

News That Love Built

The Ronald McDonald House Charities mission is to "create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children."

Fall 2010

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Helping Families Find Strength in Numbers

Hello from Chris, Virginia, Alex, Aidan and Baby Maricella. Our story begins on July 19, 2010 at about 0900 in the morning. Virginia was 24 weeks and 1 day along in her pregnancy when she woke at our home in Chippewa Falls, WI and noticed that she was leaking amniotic fluid. I called her Ob/Gyn and told them what was happening, and they advised to have her come to Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. Shortly after our arrival we found out that her water had broken, and that we would have to decide which hospital we wanted to be transferred to. They gave us the choice of Minneapolis, Rochester and Marshfield.

I work as a firefighter/paramedic in Chippewa, and our service often brings patients to Marshfield, so I am most familiar with this hospital. Virginia asked if I was sure. I told her that this hospital would offer us the most personal care, and I trust in their abilities. The decision was made to transfer Virginia here.

When we arrived Virginia was brought to the labor room and was assessed by her Perinatologist, Dr. Mascola. The fact that Virginia's water had broken was again confirmed. The plan was for Virginia to receive antibiotics and attempt to keep Baby Mari inside her as long as possible.

We were told about the Ronald McDonald House by the nursing staff, and that we would be able to stay there if Mari came early. Virginia had many visitors over the next few weeks, and I had to go back to work after the first week. On Friday July 30th Virginia's friend Robin came to spend the night with her. This was to be the first "girls' night" and Virginia was excited. Little did we know that by Saturday morning things were going to change.

When Virginia woke on July 31st she said she

didn't feel well. Kind of like she had the flu. She was placed back on strict bed rest, and I received a text message from Robin at 1000 about what was going on. I was at work at the Fire Department and had to find coverage. I was able to get to Marshfield by about 2:30 pm and things had slowed down. Then Virginia began to notice some contractions, and the monitor started showing some stress on Mari. She was moved to the Labor room and prepared for her c-section. Mari was born at 5:13 pm on July 31st and was 11lb 11oz and 13 and 3/8 inches long.

Mari was intubated and placed on a ventilator. She had umbilical lines placed and was begun on IV fluids. Her eyes remained fused shut, and they started giving her a "suntan" to help keep her bilirubin level down. She was placed in an isolet, and we were told that we wouldn't be able to touch her. We could expect her to be here until her original due date. She was born at 25 weeks 6 days, and her due date was November 7, 2010.



The day before Virginia was discharged from the hospital I went to the Ronald McDonald House to see what we needed to do to stay there. I met with Sandy, the House Director and filled out the paperwork. I have worked for the fire department for 12 years, and had seen Ronny's house across from the hospital every time I brought a patient here. I had no idea what this organization provided. I was given a tour of the house and told that we could stay at the House as long as Mari was in the hospital. We knew that we had a long road ahead of us and were grateful to have someplace to stay. We found that various community groups and families provided meals for the guests of the house about 20 days per month. Laundry service was available, and we were welcome to use any of the playrooms for our 20-month

House Highlights

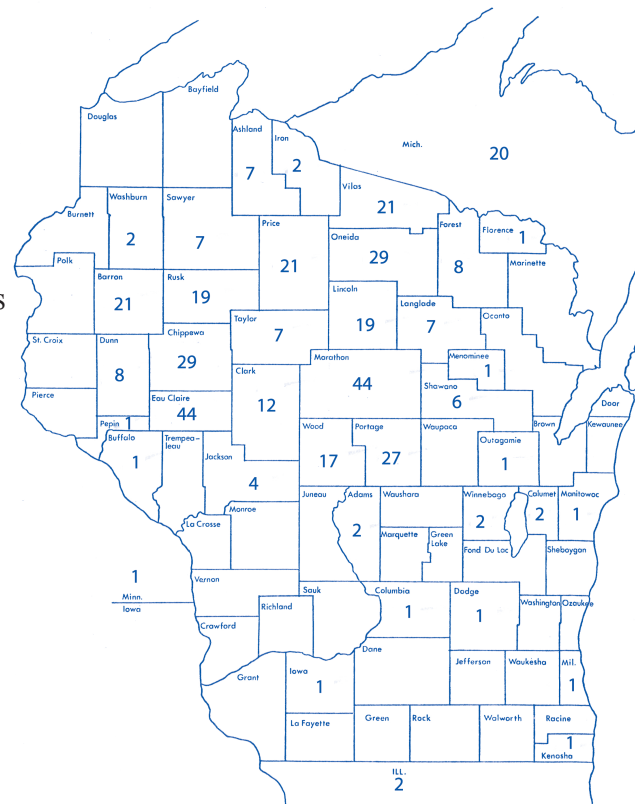
October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

Our Occupancy Rate:

From October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2010, our Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield served 401 different families.

Statistics:

Total number of different families served.....401
 Total number of family visits to our House620
 Average Room Occupancy rate (includes 247 Motel Accommodations Vouchers given out for alternate lodging when we were full81%
 Average length of stay.....5 nights
 Geographic area served.....36 Wisconsin counties, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, plus 2 other states.



Frequent medical problems served:

Premature babies	Surgeries
Infections	Seizures
Respiratory/RSV/pneumonia	Gastro/colon

Distance families traveled to stay here:

0-25 miles: 6 families
 26-50 miles: 95 families
 51+ miles: 300 families

Economics:

Total annual budget for 2009.....	\$239,466.11
Operating revenue from McDonald's & customers (canister collections).....	24 %
Amount families are asked to contribute per night's stay	\$5.00
Guest family contributions (room rent).....	5 %
Individual & corporate contributions, fundraisers, interest & dividends.....	71 %

Fast Facts:

Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home" for families and their children who are receiving treatment at Saint Joseph's Children's Hospital, regardless of their ability to pay. Our House has 10 bedrooms, 4 public bathrooms, several living rooms, indoor and outdoor play areas, large kitchen and dining room, 3 laundry facilities, elevator to make house handicap accessible, plus game room computer with internet access and WiFi wireless throughout the House donated by AT&T.

Marshfield's Ronald McDonald House opened on December 8, 1983. We are the only House serving one hospital for all of central and northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Our House is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by 2 full-time and 7 part-time staff and over 20 dedicated volunteers. Group volunteers also help by making home-cooked meals for our families (part of our "Meal a Month" program) and doing special projects such as spring & fall clean-up.

Your help is vital to providing a supportive home for families with seriously ill children. When you create or change your will, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to RMHC of Marshfield, Inc. We also gratefully accept gifts of cash, stock, property and life insurance. We greatly appreciate your support!

Thank you for being a friend to families with seriously ill children.

Events, Etc.

Help Us Go Green!

As friends and donors to our House, you may now request email acknowledgements to help with your record keeping, as well as receive our newsletter three times a year. If you would prefer an e-mail instead of paper, please let us know. Providing us with your email address helps keep our mailing costs down, increasing our ability to keep our budget in line & help more families. Here's how you can save costs and trees at the same time:

- Send an e-mail to rmhc-marshfield@charter.net with your e-mail address in the body of the message, or
- Call us at 715-387-5899 with this info, or
- Go to our website at www.rmhc-marshfield.org to read our newsletter and use our DONATE button to give to our House. When you use the DONATE button, you will receive a tax-deductible thank you note directly from JustGive.org for tax purposes. On the 10th of each month, they send us a check for all donations of the previous month, including donor information.
- Starting with our winter 2011 newsletter, you may receive a paper copy OR an e-newsletter, whichever you prefer.

Be assured that we will not share your information with any other organization.

McHappy Days

From November 10-20, McDonald's Restaurants around the country will be selling paper hands for \$1, with all proceeds benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Give a helping HAND to our families this November and make a huge impact at our Marshfield Ronald McDonald House.

After all, the more people that "Give a Hand" the more children we can help go through their recovery and the more families we can give a comfortable place to stay during a difficult time.

Do you know that every time you purchase a Happy Meal, a percentage of each meal sold is donated to our program all year long? If you ever needed an excuse to eat your favorite fast food meal, this is it? Head to your local McDonald's restaurant and support hundreds of families who need the help of the Ronald McDonald House each year.

Continued from page 1.

month. Laundry service was available, and we were welcome to use any of the playrooms for our 20-month old son.

We were amazed!!!! So many people are involved in this wonderful organization to help families in crisis. Knowing that our daughter was in safe hands in the NICU and not having to worry about a place to stay or food to eat made our first few weeks much easier.

As the weeks went on we began to see families come and go. We are always amazed how the various families help and support each other. Sometimes talking to others in similar situations helps people to heal and to understand their circumstances.

Mari continued to grow and meet her milestones on her weight and feedings. We had many ups and downs along the way. Problems with her lungs, having to increase her breathing support, possible infections, ultrasounds showing something abnormal in her brain, periods where she forgets to breath or is lazy with her breathing, trying to see her with a 22-month old active boy, having to increase her oxygen with feedings, and how we are going to take care of her when we get home have all been at the top of our thoughts since day one.

We are happy to report that Mari is now a "feeder/grower" and is just



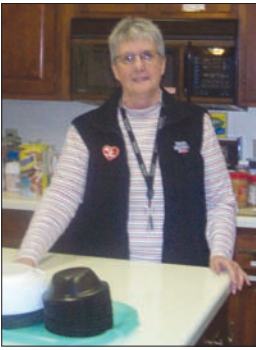
getting bigger as we wait to take her home. Her feedings are going well and she is, as quoted by Dr Hoehn, "chubbin up." She has had evaluations from respiratory, child psychology (for Mari and our family), physical and occupational therapy, and a nutritionist. We will have evaluations for the next several years with her neonatologist and neurologist. She has met or exceeded all of the staffs' expectations. We know they have been doing so much to help her grow and develop into the healthy girl she is.

As we get close to going home as a family, we are truly grateful for all of the help we have received. All of the wonderful people we have met from Marshfield who have helped us with Aidan, the groups that provide meals for the House on an almost daily basis, the Day, Evening and Weekend House Managers that staff the house and answer questions, and most of all, the donors that keep the house running. We have been blessed with all of the support and friends we have made. We look forward to revisiting the area and showing off our little girl!!!!

Christopher McHenry
October 15, 2010

June 1, 2010 -
September 30, 2010

Many Thanks



The Ronald McDonald House of Marshfield is a not-for-profit organization that provides a temporary "home-away-from-home" for families whose children are undergoing medical treatment at Ministry Saint Joseph's *Children's* Hospital or Marshfield Clinic. The House relies on the support of individuals, businesses and organizations to provide services to families in need. We would like to acknowledge those who have demonstrated their support in many ways during the past quarter. This list represents cash and in-kind contributions received from June 1 - September 30, 2010. If we have erred or omitted anyone, please accept our apologies.

CASH DONORS

Rebecca Allen
American Legion Aux 543-Plover
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Roy & Gene Sobolik
vanKerkhoven Family Fund-Schofield



Christopher, House Dad, helped bring in our new mattresses from national donor Tempur-Pedic

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Laura Hahn
Melissa Henrichs
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Church of Christ-Marshfield
Church of Christ-Spencer
Community Bible Church-Stratford
Culvers-Marshfield
Dominos Pizza-Marshfield
Elk's Lodge 665-Marshfield



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McDonalds Rhinelander North
McDonalds Rhinelander South
McDonalds Rib Mountain
McDonalds Schofield
McDonalds St Point East
McDonalds Stanley
McDonalds Stevens Point North
McDonalds Stewart Ave
McDonalds Thorp
McDonalds Tomahawk
McDonalds Wausau North
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Point
Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital-Marshfield
Missoula Mac, Inc-Poynette
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Pioneers 010
Nationwide Indemnity
Northwestern Bank-Boyd Branch
Jan & Don O'Donnell
Matt & Kia Ohlfs
Open Season on Cancer cap donors
Packaging Corp of America-Tomahawk Mill



Many Thanks

(Continued)



Elk's Lodge 665-Marshfield
Robert & Geraldine Foltz
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Marshfield
Hope Lutheran Church-Edgar
Immanuel Lutheran Ministries-Hewitt
McDonalds-Marshfield
Mosinee Area Action Club
Pick N Save-Marshfield
Subway North-Marshfield
Sunrise Rotary Club-Marshfield
Wal-Mart of Marshfield
Ron & Marilyn Berry

RECYCLING DONORS

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American Legion Aux 182-Park Falls



American Legion Aux 337-Pulaski
American Legion Aux 543-Plover
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Our Savior Lutheran Church-Iola
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Prairie River Middle School-After the Bell
Program
Riley School District # 18-Marengo, IL



Scaffidi Motors-Stevens Point
St Francis Xavier School-Merrill
St John's Lutheran Church-Mosinee
St Mary School-Marathon
Stone Fence-Marshfield
Sugar Camp Elementary School-Rhineland
Super Wash-Marshfield
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Trinity Lutheran Church-Spencer
United Methodist Church-Tomahawk
UW-Stevens Point NRHH
Valley Bummers Campers-Merrill
VFW Aux 8733-Mosinee
Larry & Shirlee Welch
WFLA-State Convention
WI Dept of Transportation-WI Rapids
Wood County Tavern League



TRIBUTES

Happy Birthday Alissa Bahe
Dave & Terri Bahe
In honor of Nicholas Beeman
John & Sara Young
In honor of Carly Ann Boers
Roy & Gene Sobolik
In honor of Dennis Borquardt's 30 years
of service
Alliant Energy Foundation
In honor of Aiden Boyd
Richard & Georgene Grenfell
Happy Birthday Cindy Brown
Ed & Carla Topper
In honor of Andrew Canniff
Jeff Caniff Agency
Happy Birthday Brian Doane
Ed & Carla Topper
Happy Birthday Nancy Doane
Ed & Carla Topper
In honor of Fran & Clara Elsen's 50th
wedding anniversary
Tom & Laurie Weinfurter
In honor of Joseph Kenneth Heck
Ken & Jenny Heck family
In honor of Conner Evan Hill
David & Mari Hill
Happy Birthday Brad Jacobson
Jack & Mary Grassl
In honor of Doug & Joyce Kuhlka's 50th
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Mary Rebhan
In honor of Bud & Bev Kunze's 58th
wedding anniversary
Mary Kunze
Happy Birthday James Kunze
Mary Kunze
Happy Birthday William Kunze
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In honor of Daniel Kuse
Doreen Kuse
In honor of David & Dana Misner
Isabelle Cliver
In honor of Courtney Szevs
Chris & Vicki Szevs
In honor of Frank Zank's 92nd birthday
Ron & Amber Zank

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In memory of Kenneth Bahr
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In memory of Racheal Bailey
David & Arline Stark
In memory of Robert Ballerstein
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In memory of John Kressel
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In memory of Fern Kuehn
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Randy, Theresa & Andrew Schwartz
In memory of Joe Stommel
Julie Lansing
In memory of Edna Swanson
William Dobson
In memory of Chuck & Debra Thewes
Patricia Magreke
In memory of Shirley Thurston
Bob & Darlene Insteness
In memory of Chuck & Margaret White
Kate White
In memory of Michael Zettler
Debra Thurs

Special Notice to Fundraisers The RMHC of Marshfield is always grateful for fundraising efforts by area organizations. However, it is necessary for us to approve all events that use our name and logo. If your group would like to organize a fundraising event to benefit the House, please call us at 715-387-5899, and we will be happy to discuss the details.

Make it as easy as 1-2-3 to donate to RMHC of Marshfield when you are paying your bills. Set up an auto-pay donation through your checking account the same as "how a bill to pay" is set up. What a wonderful and hassle-free way to support the Ronald McDonald House program of RMHC of Marshfield.

Ronald McDonald House

803 West North Street
Marshfield, Wisconsin 54449
(715) 387-5899

Fax: (715) 389-5991

E-mail: rmhc-marshfield@charter.net

Web site: www.rmhc-marshfield.org

Nonprofit Organization
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Return Service Requested

*In Loving
Memory...*
Dante Kyle Miller

Our Needs List

Please check this list of items and foods that we so often need at our House. We're thankful for all the businesses, groups and individuals who refill our pantry and storerooms.

Before making a large donation, we ask that you call 715-387-5899 to set up a delivery time.

FOOD ITEMS

- ♥ Hamburger
- ♥ Fresh milk, bread & butter/weekly
- ♥ Fresh or frozen fruits
- ♥ Fresh veggies & dip
- ♥ Frozen pizzas
- ♥ Peanut butter
- ♥ Instant potatoes
- ♥ Flour, white sugar & brown sugar
- ♥ Chocolate chips
- ♥ Soup mixes
- ♥ Healthy cream soups
- ♥ Beef & chicken broth
- ♥ Canned tomato products
- ♥ Breakfast bars
- ♥ Stuffing mix
- ♥ Canned frosting
- ♥ Pie crust
- ♥ Pie fillings
- ♥ Mini marshmallows
- ♥ Store gift cards
- ♥ Marshfield Festival Foods receipts-due in House quarterly-1/10, 4/10, 7/10 & 10/10
- ♥ Pick 'N Save "We Care" program participants-our account number is 675975

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- ♥ Heavy duty 16 & 33-gal clear garbage bags
- ♥ Dishwasher detergent
- ♥ Laundry detergent
- ♥ Shower cleaner
- ♥ Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- ♥ Armstrong Once N Done floor cleaner
- ♥ Dust Buster hand vacuum
- ♥ 5-oz cups
- ♥ Steam mop
- ♥ Rubber-backed bath mats (neutral colors)
- ♥ Swiffer duster refills
- ♥ Disinfectant spray or wipes
- ♥ Spiral light bulbs

OFFICE ITEMS

- ♥ Books or rolls of stamps
- ♥ Printer ink cartridges-HP 96 & 97

OTHER

- ♥ Family-friendly DVD movies

