

Home Matters

Volume 21, Issue 1 | Spring 2020



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Idaho

Keeping families close®

MORE THAN A HOUSE

A poem by Crystal Wiggins,
RMHC Mom from Franklin, ID

To a sick child and family you are so much more,
With your heart and kindness you open the door,
Lost in a storm we cannot escape,
All of your volunteers deserve a cape,
A diagnosis that takes your breath away,
The fears and worries relieved by letting us stay,
I watch my child almost die,
With comforting hugs I see you try,
The families in your walls face so much,
Each donation a life it does touch,
A parent can cry away from a sick child's eye,
The ability to be close, some peace of mind you do buy,
You are more than a house with all you give,
When life seems so short you help us to live,
Thank you so much for all that you are,
For being a home when ours is too far,
Thank you for a safe place to get through the storm,
When we're cold and lost you help us stay warm,
Because of you we have strength to fight,
Because of you in the dark we see light,
More than a house doesn't explain,
How you help us get through the pain,
The Ronald McDonald House is so much more,
More open doors for sick families is what you implore,
More time with my child, I give thanks from my heart,
I pray that for you this is only a start.



The Wiggins Family

Mission Statement

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

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Home Matters is a publication of
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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the three newest members on the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho Board of Directors. Misty Benjamin, Sue Quint, and Michael Alexander joined us in January 2020 and will each serve a three year term.



Michael Alexander

Owner/Operator, Treasure Valley
McDonald's Franchises

Born and raised in Idaho, Mike brings a wealth of past and present business experience and support to the Board. A long-time supporter and volunteer to the House, Mike is deeply committed to the role that RMHC plays in the assistance of families of patients at the children's hospitals and is looking forward to becoming more involved. Currently, Mike is the head of the RMHC Planned Giving Committee and is involved in or supports many other community and nonprofit organizations such as Hearts 4 Hadley, the Boys and Girls Club, Make-A-Wish, Idaho public schools, and others.



Misty Benjamin

Community Relations and Philanthropy Program
Manager, Idaho National Laboratory

For over a decade, Misty has enjoyed working with many programs at Idaho National Laboratory (INL), each aligned to securing the nation's energy future. Misty's current role as INL's Community Relations & Philanthropy program manager has provided her the opportunity to connect with nonprofits and community leaders from across Idaho. Misty is grateful for the opportunity to advance the laboratory's community engagements and expand partnerships across Idaho by serving on RMHC of Idaho's board. She's met incredible people, working together to provide a safe, healthy and inviting environment for the families of hospitalized children.



Sue Quint

Certified Financial Planner/Owner,
Quint Financial Group

Sue provides financial planning and investment management to individuals and small companies. She previously sat on the RMHC Board from 2010 to 2018 and has served continuously on the Finance Committee since joining the Board in 2010. Sue believes very strongly in the RMHC mission and is delighted to be back on the Board and hopes to serve on additional committees, as well as to provide any additional help needed. She also supports many other nonprofit organizations such as The Boys and Girls Club, Giraffe Laugh, Wish Granters, Family Advocates and others.



NEW 47-ROOM HOUSE NOW OPEN AND SERVING FAMILIES

We're so excited about the opening of the new Idaho Ronald McDonald House in Boise!

On Feb. 1, 2020, we officially cut the ribbon on the new 47-room, 42,000 square foot Idaho Ronald McDonald House in Boise. This exciting milestone took place exactly 32 years after opening the very first Idaho Ronald McDonald House in 1988. In the new House, we are able to serve three times as many families with more guest rooms, four kitchens, larger living spaces, expanded food storage, a secret toy closet and more. We are so grateful for every single person who had a hand in bringing this new "home-away-from-home" to life.

Now that we're able to serve more families than ever before, our needs have grown. There are so many great ways to support families at the New House:

- Become a monthly donor to support families at the House. Even just \$10 covers a one night stay for a family
- Sponsor a meal for families staying at the House
- Sign up for our emails at rmhcidaho.org to learn more about how to get involved and help families

Due to concerns over COVID-19, our volunteer shifts and tours are currently suspended. **Please visit rmhcidaho.org/coronavirus for updated information.**

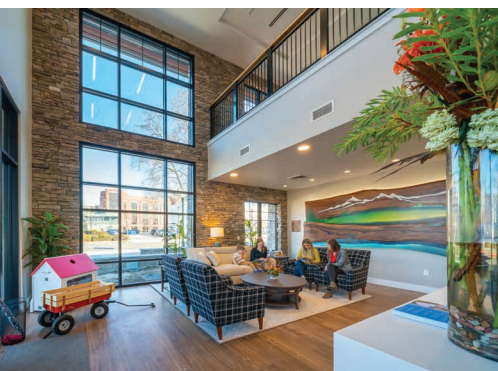
WISH LIST ITEMS

CURRENTLY IN NEED

- 9x13 Glass Storage Containers with Lids
- Gallon and Sandwich Plastic Baggies
- Disinfectant Spray
- Frozen Dinners
- Frozen Ground Beef (1 lb packs)
- Frozen Chicken (whole chicken or pieces)
- Frozen burritos, breakfast sandwiches, etc.
- Reusable Water Bottles or Coffee Cups
- Board Games/Puzzles
- Snack Foods

Visit <https://amzn.to/38a8VpK> to view our full online wish list. Wish list items can be dropped off or shipped to the Idaho Ronald McDonald House at 139 E Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83712. Our hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. 7 days a week.

All items must be new and in original packing. We do not accept expired food.



2019 FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

OUR PROGRAMS:

Idaho Ronald McDonald House® | Boise, ID
 Ronald McDonald Family Room® | Idaho Falls, ID
 Happy Wheels Hospitality Carts | Boise, ID and Twin Falls, ID



855

total families served
 689 at the House &
 166 at the Family Room



998

family visits to the Family Room
 (Note: the Family Room opened Sept. of 2019,
 so reporting is over a 4-month period)



11 DAYS

(House)

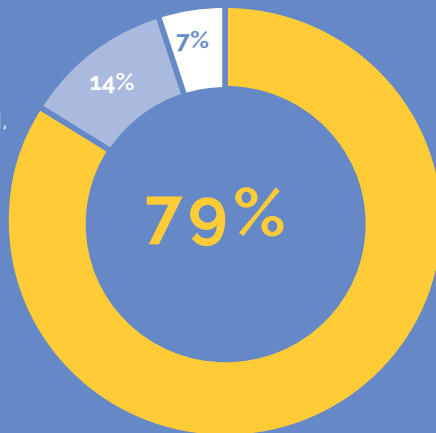
4 DAYS

(Family Room)

was the average stay for a family

Families at the House came from communities across:

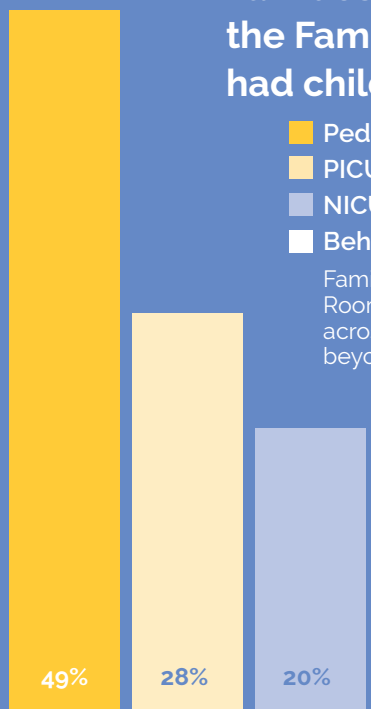
- Idaho 79%
- Oregon 14%
- and beyond 7%
 (includes NV, UT, WA, CA, OK, AZ, CT, GA, IN, KY, MD, MT, ND, OH, TN, TX, VA, and outside of U.S.)



Families who used the Family Room had children in:

- Pediatrics 49%
- PICU 28%
- NICU 20%
- Behavioral Health Center 3%

Families who used the Family Room came from communities across ID, WY, UT, WA, AZ, and beyond.



Top Reasons Families Used the Idaho Ronald McDonald House



29%

PREMATURE BIRTH



29%

PEDIATRIC SERVICES

10%

GASTROINTESTINAL

9%

NEUROLOGICAL

8%

CANCER

6%

EAR, NOSE, THROAT

3%

MENTAL HEALTH, RESPIRATORY & ORTHOPEDIC

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Kelli Fredback, Marla McGuire, and Debbie Reed

Kelli, Marla, and Debbie are longtime volunteers at the Idaho Ronald McDonald House. Every month since June of 2010, all three have come and prepared dinner for the families. Each month they get creative and try to come up with something new, staying away from typical meals. Some family favorites have been: chicken sliders, meatball subs and bean and cheese burrito bake. These three ladies have made volunteering at the House their time to spend together as friends. We are so grateful for the past nine years and look forward to many more delicious dinners.

Kelli, Marla, and Debbie



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS



"I enjoy doing seemingly small things behind the scenes like baking goodies periodically that helps make the Family Room feel more like home for the families at EIRMC. It also sends a message that we truly think the family members are special."

~ Jim Pletscher



"Although there have been many changes over the years at RMH, the one ever present constant has been the love and compassion that the staff and volunteers show each other and our guests every day. It has been and continues to be (hopefully for many more years) my pleasure and privilege to be a Ronald McDonald House Volunteer"

~ Terry Austin, CORE volunteer



11,978

VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED
THAT'S EQUIVALENT TO
6 FULL-TIME POSITIONS!



2,498



**VOLUNTEERS
DONATED
THEIR TIME**

**466
MEALS**

**PREPARED FOR
GUEST FAMILIES**



424 House / 42 Family Room

Happy Wheels Hospitality Carts



2,515

**Total People
Served**



2,116 (Boise) 399 (Twin Falls)



Designed to serve families who wait for hours without leaving the hospital or their child's bedside, the Happy Wheels Hospitality Cart provides a bit of comfort as it travels the hallways of Saint Alphonse 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.

17th Annual Western States CAT
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho
Sporting Clays Tournament

Friday, May 29 & Saturday, May 30, 2020
Black Dog Clays,
7680 Vallejo Rd., Boise, Idaho

Sporting Clays is a 14 Station, 100 bird, National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) registered event (NSCA membership is not required to participate). Participants receive 12-gauge ammunition, targets, shooter gift, lunch and beverages. You can get involved by becoming a sponsor, registering with a team, or volunteering at the event.

Register online at rmhcidaho.org



J.R. Simplot Memorial Golf Tournament

Benefiting
Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Idaho

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Falcon Crest Golf Club | Kuna, ID



The J.R. Simplot Memorial Golf Tournament is a one day, four-person scramble played on the 27 holes at the Falcon Crest Golf Club. After the Tournament, join us for the 19th Hole After Party with food, beverages and live entertainment. Purchase tickets at the event for a chance to win amazing raffle packages.

Sippin' at Sunset

Benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho

Thursday, October 8, 2020
Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center
Twin Falls, ID

Join us for the 2nd Annual Sippin' at Sunset event in Twin Falls. With the Magic Valley being one of RMHC of Idaho's largest service areas, this event is a great way to support local families. Enjoy a meal from the food trucks, listen to live music, participate in some exciting raffles, and sip on your favorite beverage while enjoying the beautiful sunset over the Snake River Canyon.

For more information on any of these events, reach out to Jill Smith, Special Events Coordinator, at jill@rmhcidaho.org or 208-609-3377.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to concerns over COVID-19, there may be changes to the dates of all events listed here. Please visit our website at rmhcidaho.org for the most current information.

Hearts & Hands FESTIVAL

Date TBD | 3-10 p.m.
The Waterfront at Snake River Landing
Idaho Falls, ID

Brand new this year, the Hearts and Hands Festival is an exciting summer event meant for families to support other families. From live entertainment, carnival games, hourly raffles, and so much more, you won't want to miss this fun-filled evening raising money for local families in need. **Admission to the Hearts and Hands Festival is free.**



Thursday, March 11, 2021
Pioneer Room at JUMP

We can't wait for the 2nd annual Red Shoe Shindig benefiting RMHC of Idaho! You'll want to buy your tickets quick, as the first year was a sellout. Grab your favorite red shoes and join us for an evening of amazing food, silent and live auctions, entertainment, shoe selfies, and lots of fundraising to support families with sick kids.

ROUND-UP for RMHC A NEW WAY TO GIVE!

We are so grateful to our Founding Mission Partner McDonald's for their continued support of RMHC. There's a new way for McDonald's customers to give at participating restaurants in the U.S. - Round-Up for RMHC! When you order from any local McDonald's, you can choose to round up your total and support local families with sick kids. Learn more about this exciting new way to give at RMHC.org/mcdonaldsgiving.

ONE VEHICLE CAN SUPPORT MANY FAMILIES



It's time for spring cleaning, which might mean finally getting rid of that old car, truck, RV, trailer, boat or tractor! Instead of trying to sell your old vehicle for little money or deal with the hassle of towing it away, consider donating to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho. All proceeds will benefit local families with sick children, plus your donation will be tax deductible. We'll even pick up your vehicle at no cost to you!

To donate your vehicle, or learn more about the program and how it helps families of sick children, call toll free **855-CARSHelp** (227-7435) or visit CarsHelp.org.



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www.rmhcidaho.org

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We are constantly monitoring the COVID-19 situation and our policies are continuing to change based on new information. Please visit our website for the most up to date information about Coronavirus and what it means for RMHC of Idaho.

"The new House is nice. I like the play set and the new game room."

~ Anchor (age 7)

"I like that there is a place for teens, not just little kids."

~ Manoah (age 12)



Leach family | Rigby, ID

"The new House is amazing! It's bright and beautiful. As a parent with 6 kids, I love that I'm not stepping on other families or having to dance around trying to cook in the kitchen. Not to mention all the magical little touches hidden throughout the House that add to our stay!" ~ Robin L, Mom of 6



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