



Home Matters

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

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Pyper Noelle Thompson

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

On Friday December 20, I left my work Christmas party to go to a routine doctor's appointment to check on the progress of my pregnancy. I remember being preoccupied with planning our trip home for Christmas and everything that still needed to be done, reminding myself to make sure it was okay to take a 6 hour car ride when 28 weeks pregnant. Little did I know at the time, I wasn't going anywhere! During my exam, my doctor couldn't find my baby's heartbeat. I wasn't worried, it had been hard to find before, and I could feel her moving around like crazy. When the doctor found the heartbeat with the ultra sound, we discovered why she was missing it before; it was half the rate it should have been and she'd been mistaking it for my heartbeat. It all happened so fast from there. They wheeled me straight to triage for labor while the nurses suggested I call my husband (who was missing his first appointment ever to attend his own work Christmas party). Before I knew it, I was stripped down, had an IV and was being told I would have a baby in the next 48 hours -if we were lucky.

Pyper's heart rate was back up to normal, but would drop suddenly and stay there. I was freaking out. It was

totally unexpected and we had no idea the implications of having a baby 12 weeks early. They started a round of steroid shots to help our girl get ready for the outside world. The full round takes 48 hours to be administered and effective, so we had a goal - keep the baby in till then! After 15 hours of constant monitoring, Pyper's heart rate dropped and stayed there and I was on my way to an emergency C-section. We knew in our hearts that she was meant to be here, and that she would be okay, but we were in for a very long haul!

Pyper Noelle Thompson was born on December 21, 2013 at 4:56 am. We found out the cord was wrapped around her neck and there wasn't nearly enough amniotic fluid. The cord was dried out and would tighten which is what was causing her heart rate to drop. If not for my doctor's appointment we wouldn't have known something was wrong till it was too late. The doctor who delivered her kept calling her our "Little Christmas Miracle" and boy was that apt. She was only 1 lb 8 oz when born. A baby at her gestational age should be closer to 2 1/2 pounds. She looked just like Benjamin Button, an old man baby, but the cutest thing I had ever seen. After delivery, we

were told that we could expect to be in the hospital till around my due date - twelve weeks.

We live an hour from Boise and began the realization that we were facing the prospect of months maneuvering back and forth without a clear idea of what the future held and what our role in our baby's time in the hospital would be. I remember being so afraid to be discharged from the hospital because what then? I was currently living one hallway down from my little girl and able to be there for her cares every three hours, hold her teensy little body skin to skin twice a day and come at all hours of the day or night to look in on her. That was when we got our second Christmas miracle...The Ronald McDonald House!

The option of staying at the Ronald McDonald house was presented to us and we jumped at the chance! We moved into the house on Christmas Day and were blown away by everything we encountered. First thing when we walked in was the wonderful aroma of dinner being prepared. We found out there were laundry facilities we could use with all the stuff one needed. We were so tired, stressed and disheveled from the unexpected delivery that we felt that we had won the lottery. The facilities were amazing with nice big rooms, private bathrooms, wonderfully comfortable beds, cable tv, living areas, access to the internet and computers, and a stack of old Reader's Digests that I have almost made my way through (well the joke parts anyway). Laughter really is the best medicine! The second day we were there we were at the hospital all day. We came home to a spread of taco fixings and I swear nothing had tasted quite so good; a meal we didn't have to cook ourselves? Especially during the holidays we were treated to some delicious meals. We have never had a day or night that we didn't have access to a myriad of food...and an excess of treats!!

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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

Garrett Lofto



Raised on a farm in Manitoba, Canada, Garrett grew up actively involved in sports. He attended the University of Manitoba and completed his MBA in 2005. In 1992, he joined Simplot Soilbuilders and currently serves as President of Simplot AgriBusiness. Garrett believes strongly in the work of the Ronald McDonald House and is excited about being a part of the organization. Garrett, his wife Carol \ and their three boys enjoy numerous sporting activities and the outdoors.

Chris Comstock



Chris was born and raised in Boise and knows firsthand the experience of having a very sick child, which has given him and his wife Jennifer a great appreciation for the work of the Ronald McDonald House. He has a BA from Boise State and graduated from the University of Idaho-College of Law. He is an attorney at Duke Scanlan and Hall, pllc. His legal background and strong problem solving abilities are great assets to the Ronald McDonald House Board. Chris' hobbies include running and mountain biking, and he is active in youth basketball and baseball with his two children.

Mike Schanze



Mike has experienced the Ronald McDonald House both through his company volunteer involvement and also through his wife Kim, a weekly front desk volunteer at the House. His background is in the foodservice areas of sales and marketing and he is currently the Vice President/General Manager of the Chain Business Unit for ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston. He is excited to devote more time to volunteer efforts at the Ronald McDonald House. Mike is actively involved as a parishioner in his church and enjoys keeping up with football and athletics from his alma mater, Florida State.

Becky Alexander



Becky has lived in Boise most of her life. She has a BA from Oregon State University and has worked for the local McDonald's franchise, Darmody Enterprises, for the past 13 years. Becky and her husband Mike have two children. After her first child was born prematurely and spent over two weeks in the NICU it gave her a very real perspective of what families of injured or ill children in the hospital go through. This made the mission of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House very real for her. Her hobbies include wake-boarding and skiing as well as spending time with her family.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN A BIG WAY!

Regence BlueShield of Idaho announced that Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho has been selected as a 2014 Regence Community Partner Organization. They presented a \$100,000 check to House staff, board members and volunteers on Friday, March 14.



Regence
your health, connected.SM

"We feel very fortunate to be partnering with a nonprofit who shares our commitment to helping the overall well-being of Idaho families across our state," said Scott Kreiling, Regence president. "The Ronald McDonald House has opened its doors to so many people who needed a home while their children were in the hospital. Through our partnership we can help them continue to grow so they can help even more families."

Regence community partner organizations receive comprehensive assistance through financial grants, event support, board member involvement (Ronald McDonald House board member, Georganne Benjamin is a Regence employee), featured placement in an annual employee giving campaign and employee volunteer support.

Such a diverse scope of support will put us in a stronger position to continue fulfilling our mission and allow us to focus on essential messaging and invest in strategies that strengthen visibility for the House across the state.

Stay tuned for more details as they unfold. This community partnership has exciting potential for long-lasting, meaningful impact.

SAVING A LITTLE CAN DO A LOT!

Over the past thirteen years, the Idaho Ronald McDonald House has earned more than \$100,000 from its recycling program (e.g., newspaper, cardboard, electronics and pull-tabs). This is a great achievement for an organization that values the efforts put forth by the community and its numerous volunteers.

Pull tabs are an important part of our recycling program. In January of this year, the House collected 350 pounds of pull-tabs through the efforts youth groups, churches, schools and individual families which correlated to approximately \$125 in revenue. This amount can seem small in the grand scheme of the House's annual operations, but this one month's collection helps not only the House but the families that are grateful for its convenience, service and peace-of-mind.

\$125 in One Month:

Helps 12 families to stay one night at the house ~or~ helps 1 family stay for twelve nights.



continue this tradition of finding opportunity in the smallest pieces of our daily lives. By saving a little you can do a lot for our families!

Christmas Miracle

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One day, I noticed that Pyper wasn't acting right. She was having spells. Her heart rate would drop and she was breathing really hard. She just looked miserable. I couldn't leave my baby and because we were staying so close by, I didn't have to. Finally we were able to get the nurse practitioner and the doctor in to look at Pyper. They ran several tests and immediately started antibiotics. By the next day she was intubated and on a respirator and her blood was testing positive for infection. She had to go back on the IV for her nourishment and at least two weeks of antibiotics. She then had to get a spinal tap twice and we weren't able to be with her for several of her procedures. Our baby had late onset Group B Strep which is a very serious infection that can kill babies within hours if not treated. I had a cousin who died from it so I knew the seriousness of what we were dealing with. I cannot express how grateful I was to be living so close to the hospital. Then, more than ever it was important to feel like I could be there at the drop of a hat and be able to spend as much time as possible with her to monitor how she was doing. I wasn't able to hold my baby for three days.

In the meantime, I won the most incredible donated quilt made by the fourth graders of a local school. It had pictures and sayings with positive messages on the squares. Things like that helped us step back and regain our perspective. Our baby was going to be okay. Finally she was on the mend, slowly working her way back up to her full feeds and starting to put on weight.

We've been in the hospital for 67 days so far, and currently Pyper is working her way to eating her full feeds without the feeding tube. When she gets the stamina to do that consistently we will be on our way to going home. It's been such a blessing to be so close and constantly available to feed my baby. Looking back I can't believe it's been almost 10 weeks. We've made friends I know we'll have for a lifetime, and have been blessed everyday we've been here!

~ Krista and Jason Thompson



**100 Bird Main Event • Silent Auction • 12-Gauge Ammunition Provided
Side Games • Participant Prizes & Meals • Friday Evening Reception**

Black Dog Clays
7680 Vallejo Road, Boise, ID

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

For over 26 years, the Idaho Ronald McDonald House has provided a safe, comfortable haven for more than 9,000 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 11th Annual Western States CAT Sporting Clays Tournament fundraiser at Black Dog Clays in Boise. As a sponsor, individual shooter, auction/prize donor, or volunteer. You can choose to shoot Friday with a shotgun start at 1:00pm or Saturday beginning at 8:00am with squads starting every 10 minutes throughout the day. We will have side games, a silent auction, and food and beverages during the Tournament. All participants are invited to join us Friday after the Tournament at the range from 4:00pm to 6:30pm for live music, beverages, tasty treats, silent auction, raffle, and door prizes.

The side games, silent auction, 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.

Friday shooters will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00pm. Saturday the first squad begins at 8:00am and the last at 2:30pm. 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

Tournament will be held rain or shine.

We look forward to seeing you at the range.



Tournament Opportunities and Benefits

- 100 Bird NSCA Registered Event
- 12 Gauge Ammunition
- Shooter gift
- Meals and beverages
- Admission to Friday Evening Reception at Black Dog Clays for participants and a guest

You can choose to participate Friday, Saturday, or both days. Friday shooters will have the opportunity to shoot again Saturday for a re-entry fee. Your ammo and targets are included.

Corporate/Team Sponsor: \$1,000

- One squad of 6 shooters
- Company Logo and/or name in event materials
- Company Name on signage at event
- Company provided item included in shooter packets

Side Game Sponsor: \$500

- One individual shooter position
- Individual or company name displayed at side games
- Recognition in the event program

- Company provided item included in shooter packets

Individual Registration: \$125

One individual shooter position

Saturday Re-Entry: \$100

- Available to Friday shooters
- Only Friday score will be considered for awards and NSCA punches
- Ammo, targets, and meals included with re-entry

Station Sponsor: \$200

- Sponsor name in event program
- Sponsor name listed on signage at event

Individual Auction/Prize Sponsor

- Donate an item/certificate for the silent auction, side games or shooter prize
- Recognition in event program

Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to fill a wide variety of positions and play a very important role in making this event a success.

Yes, I would like to participate in the 11th Annual Western States CAT/Idaho Ronald McDonald House® Sporting Clays Tournament as indicated below.

- Corporate/Team Sponsor \$1,000**
- Side Game Sponsor \$500**
- Individual Registration \$125**
- Saturday Re-Entry \$100**

*Registration may be individual or as a full squad.
If paying separately, please submit a form for each participant.*

Preferred Shoot Day: Friday (shotgun start at 1pm) Saturday

Preferred Saturday start time: morning (8am – 11:50am) afternoon (noon – 2:30pm)

Rotations are at 10 minute intervals and assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

- Station Sponsor \$200**
- Auction/Prize Donation** Item: _____ Value: _____
- Volunteer** - You will be contacted about opportunities or you may visit our website at www.rmhcidaho.org

Register online at
rmhcidsct.nolatepayments.com
OR fax this form to 208-336-0587 or mail to:
Idaho Ronald McDonald House
101 Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83712

Sponsor Contact or Individual Registrant Information

Name: _____ NSCA # _____
 Company Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

- I will not be able to participate in the Sporting Clays Tournament. However, I would like to make a donation to sponsor _____ nights for a RMH family at \$10 per night for a total of \$_____.
 - Check enclosed. *Please make payable to Idaho Ronald McDonald House.*
 - Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$_____
- Visa/MC/AMEX Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____

VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THIS HOUSE A HOME

Over 3,000 individuals volunteered at the Idaho Ronald McDonald House in 2013. They prepared meals, baked treats, did yard work, completed projects around the House, assisted at our fundraising events, and performed front desk duties.

Over 8,731 hours of service was provided by volunteers in 2013. The estimated value of a volunteer's time according to the Independent Sector is \$22.14 per hour and our

volunteers provided \$193,304 worth of service to the Ronald McDonald House.

Another important number is 559-the number of families who stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in 2013. Because of our volunteers these families were able to enjoy a home cooked meal every day, take a delicious baked treat on the go with them, and be welcomed to a clean, comfortable House 365 days a year.



The Merry Maids volunteered four hours of their time deep cleaning guest rooms and main areas of the House right before Christmas.



The Hodgin Sisters come once a month to bake delectable treats. They always have the best Holiday themed treats.



The first time Katie Lawford volunteered she created these beautiful cupcake flower pots. We are excited that she wants to volunteer once a month baking and creating delicious treats for our families.



Dakota Huckvale chose to complete the service portion of his Eagle Scout designation to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. He organized a toy drive and asked family, friends and the community to donate these toys so families staying at the RMHC of Idaho could provide a wonderful Christmas to their children.



The Farm Bureau has been providing dinner and dropping off donations of much needed items every February during their annual meeting for 12 years. We are so appreciative of their continued service and dedication to the RMHC of Idaho and the families we serve.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Becky Hamilton



Every December we have our Holiday Party which is a great time for staff and volunteers to get together and enjoy each other's company. The best part for me as Volunteer Coordinator is getting to recognize a volunteer who has gone above and beyond, and provide them with the Volunteer of the Year award. This year our Around the House volunteer Becky Hamilton received this honor because of her commitment to the Idaho RMH and her willingness to do anything and everything we need done. She volunteers twice a week for a few hours each day and spends her time organizing the pantries, running to the Idaho Food Bank to pick up food items, shopping for groceries, as well as inventorying our event banners and supplies and keeping Santa's Workshop organized.



Tim and Ben volunteered Around the House helping us to clean and organize throughout the RMHC.



Berkli, Megun and Sally had fun baking some cookies



Stephanie Bush volunteers two to three times a month baking cookies and dessert bars. She also was able to provide us monies from her company through completing her work place giving program.



Stephanie Boman is a student at BSU and finds time to bake at the RMHC of Idaho two to four times a month.



Top Five Household Needs

1. Individual snack size bags of chips, crackers, nuts & fruit
2. Granola/Breakfast bars
3. Antibacterial Sanitizing Wipes
4. Gift Cards to Winco
5. Dryer Sheets



Welcome Bags

Every family is provided a welcoming gift in their room upon arrival

1. Notepads/pens
2. Preemie and baby newborn clothes
3. Blank cards/including stamp
4. Body Lotion
5. Re-usable water bottle or portable coffee mug

If you don't want to leave your home to shop, you can also order online!

www.walmart.com, go to "Registry", click "Wish List" and type in under first name: RMH, last name: Idaho, click on "Recipient" and then Ronald McDonald House Idaho and start shopping.

www.amazon.com, select "Wish List", type in Idaho Ronald McDonald House and place your order.



Special thanks to Joan and her team from Carol's Design House. They selected materials, planned and oversaw the Ronald McDonald House update - new carpet, wall covering, and lighting. The finishing touches were done in March and the House looks amazing! Please stop by to take a look!