



Spring 2022

# NEAR CARE & RESOURCES

## *The Morgan Family Story*

In summer 2018, Jeremy Morgan was expecting to have a typical work week in Florida while his wife took their three children on vacation to Hershey, PA. Not long into their trip, his family faced a crisis that no family should have to experience while so far away from home.

While spending the day at Hersheypark, Jeremy's seven-year-old son, Adrian, started experiencing severe stomach pain. The family rushed Adrian to Penn State Health Children's Hospital to figure out what was wrong. Jeremy hopped on a plane as fast as he could to be there for his son and family.

"When I got there, the family hadn't slept for almost a day and a half," Jeremy said. "My wife and all three kids were sprawled out on the chairs in the Emergency Room."

Jeremy quickly stepped in and started juggling his family's needs—getting them a room in a nearby hotel and lugging the kids and their belongings back and forth to the hospital. Jeremy recalls it being "a huge mess."

After a day of trying to maintain this balancing act, one of the nurses suggested that Jeremy call the Ronald McDonald House across the street. Within a few hours the RMH found an opening for the Morgan's and got them settled in.

"Coming from so far out of town, and going through everything we were juggling, the RMH all of the sudden gave us hope," Jeremy said. "It gave us the balance to get our personal needs taken care of—our laundry done, our meals made—and we were able to focus more on our son."

The doctors found that part of Adrian's intestine had slid into another adjacent section of his intestine, and his condition required surgery.

The Morgan family stayed for a total of three nights at the RMH while Adrian underwent surgery for his intestinal issues.

Though their stay was shorter than the average family stay at the RMH, Jeremy remembers it being a "saving grace" and "an incredible experience." He recalled the feeling of getting recharged between visits to the hospital, eating home-cooked meals, and having access to laundry services was amazing for his family at that time.

"It was very refreshing to experience an organization that worked so hard to anticipate the needs of families so thoroughly," Jeremy said. "All of our needs were taken care of and I am so thankful."

Adrian is now 10 years old and doing great!

*"The support that the Ronald McDonald House gave my family will never be forgotten," Jeremy said. "At a time of dire need, they were able to provide support that we didn't even know we would need until we were faced with this emergency situation."*

To help RMHC of Central PA provide services to families like the Morgans, visit [rmhc-centralpa.org](http://rmhc-centralpa.org)!

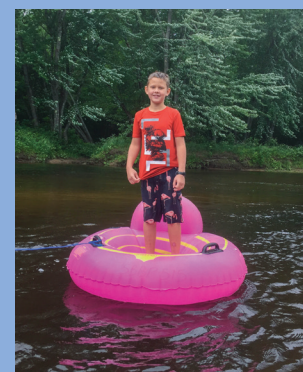
To share your RMHC story with us, email [marketing@rmhc-centralpa.org](mailto:marketing@rmhc-centralpa.org)!



*Adrian & his brother*

"When your family is in need, and you don't know who to turn to, it's comforting to know there are people in the world who are thinking ahead and preparing for families in crisis situations."

*- Jeremy Morgan*



*Adrian Morgan*

## MOVING FORWARD IN 2022

Dear Friends,

In a recent conversation with our Board Chair, Jill Walmer, she acknowledged that while Covid has changed our environment, it has not changed our mission. These words really resonated with me because they couldn't be more true. RMHC-CP has had to make some significant changes in the way we serve families over the last two years, but it hasn't stopped us from serving families who need us during one of the most critical times of their lives.

In 2022, we are moving forward. We will continue to serve all families coming to us to the best of our ability, we will hold special events and we will offer volunteer opportunities. We may have to pivot from time to time with safety at the forefront of all we do, but we are moving forward.

To honor this commitment, we need your help. We need your financial support so we can continue to serve families at no charge to them. We need your passion and energy to help support our programs through volunteerism and I hope you will consider one or more of the following opportunities: Guest Chef, Baking, House, Family Room, Kiosk or Special Event Committees. Because let's face it, without your help, we wouldn't be able to provide families with the services they rely on during a significantly stressful time.

We are moving forward ... I hope you will join us as we embrace the future and all that it holds ... both blessings and challenges. To learn more, please visit [rmhc-centralpa.org](http://rmhc-centralpa.org).

Bring it on, 2022!

Karla



Karla Mitchell  
Executive Director

"The pandemic  
has changed our  
environment, but  
has **not changed**  
our mission."

*"BRING IT ON,  
2022!"*

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## UPLIFTING ANNOUNCEMENT

RMHC-CP is honored to announce the recent in-kind donation of land to our organization from the Garrison Family. The property, located directly west of our current Ronald McDonald House, was gifted to our organization at the end of 2021 in memory of George and Mary Garrison.

The donation extends the legacy of Mary and George's life-long dedication to the well-being and care of children in need. Mary had a successful 50-year career as a nurse at the Milton Hershey School, retiring at age 90. George was a retired Milton Hershey house parent, serving in that role for 25

years and then promoted to farm manager of one third of the original Hershey Estates in 1960. Together, they had many years of meaningful and devoted service to children.

While RMHC-CP has no current plans for development of the property, the additional land provides a strong foundation for any future endeavors.

We are truly grateful to Richard and Betty Garrison and the entire Garrison family for their donation that will help support RMHC-CP's mission to keep families together while their children receive essential medical care.



Mary and  
George  
Garrison, &  
their home in  
1960.





## WELCOME NEW BOARD DIRECTORS . . .



**MARCELLA  
DETREVILLE**

Marcella is an educator and substitute teacher. In her community, Marcella served as board member for Eternal Life Christian Center for 13 years. She is an alumnus and now volunteer for the Latin American Economic Development Association, Inc. (LAEDA), which assists emerging entrepreneurs and small business owners. Since 2008, she has also served as a family mentor for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Marcella and her family are former recipients of RMHC-CP's services when her grandson was battling cancer in 2018.



**JAMES  
STRONG**

Jamie Strong is a real estate and land use attorney for McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC, where he represents clients in zoning and land use proceedings, and in the acquisition, sale, development and leasing of real estate. Jamie worked with RMHC-CP during the acquisition of the residential properties adjacent to the RMH, and is excited to help further RMHC-CP's mission. Previously, Jamie served on the board of directors of the Central PA Food bank for six years.

## THANK YOU

**MICHELLE  
SUAREZ-  
COSTELLO**

**& KATIE  
PETERMANN  
BRUNNER**

A special thank you to our Board Directors whose terms ended in 2021—We appreciate your service to our mission and hope to see you soon!

## REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND . . .



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of our board director, Dr. Robert Cilley, a pediatric surgeon at Penn State Health Children's Hospital. Dr. Cilley passed away on January 30, surrounded by his family. He served on our board of directors for five years and our staff, fellow board directors and our recipient families are better because of it.

Dr. Cilley was a truly compassionate servant leader. As a pediatric surgeon and educator, he brought to the board insight and knowledge around family focused care that was extremely valuable to our organization and our work. We always appreciated his deep thoughtfulness and guidance on critical issues impacting our organization and the families we serve.

Dr. Cilley leaves a legacy of being a passionate pediatric leader, having an inquisitive nature, a caring and open heart and an endearing sense of humor. He was an excellent advisor to our board of directors and our leadership team and an even better friend. He will be deeply missed.

## PRESSING NEEDS

### Guest Chef Volunteers Are One of Our Most-Pressing Needs Right Now

Our Guest Chef program helps ensure families never have to worry about where they will get their next meal while their child is in the hospital. Help feed our families by volunteering with 3 of your friends, family members, or co-workers!

Go to [rmhc-centralpa.org](http://rmhc-centralpa.org) and click on "Meals & Activities" under the "Get Involved" tab to sign up for our Guest Chef Program!

*\*Must be 18 years or older and fully vaccinated to participate.*



## 2021 IN NUMBERS



**4,587**  
Family Overnight Stays  
provided in 2021



**2,347**  
Individual Meals  
provided in 2021



**\$254,000+**  
raised from Special Events



**\$167,000+**  
raised from 3rd party  
fundraisers



**\$73,000+**  
donated in honor or in  
memory of a loved one



**\$17,400+**  
raised from Facebook  
Fundraisers & Donations

*Thank You for Helping RMHC-CP Keep Families Together in 2021!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 05/12

#### LADIES NIGHT

Join us at our Diamonds & Denim Ladies Night Out Event on May 12, 2022, at [The Willows at Ashcombe Mansion](#)! Tickets go on sale April 1 at 10 a.m.

Go to [diamondsanddenim.org](http://diamondsanddenim.org) for more information!

### 08/01

#### GOLF CLASSIC

Our 27th Annual Golf Classic will be held August 1, 2022 at the Hershey Country Club, East & West Courses. Sponsorships available now!

Go to [golf-classic.org](http://golf-classic.org) for more details!

### 09/09

#### SPORTING CLAYS

RMHC of Central PA is hosting its very first Sporting Clays Tournament this year! Join us September 9, 2022 at Blue Ridge Sportsman Club for this exciting new event!

Go to [clay-shoot.org](http://clay-shoot.org) for more information!

## LOOKING TO SPONSOR?

Becoming a RMHC of Central PA Event Sponsor is a great way to get promotion for your business AND help make a difference for families when they need it most.

For sponsorship information, contact Amy Leonard at [development@rmhc-centralpa.org](mailto:development@rmhc-centralpa.org) or 717-533-4001 ext. 156.

## SPECIAL THANKS

THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS WHO MADE OUR 2021 EVENT SEASON SUCCESSFUL

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**Mi**  
FOUNDATION



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 **Heritage**  
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 **McQuaide Blasko**



44 Business Capital  
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McDonald's Stamford Field Office  
Milton Hershey School  
Mowery Construction  
NAI CIR  
Northeast Foods  
Penn Waste  
Planet Fitness  
PNC Bank  
Pyramid Construction Services, Inc.  
RKL LLP  
SevenBridge Financial  
SpringGate Vineyard & Brewery  
Steward Incorporated  
SunStone Consulting  
The Bama Companies  
Tri-Boro Construction Supplies, Inc.  
Truist

*Printing and mailing services graciously donated by The Hershey Company.*



## Round-Up for RMHC

Ask to "Round-Up" your order total the next time you visit McDonald's to make a difference for families caring for their sick children.



...Because every penny counts!



RMHC<sup>®</sup>  
Of Central Pennsylvania

# TOGETHER

is giving back.

Highmark Blue Shield and Penn State Health are proud to be working together to support the health of our local community. **TogetherForPA.com**

