

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE Arranges for Springfield Jr. Blues to Visit Sick Child at St. John's Children's Hospital**

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois (March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014) – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois (RMHC) arranged with St. John's Children's Hospital for eight players of the Springfield Jr. Blues, the local area NAHL hockey team, to visit Tess and her family at the hospital on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. They came bearing gifts including books, puzzles and even signed photos from the entire Jr. Blues team. The players visited with Tess and her family and read aloud to Tess from some of her favorite books. The Jr. Blues, who are Tess's favorite team, have visited her in the past, and each time is always a fun and memorable occasion for her and her family. Beyond providing housing and meals for families, RMHC has a running relationship with the local hospitals to provide service and support to families with children receiving medical treatment in the area, including experiences like this one.

Tess has been in and out of the hospital multiple times over the past few years. She and her family have a long history with the Ronald McDonald House. Since Tess was born four months prematurely in 2005, her parents have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, IL many times in order to have quick and easy access to the Children's hospital and to Tess. They are excited for the upcoming RMHC Labor of Love project to renovate the current home, which will allow for greater and more extensive services to families in their time of need. Through this renovation, RMHC will be able to assist even more families than they are currently able to. The goal is to give families, like this one, a comfortable, convenient home away from home during their time in Springfield.

### **About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois**

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois provides a temporary home away from home for those families whose children are receiving medical treatment in Springfield. In an effort to reduce stress, keep the family intact, and enhance the quality of life for families, the House provides a caring, home-like atmosphere for its guests.

### **About St. John's Children's Hospital**

Established in 2005, St. John's Children's Hospital is part of the Hospital Sisters Health System family. The only comprehensive child health care facility in south-central Illinois, St. John's Children's Hospital provides vital health care for the region's children, from infancy through age 18. Recognized by the Children's Hospital Association and a member of the Association of Illinois Children's Hospitals, St.

John's Children's Hospital offers a wide range of services for children and their families, both here at our facilities and extending into the home.

**About Springfield Jr. Blues**

The Springfield Jr. Blues are a Tier II Junior A ice hockey team in the North American Hockey League's Mid-west Division. The team plays their home games at the Nelson Center in Springfield, Illinois.

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