting them in his mouth", where they whined like little animals, alerting us of the situation. Well little angel, we are so happy, and honor your healing capabilities and your marvelous plasticity! Please continue to heal.

Praise and gratitude to all, including the precious souls both working and passing through the Idaho Ronald McDonald House, where close proximity to the hospital and such support was absolutely vital, stress relieving and a true home away from home. May everyone passing through these doorways find this same sense of joy and wonder, community and balance, within this miraculous adventure!

30 YEARS OF KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

In March of 1985, a group of local doctors, parents, community volunteers and McDonald's owners met to discuss the concept of a Ronald McDonald House in Idaho. This group shared a vision and commitment to provide what has become a "home-away-from-home" for more than 11,000 families during the past 30 years. They started out small, with a big goal in mind - opening a home where families could stay with their sick children close to the hospital.

The perfect house was found - a home at 101 Warm Springs Avenue in Boise. The Idaho Ronald McDonald House opened on February 1, 1988 with 4 bedrooms and was the smallest Ronald McDonald House in the world. Over 30 years and two expansions later, the 14,000 square foot facility can accommodate 17 families each night.

The past 30 years have seen many changes, growth and adjustments at this "House That Love Built," but the mission to provide a home for families of ill and injured children has never wavered.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho raises all funds for operating the Idaho Ronald McDonald House locally, through donations and signature fundraising events.

\$30 For 30

You can join in our year-long 30th Anniversary Celebration by becoming a sustaining donor. Your monthly, weekly or quarterly recurring donation of \$30 (or any amount of you choose) gives RMHC of Idaho a steady source of support while balancing your annual giving. It's easy to set up a donation that is automatically charged to you credit card or debited from your checking account. Visit our Anniversary Donation page at rmhcidaho.givingfuel.com/30th-anniversary.com to start your monthly donation in honor of 30 years of keeping families together and close to the medical care their children need.



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Idaho

Celebrating 30 Years



As part of our 30th Anniversary, we wanted to hear from past families about their experience staying at the House as well as how their child is doing now. We reached out to families through email and Facebook. The response was amazing - families from recent stays to families that had stayed almost 20 years ago shared their stories.

One of the stories was from Lori Brown, mother of Shalace Sue Brown. They stayed at the House 19 years ago for almost four months while their daughter, Shalace, was in the NICU.

"Shalace is 19 now and graduated high school in 2017. Kimberly High School developed an 18 to 22 year-old program for her and another boy to learn life skills. She will continue going there till she turns 22. We also have a 25-year-old son, Dakota. During the time Shalace was in

the NICU, he would stay with his grandparents during the week while going to kindergarten and on Friday nights they would bring him to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House for the weekend. He loved staying there.

We would eat there, play games, or watch TV in the living room. It felt like home. We met a lot of people while we stayed there. It was comforting to visit with others going through similar struggles with their little ones, just like us. It was nice to be so close to the hospital. I could walk to the hospital during the day and after dark, the hospital had a van that would give me a ride home to the House. This allowed me to stay with Shalace as much as I wanted. Thank goodness!

The Ronald McDonald House had food that I could eat; it made our life as comfortable as possible under those circumstances. It was one of the hardest times in our lives. I can't thank you enough for making it a tolerable experience."

You can read the Brown's complete story on our website. We will be sharing more of these family stories through social media as we celebrate 30 years of helping families.



VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THIS HOUSE A HOME

There are many great ways for businesses to volunteer.

- Encourage team members to volunteer with you as a great team building activity
- Volunteer as a group at one of our fundraising events.
- Schedule a shift during your lunch hour to help with projects around the House or yard clean up.



Modis Engineering



Better Homes and Gardens



Molina Healthcare



Mike Brown Group



Starbucks



Zerorez

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Pam Helm



Pam Helm was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for 2017. She has been involved with the Idaho Ronald McDonald House for the past nine years as the Monday afternoon front desk volunteer. Every afternoon when Pam comes in to volunteer she has a bright smile and warm welcome for every guest family, donor, volunteer and staff member. She ensures that when families check-in their questions are answered and makes sure they are comfortable and taken care of. When you work with someone who is so positive and kind it can't help but rub off on you. Her service is a key ingredient to the hospitality and care we are able to provide to the families we serve at the Idaho Ronald McDonald House.



Mark Monitor



Safelite



Oliver Russell



Southwest Airlines



Paylocity



Zions Bank

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.

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.



HAPPY WHEELS - PROVIDING COMFORT AND CARE

We are committed to serving as many families of seriously ill children as possible. This means going outside the walls of the Ronald McDonald House and into the hospital. That's what the Happy Wheels hospitality cart is all about. Launched in September of 2017, these carts are designed to serve families who wait for hours without leaving the hospital or their child's bedside. An average of 259 people are being served each month!

The cart provides a bit of comfort as it travels the hallways of Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke's Children's Hospital, bringing parents a hot beverage and snack while keeping the little ones entertained with books, fun activities, and toys. Besides the immediate needs these small tokens can meet, they provide simple reminders to the families that Ronald McDonald House Charities supports them during a challenging time.

Run by volunteers at the hospital, you can see the carts in action on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Sponsors and Volunteers make this program a success! If you'd like to be a part of this new and exciting program, find out more on our website (rmchidaho.org) in the "What We Do" section.

WHAT THE NEW TAX LAW MEANS FOR YOU

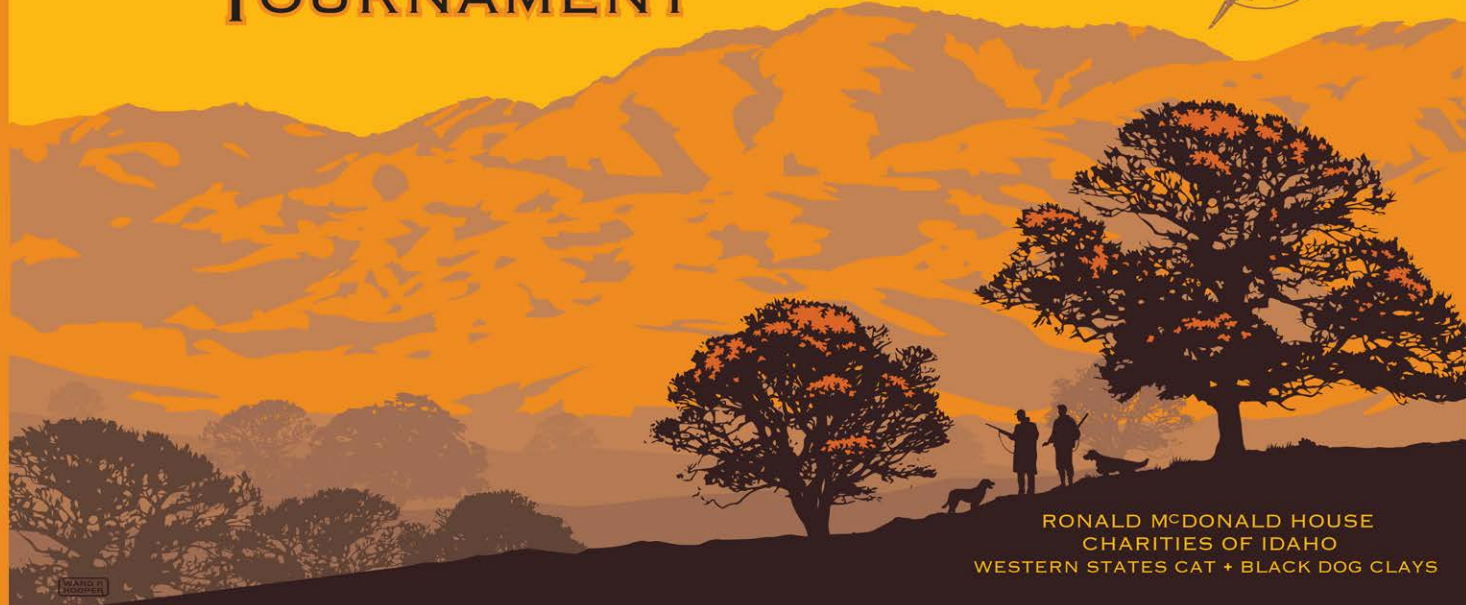
In Dec 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law. Among the many items, income tax rates and brackets changed, and the standard deduction nearly doubled. For many charities, including RMHC of Idaho, it brings some uncertainty regarding individual donations and how they may change with this new law.

As we ponder that question, what we know for certain is that our mission continues. The important work of caring for families of sick children and keeping them near the medical

care they need happens only through the generous support of charitable giving by you. That hasn't changed.

If the tax benefit of giving is of value to you, talk to your advisors. There are ways that donors may have an incentive to give more to charity in one particular year over another to exceed the standard deduction and itemize their deductions. This might be through a donor advised fund, or if you're over 70½, an IRA charitable distribution gift. Together, we'll make it through this uncertain terrain and continue keeping families together.

15TH ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE
CHARITIES OF IDAHO
WESTERN STATES CAT + BLACK DOG CLAYS

15th Annual Western States CAT Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho Sporting Clays Tournament

Sporting Clays is the closest thing to actual field shooting of all shotgun sports. Rather than having clay birds thrown from standardized distances and angles as with skeet or trap, sporting clays courses are designed to simulate the hunting of ducks, pheasants, other upland birds, and even rabbits.

June 1 & 2, 2018 | Black Dog Clays, Boise, Idaho

Squads of 6 Shooters | 100 Bird Event | 12-Gauge Ammunition Provided
Side Games | Silent Auction with Mobile Bidding Powered by Auction Frogs



For more information visit our website at www.rmhcidaho.org or contact Ellie Pharis via email – ellie@rmhcidaho.org or call (208) 336-5478.



For a complete list of needed items, please visit our website at www.rmhcidaho.org.

WISH LIST ITEMS

A great way to give and make a real difference! Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho depends on you to provide many of the things needed for the House and Happy Wheels carts. Please consider picking up one or two of these items the next time you are at the store. Donations may be dropped off at the House any day of the week between 9am and 8pm.

CURRENTLY IN NEED:

- Plastic and glass storage containers – all sizes
- Individual packages of chips and fruit snacks
- Applesauce cups and granola bars
- Plastic cups
- Travel size hygiene products
- Disinfecting wipes



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Regence

2018 Community Partner
Organization

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho **EVENTS**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Benefiting
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho

June 1 & 2

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

Black Dog Clays – Boise, ID
Construction detour in effect to Black
Dog Clays. Visit our website for detour
map.

Sept 19

**J.R. Simplot Memorial
Golf Tournament**

Falcon Crest Golf Club – Kuna, ID
Dinner and Charity Auction – Sept 18
JUMP – Boise, ID

May 3

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 13-16

29th Annual Albertsons Boise Open

presented by Kraft & Nabisco Web.com Tour
Finals, Hillcrest Country Club,
Purchase your Tournament tickets online
(<https://bit.ly/2HYILtr>) and support
RMHC of Idaho.

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