



RMHC
Newfoundland
& Labrador

Keeping Families Close

SUMMER 2021

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Newfoundland and Labrador

Meet Pearce Ash of Salmon Cove

After 60
Nights We are
going home!

I'M A MIRACLE!

It is hard to put into words how a parent feels when they are faced with difficult medical decisions regarding the health of their children. It has to be one of the most difficult experiences for a family. And for families who don't live close to the care and resources they need, there is an added stress, distance. RMHC gives families with a sick child what they need most – each other.

On November 25th, 2020 at 11 weeks pregnant, Brittany Slade and Cory Ash of Salmon Cove discovered they were going to be parents to twins. They were filled with joy and excitement!! But along with the joy and excitement there was anxiety, because with all pregnancies and especially multiple births, there is added stress and concern for the overall health and well-being of the babies. Along the pregnancy journey, that was complicated with discomfort and pain, they were told that the twins were monochorionic/diamniotic twins which means that they are identical twins who share the same amnion but have separate chorions while in the womb. They were also informed that the twins had Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) which is a prenatal condition in which twins share unequal amounts of the placenta's blood supply resulting in the two fetuses growing at different rates. The syndrome had reached stage 3 and the imbalance of blood flow was starting to affect the heart function in one or both babies. Brittany and Cory were faced with some difficult decisions.

"The doctor explained to us that the pain and discomfort I was experiencing was from the TTTS. The choices were: do nothing and lose both of the babies, terminate the pregnancy, cut the cord on one baby and give the other baby the full placenta or be transferred to Toronto for a laser ablation surgery to laser the placenta to cut off the two babies connections. So, myself and Cory agreed, we wanted both babies to have a fighting chance. Because how can you just pick one baby? We decided to proceed with the laser surgery." Brittany Slade

Following the surgery, Brittany and Cory were given terrible news. The ultrasound showed that Parker no longer had a heartbeat. The doctor explained to them that if the surviving baby was born now at 23 weeks he would have a 30-40% chance of survival.

"Our hearts shattered into a million pieces that day."

Brittany was then admitted and made it as far as 28 weeks before she went into labour. On March 19th 2021 at 8:05pm Pearce was born at 2lbs 4.5oz and Parker was born sleeping. "It was a very rough night. We lost our baby boy Parker and Pearce was born critically ill. He wasn't responding to the ventilators to help him breathe. We just prayed he would be ok."

Brittany and Cory spent the next three nights sleeping at the hospital. They knew Pearce had a long difficult road ahead and they needed to remain close to him. Shortly after, the family was introduced to the programs and services of Ronald McDonald House.

"Ronald McDonald House is beautiful! We felt so welcome. We told the staff the story of our two boys and when we got to our room there was a beautiful bag there with gifts for Pearce and a donated quilt and an extra little quilt in memory of Parker. We felt so at home. We had home cooked meals made for us with snacks available at any time. Laundry rooms were full with supplies even baby detergent so I can wash Pearce's blanket and clothes. Special occasions are always celebrated and they do so many different things at the house. But the most special day of all was to spend my first Mother's Day at Ronald McDonald House. They made me feel so special! I received a beautiful Mother's Day shirt, a rose and all dads & kids made a wooden mom sign to give all the mothers! Thank you to the sponsors, volunteers and donors for making this very difficult time away from home feel so much better. It was a difficult situation but the Ronald McDonald house made it so much easier to be with our boy!" said Brittany

Brittany and Cory spent a total of 61 nights at Ronald McDonald House and were so happy to finally return home with their little miracle, Pearce. "We are so proud of Pearce, our little miracle boy."

Pearce is now five months old, 11lbs and doing very well.

In this issue...

McDonald's – McHappy Day	2
Wish List	2
Board of Directors/Staff	2
Impact of COVID-19	2
Adopt A Room Program	2
Phil Fowler Racing	2
5 Ways You Can Help	3
Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families	3
Fore the Families Golf Classic	3
Spare Some Love Bowling	3
Volunteer Spotlight	4
Kilometers for Kids	4
Merchandise Store	4
Team RMHC – Rowing	4
Socket for Sick Kids	4

Our Impact

Our House has **15 family suites**

Families have stayed with us **38,720 nights**

Saving to families more than **\$8Million**

1543 families stayed at RMHC NL

We have more than **350 volunteers**

Unlimited smiles

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



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

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

Charitable Registration Number
85050 2865 RR 0001

www.RMHCNL.ca

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!

Support Ronald McDonald House at your local McDonald's



Make a donation at the Kiosk	With every purchase of a RMHC Cookie	Ask to Round up your order	With every purchase of a Happy Meal	Drop your spare change in the coin boxes on the counter and drive -thru!
------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--



September 22, 2021



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

Blair Rogers
Director, and Chair of Governance Committee

Paul Rogers
Director

Angie Brown
Director, Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee

Heather Peters
Director

Gary Follett
Director, Chair of Facilities Committee

Erin Higdon
Director

Staff

Christine Morgan
Director Development & Communications
Tel 709-738-0000 x0
christinemorgan@rmhcnl.ca

Annette Godsell
Executive Director
Tel 709-738-0000
annettedogsell@rmhcnl.ca

Family Services Desk
709-733-2244

Jennifer Fleming
Family & Volunteer Services, Manager
Tel 709-733-2242
Fax 709-747-1270
jenniferfleming@rmhcnl.ca

Family Programs & Services Coordinator
Jenelle Lambert
jenellelambert@rmhcnl.ca

Family Service Associates

Shirley Kenny
Fred Tucker
Heath Mann
Abby French
Lynn Cooze
Mark White
Lisa St. Croix

Special Events Coordinator
Heather Butler
heatherbutler@rmhcnl.ca

Development Coordinator
Heidi Smith
heidsmith@rmhcnl.ca

Database & Administration Specialist
Evan Wheeler
evanwheeler@rmhcnl.ca

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

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 and be a **#HeroFromHome** now www.RMHcnl.ca/donate.



Through the Adopt-a-Room you can provide the most caring and practical support to families during this incredibly stressful time by providing a home-away-from-home. Adopt a family suite or a common area in our house. Visit our website for details. RMHcnl.ca



Phil Fowler Race team have a newly branded RMHC NL NASCAR. Watch for them this racing season and support their efforts to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House.

5 ways you can help

1. Donate

Your donation help provide programs and services for families with a sick or injured child. Families can stay at Ronald McDonald House for only \$15 per night, however the actual cost to support a family is \$197. Your single gift or monthly gifts will have a tremendous impact to a sick or injured child and their families to be together and near the medical care and resources they need.

2. Volunteer

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

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 that Ronald McDonald House receives now, or in the future. It's a way for you to be a key 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 activity you enjoy or are involved in, there are many ways for you, your family or your workplace to get involved and raise much needed funds for Ronald McDonald House. We have resources and fundraising staff that can help you get started.

Visit www.RMHCNL.ca or contact us at info@rmhcnl.ca or toll free 1-855-955-HOME(4663) for more information.



Proudly presented by



August 12, 2021
The Wilds

Teams of FORE/\$900

Contact info@rmhcnl.ca or
Visit the RMHCNL.ca for details



SPARE SOME LOVE Boooowling Fundraiser

Presented by

TUCKER
WINDOW FILM

October 24, 2021 – teams of 4/\$300
Register NOW – info@rmhcnl.ca



Make Your Steps Count for Families

September 2021

The 10th annual **Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families** helps raise funds to provide programs and services for sick children and their families when they need it most. This event is hosted by volunteers and held in communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador in the month of September. The event coincides with the anniversary of the opening of Ronald McDonald House and is the largest annual fundraising event. Participants register online or receive an event pledge sheet. By **MAKING YOUR STEPS COUNT FOR FAMILIES** and with every dollar raised, participants are helping keep sick children and their families close to each other and the medical care and resources they need, when they need it the most.

Find an event in a community near you or participants have the flexibility to Walk When You Want, Where You Want in the month of September.

REGISTER NOW!

www.WalkforFamilies.ca

Proudly Presented by



Lots of great prizes and challenges

Share Your Heart Participate Challenge



Share Your Heart Business Challenge



SHARE YOUR HEART

#RedShoeCrew2021

Volunteer Spotlight Story

Sharon Bennett & Violet Traverse



Sharon Bennett & Violet Traverse are a tag team volunteer duo that are dedicated community volunteers in Sunnyside, NL. Since 2016, they enthusiastically volunteer their time to fundraise for Ronald McDonald House primarily during the annual Red Shoe Crew-Walk for Families event.

Each year, the walk exceeds their expectations. Their passion and excitement in supporting Ronald McDonald House has engaged and inspired their entire community. This volunteer duo make a great team and they are always coming up with new ideas to raise funds. In the last 5 years, they have helped lead fundraising efforts and have raised more than \$20,000 to support sick children and their families at Ronald McDonald House.

They can always be counted on to support all RMHC NL activities, including Sockit for Sick Kids event, provincial lotteries and recently to support the incredible 2021 KM for Kids team as they made their way across the province.



Volunteers are the backbone of Ronald McDonald House. We simply cannot provide the programs and services to sick children and their families without them. Sharon & Violets outstanding contribution of time, skills and resources continues to make a difference in the lives of sick children and their families that need Ronald McDonald House.



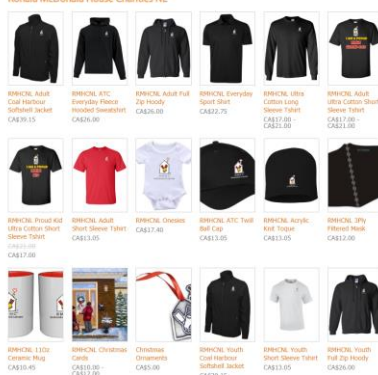
Congratulations to the 2021 KM for Kids Team. The cycled 1000 km over 8 days (July 9-16, 2021) from St. Barbe on the North Peninsula all the way to Ronald McDonald House in St. John's and raised an outstanding \$100,000 along the way!

Congratulations and thank you!

Kayla Edwards	Kimberly Hartery
Shawn Arnold	April Richards
Tina Ralph	Lori Butt
Michelle Turpin	Gerri-Lynn Stevens
Mike Turpin	Andy Kelloway
Danny Stevens	Cory Waterman



Ronald McDonald House Charities NL



Merchandise Store
Open 24 hours a Day

rmhcnl.ca/get-involved/merchandise-store

Team RMHC®



Be watching for the **McDonald's sponsored Team RMHC rowing team** at the regatta this year!!

SOCK IT
for *sick kids*
& *their families*

RMHC Socks have arrived!
Available only while quantities last



Friday November 19, 2021

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