



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Newfoundland & Labrador

For Immediate Release

**Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador Announce
Partnership with PAL Airlines & PAL Aerospace**

(May 31, 2017 St. John's, NL) – Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador announced a new two year partnership with PAL Airlines and PAL Aerospace today, intended to help keep families with a sick or injured child together when they need it most.

The partnership will see the companies provide \$50,000 in funding and resources over 2017 and 2018. The contribution will help RMHC NL not only enhance fundraising events and connect with communities throughout our province, but will also keep families with a sick or injured child together when they need it the most by expanding ***Keeping Families Connected Program*** at RMHC NL. The Keeping Families Connected Program at RMHC is a program that strives to match RMHC mission of keeping families close. Being away from loved ones for an extended period of time can be very difficult and creates added stress. To help keep families connected to home while staying at Ronald McDonald House, RMHC have partnered with technology and communications partners to give families access to a home office, wireless internet, computers/tablets, email, long distance calling & community newspapers. This program has been enhanced, thanks to PAL Airlines and PAL Aerospace, families staying at RMHC now have access to ***special*** flights within Newfoundland and Labrador.

RMHC NL recognized the tremendous support of **PAL Airlines and PAL Aerospace** by unveiling the adoption of two family suites. The Adopt a Room Program is an opportunity to provide the most caring and practical support to families during an incredibly stressful time. When families find themselves traveling far from home so their child can receive medical care in St. John's, having a room at RMHC provides a sense of security to parents who know they will be able to stay close to their sick or injured child.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer this support to Ronald McDonald House Charities and its families.” said Stephen Dinn, Vice President of Business Development, PAL Airlines. “We recognize the importance of families staying together, and our goal with this initiative is to reduce any stress on families who are required to travel here for treatment.” added Dinn.

Michael Sangster, Chief Operating Officer, PAL Aerospace, is also very pleased with the initiative. “As a growing global defence company, PAL Aerospace is proud to be able to make this important contribution at home in St. John’s where it will have a significant impact on the lives of families where and when they need it most.” said Sangster.

Since opening in 2012, Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador has provided more than 970 families with 22,352 nights of comfort and care. It is estimated that RMHC saved these families of more than \$3.35M in accommodation costs alone!

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador helps keep families with a sick or injured child close to each other and the care and resources they need, when they need it most. Open 24 hours a day/7 days a week, Ronald McDonald House features many common areas including a large kitchen, family room, television room, resource center, home office, children’s play areas and laundry facilities. Ronald McDonald House is open to parents, siblings and at times, extended family members of children receiving medical treatment in St. John’s. It draws on a large pool of committed volunteers who help families feel at home.

PAL Airlines prides itself on actively contributing to the betterment of our communities. Each year our dedicated employees engage in extensive community sustainability initiatives focused on giving back – it’s not a mandate but rather an extension of their core values. It is this unwavering approach to community involvement that has earned them consistent recognition and multiple awards throughout our markets. Most recently, PAL Airlines was recognized for its commitment to charitable work and awarded with the Community Impact Award for 2016 by the St. John’s Board of Trade. Our employees’ passion and our valued clients’ expectations are the driving force behind our community involvement. Visit PAL Airlines online at the following addresses:

www.palairlines.ca

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PAL Aerospace is an international aerospace and defence company with a focus on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) solutions. Recognized by governments and militaries for on time/on budget delivery, and high reliability rates, the company has grown globally. This track record of success has led to operations in Canada, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. PAL Aerospace offers a single point of accountability for its programs and takes pride in being the trusted choice for clients worldwide. PAL Aerospace was ranked 8th by the 2017 Canadian Defence Review in its annual top 75 Aerospace and Defence companies in Canada.

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L-R: Christine Morgan (Director Development & Communications, RMHC), Janine Browne, Meighan Saunders, Mandy Fagan, Katie Stoodley (PAL Airlines employees) Stephen Dinn (Vice President of Business Development, PAL Airlines), Annette Godsell (Executive Director, RMHC)



PAL Airlines employees unveil adopted family suite



The Blanchard family is currently staying in the PAL Aerospace family suite. They were excited to share their RMHC experience with PAL Aerospace. Jacob is 10 years old and is staying at RMHC with his mom, Bonnie Blanchard, and his Aunt Della Blanchard. This is their fifth stay at RMHC now totaling 20 nights. The Blanchard Family is from Parson's Pond, on the great Northern Peninsula, 762 km from St. John's – nearly an eight hour drive in each direction.



PAL Airlines employees unveil second family suite with assistance from RMHC guest, two year old Sawyer Pickett.



The Pickett Family is currently staying in the PAL Airlines family suite. Kayla and Eugene Pickett, along with their two-year-old daughter, Sawyer, and grandparents Joseph and Rosalind Pickett are current guests of RMHC. They are here because of their twins, Gracie and Landon, who are currently admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. They have been guests of RMHC since March 16th 2017, a total 120 nights so far. This family is from Indian Bay in Central Newfoundland, 342 km from St. John's which is nearly a 4 hour drive in each direction. The Pickett family graciously showed their appreciation to PAL Airlines for supporting the work of RMHC.



PAL Airlines employees participated in the RMHC Just Like Nan's Baked Goods Program earlier this morning and left behind homemade cupcakes, chocolate chip cookies and chocolate dipped shortbread airplanes for all the children and families to enjoy.



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