



# LOVE NOTES

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## Cake, Ice Cream & Hope JANET'S STORY

Celebrating with presents, cake and ice cream, and surrounded by staff from the Ronald McDonald House and nurses from the Brenner Children's Hospital NICU wasn't exactly how Janet pictured her sixth birthday party. Typically, she would have been at home with her family and friends in Stony Point, N.C. But this year has been far from typical for Janet and her family.

When her baby brother Garrett was born prematurely at 25 weeks, Janet's family moved to the Ronald McDonald House to be close to him. Mom Karen remarked, "It's nice to know there is a place that allows me to be with him this much...Here, I can see him all day, every day."

Janet and her little sister DeeDee have also been able to stay at the House with their mom. They visit the hospital with Karen to dote on their little brother and hang out with their favorite nurses in the NICU.

Having her girls with her has been comforting to Karen. And watching Janet bounce around the House just like

other kids her age has given Karen a great deal of hope for Garrett's future. Janet, who was born at 28-weeks, wore braces on her legs when she was younger. "One day she just got up and she out ran them," smiled Karen. "She gives me a lot of hope for Garrett; I think he is going to do big, great things."

Her little girls aren't the only things giving her hope for her one pound, 12 ounce baby boy. Named Garrett Lee Walker Willis after her three brothers, U.S. Military men who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Karen remarked, "As little as he is, I just wanted to give him anything to make him as strong as possible. Those are the strongest people I know."

Janet and DeeDee will continue to be with their mom at the House until it is time to take Garrett home to Stony Point – possibly many months from now. But having the Ronald McDonald House to come home to every night has made this time much easier for Karen and her girls. "They've got everything you need here," she adds. "It's a really great place to help families."

## THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE HAS AN APP FOR THAT!



The Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem has become the first Ronald McDonald House in the world to introduce a mobile App for the iPhone. The App, named RMH Connect, can be downloaded to your iPhone for free. It is interactive and allows you to connect to the House's social media streams, photos, and events directly from your phone.

Through RMH Connect, supporters have instant, on-the-go access to the House via our Twitter feed, Flickr photostream, and interactive event calendar. RMH Connect is an exciting way to raise awareness for the House and our partners. It was created by Mobile Klik, a Winston-Salem based mobile application developer. An Android version of the App will be released soon.

## A DAY AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

At just over 31,000 sq. ft., our Ronald McDonald House is one of the biggest houses in town. And, as you can imagine, it takes a lot of time and energy to keep every inch of space in the House

comfortable and welcoming for families caring for sick children. Thankfully, a tremendously dedicated team of volunteers helps make it all possible!

### HERE IS A PEEK INTO THE AVERAGE DAY IN THE BUSY RMH VOLUNTEER WORLD:

**9:00 A.M.** Grandmother-granddaughter team Carolyn Blakley and Morgan Christian have arrived to organize food donations while maintenance volunteers, Charlie Mays and Charlie Miller, are repairing a broken knob on one of the dryers in the laundry room.

The RMH reception desk is buzzing with activity. Thankfully, Krissie Simcox, Leslie Hummel, and Cathie Cooper will be here throughout the day to answer the phone, greet guests, and help families and visitors find their way around the House.

Dinah and John Reece open the Forsyth Family Room for NICU patient families and Shirley Adams opens the Brenner Family Room. Throughout the day, volunteers Elaine Hill, Mary Lee Clarke, Diane Potter, Laura Esleeck, and Ellen Barrier will make sure families are well taken care of in both Rooms.

**9:30 A.M.** Larry Stalnaker and Dave Britten, more maintenance team members, inspect the House for items that need to be added to the maintenance punch list.

**10:00 A.M.** Carolyn Hurst assists RMH staff with computer data entry – an important volunteer job she has been doing since 1997! Devin Schuette, development volunteer, is folding letters, running copies, and creating spreadsheets.

**11:00 A.M.** Robyn Jackson, Family Support Program volunteer, visits RMH families at Brenner Children's Hospital. When she returns to the House, she provides free haircuts and styles for our families.

**12:00 P.M.** Kay Wiener, a note writing volunteer, joins the reception desk crew. Kay is one of several wonderful volunteers who helps us thank the many generous supporters who help to care for families with gifts to RMH.

**1:00 P.M.** 31,000 sq. ft. may seem like a lot of space to clean, but the huge undertaking looks easy thanks to an energetic group of 33 volunteers from BB&T! They divide and conquer—one group stays at the House to

deep clean the kitchen, scrub the dining room, and wipe down porch railings while another group heads to the Family Room at Brenner Children's Hospital to clean baseboards and wash windows!

**3:00 P.M.** Teen volunteers Victoria and Olivia Herschel are hard at work folding seven bags of clean sheets and towels. After that, they stock the Coke machine.

**5:30 P.M.** The House is literally barking with excitement! Three RMH therapy dogs arrive to love on families who are missing their own pets back home. Fiona the Corgi, Tank the English Mastiff, and Bandit the Pug are up to the task. Thanks to these important four-legged volunteers and their owners, families are able to take a break from the stress of the hospital to relax with their sweet new furry friends.

**5:45 P.M.** Savory smells are filling the House thanks to the talented team of meal volunteers from South Fork Church of Christ. They are busy in the kitchen putting the finishing touches on a delicious meal for families—poppy seed chicken, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, yeast rolls, and, of course, cake for dessert!

**7:15 P.M.** A Daisy Girl Scout Troup showers our families with flowers! They brighten each guest room with a bouquet of colorful blooms.

**9:00 P.M.** Shannon Reavis and Jody Wall close the Family Rooms at Brenner and Forsyth, respectively. The Rooms are ready for tomorrow's visitors to enjoy a cup of coffee, take a break, check emails, and grab a snack.

**9:30 P.M.** The House quiets down in the evening and families head off to their rooms for some much needed sleep after a long, hard day at the hospital. Thanks to a huge team of hardworking volunteers, they are able to rest comfortably in a clean, happy, love-filled House.

## VOLUNTEERS



### RMH VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS

- 123** House and Family Support Volunteers
- 160** Family Room Volunteers
- 635** Group Volunteers (onsite at the House, annually)
- 540** Meal Volunteers (annually)
- 80** Snack preparers (annually)
- 174** Board and Committee Members
- 990** Luminary Volunteers
- 90** Friends Event Volunteers
- 350** Sport a Shirt, Share a Night Team Coordinators

3,142 people give of their time each year to make our House a comforting, functional, supportive place for families!

**Thank you...** To these very generous supporters of our Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Rooms:

Alpha Delta Kappa of N.C.  
Alpha Delta Pi, UNC at Greensboro  
Alpha Delta Pi,  
Wake Forest University  
American Legion and Auxiliary  
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Southbound Model Railroaders  
The Bloom Agency  
Virginia International Raceway –  
Alton, Va.

## RMH'S PLANNED GIVING - ALAN'S LEGACY

Many members and friends of the Ronald McDonald House family wish to support the House in perpetuity and arrange to leave a bequest to RMH through their will, trust, or other estate planning document. Did you know that contributing to a qualified retirement plan and including RMH as a beneficiary may save income and estate taxes at your death, as well as provide long-term support for the House? As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Alan's Legacy, we invite you to consider making your retirement plan the vehicle for a planned gift to the House.

If you include RMH in your will or trust or name us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, you are invited to join Alan's Legacy to ensure that RMH's programs will continue for generations to come. Alan's Legacy is named for Alan Latham, son of Penny and the late Dick Latham who founded the House. Its purpose is to recognize generous contributors who choose to invest in the future of the House by making a planned gift. If you have already made provisions for RMH in your will, trust, or retirement plan, we would like to enroll you in Alan's Legacy. Please contact Director of Development Mindy Bloom at (336) 970-5658 or email her at [mindyb@rmhwinstonsalem.org](mailto:mindyb@rmhwinstonsalem.org) to notify RMH of this wonderful gift.

## VIRTUAL VOICES

### FACEBOOK FANS SPEAK UP ABOUT RMH!

"RMH has such a warm, loving environment. I go there to be a help and a comfort to others and I leave feeling rewarded and refreshed. We are made to feel really appreciated. THANK YOU to all RMH staff for the wonderful job you do with the House. It is a very special place of love."

**Clara Gizinski, Volunteer**

"Thank you guys from the bottom of our hearts."

**Adam Sebastian, Family**

"My son turned 3 yesterday. Every year on his birthday I think of the people at Forsyth Medical Center and the people of RMH WS. I had a high risk pregnancy, which resulted in a premature delivery. My premature son was put in the NICU at Forsyth. Thanks to RMH WS, I was able to stay near my son his entire stay..."

**Traci Fiorentino Clark, Family**

"The RMH has been our second home sweet home for several months now. All the House staff, volunteers, and fellow guests are simply amazing. I can't imagine how much more stressful things would be if it weren't for this House. Our gratitude goes beyond measure. My son, my hero Kaleb, has been a fan of the House since our very first day. He too calls it home now. It's amazing to know that when we are at RMH Kaleb enjoys it. Thank you all for everything that you do! We love you guys!"

**Holly Forthecure Carr, Family**



**We want to hear your voice too!**

*Like us and share your story*

[www.facebook.com/RMHWinstonSalem](http://www.facebook.com/RMHWinstonSalem)



The Second Annual Friends of the Ronald McDonald House Character Breakfast is Saturday, October 22. Plan to bring your family and dine with your favorite Princesses, Superheroes, and Storybook Characters. For more information, please call (336) 970-5659.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**RMH FRIENDS**  
**CHARACTER BREAKFAST**

# Ronald McDonald House

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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF WINSTON-SALEM, INC.

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Mindy Bloom, <i>Director of Development</i>			<b>NEWSLETTER</b> chrisbaileydesign.com

*The Ronald McDonald House of Winston-Salem, Inc. provides a "home away from home" for families of children who are receiving medical care in our community's hospitals. The House and Family Room programs offer physical comforts, emotional support, education, and referral services designed to promote the well-being of the whole family.*

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DOES NOT SHARE DONOR INFORMATION. FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF WINSTON-SALEM, INC. AND A COPY OF ITS LICENSE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH AT (919) 733-4510. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE.

*We mourn the loss of longtime members of the Ronald McDonald House Family*

Richard Latham, Founder & Jane Goodson, Board Member

## WISH LIST

By donating any of the following items, you will be helping to keep our House and Family Rooms ready to meet the needs of our guests.

**Microwavable Single-Serve Meals:**  
soup, macaroni, stew, pasta, etc.

Canned Meats

Milk

Queens Sheet Sets

Garbage Bags: 39 gallon

Foil and Plastic Wrap

Liquid Hand Soap and Hand Sanitizers

Batteries: 9 Volt and Size D

Gift Cards: groceries, gas, restaurants, super stores, etc...

\$82: adopt a family for a night

\$2,870: adopt all 35 families staying here for a night



### Connecting to the House

**Give online** – Log onto [www.rmhwinstonsalem.org](http://www.rmhwinstonsalem.org) and click the *Make a Donation Now* banner.

**Join Alan's Legacy** - Ensure the future of the House through your will, retirement plan, life insurance, or other assets.



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