



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
IDAHO

Home Matters

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Idaho, Inc.

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Mommy's Hero

~ by Shawni Friel

My son Hunter was diagnosed with ALL leukemia on 9/20/2010. Before he was diagnosed we went through 3 months of high fevers and never getting any real answers from the local doctors. He would constantly chew on cardboard and after asking the doctors plus looking for answers on the internet everyone said the same thing... it's normal.

A dark cloud covered my whole world on that morning as the doctor hesitated in telling me that my son has cancer. Hunter had just turned two years old when he started his journey. I hate to admit that before all this happened I was really blind to cancer or any kind of illness that is brought upon our children or family. 24 hours of sitting in a hospital bed with so many doctors and nurses felt like 24 years waiting to find out what kind he had and what we were going to have to do for him to survive. Out of everything that was being said to me, the doctors looked me in my eyes holding my hand, telling me that they will do everything in their power to save my son's life.



I always felt guilty that this was somehow my fault since I carried him and it was my body that he was living off of. He was born premature and had to spend 3 weeks in the NICU and went through things that I thought was going to be the worst thing he ever had to do in his life.

Hunter and I spent over 60 days in the hospital and everything that he had to go through was just heart breaking. It's truly amazing what our children can go through and just somehow be at peace when watching a cartoon or playing with a truck. Hunter went through so many blood transfusions, spinal taps, bone graphs and chemo that he swelled up like a little sumo wrestler. He could barely stand up or even open his eyes.

Trying to get him to eat or drink anything was impossible. The worst time was when he was too sick to walk or hold himself up and had to learn to crawl all over again. The pain that I could see in his eyes was almost more than I could bear. I just realized that I had to look at it

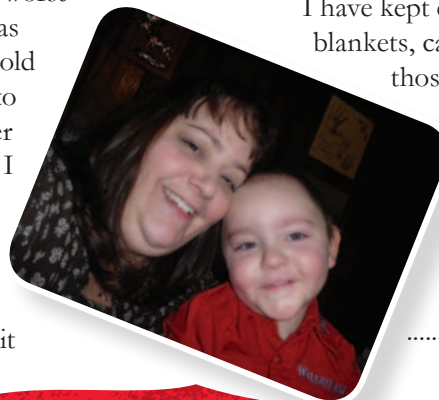
as he was learning to do it all for the first time and when he did it again it was even better than his first steps.

From December 2010 to June of 2011 Hunter and I made the two hour drive every week for treatments. Not often did we have to stay which was easier on both of us when we got to go home and rest. In June Hunter had to go through four cycles of Chemo that were very scary for the both of us. Something about seeing all kinds of medicines going in at once and not knowing if his little fragile 28 lb body was going to be able to handle it all was very over whelming. July was finally his marker of maintenance and was able to get his hair back and feel like a normal kid.

Now we only have to go up once a month. At the beginning of those months he was having spinal taps every two months with one month off. Now he is at the point of only getting it done every three months. Once he did hit the maintenance I thought that having to take so much Chemo would be a thing of the past. However I quickly learned that he will have to take it everyday and for five days out of the month it would be steroids. Out of all of the medications he must take that one is for sure our least favorite.

I have kept everything like pillow cases, blankets, cards, loads of pictures and those adorable charms they give you so that when he gets old enough he can see just how strong he was and what he accomplished so early in his life.

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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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From the President of the Board

Dear Friends of the Ronald McDonald House:

Few medical crises are more devastating or frightening than a child with a life-threatening disease, or an unexpected injury or illness. Few situations place greater stress and financial burden on parents and families. The Ronald McDonald House provides families with a “home-away-from-home” helping to ease some of the strains and pressures that families face in these stressful times. Studies show that when family members remain close to their ailing child, the child heals better and the family members cope better. Last year, our Idaho House supported 579 families which equates to 4,263 room nights, \$577,000 worth of lodging, meals & support and 7,400 volunteer hours.



It is through you—our donors, volunteers, and supporters that this compassionate care is possible. Each dollar donated, each hour volunteered, each word spread enables the House to fulfill its mission and purpose and aid families in need. Thank you for all that you do—your support is making a difference one family at a time. Let’s vow to continue to work hard to house more families, feed more residents, and log ever more volunteer hours.

Thanks for all that you do.
Regards,
Sarah Seidl, *Board President*

Mommy’s Hero(cont.)

The doctors and nurses have become part of our family. Looking forward to years to come so they can watch Hunter grow into a wonderful young man.

The staff at the Ronald McDonald House has truly changed my life. They are the most wonderful people I have ever met. They have done things for Hunter and my family that I would have never expected. They have spoiled Hunter to the core which he enjoys more than they will ever know. I honestly don’t think I could have done all this without them and they will forever be in our hearts and our lives.

Thank you Hunter for choosing me to be your Mom, I am truly blessed to have you in my life and everyday is a miracle that we get to spend together! You truly are my hero and I will Love you forever.



Christmas in Spring

The holidays will be here before you know it. Businesses, Corporations, realtors, or firms that give employee or client gifts can plan now for an easy solution. The annual *Southern Living*, Christmas Cookbook – produced exclusively by Dillard’s, can be pre-ordered.

The hard-bound book is all new for the season and full of color photos, recipes, menus, decorating tips and ideas to entertain. It is the perfect gift at an amazing price – only \$10. All books sold in Idaho will benefit the Idaho Ronald McDonald House.

A limited run of the books are done each year, so get your order in early for delivery of the books in late September. Contact us today at events@rmhidaho.org or 208-336-5478.



Become a fan of the Idaho Ronald McDonald House on Facebook!
facebook.com/rmhcidaho



Follow the Idaho Ronald McDonald House on Twitter...
[@RMHIdaho](https://twitter.com/RMHIdaho)

The Power of Pull Tabs and Partnerships

I'm often asked if donating one small pull tab (or aluminum can or license plate) *really* can make a difference for our families at the House. My answer is always a resounding, "Yes!" In fact, since 1997 our volunteer-driven recycling program has raised **over \$103,000** with which to help the thousands of families who have stayed with us while their children were receiving medical treatment locally.

When donors make a commitment to contribute tabs, cans and license plates to our recycling program, they are enabling volunteers to provide many extras for our families. And let's not forget that small e-waste items can also be donated. Our program accepts cell phones/accessories, digital cameras, iPods and Mp3 players, computers/laptops, and toner/ink cartridges, all of which contain many toxic materials harmful to our environment if discarded as trash. Our e-waste recycling partner, Project KOPEG, pledges that these items are either recycled or disposed of properly. Visit www.projectkopez.com to find out more.

Fundraising dollars can purchase wholesome, nutritious food for our pantry shelves and freezers; buy gas, phone, and

grocery cards; update guest rooms with new bed and bath linens; replace furniture and appliances for both individual rooms and House common areas.

All because our wonderful donors realize how such a small effort on their part can accomplish so much. And they know they're helping our environment too.

We can do even more, and I challenge each of you to lend a hand. Talk to friends, family and co-workers about donating those cell phones or other small electronic items that lurk in drawers and cubbies in their homes. Take a walk with a furry friend and pick up discarded aluminum cans to recycle. (Much to my husband's chagrin, I've even been known to "dumpster dive" occasionally.) Ask local businesses to display one (or more) of our eye-catching tab recycling houses into which people can drop their tabs. Help sick kids and their families and increase your "green" footprint by partnering with the House and Project KOPEG.

Mary Hansen, *Chair*
Pull Tab Program



Our Top Ten List...

At this time, we are in greatest need of the following donations:

- Pillows and white pillow cases-standard or queen size
- Cotton Blankets-queen size
- Queen Size Fitted sheets-white
- Gas Cards
- Winco or Fred Meyer Gift Cards
- Plastic Food Containers
- Nonstick sauté/fry pans (medium size)
- Silverware
- Cooling Racks
- Fresh Fruit

Thank you so much for your help in providing these needed items for our guest families. For a complete wish list, please visit our website at rmhidaho.org or contact Sandra, sandra@rmhidaho.org, 336-5478.

Welcome to the Board of Directors

We are excited to welcome two new community members who are serving on the Board of Directors.



Dr. Gregory Janos, Executive Medical Director of St. Luke's Children's Hospital, brings a great deal of experience to the organization. As a practicing physician for 35 years, Dr. Janos has held many leadership roles in children's health.

Past volunteer roles in community health clinics, hospital foundations, community health reform, public policy and advocacy give Dr. Janos a great deal of depth on issues that impact families of ill and injured children. He served as a Board Member for Ronald McDonald House Charities in Sacramento for ten years.

Dr. Janos and his wife Lauri have four children and have enjoyed the transition over the past two years to their new home in the Treasure Valley.



Darren Kyle has been involved for many years in supporting the Ronald McDonald House and is excited about taking on this new role. As a McDonald's owner/operator in South Central Idaho, Darren feels a close connection as so many of the families that use the House come from the Twin Falls area.

Darren has participated in many events over the years as well as been a community liaison for activities in the Magic Valley. He is a CPA & Board Member for the Idaho Society of Certified Public Accountants, whose financial expertise will strengthen the RMHC organization.

When he's not working at the family business, Valley Food Service, Inc. (McDonald's of South Central Idaho), he's on the tennis courts (an active member of the Magic Valley Tennis Association), training for his next triathlon, SCUBA diving, volunteering at the Chamber, or catching up with his son Braden, a college sophomore.



Gerlach Family – prepared dinner as a family for families



Volunteer of the Year 2011

Congratulations to the Ronald McDonald House Volunteer of the Year, Ellen Schaus. Ellen started volunteering in February 2009 and staffs the front desk every Tuesday afternoon. Some of her duties and responsibilities at the front desk include checking families in and out of the House, answering the phone and providing answers to a variety of questions, touring new families, orienting and training new front desk volunteers and of course offering significant assistance to all staff. During her time as a volunteer she has provided 575 hours of service to the families, staff and fellow volunteers of the Ronald McDonald House. We are pleased to honor her service and dedication with this award; it is due to amazing volunteers like Ellen that we are able to support, provide and care for families who stay at the House.



Sylvia and Sylvia – organized our kitchen supplies closet



Target group – prepared a delicious Italian feast

Volunteers, Service Groups, and Donations

We appreciate everyone who takes the time to make meals, bake treats, and help around the House. Your time and generosity help make this House a home to families during a very stressful time in their lives. Pictured are just a few of our wonderful volunteers and donors. For a complete listing visit our website at www.rmhcidaho.org.



Maren and Jessica – made the aprons and then baked treats for the families



Simplot – prepared dinner and made main and side dishes to be frozen and used in the future



Stephanie and Jennifer Torres – the sisters baked cookies and put together personal hygiene bags

Volunteers Make This House A Home



Scentsy check presentation – Funds provided by Scentsy through their employee volunteer service program



ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston – held a BBQ for families, volunteers and staff



Savannah and Lynsey – baking treats (basing their senior project around the Ronald McDonald House)



Pamela Pogue – baked delicious mini lemon cranberry cupcakes



St. Luke's Financial Services – prepared cookies in lieu of financial statements



Wal-Mart group – organized the pantry, unpacked donations, moved items to garage



AVID – group baked treats, cleaned, and sanitized the palyroom toys



Boise High Spanish Club – preparados de pollo sopa de tortilla, sopapillas, y jarittos para la cena



Mtn. Home AFB groups – challenged each other to a cookie bake off



Deb Sanders – cleans and paints baseboards, trim and window sills



Nathan Garrison and grandma – made enchiladas (working toward his Eagle Scout community service merit badge)



Scentsy group – made lasagna and some tasty side dishes



Leticia Rimkus – filled the cookie jars with sweet treats



Junior League of Boise – scheduled several shifts so all members were involved



9TH ANNUAL Sporting Clays

T O U R N A M E N T

WESTERN STATES CAT • RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE • BLACK DOG CLAYS



“Shooting To Improve Children’s Lives”

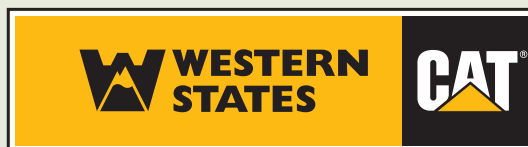
Sporting Clays is a clay target game designed to simulate field shooting. On the Sporting Clays course, shooters will be presented with a wide variety of targets that duplicate the flight path of game birds.

For over 24 years, the Idaho Ronald McDonald House has provided a safe, comfortable haven for more than 8,000 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 9th Annual Western States CAT Sporting Clays Tournament fundraiser at Black Dog Clays in Boise. We would love to have you participate 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. Plan to join us at the Birds of Prey Interpretive Center Friday between 5:30pm and 7:30pm for tasty treats and beverages.



Black Dog Clays
7680 Vallejo Road, Boise, ID



Friday & Saturday
June 1 & 2, 2012

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

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 :30am 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 at (208) 336-5478 or ellie@rmhidaho.org.

Tournament will be held rain or shine.

We look forward to seeing you at the range.
Thank you!

Tournament Opportunities and Benefits

- 100 Bird NSCA Registered Event
- 12 Gauge Ammunition
- Shooter gift
- Meals and beverages
- Admission to Friday Evening Reception at Birds of Prey Interpretive Center

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 brochure 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 brochure included in shooter packets

Individual Registration: \$125

One individual shooter position

Saturday Re-Entry

- 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 play a very important role in making this event a success.



Benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities

Yes, I would like to participate in the 9th 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**

Please fax this form to (208)336-0587 or mail to:
Idaho Ronald McDonald House®
101 Warm Springs Ave.
Boise ID 83712

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
- Friday Evening Reception Guest Tickets** - \$15 each Quantity _____

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/MasterCard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____



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Boise, Idaho 83712
(208) 336-5478

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2012 HAPPENINGS

Idaho Ronald McDonald House® Events

June 1 & 2 Western States CAT/Idaho Ronald McDonald House
Sporting Clays Tournament
Black Dog Clays – Boise, ID
Check out the Special Tournament Section within this newsletter

September 19 J.R. Simplot Memorial Golf Tournament
Falcon Crest Golf Club – Kuna, ID
Dinner and Charity Auction – September 18
Stueckle Sky Center, Boise State University Broncos Football Stadium

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

Community Events Benefiting the Idaho Ronald McDonald House

May 18-20 7th Annual Matthew Long Memorial Golf Tournament
Quail Ridge Golf Course – Baker City, OR
Team Registration: www.quailridgegreens.com

March - June Smiles for Life/Teammates for Kids Program
Teeth Whitening at Blaisdell Family Dentistry
www.blaisdellfamilydentistry.com

June 1 Join Us For 1
Drop your spare change in the donation box at your local McDonald's Restaurant

June 16 Brown Bus Company Bike & Car Show
First Church of the Nazarene, 7th St S @ 16th Ave S., Nampa

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

