

COMMUNITY

# CONNECTIONS

Annual News and Salutes from Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan 2020



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# The Lindsay Family

Hometown:  
**Lloydminster, SK**

Night Stayed:  
**100 nights**



@rmhcsk



RMHCSK



[www.rmh.sk.ca](http://www.rmh.sk.ca)

## Saskatoon, SK

Ronald McDonald House  
Charities Saskatchewan  
1011 University Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0K4  
306-244-5700

## RMHC-SK Privacy Statement

Ronald McDonald House  
Charities Saskatchewan/The  
Friends of Saskatchewan Children  
Inc. does not sell, trade or lease  
the personal information of its  
donors.

## Prince Albert, SK

Ronald McDonald Family Room  
Victoria Hospital – Paediatric Unit  
Prince Albert, SK  
306-765-2309



On February 16, 2020 I went into the hospital in Lloydminster, SK with pains, I thought it was nothing serious and I would just be sent home and told to take it easy. When we got to the hospital that wasn't the case, we were rushed to Saskatoon to try and reverse muscle tightness and to try and prolong a baby from coming. The doctors gave fluids to relax everything but no matter what they tried it just didn't work and 12 hours after leaving Lloydminster my water had broken. A baby was going to make an appearance no matter what. This was an extremely overwhelming feeling but we knew we were in the best place possible. February 17, 2020 we welcomed a baby boy named Brekken into the world weighing in at 2 lbs 7oz. It was the most overwhelming, exciting, scary time of our lives. He was born at 28 weeks; his lungs were so underdeveloped that he was taken immediately to the NICU. Soon this would be where we spent our time for the next 100 days. We were then given the most knowledgeable social worker and she suggested we

stay at the Ronald McDonald House so we could have time away from the hospital to get away from all the alarms and bells.

To us we had an idea in mind of what we were expecting but when we finally arrived at the House we honestly couldn't believe our eyes. When they say they are trying to make a "home away from home" the staff there truly out do themselves.

### **This was definitely not a hotel it's your home when you walk through the doors.**

The House is such a place of comfort instead of just locking yourself in room you could curl up on a couch in a living room with a cup of coffee and just be, it was wonderful to be able to get away from the chaos. Living there was more than we could have asked for from the meals, staff, activities etc. everything was done with the highest care - it really lifts a big weight off your shoulders when you're already dealing with a stressful situation. It was such a nice place to come

to after a mentally exhausting day at the hospital. We made so many friends there over the course of our stay. It was always such a pleasure to be able to talk to other families/employees/volunteers about our day or just be able to listen to them talk about theirs.

Brekken had so many ups and downs and it seemed like the day to go home would never arrive but he fought and was so resilient. He is such a strong baby boy and proved to us that miracles do exist! We got to finally clean our room pack up our belongings because on day 100 he finally graduated and we got the word it was time to go home! We had mixed feelings as our new normal was about to change drastically. The feeling of leaving was bitter sweet, happy to finally be able to go home as a family but sad to have to leave the friends we had made. We can't wait to be able to go back for a visit even if it's just to say "hi!"

Love Cody Courtney and Brekken Lindsay



**Left to Right** – Ivan Trudel, Carrie Dornstauber, Murray Sawatzky, Grady Brown, Judy Lehne, Roona Sinha, Luke Jackiw, Jim Flath, Tammy Forrester, Detlef Bublitz  
**Seated** – Brittany Walter  
**Missing** – Kelly Walker, Craig Ayers

Chair – Roona Sinha  
 Vice Chair – Kelly Walker  
 Past Chair – Jim Flath  
 Craig Ayers

Grady Brown  
 Detlef Bublitz  
 Carrie Dornstauber  
 Luke Jackiw

Judy Lehne  
 Murray Sawatzky  
 Ivan Trudel  
 Brittany Walter

# Greetings from RMHC-SK

**"The path forward can sometimes be unclear, unmarked and at times rougher than anticipated."**

This September, my husband and I embarked on a fall camping adventure to celebrate the final few days of the month. Heading to the south west corner of the province to Cypress Hills for a little camping, hiking adventure, we spent days biking the trails of the park. The paths were quite rugged and sometimes overgrown with underbrush and fallen trees, but over the course of our holiday, we managed our time on the trails.

On the last day we finished our adventure and tackled the Great Trail heading north-east of the park. After riding through the rugged terrain and carrying our bikes over 'ground under repair' we saw beautiful hillside vistas and breathtaking scenery. At what we thought was the end of our journey, we cruised down a long and winding pathway to the highway we had seen from the hillside, down below. Slowly the path we were on narrowed, the tall trees shaded the trail which gave way to fallen trees and running creeks of water until there was no sign of a way out. Simply a dead end ahead of us leaving us to pick up our bikes, turn around and begin the long push back up the hill.

Feeling frustrated, anxious and hungry, I pushed my bike back up the undulating terrain. As those feelings gave way to other



**Seated Left to Right** – Ann Nickolet, Jacquelyn Cormier, Deanne Praski, Kathleen Regier, Stephanie Brookes  
**Standing Left to Right, Front Row** – Darlene Kruger, Kim Gilbert, Joanne Bahr, Marcelline Zimmer, Dorianne Geske, Marg Coverett, Doug Dykes, Karen Ens-Zinkiew  
**Standing Left to Right, Back Row** – Liberty Lauron, Stephanie Turner-Chiasson, Karen Linsley, Lyn Wad-As, Faye Marcoux, Kelly Humphrey, Jo Seesequasis, Alrene Valesquez, Edina Oligo, Tammy Forrester  
**Missing:** Prince Albert Family Room Staff – Nadia Balytska, Sharon Bitz, Marjorie Ribagorda

thoughts, I turned my focus from myself and thought of the many obstacles that people face in their lives where pathways forward may only feel like dead ends. Where the solutions are not simple nor straight ahead. I thought of families at the House where in the middle of their lives, they hit a blockade of trees lying in their way and are faced with tough, heartbreaking, surprising, and at times insurmountable obstacles in front of them.

I then reflected on this year which has been a year like no other for all of us around the world. The obstacle in our path is real and daunting and sometimes can feel overwhelming. We have faced this obstacle together, each and every day. We have partnered and felt the support of those around us and I am thankful for those partnerships. Companies like **d3h hotels** who housed families when we were unable to have new guests, and for donors like **Aggressive Drilling** who for no reason other than to support families, gave financially in a time of need.

This generosity of spirit highlights the importance of holding strong and being there for one another, lifting each other up and over the challenges, that sit like tress on our path.

Every day I am thankful that I serve families at Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan. A place created to support all people that find themselves in a place and on a path they had not expected to be, while they care for the medical needs of their children. A place built by visionaries and led by inspiring leaders 35 years ago, to simply serve and support people in the very moment they require assistance. Helping families to find some clarity on the path that may be overgrown, shady and unmarked.

On behalf of RMHC-SK Board Chair, Roona Sinha, and all Board Members along with RMHC-SK Staff, thank you to all of our supporters through these uncertain times as we share our gratitude and appreciation!

Sincerely  
 Tammy Forrester, CEO



# RMHC-SK Local Partnership Story - a Donors Journey - Aggressive Drilling

## Seeing a Community Need - Aggressive Drilling

We were aware of the service RMHC-SK provided to families prior to Aggressive Drilling getting involved in the Adopt a Room program, but our eyes were opened fully once we came, and did the House tour. Karen Linsley gave us a great tour, it took about two hours to go through the house, and once we were done we fully realized the magnitude of the benefits that this house provides to the families during trying and difficult times. You only need to hear the heart felt gratitude that comes from families when they speak at an event like the Red Tie Gala, to fully grasp how meaningful this place is to these families. Again we are proud to support RMHC-SK, and we can't thank the staff and volunteers there enough for the job they do. Amazing support for the families and honoured to be a part of it.

Aggressive Drilling has been a proud supporter of RMHC-SK for the past three years.

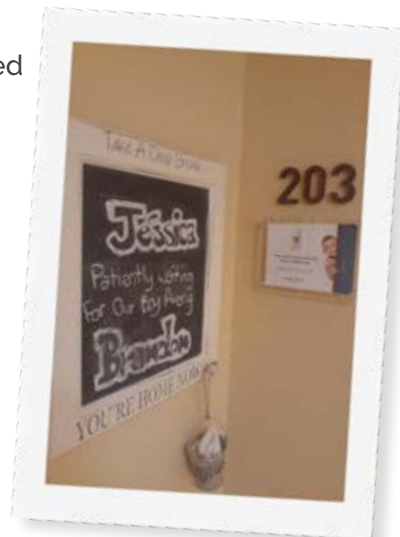
*Submitted by Bud Chisholm- Owner of Aggressive Drilling*



Pictured Left to Right –  
Tammy Forrester, Bud Chisholm, Karen Linsley



Aggressive Drilling Adopt a Room Donor door signage



Aggressive Drilling team photo

**“Aggressive Drilling has been a proud supporter of RMHC-SK for the past three years.”**

# 35th Anniversary Celebration



Ronald McDonald House  
September 12<sup>th</sup> 1985

## Those were the days – memories from 1985 – 2020

### We remember.....

- The use of colored dots to indicate which rooms were occupied with House guests
- Volunteers did the cleaning of rooms and the entire house
- One community cupboard and one community fridge.
- Security system was a door code with 5 numbers that were interchanged weekly
- Irene lived at the House in what is now the gathering space and she was the night person for emergencies or question that families might have
- Weekend managers lived at the House from Friday until Sunday evening - stayed in the Weekend Manager's suite downstairs where LL102 is located - usually brought their own sheets
- House processes and systems operated without any computers
- Families were expected to help with the cleaning of the House and their room when they left
- The power of the cookie – still holds true today. Countless hours baking, countless cookies baked, billions of cookies consumed!
- Strong connections to Families we serve. Families then and now continue to stay



Clarence Ave. construction  
photo during 2013-14 expansion

connected and come back to reconnect with the House - whether just for a visit or because they want to give back somehow.

- A suitable name for the organization "Friends of Saskatchewan Children". The House is a part of a family's journey.





**2012 Capital Campaign**  
Raised \$12M



**Increased capacity from 13 to 34 Guest Rooms**



**3 staff to 26 staff members**



**Created a fully Accessible Playground**



**Built the Garden Next Door**



**Expanded Licensed RMHC Programs:**

Opening of Family Room in Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert in 2016

# 25,136



**families supported**

(September 12th, 1985 to December 31st, 2019)



## Expanded House Programs:

Family Food programs including:

- Home for Dinner in 2015
- Breakfasts served in 2017
- Lunch Program initiative March 2020

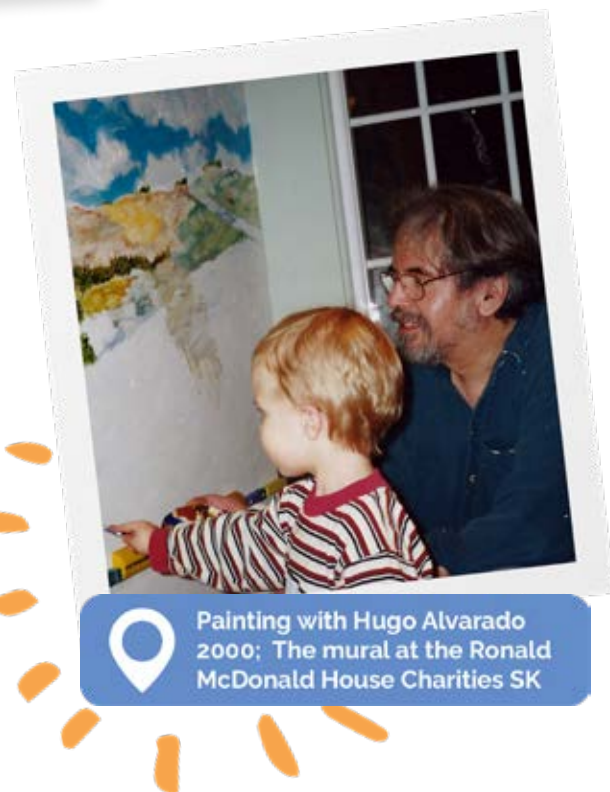
Family Programs including:

- Kidscare in partnership with Tykes and Tots
- House Bingo and Games Nights
- Expressive Art Therapy
- Pet Therapy



## 35th Anniversary Radio Blitz

Thank you to everyone throughout the province that came forward during our 35th Anniversary Radio Blitz. Together we raised \$291,000 for Ronald McDonald House SK and reached a total of 228 different communities province wide. Your support to the families of Saskatchewan over the last 35 years has been inspiring.



**Painting with Hugo Alvarado 2000; The mural at the Ronald McDonald House Charities SK**

# Funding Highlights

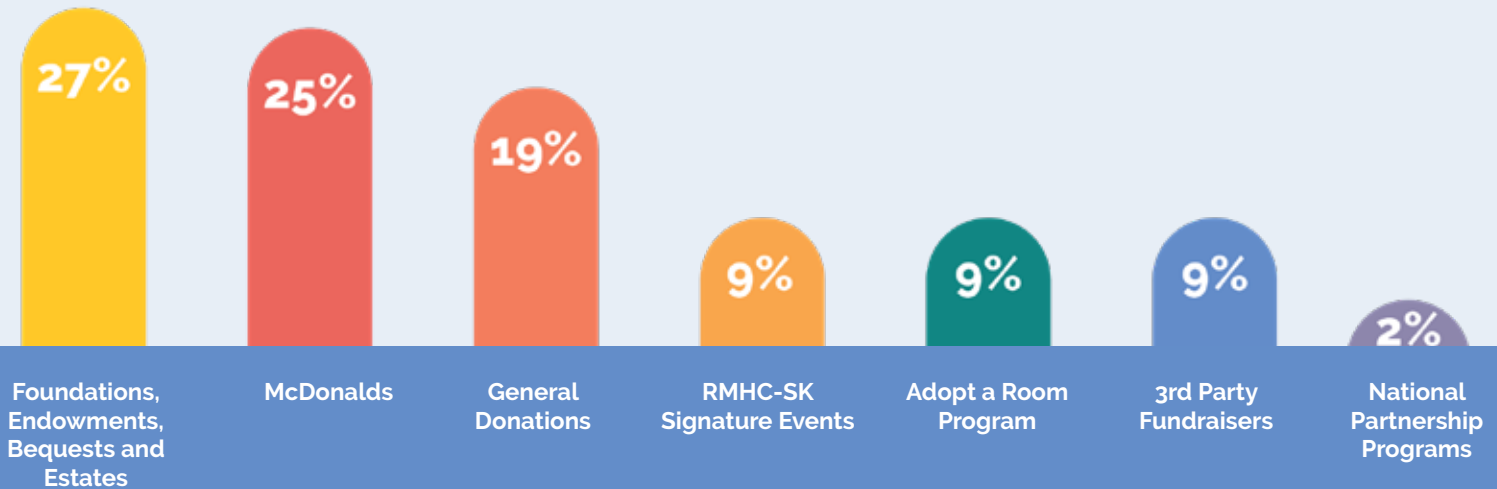
How RMHC-SK Funding is Allocated

Thank you to our supporters and funders throughout the many years of RMHC-SK.

2019 Audited Financial Statements are found at [www.rmh.sk.ca](http://www.rmh.sk.ca)



## How RMHC-SK is Funded



Volunteers, Donors, Staff and Friends celebrating the opening of the Garden Next Door, Fall 2019



# Legacy Giving

*By RMHC-SK Volunteer  
Marie Keir*

When asked to share my thoughts on Planned Giving, I agreed because it is such a meaningful way of giving back to one's community, a philosophy in which I passionately believe. It seems such a win-win strategy, in which I plan to participate. I share my experience in the hope of encouraging others to explore their own journey, and perhaps engage in these intriguing options with a non-profit organization which speaks to their heart. Ronald McDonald House speaks to mine.

My understanding is that planned giving is a legal government incentive for estate planning which supports funding of non-profit organizations through donations of cash, life insurance, personal and other types of real estate, and retirement plans. If effectively prepared, planned giving enables a double benefit minimizing taxation and maximizing wealth transfer for individuals, and triggering a donation to a non-profit organization of the donor's choice.

As a volunteer at RMHC-SK, I have been invited to attend inspiring sessions on planned giving, led by Jay Stark, Sutton Financial Group, and RMHC-SK Staff. Some sobering facts include that 50% of Canadians have no will, and 70% of families do not preserve wealth from one generation to the next.

Although government incentives exist as estate planning tools, lack of awareness, insecurity, and inaction often negate those potential benefits to both individuals and non-profit organizations.

Being in the season of life where it is especially prudent to complete an informed and comprehensive estate plan, I felt highly motivated to begin my planning journey. Moving through the tasks of writing a list of goals and wishes, following up with a Certified Financial Planner, seeking legal advice regarding property and investment transfer options and visiting a lawyer to update my will, I soon discovered I was getting ahead of myself since I needed specific details about legacies, which I could not yet provide. Good intentions became overshadowed by the complexity of the process, procrastination, and life, eventually stalling the planning process.

Recently, I have renewed my quest to get back on track and choosing to treat this journey as a challenge rather than an obstacle, as the final reward will be worth the effort. I wholeheartedly believe in the concept of planned giving and will take that final leap once I understand the process better. I know that experienced individual and professional resources exist and my challenge is to access those contacts to gain more insight and confidence in building a personal legacy.

I believe that planned giving should be a lifelong goal, helping to provide personal purpose and joy as well as benefitting our

communities. Donations of time and talent are highly valued by organizations such as RMHC-SK. Monetary donations are, of course, an essential part of non-profits as well, but giving from the heart is just as important.

Watching my grand-son Aiden use some of his birthday money to donate to kids staying at RMHC-SK who celebrate birthdays there, I have felt a sense of pride that he is learning at a young age, the importance of giving to others. Aiden decided to buy \$10 McDonald's gift certificates instead of toys, and create five gift bags complete with a card which he recently delivered to the house. True to his heart, as Aiden and his family also love picnics, he also donated a basket of some of his favourite snacks to share with the kids.

As I see it, the clock is ticking ... so I would encourage others of all ages to explore the concept of planned giving and to share their resources of knowledge and experience with those who are interested. Teamwork makes the dream work!



# The Simbulan Family



Hometown:  
**Lloydminster**

Night Stayed:  
**105 nights**

“Often being tired and sick from treatments, I often find myself looking forward to coming home to RMHC-SK, and find myself missing the beautiful environment there.”

My Name is Leila Simbulan and this is my story and diagnosis.

I was diagnosed this year on March 6, 2020. A month beforehand, I had a sudden swelling on my right leg, right above my knee. Being 17 and naive, I thought I must've tripped somehow and forgotten about it. And so I ignored it. Several weeks passed by and the swelling seemed to have gotten larger, and I slowly began to limp. At this point, I still didn't think anything of it. I was 17, healthy and young. It'll go away eventually, right? And so, I shrugged it all off, put ice on it, and called it a day. I also had NO interest WHATSOEVER of even being in close proximity to any hospital environment, as this was the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak. So if it wasn't for my mother's concern for my sudden limping around, I wouldn't have gone to get it checked at all. I guess you can call it a mother's

instinct. And so, I eventually had an x-ray.

The VERY next day, I got a call I never expected to ever receive. I don't think anyone would. "There is a growth in your bone. We suspect cancer. Please prepare for the worst." My world came crashing down, as did my whole families. That same day, I got in touch with an oncology team in the big city of Saskatoon and surgeons. I was suspected to have a High Grade Osteosarcoma of the Right Femur. I eventually had a biopsy to 100% confirm my diagnosis. My oncology team then made up my plan of treatment, but I had to wait.

It was without a doubt, the most horrifying waiting game. I saw myself decline. I eventually went from being able to walk, to limping, and to not being able to walk AT ALL in a matter of weeks. The devil also didn't forget to

constantly whisper me thoughts of fear, doubts, worries and more. Evil tried to pull me down to a state of darkness and depression. The devil taunted me with such dark thoughts, and of course the possibility of death in front of my face. I was 17 and that scared me. After all, this wasn't just your common cold, right? Now, THIS was the time I had nothing to hold onto except my family, friends and most importantly, my fatih in Christ. Without Jesus, I honestly don't know how I would have done all of this. Finally, my oncologists officially gave me the plan of 10 months of chemotherapy (In total of 6 cycles, 18 sessions, of Cisplatin and High-Dose Methotrexate). They also told me to expect surgery for my tumour after 2 cycles.

That's where the amazing Ronald McDonald house came in. Living almost 3 hours away from my



hometown in Lloydminster, finding an accommodation EVERY day we were in Saskatoon was a struggle in many aspects, especially financially. I couldn't imagine paying for a hotel every night, knowing how the expenses can add up. Not only did RMHC-SK give us a home at a low price, but I really found comfort and love in the environment there. My family and I felt so blessed to have met the people we've met in the house, from the staff and of course, to other families as well.

RMHC-SK made SUCH a huge impact on me, especially in my time of need. Not to mention taking us in during this crazy COVID-19 pandemic, the Ronald McDonald House

became even more special to us then. The house is just simply beautiful. From the offices, to the bathrooms, kitchen, laundry rooms, all the way to the amazing rooms I got to call my second home. It also made my day whenever there was a dinner program in the house, and having the opportunity to enjoy the delicious meals and desserts prepared with such love and hard work.

Often being tired and sick from treatments, I often find myself looking forward to coming home to RMHC-SK, and find myself missing the beautiful environment there. The staff not only feel like family, but they've been there every step of the

way, celebrating my ups and my downs. From my treatments, to my surgeries, etc. the House was always there to come home to. Whenever good news and reports come out, I often cannot wait to share it with the staff there. The Ronald McDonald House will forever have a special place in not just my heart, but I know MANY other families too. As I finish up my treatments, I know that the RMHC-SK family will be there till the finish line. I have endless 'thank you's to give, but the impact and difference the House truly brings me to awe. We love you RMHC-SK Family!

-Leila, Leny and Roger Simbulan



# How You Can Help?



## Adopt-A-Room

The Adopt a Room Program allows an individual, a company or an organization to be the exclusive partner on one of the guest rooms at Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan. This contribution provides direct support for guest room upkeep and operations so families can have a place they call home while they are away from theirs.

The cost of adopting a room is \$10,000 a year for a minimum of three years and can be paid annually to support a family guest room or can be all at once. Donors receive three years of recognition with the option for renewal after 3-years.

Currently there are 5 guest rooms up for adoption. For more information on the program contact Karen Linsley at [klinsley@rmh.sk.ca](mailto:klinsley@rmh.sk.ca) or 306-244-5700 ext 115.



## Home for Dinner

The Home for Dinner program is a wonderful gift for families that stay at RMHC-SK. The Home for Dinner program provides a home cooked meal for families 3 evenings a week which gives comfort to the families during a very stressful time in their lives.

Until further notice, due to restrictions we are unable to host outside groups in the House or Family Room. The in-house food program staff have adapted and continue to provide meals for families each week.

Currently the program team is requesting donations of catered meals from restaurants, gift cards and donations of food so the team can continue to support families when they need it the most.



## Wish List

Donations of items from our Wishlist help RMHC-SK keep costs low so that we can continue to provide a home like environment for the thousands of families that come through our doors. Items including gift cards for groceries, baking supplies, toiletries, crafts & recreation materials, and pick-me-up gifts, go a long way in helping to accommodate our families and make them feel at home.

**The Wishlist is updated regularly on RMHC-SK Facebook page @rmhsk**

*Note: All items should be new. We are unable to accept second-hand or gently used items due to the compromised immune systems of our children. Items can be delivered to the House between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm 7 days a week.*

## Gift of Nights



1 month=\$6,000  
2 weeks=\$3,000  
1 week=\$1,500  
3 night=\$600  
1 night=\$200

Visit [www.rmh.sk.ca](http://www.rmh.sk.ca) to donate your "Gift of Nights".

Ronald McDonald House Charities Saskatchewan provides accommodation and support for families whose child is receiving essential medical treatment at a nearby medical facility in Saskatoon. The "Gift of Nights" program is a way to support families in the House and bridge the gap between the \$10/night contribution families are asked to make when they stay at the House and the actual cost of a night stay at the House being well over \$150/night.

Through generous contributions we are able to support more than 1700 families a year. Some families stay for a night, some for 3 nights and some for months. The increments chosen for this program represent the most common amount of nights' families will require access to the House.

We are stronger together and we know children heal better and faster when their parents, siblings and extended family are close. So in helping us keep families close we ask that you consider a gift through our "Gift of Nights" program.



# Community Engagement



The annual 4X4 Toy drive delivers gifts to the children at RMHC-SK.



Kindersley McDonalds team with Detlef and Edith Bublitz celebrate McHappy Day 2019.



February 2020 - Braden Thompson drops the puck at a charity Humboldt Broncos vs Estevan Bruins hockey game



The community engaged Good Soil Dinner Theatre helped raise \$30,000 through their annual event in Goodsoil Saskatchewan.

Thank you to Save on Foods, Western Canada, who supported the Western Canadian Houses in 2019 with in-store promotions and fundraising.



# The Story of Volunteerism



## In 2019...



**204**  
Regular House  
Volunteers



**38**  
Regular  
Family Room  
Volunteers



**19,993**  
Total Volunteer  
hours



**10,000+**  
Total cookies  
baked



**208**  
Total number  
of Breakfasts  
served

## Thirty-Five years ago,

the House could truly be described as "Volunteer Managed". After 5:00pm every weekday and during all hours on the weekends, House responsibilities were covered by a dedicated and compassionate team of volunteers. Evenings and weekends were of special note, as we had a live-in House Manager for 16 years who was available to support the needs of the families during the evenings from Monday to Friday. From Friday at 5:00pm to Sunday at 5:00pm, our Volunteer Weekend House Managers would move into a guest room at the House to provide comfort and security for our guests all weekend long. The true definition of dedication!

While the structure of the Volunteer Program and Team has changed, Volunteers continue to provide important and caring service to the families who stay with us. Over the years the Volunteer roles have evolved from individuals filling regular, weekly shifts to developing more specific roles where people were better able to use and enhance their specific skill set for the enhancement of the family's experience with us.

### These roles include:

- Event Committees
- Gardeners
- Maintenance support
- Guest Experience Receptionists
- Bakers
- Cleaners
- Home for Dinner Hosts
- Decorators
- Kids Care Team
- Toy Team
- Plant Care
- Second Language Support
- Art Therapy
- Pet Therapy
- Board Members

**Individual Volunteers contributed 9,140 hours of volunteer work in 2019. Which is equivalent of 5 full time staff positions!**

A few years ago we created a more formalized program to engage corporate, community and student groups in Volunteer activities, and they have made a tremendous contribution to our work! We are thrilled to partner with groups such as the Autism Society and a variety student life skills classes to help them reach their goals as well. This is truly a win-win situation!

Volunteer Groups have done a variety of activities including cleaning, yard maintenance, cooking meals and baking.

**Group Volunteers contributed 10,853 hours of volunteer work in 2019. Which is equivalent of 5.5 full time staff positions!**

While Volunteers are vital in the

day-to-day experience of the families, they have also played a crucial role in delivering our many fundraising events and milestone celebrations such as our Grand Opening, Expansion Opening and most recently our 35-year Anniversary celebration and Radio Blitz. From blowing up balloons to answering phones and making personal donations, our volunteers continue to show their support in both good and challenging times. With this team on our side, we are always confident that we can continue to deliver our mission with care and compassion.

We are forever grateful for and humbled by the energy, effort, dedication and hard work of the hundreds of Volunteers who have helped create this sanctuary for families. It is truly an honour to work alongside them, and we look forward to the rich history we will continue to create as we move forward.

# Gifts

## In Honour Of

Adelyn's Birthday  
 Allard, Megan  
 Ardell, Carter  
 Aryahi's Birthday  
 Bayne, Mark and Bonny  
 Card, Elizabeth and William  
 Cholin, Lorraine  
 Cole, Pat  
 Cole, Joe and Jean  
 Craig, Spencer  
 Danroth, Cameron  
 Dellow, Karen  
 Derenoski, Tristan  
 Evans, Isaih  
 Flaherty, Ryan  
 Gee, Mea  
 Gendalls, Jacob  
 Haley, Sherlyn and Dave  
 Hamlin, Latham  
 Hartmann, Maks  
 Hein, Brenda  
 Holmstrom, Theeus  
 Hoult-CN Railroader, Terry  
 Jacob's Giving Gems  
 Kohlman, Colleen  
 Llorente Gonzalez, Bash and Gaia  
 McCannell Financial Group  
 McIntyre, Braxton  
 Mills' Baby Girl, Stephanie and Tyler  
 Moodley, Dr. Otto  
 Olson, Wylie  
 Olson, Carter  
 Parker, Emily and Aaron

Poth, Clark  
 Ramirez, Carolina  
 Renwick, Hayden  
 Rupert, Gloria  
 Scadden, Dianne  
 Schmidt, Zoe  
 Schmitt, Mme. Lynette  
 Sehierling, Parker  
 Staples, Avery Maria  
 Vollmer, Rosie Lou  
 Weimer, Linda  
 Williams, Marg  
 Yuel, Jim  
 Zenert, Earl and Joan  
 Zimmerman, Koby and Mya  
 Zurakowski, Jill  
 Jamieson, Levi  
 Tosh, Henry

## Bequests 2020

Estate of George David Bradshaw  
 Estate of Lorne Fleming  
 Estate of T Alfred Healey  
 Estate of Eric Tyson  
 Estate of Harry Zacharias

## Adopt a Room Donors

Aggressive Drilling Ltd  
 Avengers  
 Beverly and Garth Moore Foundation  
 Cargill Ltd.  
 Casey & Karen Davis  
 Cherry Insurance  
 CIBC Wood Gundy  
 Darcy and Christine Campbell  
 Henry Remai  
 In Honor of Margaret Sander & Celebration of Ned Sander  
 Lillie Farley  
 Louac Family of Companies  
 Marion Graham Collegiate  
 Mervin & Arlene Rumpel  
 Moodley Family  
 Parr Auto Body  
 Petrocare Construction Ltd  
 Saskatchewan Blue Cross  
 Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association in Appreciation of Mya Slobodian  
 Scherbo Holdings  
 SIGA  
 TCU Financial Group  
 The Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan Order of the Eastern Star  
 The other rooms that have been adopted have requested to remain anonymous.





## In Memory Of

Amundson, Phyllis  
 Andrusiak, Derek  
 Bacon, Sterling  
 Berg, Ted  
 Bergermann, Cole  
 Bornyk, Mark  
 Borschneck, Albert  
 Bosch, Joanne  
 Bothner, Carter  
 Box, Jim  
 Brabender, Raymond  
 Brown, Allan and Margaret  
 Buchholz, Trent  
 Buchinski, Veloy  
 Bursic-Panchuk, Kailynn Jade  
 Campbell, Jean  
 Candline, Vince  
 Chow, Paige Mackenzie  
 Christiansen Bean, Connie-Gay  
 Commandeur, Aline Detillieux  
 Davidson, Edith  
 Eiwanger, George  
 Evans, Jean  
 Evans, Norman  
 Fitch, Cathy  
 Ford, Bob  
 Gerry,  
 Goddard, Bryan and Abby  
 Hall, Shirley  
 Hanson, Earl  
 Hollingshead, Rosanne  
 Jacobs, Kasia  
 Jessica-Anne, Jackie and Adair,  
 Johnston, Rory Deryl  
 Koroluk, Pearl

Kraft, Jeffery  
 Kutsak, Beverly  
 Lawson, Pat  
 Lawson, Nixon  
 Lee, Robert (Bob)  
 Legebokoff, Emily  
 Leschyshyn, Ron  
 Lindborg, Laura  
 Lyall Gray, Anna May  
 MacSorley, Robert (Bob)  
 Mann, Barton  
 Marcoux, Grant and Beth  
 Marriott, Bernard  
 Masear, Tammy  
 Mazurek, Kathy  
 McCarthy, Jan  
 McDonald, Dale  
 McDonald, Jack  
 McKaig, Phil  
 McLaren, Dorothy  
 McQueen, Donna  
 Merrill,  
 Moen, Russ and Linnea  
 Nelson, Sharon  
 Nevaeh,  
 Newton, Merle  
 Ogren, Anne  
 Orth, Doris  
 Peters, Eva Alice  
 Peterson, Olaf  
 Piche, Sandra  
 Polasek, Maddox - Max The Brave  
 Puetz, Tyler  
 Quinn, Nancy  
 Roach, Hayden and Dawson

Roles, Joy  
 Rolke, Addison Jenner  
 Ross, Hester  
 Rushton, Joyce Elaine  
 Ruzesky, Edward  
 Sanderson, Brian  
 Schafer, Art  
 Schatkoske, Shirley  
 Shirley, Kathleen  
 Silzer-Quinn, Rose  
 Stafford, Gavin  
 Struble, Kari  
 Teague, Mary  
 Tluchak, John and Vicki  
 Trefiak, Wesley  
 Uhran, Donald (Ed)  
 Van Auken, Milton  
 Van Lambalgen, Jerry  
 Walcer, Casmir  
 Walker, Roy  
 Walsh, Tom  
 Warner, Rhonda  
 Weitzel, Arianna Mae  
 Wickstorm, Doris and Sandra  
 Will, Darren  
 Wolfe-Tinant, Elizabeth  
 Wourms, Hayley and Cayden  
 Wurtz, Geraldine (Gerri)  
 Young, George

# Lily

# Blais-Larson

Hometown:  
**Chitek Lake**

Night Stayed:  
**251 nights**



Picky eater, growing pains and a slight constipation was what we were dealing with before Lily went on a trip to Sudbury to visit family in the mid October 2019. On October 30th on the flight back her mom had to carry Lily and her car seat cause she refused to walk. She ate a little at a motel we were staying but she seemed a bit off and weak. On November 1st at 2 am, my daughter called me from the room and told me that Lily was having a bad nosebleed where she thought it was coming out of her mouth. We panicked and called 911. We managed to stop the bleeding but also informed the paramedics that she hasn't had a bowel movement and complained of stomach pain. Luckily, they took her to Shellbrook hospital and got transferred to Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert. The hospital staff at pediatrics were very friendly and that is where I had a glimpse of the Ronald McDonald experience. The lady that worked there was very friendly and accommodating. The Doctor that was assessing Lily was very thorough and he noticed that Lily could walk but she was babying the one side of the leg more. He then talked to the doctors in Saskatoon to possibly do more tests. Lily spent her 3rd birthday, which is Nov. 4th, at the hospital and then the next day we got transferred to Jim Pattinson Children's Hospital in Saskatoon.



From there our whole world changed, on November 19th, Lily got diagnosed with stage 4 Neuroblastoma after doing a biopsy and a bone marrow extraction. The doctor showed us Lily's chart of the treatments that she would have to go through to up her chances of survival. I looked at the chart and was very overwhelmed with all that she would have to go endure. After crying and talking about our fears and feelings, we then decided to think positive and take things day by day. This little girl needs us to be strong for her so that is what we did. Whenever we start to feel overwhelmed, we just remind each other to "just keep swimming, just keep swimming"

We were set up at a motel across from the hospital at first called the Refresh Inn but eventually we were placed at the Ronald McDonald House when Lily was done her first round of chemo in late November. The house was decorated very festive when we first walked in. All the living rooms on each floor had a Christmas tree in them. The staff were very friendly and were always smiling and always took the time to come say hi. The suppers that were provided by weekly volunteers were delicious and very much appreciated. We stayed at the house for the next few months as Lily went for her treatments and weekly bloodwork. From time to time we would go back home to visit but for the majority of the time we stayed in Saskatoon.

We went to Calgary in May for the stem cell transplant that was scheduled for her. The first transplant went okay but the second one was a bit rough due to the higher dosage chemo. I am thankful for Dori and the Ronald McDonald House staff for

recommending us to the Ronald McDonald House in Calgary. We were one of the six families that were allowed in for their first phase of re-opening. The set up was a bit different but the staff were friendly. I made a few friends by sharing our stories and how we cope with situations. Giving advice and taking advice with strangers that are going through similar situation sure helps when you are feeling alone or need reassurance.

In August we came back home to Saskatchewan and the Saskatoon Ronald McDonald House welcomed us back. Even though with the restrictions, the staff made sure our needs were met. They still have breakfast and suppers made on certain nights. Lily finished her radiation treatments that started on

September 21st and she rung the bell, signifying completion, on October 6th. She is on the last leg of her treatments with immunotherapy. It will be a 6-month process that consists of 4 nights in hospital, 14 needles and 14 oral medications. It will be repetitive every month till February and for the sixth month it will just be oral medicine. It has been a long journey with a lot of mixed emotions. I am happy I am here with my daughter and grand daughter. I am also happy and forever grateful for the existence of these Ronald McDonald House facilities. They made our journey easier here in Saskatchewan and in Alberta when it would have been of big struggle financially and for that I thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Hi y hiy

~ Ruby Larson





## CONTACT

### Saskatoon, SK

Ronald McDonald House Charities  
Saskatchewan  
1011 University Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0K4  
306-244-5700

### Prince Albert, SK

Ronald McDonald Family Room  
Victoria Hospital – Paediatric Unit  
Prince Albert, SK  
306-765-2309



Living Room in the  
RMHC - SK Family Room,  
Victoria Hospital

## MISSION

We provide programs for families with sick children that positively impact the health and wellbeing of the entire family.

## VISION

Giving all Saskatchewan families the support they need to be with their sick children.