



SUMMER 2016

newsletter

meet Carly...



Hi Friends -

When I was diagnosed with T-cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma on November 15, 2015, it was scary. My family and I live in Saybrook, Illinois, so we had to travel to Springfield for the best care I could receive. The week of my diagnosis, my mom, dad and aunt took turns staying with me and at the Ronald McDonald House. **I was so glad they were able to stay close by while I was in the hospital.**

I'm still receiving treatment and it is nice for my mom to be able to stay at the House while we're in town. My mom says the staff is very friendly and **makes our**

family feel at home. She also said it was easy to be able to do laundry and grab something to eat at the House whenever she wanted during my hospital stay.

While I'm at the hospital, I sometimes see the Ronald McDonald House Happy Wheels Cart (see the back page for more information)! The Happy Wheels Cart ladies know I love the stuffed animals, so they always have some special ones for me to pick out. Even Ronald McDonald stops by with the cart to visit!

My school, Ridgeview Elementary, has been collecting pop tabs to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House in my honor. Mom and I drop them off at the House when we come to town for my treatments. We've collected over 85 pounds since November!

It's comforting to know my family can stay close to me while I receive care for my cancer, and it's all because of your support. Thank you - seeing my family makes me really happy.

♡ Carly



The Happy Wheels Hospitality Cart provides a bit of comfort and cheer as it travels the hospital hallways, bringing parents some needed relief while keeping the little ones entertained with books, fun activities, stuffed animals and toys. As a part of this new program, we ask for support to continually stock the Happy Wheels Hospitality Cart. Please visit our website to view a Happy Wheels wish list under the "Get Involved" tab at the top.



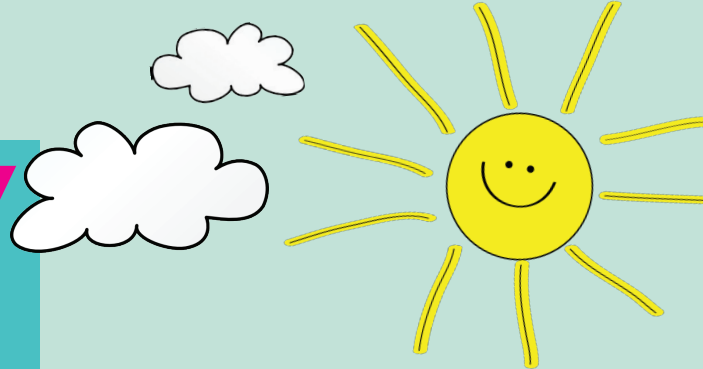
Printed courtesy of
HSHS St. John's Hospital

THANK YOU for helping keep over 400 families together every year.

Celebrating 30 Years

FAMILY FUN DAY

food • kid-friendly activities • tours available • much more!



30TH ANNIVERSARY



RED TIE & Pearls Gala

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016

PRESENTING SPONSOR
Children's
HSHS St. John's Hospital
In partnership with SIU HealthCare

RED TIE SPONSOR

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

A note from our Executive Director...
Our 30th Anniversary Red Tie & Pearls Gala was a night to remember! We had over 500 guests come to celebrate our milestone anniversary, and we raised over \$150,000! Thank you to everyone who supported this event, from sponsors to the committee to the attendees. We can't wait to celebrate with you again at our 35th Anniversary! - Kelly Thompson, Executive Director



AT RONALD McDONALD HOUSE, 610 N. 7th Street in Springfield

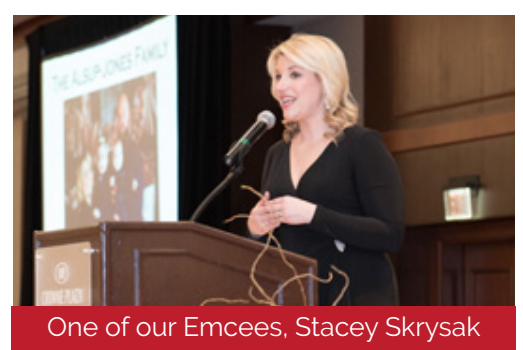


SUNDAY 11TH SEPT

save the date!
1PM - 4PM



House costs have increased - your support is more important than ever before!
Based on data collected over the past three years since our Labor of Love renovation and expansion project, the cost to our charity to house families for each night's stay has increased. For each family that stays with us for one night, we estimate our House expenses to now be \$88/night. This includes housing, electricity, food, laundry and more. Families are only able to stay with us free of charge due to the generous support of our local community! Thank you for your generous support which allows families to stay at the Ronald McDonald House free of charge for as long as needed to be close to their child! - Evan Westlake, President, RMHCCI Board of Directors



One of our Emcees, Stacey Skrysak



Medical Honoree, MaryBeth Miller



Ronald with Chris Jeffers



Emcee Julie Staley with Ronald

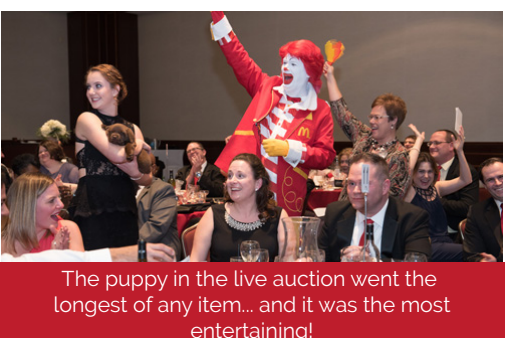
Volunteer Spotlight
Reba Crawford
This is a tribute to our volunteer Reba who faithfully served our families for 28 years and passed away last October. Our Fridays at the House haven't been the same since. She is greatly missed and will be remembered forever.
28 years of service to RMHCCI & our families



Hugs for Ronald!



Gala Co-Chair Melissa Skinner-Liberman, Board President Evan Westlake, Gala Co-Chair Cheri Plummer & Executive Director Kelly Thompson



The puppy in the live auction went the longest of any item... and it was the most entertaining!



Ronald found some gentleman with good taste in socks!