



**RMHC**  
Newfoundland  
& Labrador

# Keeping Families Close

SUMMER 2020

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador



## Meet Jerrica Bartlett of Labrador City

Shortly after Jerrica Bartlett was born in Labrador City on June 30, 2015, her blood sugars dropped suddenly and she was immediately air lifted to the children's hospital in St. John's, more than 2000 km away from their home.

It was then that Jerrica's mom, Darlene, was introduced to the programs and services at Ronald McDonald House. She recalls that first experience as such a relief because she was far from home, alone, just had a C-section and had no where to go.

Jerrica's parents, Darlene and Elvis, later received confirmation that Jerrica, at only ten days old, had Down Syndrome, but that wasn't all. Jerrica also had a Congenital Heart Disease, a ventricular septal defect (VSD). A VSD is a hole between the right and left ventricles, oxygen-rich blood returning from the lungs leaks from the left ventricle into the right ventricle instead of being pumped into the aorta and out to the rest of the body. Then, at only 6 months old, Jerrica had open-heart surgery.

*"Jerrica will need regular medical follow up for the rest of her life and there is no question that our family will continue to need the programs and services at Ronald McDonald House. We truly do not know what we would have done since 2015 without the Ronald McDonald*

*House, its volunteers, programs and staff. We always look forward to staying at the Ronald McDonald House during each visit to St. John's. It has truly become our home away from home."*  
Darlene Bartlett, Labrador City

Darlene added that they have made some lifelong friends at Ronald McDonald House. *"It is an added comfort with every visit because every parent there is going through a similar situation as you are and they completely understand. With the volunteers and staff so happy and friendly, Ronald McDonald House has a very positive atmosphere"*.

During each visit, Jerrica always looks forward to the Magic Room, a magical secret room full of toys that every child gets to visit at least once during their stay. Even when Jerrica is having a bad day because of medical appointments and tests, she always leaves the Magic Room with a smile and a new toy.

The Bartlett family continues to travel to St. John's at least once per year for follow up appointments and more often if needed for other medical complications that may arise. In February 2020, she developed seizures and will now require even more frequent visits to the children's hospital in St. John's.

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## Our Impact

Our House has **15 family suites**

Families have stayed with us **35,026 nights**

Saving to families more than **\$7Million**

**1423 families** stayed at RMHC NL

We have more than **300 volunteers**

**Unlimited** smiles

Your donation of **\$197** will cover the cost to host 1 family for 1 night



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

Keeping families close

P.O. Box 28091  
150 Clinch Crescent  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J8

Charitable Registration Number  
85050 2865 RR 0001

**Did you know? You can support Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador each time you visit a McDonald's Location in Newfoundland and Labrador!**

Ways to support your local Ronald McDonald House at McDonald's



Make a donation at the kiosk!

Purchase RMHC Cookies!  
(5 cents from every purchase is donated)

Purchase a Happy Meal!  
(10 cents from every purchase is donated)

Drop your spare change into the coin box at the counter!



## Wish List

Our **Wish List** is updated regularly as we meet new challenges and address the unique needs of our families. If you would like to support our families with a gift-in-kind, please check out our most recent Wish List on our website:

<http://rmhcnl.ca/get-involved/wish-list/>

### Board of Directors

**Theresa Rahal**  
Director, Chair of Board

**Dr. Lynette Bowes**  
Director and Chair of Programs Committee

**Dawn Dalley**  
Director, Vice-Chair

**Sterling Peyton**  
Director, Chair of the Development

**Blair Rogers**  
Director, and Chair of Governance Committee

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**Heather Peters**  
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**Gary Follett**  
Director, Chair of Facilities Committee

**Erin Higdon**  
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**Fred Tucker**  
**Kristen Mogridge**  
**Abby French**  
**Lynn Cooze**  
**Debra Chimwala**

## Impact of COVID-19

Families with a sick child need to be stronger than ever as they manage their own family crisis during a global crisis. Right now, it is hard for all families to stay close – but it is even harder for a family with a sick or injured child especially those who must travel far from home during these extraordinary circumstances. As our province's family care charity, we understand the importance of keeping families close, especially during these difficult times. **Our families need you, now more than ever.**

RMHC NL has experienced a significant reduction of funding due to cancellation of fundraising events, suspended in-house volunteer programs, cancelled program support from outside groups and increased costs due to heightened infection control processes as a result of COVID-19. **We need your help now more than ever!** RMHC NL is reaching out to everyone to help us continue to keep families close during these difficult times. We believe we are stronger together. And, if we can't be together, we can work together to support families with a sick or injured child. Please give to **RMHC NL COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund now** [www.RMHCNL.ca/donate](http://www.RMHCNL.ca/donate).



We certainly miss our **Family Service Volunteers** and the involvement of **outside groups** to help with our programs and services. All RMHC NL staff are working hard together to keep supporting families, keeping everything sanitized and, with the help of donors, preparing hot meals for our families during these unprecedented times. We certainly look forward to the return of our Family Services Volunteer Program, and welcoming outside groups and visitors, as soon as it is safe to do so.

**Toll Free: 1-855-955-HOME (4663)**



# Volunteer Spotlight Story

Tanya Barron



Tanya Barron is a dedicated community volunteer in Placentia, NL. Each year she dedicates her time to fundraise for Ronald McDonald House during the annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families event.

She has taken the Placentia Walk for Families event and made it truly a community event that celebrates Ronald McDonald House and its impact. Each year, the walk has exceeded expectations. Her passion and excitement in supporting Ronald McDonald House has engaged hundreds of individuals, groups and businesses. Tanya also makes considerable effort to make sure the children in the community have a special time at the event. She is passionate, dedicated, inspiring and innovative. Tanya is a team player and she always comes up with new ideas and engages other volunteers to brainstorm unique ideas for the walk. She has helped fundraise more than \$45,000 for Ronald McDonald House,

"I was a family who was afraid to ask or accept the help from Ronald McDonald House when I needed it most. My son was born at 27 weeks in Edmonton and when asked about the RMHC I did not know that a home such as this was for me to use. I was a working parent and fell into the category of **"not knowing"** which in turn caused many bills to occur for our family, as we stayed in hotels for the next 73 nights. It is my hope and passion that we can continue to raise money and awareness for the Ronald McDonald House, so that more families can avail of the programs and services in times of need and that we can continue to build and expand." – Tanya Barron



**Momma's Dream Team** (consisting of Kimberly Hartery, Gerri-Lynn Stevens, Michelle Turpin, Kaya Edwards, and April Richards) concluded their **2020 Kilometers for Kids Campaign** and raised more than **\$15,000!**



## Stay Tuned!

Momma's Dream Team have even bigger plans for 2021 that includes cycling across Newfoundland from St. Barbe!



Proudly presented by



## YOUR DAY! YOUR WAY! August-September 2020 The Wilds

This year, everything has changed. However, one thing that has not changed is the commitment of our sponsors and golfers to support sick children and their families at Ronald McDonald House.

This year, teams have the flexibility to participate on a day that works for them during the 2020 season. Same great golf experience, same great food, and the same great result: helping sick children and their families be together, and near the medical services they need at Ronald McDonald House.

## We believe we are stronger together!

**And, if we can't be together this year, we can still work together to support families with a sick or injured child.**

Contact [info@rmhcnl.ca](mailto:info@rmhcnl.ca) or Visit the [RMHCNL.ca](http://RMHCNL.ca) for details

# SOCK IT

for *sick kids & their families*

**RMHC Socks have arrived!**  
**Available only while quantities last**



**Friday November 20, 2020**

[info@rmhcnl.ca](mailto:info@rmhcnl.ca)

A fun day of wearing signature red and white striped socks, combined with fundraising efforts and social media sharing. With just one pair you will be supporting programs, services and raising awareness for RMHC.



We are on Facebook! Find us at @RMHNL



Interact with us on Twitter Follow us at @OurHouseNL



Interact with us on Instagram Follow us at @RMHC\_NL