

The HOUSE SCOOP



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
SPOKANE

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For 132 days, Our House was Nathan's House.

Imagine if your child was sick. What would you do if you had to fly to a hospital in a different city far from your home? Would you know where to go? When you arrived at the hospital, where would you put your extra clothes? Where would you shower? Where would you wash your clothes? Who would you turn to for help?

These and many other questions are all answered daily by the volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Spokane. Families are provided temporary lodging, comfort and support while their children are accessing medical services. These basic needs are met while they help their children overcome their medical struggles.

You can be a part of our family. Look inside and see what we are accomplishing in Spokane. You can make a direct impact on the life of a child today.

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Listen to the Latest

A Message from The Executive Director

It is hard to imagine that we have completed our sixth annual Cobra Polo Classic. Many of us can still remember planning the first event. Today, the Cobra Polo Classic, benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Spokane, is the largest polo benefit event west of the Mississippi River. We thank all of our sponsors and guests for their support in making the Cobra Polo Classic a successful fundraising event for the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House. It has truly been established as one of the region's most pristine venues.

For most of us, it is difficult to imagine the loss and grief associated with losing a child to cancer. At this year's Cobra Polo Classic, I witnessed two mothers share their grief and provide comfort to each other. Recently, both Sara and Karina lost a child to cancer. They had met briefly in the summer of 2009 and after I reintroduced them to each other it was as if they were lifelong friends.



They shared their stories of Parker and Nathan. Tissues came out. They shared hugs and moments of silence. This was one of the most touching moments I have ever witnessed. I want you to know that your contributions to the Ronald McDonald House made a difference in the lives of Sara, Karina, and their families.

Today, you can make a difference in the lives of other families. There are many other families that are dealing with childhood illnesses. Please, just return the enclosed envelope with a donation. You can be assured your donation will benefit a family struggling through some of the most difficult times of their lives. On behalf of these families, I thank you.

Sincerely,
Mike Forness, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Forness". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Adopt-A-Room

The Adopt-A-Room Program presents the opportunity for donors to sponsor a specific room in the Ronald McDonald House. There are 21 guest rooms available for sponsorship. Living areas such as common-area rooms, laundry rooms, and play areas are also available for sponsorship. Currently, we have **11 more rooms** available to be sponsored.

Family Room: \$2000 per year for 2-years
Specialty Room: \$3500 per year for 2-years

Thank you to our current sponsors:

- McDonald's
- Golden State Foods
- Divco
- Edward Jones
- Upper Falls Condon Homeowners Association
- In addition, 3 rooms have been adopted by individual families

If you are interested in being a part of the Adopt-A-Room Program, please call Kathie Vlahovich at 509.624.0500

Come Inside Our House

Let us share with you some facts about the Ronald McDonald House of Spokane. Since January through September 2010...

Over 40

Over 40 families have stayed in our House for at least one night. On average, there is a daily wait list with 15 families needing lodging.

126 meals have been prepared by volunteers. Volunteers come to the house 2 or 3 times a week and prepare meals for the families.

126

5410

5410 total overnight stays that the RMH of Spokane has been able to provide. This includes the 21 rooms at our House and at our Sacred Heart Family Rooms. All families are welcome regardless of their ability to pay the \$24 nightly fee.

40 dozen cookies have been baked for the families to enjoy. Everyone loves freshly baked cookies!

40 Dozen

300

300 siblings have made our House their home. Our House is a place of comfort for the siblings. They need a place to snack, read, play, and nap while the family accesses the necessary medical services.

24 families have helped their children fight cancer while staying at our House.

24

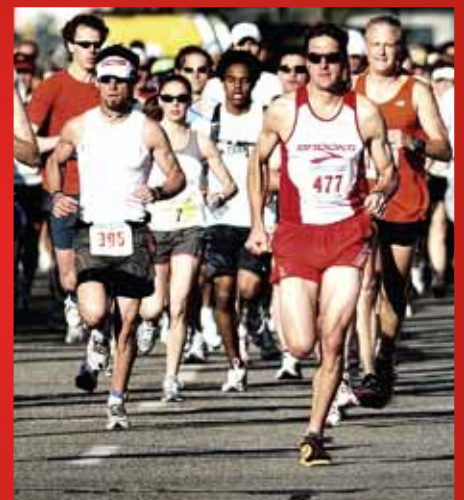


Bravo!



Windermere Marathon

On Saturday, **May 15, 2010**, runners and spectators from all around the region gathered in Spokane for the **Windermere Marathon**. It was a full day of family events, including a kids' half marathon relay, kids' half marathon, a 5k race, a half marathon, and a full marathon. The marathon followed a very scenic route along the beautiful Spokane River. This race was a prequalifier for the Boston Marathon.



Bravo!



The **Cobra Polo Classic** was held **September 12, 2010** at the Spokane Polo Club in Airway Heights. Over 1200 participants attended the event. A new addition to the event was the Cigar and Whiskey Tent. It was a great spot to watch the Polo match while enjoying a cigar with a Dry Fly Whiskey.

The beautiful sunny day began with the arrival of skydivers. The event included a Silent Auction featuring local Artists, a gourmet lunch, the annual Parade of Hats, and the traditional Champagne Divot Stomp.

Guests, Volunteers and Sponsors all came together to make this the most successful event the RMHC has ever had in its 27 year history. Mark down **September 11, 2011** on your calendar. You don't want to miss it!

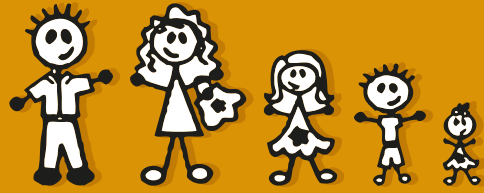


Spokane Indians 8k Race



The annual Spokane Indians 8K Pennant Race and 1K Kids Run was held on Saturday, **July 24, 2010**. The 8k race took place on the Centennial Trail in Spokane, starting and finishing in Riverfront Park. The Spokane Indians and Runners Soul teamed up and gave participants a Brooks Technical short sleeve shirt, a ticket to the Spokane Indians Baseball game that night and a donation in their name to the Spokane Ronald McDonald House. After the 1K Kids Run, children were greeted with balloons, a jump castle, OTTO the Mascot, and a special visit from Ronald McDonald.

Read About Our Family



The Stebbins Family

Story by Hope Collins, RMHC Intern

Strength, courage and hope are at the foundation of the Stebbins family of Montana. They called the Ronald McDonald House of Spokane their home for many weeks. Still overjoyed with the news that Tiffany Stebbins was pregnant with their second child, she and her husband Earl received the heartbreaking news that their 2 and a half year old daughter, Karmyn, had been diagnosed with leukemia. Since Karmyn's diagnosis, they have faced incredible stresses and challenges, but the Ronald McDonald House of Spokane has been a true gift to their family during this difficult time. "The Ronald McDonald house has done wonders for us," Tiffany said with a big smile. "The staff becomes your second family."

After coming down with the flu and an ear infection that would not go away, Tiffany brought Karmyn to their local doctor in Missoula, Montana. Once the blood tests were completed, Tiffany received a call from their doctor. He stayed after hours until the family arrived and broke the news that Karmyn might have leukemia or lymphoma. Karmyn would fly to Spokane that night. "It was a very rough night," Tiffany explains.

Once they arrived in Spokane, Karmyn was sent to the oncology department at the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. Doctors performed a bone marrow biopsy. After receiving the results, Dr. Felgenhauer met with Tiffany and broke the news that Karmyn had leukemia. "Dr. Felgenhauer was very helpful," Tiffany said. "But the first week felt like it went on forever." Dr. Felgenhauer sat with the parents, explained the process, and read through all of the materials and information regarding Karmyn's Leukemia. "It's just hard to read through everything," Tiffany said. "That's when it really hits you. The worst part about cancer is whether you want your child to live or be on medicine with horrible side effects that can affect them for their whole life."

Four days after the heartbreaking news, Karmyn started chemotherapy and had to be in the hospital for three weeks. "It was hard having to explain everything that was happening to a three year old," Tiffany said. "But she adapted and dealt with the situation very well," Tiffany said. "She even began to stick her finger out for the nurses when they came in without being asked." The first month of chemotherapy was the hardest for the family. Karmyn had weak bones and her stomach would swell up so much she couldn't even sit up at night.

After three long weeks of treatment, Karmyn was finally released from the hospital and she and Tiffany came to the Ronald McDonald House. She said it truly is a home away from home. Tiffany and her family became close with many of the other families. They appreciated having someone to talk to who knew what they are going through. Tiffany recalls coming back to the house and wondering if the other families were back yet.



After a two month stay at the Ronald McDonald House, Tiffany and Karmyn were able to go home. However, they had to return to Spokane and the Ronald McDonald House for the last cycle of Karmyn's treatment. This time they had time to pack and plan what they would need, especially for the baby they were expecting.

On May 4th, Dale was born. Dale is a blessing to the family. They even enjoyed a baby shower at the RMH. "He takes a little bit of Karmyn's mind," Tiffany explained. "She definitely loves him and is a really good big sister." She is very protective too. When Dale starts to cry, Karmyn looks around to see what is going on.

Karmyn is currently in remission and at home with mom, dad, and brother. She will have to return to Spokane once a month for about two years for chemotherapy and other procedures.

Tiffany wanted to thank all of the staff at the Ronald McDonald House and the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. "There are not enough words to thank them," she said.

Make An Impact

- ♡ Attend an event
- ♡ Donate Now
- ♡ Volunteer at Our House
- ♡ Provide items off of our Wish List
- ♡ Prepare a dinner for our families
- ♡ Bake cookies for our families
- ♡ Collect pull tabs
- ♡ Join a committee
- ♡ Make a \$10 donation by texting the word "home" to 90999

For more information on these and other opportunities to get involved, please call us at 509.624.0500 or visit www.rmhsppokane.org

Mark Your Calendars

November 19, 2010 – Tracy's Jewelers Event

Contact: Marcea Mandsager at 509.951.8005 or Marcea1@Mac.com

December 2010 - First Release of Dry Fly Bourbon

Bid to reserve your bottle of the first release of Dry Fly Bourbon

For more information, follow the blog at www.rmhsokane.org

Contact: Sherrie Martin at 509.435.1576 or sherrieamartin@comcast.net

December 7, 2010 – 3rd Annual Cookie Exchange

Patsy Clark's Mansion

Contact: Marti D'Agostino at 509.993.6018 or martid@mhspokane.org

January 30, 2011 – Gallops 2011 Annual Charity

Stallion Services Auction – Northern Quest Casino Pavillion

This event is presented by Rhodes River Ranch

Contact: www.gallopauktion.com

February 5, 2011 – Ronald McDonald House Basketball Classic

Gonzaga vs. Memphis

Veteran's Memorial Arena, Spokane

Contact: www.rmhcclassic.com or 509.624.0500

May 14, 2011 – Windermere Marathon

Registration is now open at www.winderthon.com



Wish List

Keep our RMHC families on your gift list as you shop for the holidays

Food Items

Canned Meats

Canned Fruit

Individual Juice Boxes/Cans

Wrapped Snacks

Trail Mix

Granola Bars

Hearty Soups

Ground Coffee (regular & decaf)

Powdered Coffee Creamer

Kitchen and Household Items

Frying Pans (10" & 14")

Oven Liners

White Corelle Dinnerware

Silverware

Hand Towels

1.6 Cubic Refrigerators

Bath Towels

Gifts for Our Families

Legos

Play-Doh

Puzzles

Sidewalk Chalk

Writing Journals

Knitting Supplies

Gift Cards for Food and Gas



Ronald McDonald House
Charities of Spokane
1015 W 5th Ave.
Spokane, WA 99204-3002

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Spokane, WA



Get
involved
make an
impact



The Ronald McDonald House Charities mission is to
provide comfort to families in medical crisis.

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