



Keeping Families Close

Fall 2020

Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador



Because she can't fight cancer alone

15 year-old Grace Voisey of Happy Valley-Goose Bay is a typical teenager. She loves school, competing in dance and being with her friends. But in the spring of 2020, things changed and Grace just wasn't feeling herself. In June, she noticed swelling in her neck which was followed by a high fever. Grace was rushed to the hospital emergency in Goose Bay.

Following the results of bloodwork, doctors consulted with other doctors in St. John's and confirmed that further testing would be required immediately in St. John's, 1600km from home. At that moment, everything changed. Grace's mom, DeeDee, had 30 minutes to go home, pack some belongings and be airlifted to St. John's with her daughter. Once in St. John's doctors confirmed Grace has Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) which is a type of cancer in which the bone marrow makes abnormal myeloblasts (a type of white blood cell), red blood cells, or platelets. With Grace's dad, Jason, and sister Juliette still in Goose Bay, this was devastating news for the family, as it also meant a treatment schedule in St. John's for at least the next 9 months. With only a gym bag of personal items, the family separated by distance and a challenging road ahead in another city far from home, this was something no family could prepare for. They worried about numerous things, even the simple things, like where they would stay. **They knew Grace could not fight this alone.**

*because i can't fight
Cancer alone*

Shortly after Grace's diagnosis the family was introduced to the programs and services of Ronald McDonald House, a place where Grace's parents Jason and Dee Dee and her older siblings Juliette and Ryan could stay and support Grace during this long difficult hospital journey, far from home.

"We heard about Ronald McDonald House, but didn't completely understand how important it is to families. Now that we are here, we can't imagine what this would be like without it. The people are so friendly, supportive, and it is clean, very, very clean. We are a very close family and for Grace, this has been extra difficult being separated from us. But, now, she is coping much better while hospitalized knowing we are just steps away from her bedside at Ronald McDonald House." DeeDee Voisey, Grace's mom

For Jason and DeeDee, staying at Ronald McDonald House has meant so much because the love and support they can continue to provide Grace has given her the comfort she needs during hospitalization and separation from her family.

"Being able to continue to make Grace's favorite breakfast items, whether it be her favorite maple sausages, cinnamon buns or even making her favorite cheesecake just like I always did when we were at home, has meant the world to Grace and to me. Thanks to Ronald McDonald House, I can still be the same Dad to Grace while she is in hospital as I am to her when we were home and everything was ok." Jason Voisey, Grace's dad

While Grace's journey is far from over, with chemotherapy treatments expected to continue into the spring of 2021, the Voisey Family has found strength at Ronald McDonald House. Please donate today.

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Did you know?

RMHC NL has **15 family suites**

Families have stayed with us more than **36,446 nights**

Families have saved an estimated **\$7.3M**

Cared for **1475 families**

We have more than **250 volunteers**

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

Unlimited smiles



P.O. Box 28091
150 Clinch Crescent
St. John's, NL A1B 4J8
Charitable Registration Number 85050 2865 RR 0001



Adopt-a-Room

The **Adopt-a-Room program** ensures that the rooms at Ronald McDonald House are beautifully operated and maintained for families who need a comfortable place to stay while in St. John's seeking medical attention for their child.

So many reasons to Adopt-A-Room

- In honor of someone you admire
- In memory of someone in your heart
- In recognition of an accomplishment



Thank you to
Saputo
RMHC NL newest
Adopt-A-Room
Partner

There is a comprehensive recognition package provided to each donor that participates in the Adopt-A-Room program. Contact Christine Morgan christinemorgan@rmhcnl.ca for details.

A Gift in your Will

Through a planned gift you can provide the greatest benefit to you, your family, and Ronald McDonald House. As part of your long-term financial planning, a planned gift can offer you substantial tax and estate planning benefits that allow you to make a lasting gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities® NL.

At RMHC, we recognize all those individuals on our Legacy Giving Wall who:

- have officially indicated their intent for a planned gift;
- have made a planned gift;
- have or will direct others to donate in their memory.



If you are thinking about making a planned gift in your will to RMHC NL or would like more information please contact: Christine Morgan, Director Development & Communications 709-733-5071 christinemorgan@rmhcnl.ca

Naming RMHC Newfoundland and Labrador as a beneficiary in your will is one of the simplest legacy giving options available to you.

Board of Directors

Theresa Rahal
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Dr. Lynette Bowes
Director and Chair of Programs Committee

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Director, Chair of Development Committee

Erin Higdon
Director

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Community Relations Coordinator
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Family Service Associates
Shirley Kenny
Fred Tucker
Kristen Mogridge
Abbey French
Lynn Cooze

Chaya Dwyer
Database & Administration Specialist
chayadwyer@rmhcnl.ca

House Front Desk
709-733-2244
Toll Free:
1-855-955-HOME (4663)

House Programs - COVID-19 Update

We certainly miss the involvement of **outside groups** and our **Family Service Volunteers** to help with our programs and services. Since March 2020, all RMHC NL staff are working together to keep supporting families; from preparing hot meals, to laundry, to keeping everything sanitized during these unprecedented times.



We certainly look forward to welcoming outside groups, visitors and the return of our Family Services Volunteer Program as soon as it is safe to do so. **Stay tuned to our website for updates in the coming weeks!**

SOCK IT
for *sick kids & their families*



NEW!!

For a limited time only



November 20, 2020

It's a fun day of wearing our signature striped socks, fundraising and social media sharing

We are calling on everyone to **SOCK IT for sick kids and their families** at

Ronald McDonald House NL!

Here's How it Works:

Step 1: Purchase your striped socks for \$10 at Ronald McDonald House.

Step 2: Raise extra funds!

Step 3: Take a pic of you and/or your group wearing your signature striped socks.

Step 4: On November 20, share your pics on social media with #sockitforsickkids20

@OurHouseNL and present your donation to Ronald McDonald House.

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/>



5 ways you can help

1. Donate

Help keep families with a sick or injured child close to each other and the medical care and resources they need, when they need it the most. The cost of having a sick child and being away from home can really add up. Your single gift or monthly gifts will provide programs and services for families with a sick or injured child.

2. Volunteer

Volunteers make the difference in the lives of all the families that come through our doors - by cooking, by cleaning, by listening, or by simply being there and helping. Volunteers are also needed throughout our province to help with awareness and fundraising. Volunteer at RMHC today!

3. Tribute Gifts

Donations may be made in memory of a family member, friend or colleague. The bereaved family receives a special notice expressing condolences and informing them that a gift has been made. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

4. Planned Giving

As part of your long-term financial planning, a planned gift can offer you substantial tax and estate planning benefits and allow you to make a lasting gift to Ronald McDonald House. It can be a gift RMHC NL receives now, or in the future. It's a way for you to be a key House supporter while meeting your own personal financial goals.

5. Community Fundraising

Are you interested in holding a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House? Whether it be a bake sale, a fashion show or any other event you're involved in, there are many ways for you, your family or your workplace to get involved and raise much needed funds for the House. We have resources and fundraising staff that can help you get started. Please contact us at info@rmhcnl.ca or toll free 1-855-955-HOME(4663) for more information.



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

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



Make a donation at the kiosk! Purchase RMHC Cookies! Purchase a Happy Meal! Drop your spare change into the coin box at the counter!

Don't forget to Round-Up for RMHC

Merchandise Store now Open 24 hours a Day



All orders with



Pick up 52 Pippy Place St. John's or shipping can be arranged

Includes Christmas Cards and Tree Ornaments



Lights of Love

The holidays are an important time for families. At Ronald McDonald House it is a priority to celebrate special times of the year with families staying at Ronald McDonald House, especially during Christmas.

The **Lights of Love** campaign is a wonderful way for individuals, businesses and communities to make a difference in the lives of sick children and their families that are far from home, because they simply cannot be at home. This fundraising campaign is an important and festive initiative that will help raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities Newfoundland and Labrador.



RMHC NL will have outdoor decorations on the grounds of Ronald McDonald House in St. John's and in participating communities throughout our province. The decorations will be initially decorated with white bulbs and, with love, we will change them to red. Donations will help keep families close to each other and the medical care and resources they need, when they need it the most.

Honor or Remember that special person in your life.

For a tax-deductible contribution, one can **honor or remember a special person in their life or that hard-to-shop-for person on your Christmas list.** A red light will shine in their honour at Ronald McDonald House and we will also provide or send an acknowledgment card for the honoree.



To make a donation visit RMHCNL.ca

To host your own Lights of Love Campaign, please call email info@rmhcnl.ca.

Details regarding the official lighting will be announced on our website and social media – stay tuned for details.



Volunteer Spotlight Story

Tina Harris



Kristal Brophy, Tina Harris & Michelle Turpin

Tina Harris is among a very dedicated group of Red Shoe Crew community volunteers in our province. In 2014, Tina became the volunteer leader of the Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families in Labrador City. With this event and several other creative and innovative fundraising activities throughout the year, she has helped raise more than **\$90,000** to help provide programs and services for sick children and their families at Ronald McDonald House. Tina is well known in Labrador City for her community involvement as a volunteer with Ronald McDonald House but also as an employee with Iron Ore Company of Canada. Helping sick children and their families stay together at Ronald McDonald House is something that is very important to her.

"When a child is sick or injured they need their families with them" said Tina. "Knowing that volunteering contributes to making that possible is the most incredible feeling."

"My initial involvement with RMHC NL was definitely work related. I was asked to organize the second annual Red Shoe Crew Walk for Families in Labrador West and it sounded like fun so I said yes," said Tina. "That next spring I was invited to attend the Annual Volunteer Conference in St. Johns. Part of the conference included a tour of Ronald McDonald House. The minute I walked in the door, I mean the very second, my heart exploded and I knew... this is a place where love is and I want to be a part of it."

Tina has been committed to supporting families with a sick child since 2014 and continues to be the first RMHC NL Volunteer Regional Development Coordinator for Labrador Region.

"Being a part of this amazing organization is one of the greatest joys of my life, honestly" – Tina Harris

Tina is a very dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer, who has inspired a team of volunteers including colleagues Kristal Brophy & Michelle Turpin. Their outstanding contribution of time and energy has certainly made a difference in the lives of sick children and their families.

Thousands Shared their Heart and made their steps count for families during the 9th annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families

Thousands of individuals, groups, teams, businesses and families **made their steps count for families** during the annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families presented by **Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro**. This year, due to COVID-19 Public Health Restrictions, the event had more flexibility for participants to walk when they want, where they want in the month of September. So far more than \$205,000 has been raised and continues to climb. All the funds raised will support the programs and services at Ronald McDonald House in accommodating sick or injured children and their families near the medical care and resources they need. Thank you to everyone that participated and supported Ronald McDonald House this year!



Proudly Presented by:



Proudly presented by



August/September 2020

This year's event was different. Due to Public Health Restrictions, teams had the flexibility to golf when they wanted in August or September 2020. Even though the event was changed, one thing that remained the same, was the commitment of the community to support sick children and their families. This year the 8th Annual event raised more than **\$31,000** to support the programs and services at Ronald McDonald House!! **THANK YOU!**

Presenting Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Thank you to our **2020 Red Sneaker Sponsors:**



2020 Red High Heel Sponsors

