



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Midwest | MN, WI, IA

# news from the heart

## DECEMBER 2023

[www.RMHCMidwestMWI.org](http://www.RMHCMidwestMWI.org)



[HattieAnnPhotography](#)

Waylon was born 10 weeks early at 1 pound, 8 ounces, and 12 inches long.  
He had already persevered; now he needed to grow.

**“The House gave us so many things, but most importantly, it gave us love.”**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends and families of the House,

As we approach the joyous holiday season, I am grateful for the incredible outpouring of support from our volunteers, generous donors, and community partners for the families turning to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. As we close out 2023, we are doing so knowing that we will serve more families this year than ever before. Already this year, we have provided more than 13,000 nights of free lodging to families coming to Rochester for care. Additionally, with the outpouring of support for dinners and nutritional support, we have provided more than 11,000 meals to the families staying at the House. Even with the significant increase in demand for our services, our last expansion project has allowed us to get the majority of families in the House the same day that they arrive in Rochester. Your generosity and ongoing support are critical for us to meet this growing demand.



We look ahead to 2024 with excitement and anticipation. Beyond all that we offer families at the House in Rochester, we are actively exploring ways to extend support to our guest families outside the walls of the House. We understand that supporting families seeking medical care for their children has many areas of need beyond a place to stay, meals, and activities, and we are eager to meet the growing challenges of the families that seek our support.

As we bid farewell to this extraordinary year, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to the Ronald McDonald House mission. Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, love, and the knowledge that your generosity is helping more families than ever before.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Mueller".

Nick Mueller, Chief Executive Officer  
RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA

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RMHC  
Midwest | MN, WI, IA



# Revisit 2023 through the eyes of our families!

[Read about Waylon after he was born prematurely and how RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA supported family, including his siblings](#)



[HattieAnnPhotography](#)

[Read about Opal and Owen, twins who arrived early, and their parents' 100-night journey at RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA](#)



[Mona Lisa Shutters](#)

[Read about Bianca, who received her new heart after a long wait, and her family's 282-night stay at RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA](#)



[Heather Ann Photography](#)

## Courtesy Corporation - More Than a Restaurant

Rick and Wendy Lommen, Owner-Operators of McDonald's restaurants in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa, opened their 65th location in northeast Rochester earlier this year.



Continuing the legacy of Rick's father, Dick, the Lommens have built the Courtesy Corporation brand into one defined by integrity, reliability, responsibility, and respect.

But their impact greatly surpasses the number of guests they serve in their restaurants.

Courtesy Corporation does a remarkable job creating a culture of philanthropy in their stores, raising awareness and funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities through their Round-Up for RMHC efforts, community fundraisers, item drives, and expansion-specific campaigns.

Their dedication to RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA's mission is profound, having a significant impact on our organization's history.





In 2023 alone, Courtesy Corporation's efforts have accounted for more than 7,500 nights of lodging for children and families staying at our Ronald McDonald House.

Courtesy Corporation team members, including those working in the restaurants, diligently share our mission and raise funds for our families.

**We wouldn't be the Ronald McDonald House – or the organization – that we are today without the support and leadership of Rick and Wendy Lommen and everyone at Courtesy Corporation!**









The magic of the holiday season can bring joy to children of all ages. For a family impacted by childhood illness, the holidays can bring additional stress during an already difficult time. At the Ronald McDonald House, we go the extra mile to make the holiday season special for the children and families we serve. Because of you, our generous community, we ensure every family who walks through our doors is able to celebrate no matter their circumstance.

**Learn how you can brighten their holiday season during a very difficult time.**

**[Holidays at the House](#)**



# The House Dinner calendar is full for 2023...but dates are open for January 2024!

Click the calendar below to sign up - family, friends, business, organization, or restaurant - and provide children and families with a hot meal after a long day at the hospital.



## HOUSE DINNER NEEDS

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
		9		11		
	15					
	22	23				
	29					

2024



**As we enter 2024, we are excited to prepare for more children and families to stay at our House than ever before!**

**Volunteers are the heart of our home - we have a place for you to share your passions with our guests!**

**[LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING](#)**



# give

TO THE  
**MAX** 

**Nov. 16, 2023**

It was a record-breaking Give to the Max Day for RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA, as more than 150 donors met two matches - a \$30,000 match from the Board of Trustees and a \$5,000 match from an anonymous donor - raising more than \$70,000 for the children and families who call our House their home!

**Thank you!**

**\$70,000**

**RAISED FOR RMHC FAMILIES**

*Thank You*





**RMHC**<sup>®</sup>

Midwest | MN, WI, IA

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[www.RMHCMidwestMWI.org](http://www.RMHCMidwestMWI.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**21st Annual**

**Hearts & Diamonds Spectacular  
presented by Knutson Construction**

**Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024**

**SOLD OUT - JOIN WAIT LIST**

## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Each family who has stayed at our House has a unique and beautiful story!

Your story is the reason people support RMHC Midwest MN, WI, IA!

Contact Jacob Dreyer, Communications Director, for more information.

## CONNECT!

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