



Winston-Salem

Caring for families caring for children

Heart to Heart

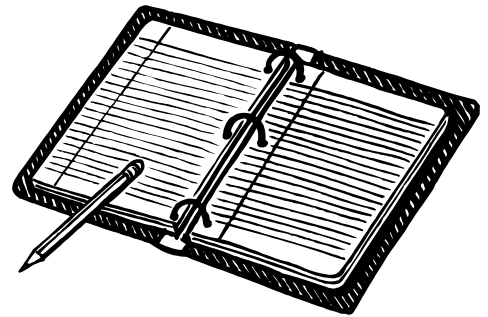
Issue 85

July 2009

419 South Hawthorne Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 (336) 723-0228 www.rmhwinstonsalem.org

Ronald McDonald House Room Journals

In most bedrooms at the Ronald McDonald House, one will find a room journal. They are available for families to read and to write their own stories to share. This summer, one of our teen volunteers, Janette, is translating stories that were originally written in Spanish. We'd like to share the English versions with you so you know your service reaches all types of cultures at the Ronald McDonald House and Family Rooms!



Today is Thursday and tomorrow we are going to leave this beautiful home. My name is Ircar and my husband's name is Miguel. We have our most precious treasure, Miguel Antonio, in Brenner Children's Hospital. He had open heart surgery (his third surgery). Because of God's glory, he is now recuperating well. After going through all these past days and very hard moments, I can say that our beloved God has done a miracle in the life of our son. The doctors made a diagnosis that after the third surgery; he would need two more, because he was a child. I prayed a lot to God for a miracle, and one day before the surgery, they told us that there was a 30% chance that this may be the last operation! That day I cried because of happiness. After the surgery, my son was having problems with his right lung, he had high blood pressure too. He was on the ECMO machine for 10 days and his little chest was open for 13 days. After many struggles, my son left the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit after 33 days. Today, we have faith that Miguel Antonio will keep getting better each and every day. We will leave Winston-Salem and the hospital next week, but not without telling everyone that there are people out there who are really caring and loving. Where? In the Ronald McDonald House! My husband and I are eternally grateful, because they have made our stay at the hospital way easier than we would have expected. They have also given us emotional help, economical help, and most importantly, they have given us what feels like a second home, because we really feel at home here. Thanks, a million thanks to all the staff and volunteers. We want to give thanks an infinite amount of times, because the Ronald McDonald Family Room gave us a place where we could relax. A million thanks to all of the doctors who have helped take care of Miguel Antonio, especially Dr. Michael Hines and also to all the nurses who have made recuperation much easier for our loving son. To everyone at the Ronald McDonald House, may God love and take care of y'all for eternity.

Thank you,
Ircar and Miguel

Hi. My name is Leticia and I am here, because my child, Rey, is in Baptist Hospital. He was born with a defect in his heart and he needed three operations to be okay. He was first operated on when he was born and came into this world. The second time when he was eight months, and now, the third as he is three years old. He is better now! The doctor said he will be able to go home Monday.

At first, it's really hard. You see him really small. You feel like you want to die, but God is always there for you, he helped us get through this. He helped us stay strong for our son, because he needed us by his side. I have three children. A girl who is seven, a boy who is five, and Rey now three. I give thanks to the Ronald McDonald House, because they helped us. Also, to the hospital, they are great doctors and nurses. I have seen many sick children there, but I know that they will be able to get through this, like my son Rey.

Thank you for everything,
Leticia

In-Service Training for Brenner Family Room Volunteers

With the exception of new volunteers who attended the Baptist Hospital new volunteer orientation in 2009, all Brenner Family Room volunteers are required to attend one of the following in-service training sessions:

August 11, 12 noon in Babcock Auditorium

September 22, 5:30 p.m. in Babcock Auditorium

October 13, 12 noon in Babcock Auditorium

Please be sure to attend one of these sessions. We would not want to lose any of our wonderful Brenner Family Room volunteers!

Welcome Family Support Program And Family Room Intern, Amanda Hockney



If you have been at the House or in one of the Family Rooms this summer, you may have met our Family Room and Family Support Program intern, Amanda Hockney. Amanda is a senior at the University of NC at Greensboro and is pursuing a major in Human Development and Family Studies; her minor is Psychology. Amanda is planning to graduate in August.

Amanda brings a special sensitivity to her service to our families. When Amanda was eight, she was diagnosed with cancer. She had several rounds of chemotherapy, and responded very well to the treatment. Amanda remembers her family talking about the stress they were under during her illness, and she decided that she wanted to help other families who are going through difficult times like this. That is exactly what she does when she volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House and in our Family Rooms. Amanda, we are very grateful for all of the help you are giving us. We know that our families are benefitting from your kindness and care.



Ronald McDonald House
419 South Hawthorne Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27103