



*For Immediate Release*

## **Ronald McDonald House Charities Announce Results of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families**

**(October 4, 2019, St. John's, NL)** – Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador (RMHC NL) and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Hydro), the presenting sponsor of the eighth annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families, today announced the total funds raised from the event, as well as the winner of the Grand Prize draw, Provincial WestJet Lottery and top fundraisers. The announcement was made during the Final Step Event held at Ronald McDonald House in St. John's in the presence of Red Shoe Crew Volunteers Hydro staff, and other sponsors: Stingray, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Belfor, Cossette, PAL Airlines, In the Box Media Promotions, and WestJet.

Thousands of individuals took part in the Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families in 45 communities throughout the province. These events, held throughout September, raised an incredible **\$256,000 and growing**. The funds raised will support the ongoing programs and services at Ronald McDonald House in accommodating hundreds of sick or injured children and their families each year. Since opening in 2012, Ronald McDonald House has been able to accommodate 1355 families, keeping them close to each other and the care and resources they need, when they need it most.

Victor Hatcher of Appleton, NL expressed his sincere appreciation to everyone that supports Ronald McDonald House. In 2017, his 8-year-old son, Christian, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). After multiple tests, it was determined he would need several rounds of treatments. For the Hatcher Family, that meant relocating on a semi-permeant basis to St. John's. "When we arrived in St. John's we quickly realized that we needed a place to stay that was close to the hospital and a place for our youngest son Colin to stay with us as well. Our main goal was to keep our little family together. We checked into Ronald McDonald House and during 21 stays and 121 nights later it has been our home. It kept us close to Christian and gave our other son, Colin, a sense of security that he was staying with his family and supporting his big brother. Thanks to all of you, the corporate sponsors, the volunteer event organizing committees, the participants, and all the people who donate and support Ronald McDonald House – you have given our family a home when we could not be at home. We know that Ronald McDonald House, and all the people who support it, are also part of our fight and the reason we are able to be close to each other and the care and resources we need, when we need it most. For this we want to extend sincere thanks on behalf of our family and all the families that need Ronald

McDonald House.”

The **Grand Prize** for the Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families event was a trip for two anywhere PAL Airlines flies. For every \$100 participants raised on a pledge sheet for Ronald McDonald House, participants received a ballot to be entered into the draw. Hundreds of ballots were submitted by all event locations and the winner was **Tracey Slade** that participated in the **Victoria Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families**.

The **Provincial WestJet Lottery** was running in conjunction with the Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families events was a trip for two anywhere WestJet Flies. The winner was **Tracy Buckle** with lucky ticket number # **00922**.

The **Top Fundraiser** for the Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families event was awarded vouchers for \$500 in gas vouchers. The winner was **Lisa Martin** who raised an outstanding **\$2766**. Lisa Martin, who is the First Assistant Manager of the local McDonald’s, participated and organized the **Lewisporte** Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families and has now been crowned the top fundraiser three years in a row!

“The continued success of the Walk for Families is proof of the tremendous impact that Ronald McDonald House has on families from around the province,” said **Terry Gardiner, Vice President of Engineering & Technology at Hydro**. “Every day our employees are proud to help provide the energy our communities count on, and we are honoured to be presenting sponsor again this year. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this year’s Walk a success.”

“We thank everyone who participated, volunteered, sponsored or supported Ronald McDonald House during our seventh annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families events. Special thanks to sponsors: Hydro, Stingray s, McDonald’s – NL, Coca-Cola, Belfor, Cossette, PAL Airlines, In the Box Media Promotions, and WestJet.” said Annette Godsell, Executive Director Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador. “Events, such as our Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families, are an amazing reflection of our incredible volunteers and communities hard at work and supporting others – truly showing how important Ronald McDonald House is in keeping families close to each other and the medical care they need when dealing with a sick or injured child far from home.”

**Ronald McDonald House Newfoundland and Labrador** provides a home like experience for families, providing comfortable and affordable accommodations while children receive care and treatment at our province’s children’s hospital.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro** manages our province’s electricity system. We are a company of people who work hard behind the scenes because we know our customers are counting on us. Through our generation, transmission and distribution operations, we’re committed to meeting the needs of our customers and providing residents, businesses and communities across the province with safe, reliable power.

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L-R: Heather Butler (RMHC NL), Sherri, Emma & Stephen King (Victoria Red Shoe Crew), Annette Godsell (RMHCNL), Jillian Blanchard (Belfor) Neil Sullivan (Coca-Cola), Colin & Christian Hatcher (RMHC NL Family), Terry Gardiner (Vice President of Engineering & Technology Hydro) Aiden Hibbs (Stingray) Christine Morgan (RMHC NL), Gina Pinsent (Stingray), Shirley Kinden (Norman's Cove Red Shoe Crew), Victor & Sharon Hatcher (RMHC NL Family)