



**RMHC**  
of Central Pennsylvania

Keeping families together

# WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

WINTER 2020

*"We love staying here! It's so comfortable and relaxing before our child's early morning appointments at the hospital.*

*Thank you!" ~ Quote from a Family*

"This isn't just a place for us to stay," Samantha (mom) said. "It is a place where we feel comfortable and our family can be together."

*- Quote from the Reedy Family*

Jeremiah woke up from his nap on a Sunday afternoon and walked over to his mom to tell her, "I have a stomach ache."

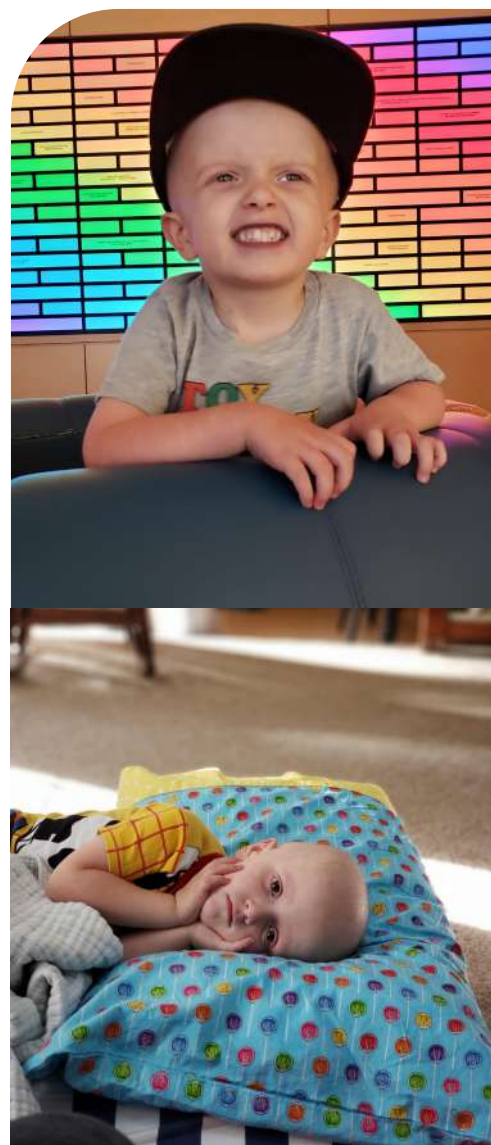
At first, Samantha, Jeremiah's mom, thought, "he must be backed up." She increased his juice intake and three days later, Jeremiah felt better. Soon after, his temperature spiked and Samantha and her husband, Eric, rushed Jeremiah to an urgent care. The nurses at urgent care encouraged them to visit the emergency department at their local hospital in Denver, PA.

Once at the emergency department, further testing was done including an X-ray and an MRI. Based on the results they thought it was a bowel obstruction and sent the Reedy family to Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey, PA for further examination.

When the Reedy family arrived at the hospital, they were greeted by their medical team who took Jeremiah into emergency surgery.

"After his first surgery, our medical team almost sent us home," Samantha said. "They thought it could have been a gastrointestinal infection. The next day, the surgeon said that they wanted to go back in for an exploratory surgery."

This time, they found something.



Jeremiah Reedy

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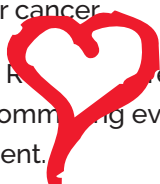
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"The surgeon told us there was a mass, but they were not worried that it was cancer," Samantha said.

Two days later, the medical team concluded that Jeremiah has Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), a rare form of bladder cancer.

After traveling over an hour to get to Hershey, the Reedy family left wondering how they were going to manage commuting every morning at 5:00 a.m. for Jeremiah's chemo treatment.



## **New Board Directors**

### **Stephanie Arnold-Dinger**

**McDonald's Owner/  
Operator, Lancaster**

For the last 16 years, Stephanie has been involved with various school fundraising activities at Lancaster Mennonite High School and Locust Grove Elementary School. She also has been a member of Lebanon Valley College's Parent/President Council along with other activities in the communities her family's restaurants serve. Last year, Stephanie helped lead our monthly Happy Meal Nights at Penn State Children's Hospital.



### **Sara Firestone**

**Community Relations  
Manager, Members 1st  
Federal Credit Union**

In her current role, Sara is responsible for sponsorships, charitable giving, and connecting Members 1st with more than 300 community/charitable events throughout a seven-county area where she oversees a team of four. She also served as the Director of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Children's Hospital for nine years. During this time, she was able to see the direct impact RMHC-CP had on the families we serve and her work at the Children's Hospital gave her a lifelong desire to give back to children and their families.



### **Jack Hartman**

**Attorney, CGA Law  
Firm, York County**

A Shareholder and Chair of the Litigation Group at CGA Law Firm, Jack's legal expertise centers around Health Law, Business & Corporate Law, Labor & Employment and Litigation with over 40 years of legal experience. He has had a strong interest in Ronald McDonald House that started in Danville when he served as the General Counsel for Geisinger Health System.







**THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE  
AND OURS**

**At the Seraph-McSparren  
Pediatric Inpatient Center,  
your child is our top priority**

When your child needs hospital care, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health's new Pediatric Inpatient Center is the place to turn. From innovative technology and large private rooms to family-centered services and amenities, we designed every detail to give children and parents enhanced support and comfort during your stay. More importantly, our partnership with nationally ranked Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) ensures your child has access to the very best experts in pediatric care. We're the only center in Lancaster staffed 24/7 by doctors from CHOP and nurses who are all pediatric certified. [Learn more at LGHealth.org/Kids](http://LGHealth.org/Kids)

**Seraph-McSparren  
Pediatric Inpatient Center**



**SAVE THE DATE**

*4th Annual*  
**Diamonds & DENIM**  
LADIES NIGHT OUT

Thursday, May 7, 2020  
The Englewood, Hershey, PA

*Tickets go on sale Friday, March 6th at Noon!*

**12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**Lancaster County  
Community Auction**

Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
White Horse Fire Company, Gap, PA



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Greetings and Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone at Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central PA (RMHC-CP). 2019 was a wonderful year filled with growth and opportunity for our RMHC Chapter and we couldn't have done it without each of you!

We successfully navigated the implementation of a new program, our Ronald McDonald Hospitality Kiosk, at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital, celebrated our 35th year of keeping families together, held four significant special events, prepared for the relocation of our Ronald McDonald Family Room® at Penn State Children's Hospital and a 21-bedroom facelift at the Ronald McDonald House® in Hershey, that started this February.

All of these activities helped us provide our families with warm and welcoming places of respite during such a critical time in their lives, at no cost to them.

As we look forward to this year, we continue to rely on your generosity and advocacy of our organization, our programs and our families. 2020 will bring its own unique opportunities, and challenges, for continued growth and improvement and we are excited to share them as they unfold.

As you think about your engagement with RMHC-CP this year, we encourage you to reach out to learn more about the different ways you can get involved and support our organization that best suits you. One new opportunity for consideration is our Adopt A Room program. These contributions help defray the costs of operating a guest room for one year. Other ways include but are not limited to: event sponsorships and attendance, corporate matching gifts and supporting our Endowment Fund.

I'm excited for this year and all it will bring, but most importantly, how we will continue to serve the families who cross our threshold to the best of our abilities and our hearts.

Wishing you all a year filled with joy, good health and prosperity. Together, let's make 2020 the best yet!

*Karla*

Karla Mitchell, Executive Director







# 2019 IN REVIEW

**2019 was a year of growth for RMHC of Central PA.** We started a new program, the Ronald McDonald Hospitality Kiosk, with a new hospital partner, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health.

We launched a new website, attracting a younger demographic by accepting donations through Paypal.

We continued serving thousands of families through our Ronald McDonald House® in Hershey, Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Hospitality Cart at Penn State Children's Hospital.

**Check out our new website at [rmhc-centralpa.org](http://rmhc-centralpa.org) today!**

**Ronald McDonald House in Hershey welcomed:**

**1,316 family visits from 17 states**

**Ronald McDonald Family Room served approximately: 2,750 families**

**Our Hospitality Cart served an average of: 51 families per day**

Follow us on



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Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
of Central Pennsylvania

745 West Governor Road  
Hershey, PA 17033-2304

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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
YORK, PA  
Permit No. 356



## Red Shoe Crew

Are you a young professional looking for  
opportunities to volunteer and network?

If so, please consider joining RMHC-CP's Red Shoe Crew!

Contact Rachel Lindsley at [rlindsley@rmhc-centralpa.org](mailto:rlindsley@rmhc-centralpa.org)  
or 717-533-4001 x155 for more information.