



Keeping Families Together

RMHC
Of Central Pennsylvania

NEAR CARE AND RESOURCES

FALL 2020

Brum-Lyford Family Story

Chris Brum and Hugh Lyford were extremely excited to begin the adoption process in early 2020. By March, they were set up with their birth mother and learned they would be hopefully adopting twins! They planned to travel to Hershey from their home in San Diego when the babies were born in mid-to-late August.

Much to their surprise, the babies were born on July 30—eight weeks earlier than planned, arriving before Hugh and Chris boarded their plane. They continued their trek, determined and excited to meet the twin girls at the hospital and be there for them as they continued growing in the NICU at Penn State Children's Hospital. After they took a red-eye flight overnight to Washington, D.C., Hugh and Chris immediately rented a car to drive to Hershey.

"As you can imagine, we had about a million things on our mind and we were both exhausted and thinking, 'What are we going to do tonight? What are we going to do this afternoon after we go to the hospital and see the girls? Where are we going to go? We don't have anything figured out,'" Hugh said.

Looking back, Hugh said having Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA was a "godsend."

"There were so many things that were up in the air, so much uncertainty, and the Ronald McDonald House was one thing we could count on," Hugh said. "After the craziness of this day is over, we know we have somewhere to go to put our stuff, lay down, and get some sleep—which was invaluable to us at that point."

Hugh and Chris ended up staying with RMHC of Central PA for a total of 28 days as their daughters were healing in the NICU. Although they arrived in Hershey with no plans, RMHC of Central PA was able to pay for their family to stay in a hotel nearby until they were able to be moved into the House.

"Even once we did connect with the Ronald McDonald House, we did not expect the generosity we received," Hugh said. "We thought maybe we would get a couple days of help, and the fact that they were able to help us for our entire stay—totaling 28 days—was just amazing."

"It was such a relief because the girls were very compromised in the beginning and it just allowed us to focus on them," Chris said. "And when we were able to move into the actual House, it was just so great because we were able to walk to go see them every day and save a lot of money and prevent financial stress during an already stressful time. It was just such a relief."

Hugh and Chris also commented on Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA's commitment to health and safety amidst the ongoing pandemic.

"Being in the House, we felt so safe. They had thought of everything in terms of how they could keep every family safe," Hugh said. "They knew that the parents staying at the House were all going to see really sick kids—kids whose immune systems just could not tolerate anything beyond what they were going through, and we really appreciated the extent to which safety and staying healthy was prioritized."

When asked about the services they appreciated the most, Hugh and Chris said not having to worry about finding a place to stay and not having to worry about where they would get dinner each night.

"It felt like home," Chris said. "The fact that we didn't have to worry about dinner every night and were able to get a cup of coffee—those things that may seem little made such a difference."

"Having dinner provided was essential. Especially during Coronavirus-times, when you don't necessarily want to risk going to a restaurant knowing you are visiting babies in the NICU, even if you had the time to, you don't want to expose yourself when you don't have to," Hugh said. "And because of the generosity of Ronald McDonald House Charities we didn't have to take that risk."

"We were able to be with the girls longer and spend more time with them in the NICU because we knew dinner and where we would be staying would be taken care of each night," Chris said.

Despite these unprecedented times, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA was able to help keep the Brum-Lyford family together free of charge thanks to our generous donors! And even better? The beautiful newborns, Ella and Emma, are doing great in their new San Diego home with their fathers!

To read the full story on the Brum-Lyford family and see more photos of Ella and Emma, visit [rmhc-centralpa.org/what-we-do/families!](https://rmhc-centralpa.org/what-we-do/families/)



Hershey, PA 17033-2304

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
YORK, PA
Permit No. 356



*We Miss You,
Volunteers!*

Feed Our Families

Local Businesses



Thank you for supporting
our families by providing
us with free or reduced
cost dinners here at the
House.



Holiday Season 2020

Like every thing in 2020,
the giving season is a bit different this year.

With the holidays right around the corner, we have many thoughtful individuals who are asking what we need most in support of our work to keep families close.

Honestly, what we really need from our community of supporters are financial contributions. These gifts allow us to purchase items when we need them verses worrying about storage or shelf life. A financial gift also helps us continue our operation efforts in support of the families we serve. You can support us financially in the following ways:

- A general unrestricted gift to the organization
- A sponsorship of our special events
- Adopt-A-Room Sponsorship
- A gift to our Endowment Fund
- A planned gift

Other ways you can support our work include:

- Donating Gift Cards to stores such as Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, Giant, Weis Markets or Karn's
- Donating specific items from our Wish List, which can be found on our website at rmhc-centralpa.org/wish-list

Due to the pandemic and the restrictive nature of those who can actually stay with us at the Ronald McDonald House, we are well stocked with toys and games for the very limited number of pediatric patients that we might have at the House, as the vast majority are actually in the hospital. Therefore, we are in no need of those items. Instead, we are asking for you to donate the money you would have spent on those items or purchase a gift card to donate instead. They will serve us much better.

Whatever our needs are, we will communicate them regularly within our social media posts, mailings, newsletters and any other notification platforms. If you aren't sure about the item(s) you'd like to donate, please feel free to give our office a call at 717-533-4001.

Thank you for choosing to support RMHC-CP! We are truly grateful. Your continued support helps us keep families together via our programs at no cost to the families. The last thing our families should have to worry about when dealing with a sick child is where they will sleep at night or where they will get their next meal. Thanks to you, they won't have to. Instead, they can be by their child's side, providing comfort and hope.

Call 717-533-4001 if you have any questions regarding donations!

Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are already in the autumn season. It seems like yesterday that most of us were sheltering in place in our homes for the first time and wondering how long this pandemic would last and now, here we are over half a year later. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA (RMHC-CP) has experienced changes like never before as we navigate the shifting landscape of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Since March, we have had to cancel or transition events to virtual functions, suspend our volunteer programs and limit or put on hold family use of our Ronald McDonald House (RMH), Family Room, Hospitality Carts and Kiosk. Through it all, we have never stopped serving families; from April 1 to September 15 we were able to provide more than 170 families with 1,060 overnight stays and 450 individual catered meals. Whether staying at the RMH in Hershey or in a hotel provided by our organization, our guest families are grateful to be able to be by their child's side.

We strive daily to strike the balance of remaining agile, understanding and addressing areas for improvement, and preparing for the road ahead...and you have helped us rise to meet this challenge in so many ways. Whether it was donating financially to our continued operations, meal program or hotel stays for families, worked as partners in addressing safety measures or donated in-kind items, such as disinfecting wipes and sprays, YOU – our ardent supporters and champions, have kept morale and positivity up for all of us—Yes, all of us. Thank you!

I continually go back to the phrase, ***"We are all in this Together"*** and know it's true because we cannot get through these challenging times without you! In this edition of our newsletter, you will find ways to advocate, support and engage with RMHC-CP. I hope you find something that speaks to you and encourages you to continue to support our home away from home for thousands of families each year.

All my best,

Karla

How You Can Help During COVID-19



HELPING HANDS

Cover the cost of one night of hotel stays, catered meals and cleaning supplies with a donation of \$500.



FEED OUR FAMILIES

Provide a catered meal for our families for one night with a donation of \$250



STAY CONNECTED

Connect with us on social media and/or sign up to receive our newsletters.

Visit rmhc-centralpa.org/donate to make a donation today!

Round-Up for RMHC

Provide more
family hugs.



Looking for other ways to give?
Donate or ask to Round-Up for RMHC
next time you order at McDonalds!

Ronald McDonald Family Room® Update!

The renovations for our new
Family Room are almost complete!
The Family Room has relocated along with
the brand-new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
(NICU) at Penn State Children's Hospital.

We are so excited for the updated, modern
feel of the new space!



The Family Room will open its doors
to families in early November.

Amenities available for families
include a kitchen area, a children's
corner, a high table overlooking
the campus, multiple outlets for
charging electronics, and more!

Giving Programs

Interested in a sponsorship? Contact development@rmhc-centralpa.org!



Adopt A Room Sponsor



By adopting a room at the Ronald McDonald House® (RMH) in Hershey, you will directly impact the lives of families who will call the room home by eliminating many of the financial challenges that come with traveling long distances for medical care.

Benefits of Adopting A Room include:

- A plaque of recognition to display at your home, office or business
- Recognition in newsletters, annual report and on our website
- Recognition inside guest room
- Recognition as an Adopt A Room participant in a common area of the RMH

\$5,000 Full Room Sponsor or \$2,500 Shared Room Sponsor

Family Room Sponsor



Ronald
McDonald
Family Room®
PENN STATE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

By becoming a sponsor of the Ronald McDonald Family Room® (RMFR) for one month, your \$500 gift helps offset the cost to operate our program throughout the year, so we can continue to offer our services free of charge to our guest families.

Benefits of Family Room Sponsorship include:

- Prominent signage inside Ronald McDonald Family Room
- Inclusion in at least one of our newsletters (7,500 + readers)
- Recognition in printed newsletter, annual report and on our website
- Social media mention during your sponsorship month
- Opportunity for your business (8 people max) to tour the Ronald McDonald Family Room with our Family Room Manager (subject to availability and COVID stipulations)

\$500 Monthly Sponsorship