



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Idaho

Celebrating 30 Years

Home Matters

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

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Kellen's Story

OUR LITTLE WILD CHILD

So often you hear the term "You don't know what you've got until it's gone" and while this might be true for a lot of people, I feel like we didn't know what was missing in our lives until Kellen came along. Since day one he has been a force to be reckoned with, definitely our little wild child. Motherhood started out for me with two healthy sons, so we had no idea of the complexities of having a special needs child. We knew that parenthood was supposed to be intense, we didn't know it was going to be THAT intense... The baby books can't prepare you for the medical treatment that a child could need when their bodies are working against them, but we were blessed as a family that when one of us couldn't shoulder the weight of it, the other would take over and this has helped us to grow and remain a strong family.

Kellen's first diagnosis and surgery at 7 weeks old was such a strange time for us, my husband had just reported for his first day of work at a new job and I was supposed to return to work the next day as my maternity leave had ended. This was the beginning of a true ride in life. We followed his first surgery by a lengthy road to discovering his esophageal disease, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, and subsequently his growth hormone deficiency. In-between then and now, he's had surgeries to have biopsies done, tonsils and adenoids removed, as well as a few other procedures. For the first two years of his life, he was on a medical formula that you could smell from the neighbor's house, but he loved it and it kept him healthy through the end of his NG tube at 2 years old, when it was time for his treatment for his EoE and he finally got to start eating like a typical kiddo. We still remember

the first time he 'stole' an Oreo off of the kitchen counter... Little things like that constantly remind me that even though times have been hard, are still hard, and could possibly remain hard in the future... we have this incredible little boy who doesn't even worry a single moment about his doctor appointments in Boise (roughly two hours from where we live), all he wants to do is say hi to 'Ronald' that sits on a bench outside of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House front door.

Our support system is incredibly large. It isn't only doctors but also the special nurses who help with his treatment, take our calls, help with prescriptions, etc... and the group of wonderful therapists that we have been blessed with for feeding therapy, Speech, OT and PT. We are fortunate enough that we live in a small town and he's able to see his 'friends' not just during therapy but around town as well and it makes them feel a little less like his care team and a lot more like family.

Family doesn't end in our own hometown though, it extends all the way to our favorite city of Boise, Idaho where we often stay at the Ronald McDonald House. Because we live over two hours away, it makes it really hard to be able to commute back and forth to his appointments, especially when he has appointments with his specialists 3-5 days in a row. Driving two hours there then back again after an appointment, bloodwork, and x-rays just to turn around and do it again the next day is extremely hard on a young child. Having a place that acts as a temporary home in our time of need is not just a sanity-saver, it also prevents us from having to risk multiple trips in severe

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HAPPY WHEELS HOSPITALITY CART

1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We can't believe it's already been one whole year since we started our Happy Wheels hospitality cart program! This program is all about bringing the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho mission outside the walls of the House. The cart provides a bit of comfort as it travels the hallways of the NICU and Pediatric areas at Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke's Children's Hospital—bringing parents hot beverages and snacks while keeping the little ones entertained with books, fun activities, and toys. As a part of the cart's one year anniversary, we want to highlight how successful this program has been. Since the program's inception on September 13, 2017, we have **served over 1,600 children** in both St. Luke's and St. Alphonsus with toys, snacks, and other goodies to make them smile. Additionally, we've **helped over 1,400 parents** with coffee, snacks, coloring books, and other things to help get



them through long and difficult days at the hospital. This means in the past year, we've been able to bring **comfort to over 3,000 people** at the hospital.

You can help keep the Happy Wheels carts filled with goodies for these families. Here are a couple ways you can support this program.

BECOME A CART SPONSOR

Sponsorships are \$1,200 per quarter per cart and you may select the cart and quarter you wish to sponsor. Groups, families, businesses, or individuals can be a Happy Wheels sponsor. Your name/organization will be displayed on the cart, listed on the Happy Wheels page on our website, and mentioned through our social media platforms. You will also have the opportunity to provide a sponsor identified item for the cart such as lip balm, hand sanitizer, tissues, water bottles, or another appropriate item.

Questions? Contact Ellie Pharis at ellie@rmhcidaho.org or (208) 336-5478.



SERVED
OVER **1,600**
CHILDREN

HELPED
OVER **1,400**
PARENTS

BROUGHT
COMFORT
TO OVER
3,000
PEOPLE

DONATE ITEMS

You can provide items for the cart to ensure it stays stocked. Below is our Happy Wheels cart wish list.

Snacks (Individual Servings)

Breakfast Bars
Granola Bars
Protein Bars
Crackers/cheese
Fruit Snacks
Applesauce
Chips/Pretzels

Toys & Activities

Puzzle Books
Playing Cards
Coloring Books Adult
Coloring Books Kids
Children's Books
Small Plush Animals
Infant Toys



Pictured is Irene

"My experience as a volunteer on the cart has been heartwarming and rewarding. It offers a chance to bring a ray of sunshine to kids and parents who may be experiencing difficult circumstances. The delight on a child's face when he or she realizes that they can select a toy is priceless or a parent who just really needs a cup of coffee, a snack and a little encouragement and offers a hug in exchange is something you can't put a price on." ~ Irene

—— 2017 Annual Report ——

TO THE COMMUNITY



Mission Statement

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho supports families of ill or injured children by keeping them together in times of medical need.

Board of Directors

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Lisa Bescherer, Vice President
Joan Whitacre, Treasurer
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Luke Sturdy, Past President

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Jordyn Eaton, Housekeeper

Home Matters is a publication of
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From the **PRESIDENT** of the Board and the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear friends and partners of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho,

What an exciting year this has been! We appreciate all of you for the contributions of time, treasure and talent you have given to make the mission of RMHC of Idaho happen. The volunteers, donors, ambassadors and supporters are the heart of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House. We are honored as a Board to be a part of helping to keep families together during some of their most challenging times.

Our focus over the past several months has been two-fold. First, we have gone "outside the walls" of the Idaho RMH and sought out partnerships and creative ways to reach even more families who have ill and injured children. The result of this is our Happy Wheels hospitality carts. They are rolling through the halls of Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke's Children's Hospital in Boise and we're in the planning stages for a cart in Twin Falls with the support of our Magic Valley Champions Committee. Over 950 people have received a bit of comfort and support in the past quarter alone.

Secondly, growth is always on our mind. Over the last several years, demand for our services has increasingly exceeded our capacity and we are turning away more and more families when we are full. As stewards of this organization, our Board is committed to finding the solution to have a room for every family who has a need. Stay tuned, our timeline is quickly approaching for actionable next steps that will ensure we have enough space to keep providing a "home-away-from-home" for all families when they must travel to Boise for medical treatment for their child.

Thank you for your involvement. It matters each and every day to the families that call the Idaho Ronald McDonald House their home.

Sincerely,

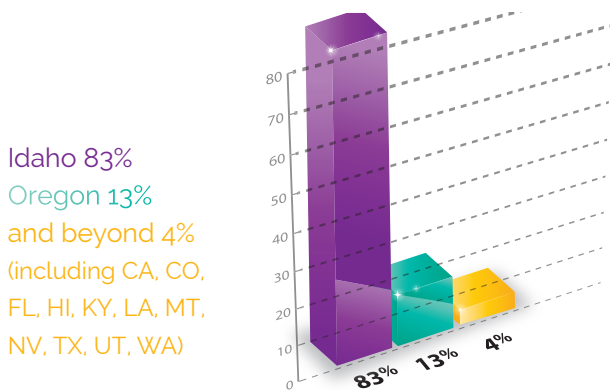
Darren Kyle
President, Board of Directors

Mindy Plumlee
Executive Director

2017 FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017, 578 families visited the Idaho Ronald McDonald House for 4,573 total nights of lodging.

Families came from communities across:



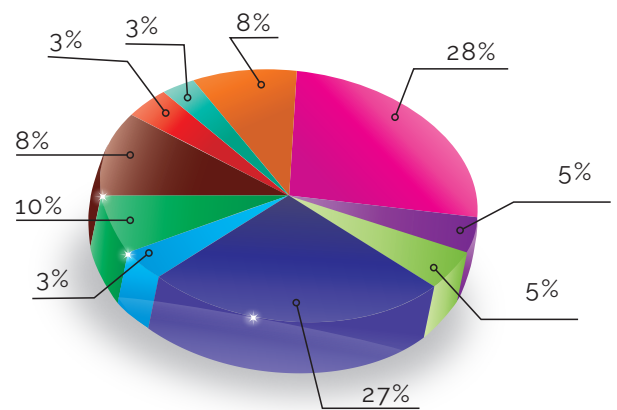
Idaho 83%
Oregon 13%
and beyond 4%
(including CA, CO, FL, HI, KY, LA, MT, NV, TX, UT, WA)

The average length of stay was 9 days and the average occupancy for 2017 was 77%.

The value of providing a room, meals, etc. at the Ronald McDonald House is more than \$175 a day, per family. There are some things you can't assign a dollar figure to: peace of mind, a caring environment, the support of volunteers and other guest families. Those intangibles are what make this House a home. In 2017, more than \$882,000 in essential services were delivered to families using the House.

Families come with children who have the following conditions:

- Cancer: 5%
- Nephrology: 5%
- Premature Birth: 27%
- Craniofacial Surgery: 3%
- Neurological: 10%
- Respiratory: 8%
- Ear, Nose, Throat: 3%
- Orthopedic: 3%
- Gastro Intestinal: 8%
- Pediatric Services: 28%



Reaching Out Into the Community

Outside the walls of the Ronald McDonald House, the mission of helping children continues locally and across the State.

Food Boxes:

Some families of pediatric patients at our partner hospitals prefer to – or need to – stay at their child's bedside. Perhaps there are complications that make it necessary for them to be there at all times, the Ronald McDonald House may be full and they are waiting for an available room, or they may live close enough to drive home at the end of each day. We still provide care and support by delivering a food box with nourishing and convenient snacks. Families who stay at the House are offered a food box when they check out. They can also select items they need from the guest pantry to take home. In 2017 we were able to assist 109 families in this way, helping them to reduce financial burdens and spend more time with their child.

"Happy Wheels" Hospitality Carts:

In September 2017, a Hospitality Cart program was launched at two regional hospitals: Saint Alphonsus Pediatrics and St. Luke's Children's Hospital. The carts are run by volunteers on

Wednesday and Saturday. They are designed to serve families who wait for hours without leaving the hospital or their child's bedside. The carts bring parents a hot beverage and snack while keeping the little ones entertained with books, toys and fun activities. Between the launch of the program in September and December 31, 2017, we served 970 people.

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. In 2017, 2,333 people volunteered a total of 10,090 hours and 499 meals were prepared for the families who stay at the House. We appreciate these wonderful volunteers who share their time and talent to make the House a safe, comfortable place to stay for families.

2017

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS 2017

Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 536.117
Prepaid expenses	11.289
Investments	6.009.288
Property & equipment (net of depreciation)	895.486

TOTAL ASSETS **\$7,452,180**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 36.189
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 36.189

NET ASSETS

Board Designated	3.450.000
Undesignated	3.219.791
Temporarily Restricted	250.000
Permanently restricted	496.200
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 7.415.991

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$7,452,180**

Statement of Activities

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$663.464
In-kind donations	152.290
Special events	222.279
Room donations	10.324
Other revenue	338

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT **\$1.048.695**

EXPENSES

Program services	\$668.909
Management & general	153.482
Fundraising & special events	155.376
Donation boxes	18.857

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$996.624**

NET INCOME/LOSS **\$ 52,071**



VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE THIS HOUSE A HOME

During the summer there are more kids coming with their parents to volunteer. We love to see families volunteering together.



Chive Idaho volunteers prepared dinner, worked on projects around the House and yard work



Sara, Sofia and Eva baked delicious treats for the families



LaNel and Abbie are part of Community Cakes, a group that comes twice a month to bake at the House

WISH LIST

Our goal at RMHC of Idaho is to minimize the burdens placed on families of ill or injured children. We could really use your help to stock up on the items listed below so we can continue to provide as much comfort as possible for our families. Consider grabbing some of these things while you're out shopping. You can drop them by the House between 9am – 8pm, 7-days a week.

Currently in Need:

- Gas and Winco cards
- Paper plates and bowls
- Plastic cups
- Laundry detergent
- Hand sanitizer (individual and refills)
- Disposable coffee cups with lids
- Dryer sheets
- Zip-Lock freezer bags (gallon)
- Queen/standard pillows
- Bleach

If you don't live in the area or don't have time to swing by the House, it's really easy to order online using AmazonSmile. Just go to smile.amazon.com to order some of these wish list items and AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to RMHC of Idaho. **To see our full wish list and learn about other ways to help, visit rmhcidaho.org.** We appreciate all that you do.



...Continued from cover

weather and driving in the dark. The Idaho RMH is there for us, and once we get there... staff treats us like it's exactly where we are meant to be. I have never

once felt that I was somewhere I didn't belong. From the first stay when we came as a family (and occasionally can manage every now and then) to the multiple stays where it's just Kellen and me, we have been welcomed, chatted with, guided, encouraged, blessed and LOVED...also fed. We get fed well! When Kellen was on formula for those two years, we were provided with safe water during our stays to mix with his food. When he was able to start eating regular foods, we were given a WIDE variety of delicious meals made by incredible volunteers. When he is on a restriction of a certain food, there are multiple choices available for us which is a BIG blessing that makes our stays less stressful.

It also never fails that I get so focused on packing our bags for our trips to the Idaho RMH that I forget something. Usually toiletries. Usually our toothbrushes. It doesn't take much more than a "May I please get some toothbrushes?" before you have 3 different staff members there to help you out. It's incredibly heartwarming and I don't know what we would do if we didn't have the Idaho RMH to fall back on.

Kellen's smile, his chatter, his happiness, beats the ambulance ride, the overnight stays in the hospital, being put on oxygen, the needle pokes, the trial and error with medications...it's all a part of God shaping him into the adult he's meant to be. This is Kellen's show and we are just along for the ride which makes us forever grateful that he will always be brave enough to take that Oreo and smile through it all.

**DONATE
YOUR
VEHICLE**

to **Ronald
McDonald
House
Charities**

*and help
seriously ill
children
in our
community.*



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Regence

2018 Community Partner
Organization

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho **EVENTS**

2018

Sept 18

Dinner and Charity Auction
at JUMP

Sept 19

**J.R. Simplot Memorial
Golf Tournament**
Falcon Crest Golf Club – Kuna, ID

**Nov 15-
Dec 31**

Share A Night

2019

Feb 1-28

Online Auction
Celebrating Ronald McDonald House
Charities of Idaho 31st Anniversary

**May 31 &
June 1**

**Western States CAT/Ronald
McDonald House Charities of Idaho
Sporting Clays Tournament**
at Black Dog Clays, Boise

2018

Oct - Dec 24 2018 Southern Living Cookbooks
on Sale at Dillard's

Oct 15

Day of Change
at your local McDonald's® Restaurant

Nov 16-19

Festival of Giving
Fleur-de-lis Ranch, Twin Falls

Nov 27 -

**McDonald's National Fundraiser
to support RMHC**
at your local McDonald's® Restaurant

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

Help Us Keep Our Database Current

Please send a note or call to inform us of any changes
to your name or address, or to report duplicate
mailings. Thank you for your assistance.

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