



RMHC
of Central Pennsylvania



Keeping Families Together

NEAR CARE AND RESOURCES

Summer 2021

Snider Family Story

In 2018, the Snider Family was expecting their second child. At twenty weeks pregnant, they learned their baby had a congenital heart defect (CHD), which is a type of birth defect that can affect the structure and function of a baby's heart. This came as no surprise as father, Jeremy, also has CHD.

"Upon learning this news, we were immediately referred to the team at Penn State Hershey Medical Center," Gabby said. Once at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, the Snider Family was scheduled for a C-section delivery on November 8, 2018.

According to Gabby, it was then that they were informed of all the different services Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA offered to families. Because they lived in Chambersburg, PA, about an hour away from the hospital, they were the perfect fit for the Ronald McDonald House.

"We were offered a room at the Ronald McDonald house the night before delivery," Gabby said. "The kind team at the Ronald McDonald House even kept our room reserved for a week post-delivery just in case Noah would require surgery after birth—thankfully, that was not necessary."

Unfortunately, two years later, Noah's family would learn that he needed surgery—during the height of the pandemic.

Because visitation rules at the hospital were impacted during the pandemic, Gabby and Jeremy were unable to stay with Noah at the same time. "Naturally, our first thought was to contact the Ronald McDonald House to try to reserve a room," Gabby said.

In June 2020, due to pandemic restrictions, RMH was only able to admit families every two weeks for the health and safety of the guest families and staff. To continue to help families like the Snider Family, RMH offered stays at nearby hotels. "Because Noah's surgery could not be delayed, panic set in," Gabby said.

"That's when we received a call from the Ronald McDonald House offering us hotel accommodations for our entire length of stay in Hershey. Emotions ran HIGH, but we could at least breathe a sigh of relief knowing we had a place to stay."

Throughout the pandemic, RMHC-CP has continued to keep families together at the RMH and through hotel stays.

Noah had his open heart surgery on June 30, 2020. Being able to stay nearby their young child during a serious procedure, free of charge, was a relief to the Snider Family.

"The hotel room right down the road from the hospital became a sanctuary for two physically and emotionally exhausted parents taking shifts to be with their heart warrior," Gabby said.

Thankfully, Noah's surgery went smoothly, and he and his family were able to return home on July 5, 2020.

"Leaving the hospital, my husband and I reflected on how grateful we were," Gabby said. "First, for our strong baby boy who overcame a very difficult surgery, and second, for the support and generosity of the Ronald McDonald House."

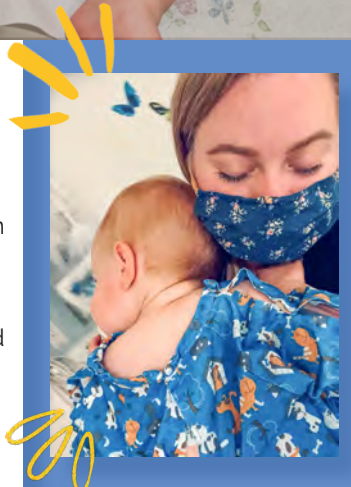
Following his surgery, he had a non-invasive procedure in September 2020. Today, Noah is doing very well.

"Noah is our 'tough guy.' You'll often find him flying around the house or playground free of inhibitions or limitations. His resiliency astounds us every day!"

—The Snider Family



Help us continue to provide services free of charge to families like the Sniders by making a donation at rmhc-centralpa.org/donate!





OPTIMISM is the most important human trait, because it allows us to evolve our ideas, to improve our situation, and to hope for a better tomorrow. — Seth Godin



Dear Friends,

The above quote from well-known marketing author Seth Godin has continually inspired me throughout this last year. Optimism, strength, resiliency, and agility are just a few of the words that come to mind that reflect our spirit here at RMHC of Central PA. And, with the summer sunshine on full display, so do the words joy, inspiration, and growth.

The road we have all been on as we navigate Covid-19 has been winding and complicated. Our collective wish was that the path to successfully beating the pandemic and returning to "normal" would be a straight line. Instead, the reality has been more like two steps forward and one step back. Yet, I remain optimistic and hopeful for a better tomorrow.

In this issue of our newsletter, we share information and stories that promote our efforts—despite the pandemic—to keep families together and near the care and resources they need. Families like the Sniders and their son Noah. You will meet some of our amazing volunteer leadership and see how they help our organization grow and finally, you will learn of opportunities to get involved and support our critical work.

Choose to be optimistic. It is contagious and just feels better.

Stay safe and remember to smile behind that mask!

Karla

Vist rmhc-centralpa.org/donate to help us keep families together today!

ELEVATING PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL CARE



The Seraph-McSparren Pediatric Inpatient Center at Lancaster General Hospital

The only center in Lancaster staffed 24/7 by doctors from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and nurses who are all pediatric certified.

Learn more at LGHealth.org/Kids



2020 In Numbers:



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA provided:

5,395

Family Overnight Stays

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA provided:

900

Individual Catered Meals

\$140,000+ raised from Special Events



\$118,000+ raised from 3rd Party Fundraisers

\$70,000+ donated in honor or in memory of a loved one



\$25,000+ raised from Facebook Fundraisers & Donations



1

Relocated Ronald McDonald Family Room near the brand-new NICU at the Penn State Children's Hospital



THANK YOU!

To our generous donors, our faithful event attendees and sponsors, our big-hearted Wish-List fulfillers, and our profound online supporters who champion for our mission, thank you for helping us keep families close in an unprecedented year.

Follow us on social!



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At the end of 2020, we said a fond farewell to our 2019-2020 Board President, Joanne Brown. Joanne, along with her husband Bill, is a long-time McDonald's Owner/Operator. This is her second time serving on the RMHC-CP board of directors. Joanne has also served on the McDonald's W.O.N (Women's Operator Network) board for six years. Additionally, she has been very active on the boards of her local, divisional, and national Parent Teacher Associations.

Her experience and knowledge in business development, facilities management, interior design, and her passion for our mission have served as true assets to our organization.

Highlighted below are just a few of Joanne's contributions:

- ✓ RMH East Wing renovations
- ✓ Relocation & construction of new Family Room near Penn State Children's Hospital NICU
- ✓ New Ronald McDonald Kiosk program established in Lancaster General Hospital's Pediatric Unit
- ✓ Engaging leader and mentor

We are truly grateful for all that Joanne has done and continues to do for RMHC-CP. She leaves very large red shoes to fill after many years of great service. Thank you, Joanne, for being a great friend and champion of RMHC of Central PA and the families we serve.

NEW BOARD DIRECTORS



Chris Garrett,
Traffic Anchor - Black Information Network/Total Traffic & Weather Network/iHeartMedia, Bala Cynwyd

In addition to his full-time job as traffic anchor at iHeartMedia, Chris also has his own wedding DJ company, Events by Garrett, LLC. As a parent of four wonderful kids, Chris has felt a passion for our work at RMHC-CP and has supported us by MCing our Gala and donating items from our Wish List.



William J. Sutton II,
LEED® AP, Vice President, Customer Experience, Mowery Construction, Mechanicsburg

Bill has been a local leader in the construction industry since 2005. He also volunteers his time to support several local community organizations and enjoys coaching his children in various sports. In recent years, he was particularly active with RMHC-CP on our Golf Committee, where he has spearheaded developing new sponsorship opportunities and key relationships. Bill has served in leadership roles on various boards such as The Dauphin County Library System, Harrisburg Young Professionals, Central PA Chapter of US Green Building Council, and The Future City Competition of Central Pa. He is a native of the Washington, D.C., area and currently resides in Harrisburg with his wife and children.



Ellen Kyzer,
VP, Director of Client and Community Relations, PNC Bank, Hummelstown

Ellen has 20 years of experience in non-profit administration, program development and fundraising, including serving on the Keystone Human Services Partnership Board. She has significant knowledge of the community and the development of partnerships with both non-profits and for-profit companies. She currently serves as the chair for the Harrisburg Regional Chamber Catalyst Award Committee and as a member of the Top Taste Committee for the Central PA Food Bank. She lives in Hummelstown with her husband and two sons.

Kathy Conrad (Not Pictured),
McDonald's Business Unit Regional Field Service Manager, McCain Foods, Leesport

Kathy is a previous RMHC-CP Board member and a long-time supporter of the charity, specifically attending, sponsoring, and supporting many RMHC Golf Tournaments for several chapters up and down the East Coast, including RMHC-CP's Annual Golf Classic. She also is a champion for the American Cancer Society.

..... Mark Your Calendar!



Diamonds and Denim Ladies Night Out

Thursday, September 9, 2021
Melhorn Manor, Mount Joy, PA
diamondsanddenim.org



20th Annual Moonlight & Magic Gala

Featuring Illusions & Magic by Scott Alexander
Saturday, October 23, 2021
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA
moonlight-gala.org

Fall 2021 Events
Presented By:



For sponsorships or general event information, contact our Development Team at 717-533-4001 x156 or email Amy at aleonard@rmhc-centralpa.org.

**Please note, we will be following all CDC, local, and RMHC Global guidelines that may be in place at the time of each event and will make any appropriate adjustments needed for sponsors.*

Special Thanks to our wonderful Sponsors who made our 2020 virtual events successful!



Arnold Organization
Baker Tilly US, LLP
BB&T now Truist
Brown & Fraser Families
CGA Law Firm
Concannon Miller & Co., P.C.
Country Meadows Retirement Communities
Enterprise

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Fort Pitt Capital
H&K International
Jackson Siegelbaum Gastroenterology
KNA Enterprises
Michael & Karen Leader
Levine Enterprises Inc.
Martin Brower

The Mattox Family
McCain Foods USA, Inc.
Milton Hershey School
PNC Bank
Pyramid Construction
Suarez Family McDonald's Restaurants
The GIANT Company
The Weaver Family

Success of Our Virtual Events in 2020



Ladies Night IN



Gala-To-Go



Total

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Round-Up for RMHC A new way to give!

Visit your local McDonald's and ask to "Round-Up" your total to the nearest dollar to help RMHC of Central PA Keep Families Close.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities[®]
of Central Pennsylvania