Ronald McDonald House®
Newfoundland & Labrador

2026 Fall Newsletter

Charitable Registration #: 85050 2865 RR0001



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The Pittman Family of Pasadena

When a child is ill or injured, families face moments that are hard to describe. When care is far from home, that worry grows with the distance. Ronald McDonald House surrounds families with the care and support they need so they can stay close to their child and to each other.

For the Pittman family of Pasadena, that support has become an essential part of their journey.

While pregnant with their second daughter, Vanessa and Gaven Pittman learned their baby, Eleanor, would be born with complex medical needs. In addition to Down syndrome, doctors identified other health concerns that would require specialized care after birth.

What should have been a time filled with anticipation and joy quickly became overwhelming. Vanessa shared how stressful the news was, especially considering the financial burden of travel and having an older sibling, Evelyn, who would need her family near.

Living nearly 700 km from St. John's, the family knew accessing the care Eleanor needed would be challenging. With frequent medical appointments and hospital visits, the cost of accommodation and time away from work would have placed an enormous strain on the family.

"I had heard of Ronald McDonald House before because multiple friends and family members had stayed there with their children," they said. **"When our doctor told me we could stay there, it was like a weight was lifted off our shoulders."**

Since her birth, Eleanor has required ongoing appointments with multiple specialists and care teams. Over multiple stays totaling more than 100 nights, the House has provided stability, comfort, and a community of people who understand the challenges they are facing.

Being able to stay at Ronald McDonald House, knowing they were just moments away from the hospital, provided the family with peace of mind. The House helps support the entire family, offering meals, a welcoming environment, and a place where both Eleanor and Evelyn could feel at home.

Shared experiences with other families, and simple conversations have helped ease the stress that often accompanies a child's medical journey. **"We have met so many families that we still keep in touch with that became family to us. The staff and volunteers are like our family away from home. Always friendly and always ready to help us with anything. They go above and beyond every day,"** Vanessa said.

During one of the family's many stays, Evelyn, turned 6. Having to celebrate her birthday away from home, friends, and the traditions she looked forward to each year was difficult for the whole family. The House was able to create a celebration they would never forget. **"Evelyn wasn't able to be with her friends and family, but the staff decorated for her and gave her the most magical day when we couldn't be home,"** Vanessa shared.

Looking ahead, Eleanor will require additional surgeries within the next year and ongoing medical follow-ups. Vanessa said, **"There's ups and downs, but so far she is thriving and we just do what we can on a daily basis for her."**

Family is not a visitor; they stick around for the long haul. Ronald McDonald House NL ensures families like the Pittman family can be together, supported, and close to the care they need.

Our Impact

15 suites available to families

Families have stayed **50,000+ nights**

Saving families more than **$12 Million**

+2,000 families have stayed with us

We have more than **350 volunteers**

Unlimited smiles

Your donation of **$279** will cover the cost to **host 1 family for 1 night**

DONATE NOW

Help families stay together, and close to eachother, the medical care, and resources they need.

Want to learn more? Scan here!

Board of Directors

Darren Martin
Board Chair

Hilary Wicks Morrow
Vice-Chair

Candace Seymour
Treasurer

Directors
Margo Edison
Annette Bishop-Higdon
Gail Collins
Julianne Griffin
Melanie Callahan
Tony Dawe
Dr. Lisa Goodyear
Abbi Morris

Staff

Full Staff Directory!

Annette Godsell
Chief Executive Officer

Heather Butler, CFRE
Director of Development & Communications

Jennifer Fleming
Director of Family & Volunteer Services

Kayla Hancock
Family Programs & Services Coordinator

Miranda Anderson
Family Services Assistant

Ken Furlong
Maintenance Worker

Family Service Associates
Fred Tucker
Katie Taylor
Heidi Johnston
Brooklyn Byrne
Nancy

Owen Beers
Development & Finance Officer

Kelly Ball
Development Officer

Sandra Mensah
Community & Events Officer

Quazi M. Abrar
Marketing & Communications Officer

Full info Here!

Contact

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A Gift in your Will

A gift in your will is a meaningful way to create a lasting legacy for Ronald McDonald House NL. As part of your long term financial planning, a planned gift can provide benefits to you, your family, and Ronald McDonald House. It may also offer valuable tax and estate planning benefits while helping ensure support is available for families travelling for their child's medical care for years to come.

To learn more about leaving a legacy through a planned gift, please contact:
Heather Butler, CFRE
heatherbutler@RonaldMcDonaldHouseNL.ca



Kitchen Programs

Our kitchen programs bring comfort to families staying at Ronald McDonald House. Volunteer groups can prepare breakfast, lunch, or supper, with weekday and weekend times available. Through our various kitchen programs, volunteers choose the menu, prepare food at the House, and help nourish families.



Scan the QR code for LIVE calendar & to learn more

"It is such a heartfelt experience knowing that you are supporting families during very difficult times when they shouldn't have to worry about making a meal. The process of booking to the final clean up is seamless and there is a lot of support from the Ronald McDonald House."

-Fairfield by Marriott

WISH LIST

amazon wishlist

Our Wish List is updated regularly as we meet new challenges and address the changing needs of our families. If you would like to support our families with a gift-in-kind, please check out our most recent Wish List on our website, or by scanning the QR code.

Adopt a Room at Ronald McDonald House NL!

Adopt-a-Room Program
ADOPT ME

Create a lasting impact for families with ill or injured children by adopting a guest room or shared space at Ronald McDonald House NL.

Your adoption helps cover the costs of maintaining and caring for the space, including clean linens, repairs, updates, and ongoing upkeep, ensuring it is always ready for families who have to travel for their child's medical care. Adoptions are available with one-year or three-year commitments. Recognize a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or showcase your organization's community impact through this meaningful opportunity.

To discuss available spaces or to learn more about this program, contact Kelly Ball at kellyball@RonaldMcDonaldHouseNL.ca





5 ways to support

1. Donate

Your donation helps provide programs and services for families with an ill or injured child. It costs $279 per night to host a family at Ronald McDonald House NL. Families are invited to make a suggested contribution of $15 per night, or any amount they can, to support future families. Whether through a single gift or monthly support, your generosity has a meaningful impact, helping families stay together, supported, and close to the care and resources their child needs.

2. Volunteer

Volunteers make a meaningful difference for families by supporting the House through light housekeeping, administrative support, and other essential daily tasks. Volunteers are also needed to help raise awareness and support fundraising efforts.

3. Tribute Gifts

Donations may be made in memory of a family member, friend, or colleague. The bereaved family receives a special notice expressing condolences and informing them that a gift has been made. You will receive a tax- deductible receipt.

4. Planned Giving

As part of your long-term financial planning, a planned gift can provide meaningful tax and estate planning benefits while allowing you to make a lasting gift to Ronald McDonald House NL. Your gift can support the organization now or in the future. It is a way to make a lasting impact while also meeting your personal financial goals.

5. Community Fundraising

Are you interested in hosting a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House NL? From bake sales to fashion shows and everything in between, there are many fun and meaningful ways for individuals, families, and workplaces to get involved. Our fundraising team has resources available, and are here to support you every step of the way.

Want to learn more? Scan here!

Pull-Tab Collection Program

Collecting pull tabs is a simple way for even the smallest child to make a big difference!

Taking care of the earth by recycling is just the tip of the iceberg. By donating your pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House, you're helping to provide a place full of comfort and support, for ill or injured children and their families during what could be the most difficult time of their lives.

New Pull Tab Boxes!

Want to collect pull tabs at your business, organization, or classroom? Our new pull tab boxes are now available.



Contact us to get yours !
(709) 738-0000
info@ronaldmcdonaldhousenl.ca

Serving up Support!



From September 25th-27th, IG Wealth Management Collet Bastow & Associates partnered with Pickleball 709 and brought the community together for their 1st annual Charity Pickleball Tournament in support of Ronald McDonald House NL.

Participants took to the courts for a weekend of friendly competition, fun, and giving back, all while helping ensure families can stay together and close to the medical care their child needs.

Thanks to the generosity of players, sponsors, and supporters, the tournament raised an incredible $6,845.71! We are grateful to IG Wealth Management for organizing this event and to everyone who took part. Your support is invaluable!

Lights of Love

December 1st-31st, 2026

Honour or Remember that special person in your life

This holiday season, honour or remember that special person in your life or that hard to shop for person with a gift that gives back. With each donation, a red light will shine in their honour on the Lights of Love Tree in front of Ronald McDonald House. We will provide you with, or send an acknowledgement card for the honoree so they know they are a part of something truly meaningful.



Join Us for the Lights of Love Campaign Kick-Off Event!

Thank you to OZFM and NTV for helping us kick off the Lights of Love Tree Lighting and helping us shine a light on helping families stay together while their child receives medical treatment.

Join us In Person for Christmas Carols, Candy Canes, Hot Chocolate and Special Guests!

Date: Sunday, November 29th, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Ronald McDonald House
150 Clinch Crescent

Can't make it in person?
Make your donation online and Listen live on OZFM all day

Volunteer Spotlight

Jackie Furlong, St. John's

Our valued volunteers are at the heart of providing programs and services at Ronald McDonald House



Jackie Furlong has been a dedicated volunteer with Ronald McDonald House NL since before the doors opened in 2012. As one of the earliest volunteers, she helped prepare the House to welcome its very first families and has continued to support families for more than a decade.

A lifelong volunteer, Jackie was looking for a meaningful way to give back after retiring. With a passion for helping others and a love of family, she found the perfect fit at Ronald McDonald House. Today, she continues to volunteer regularly, often supporting the meal program by welcoming and guiding community groups or preparing meals for families staying at the House.

For Jackie, volunteering is about helping create a warm, welcoming, and dependable environment for families who have travelled for their child's medical care. Whether it is preparing a meal, lending a helping hand, or offering a friendly smile, she takes pride in making families feel cared for during a difficult time.

Her commitment and reliability have made a lasting impact on the House and the many families she has supported over the years.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please scan the QR code

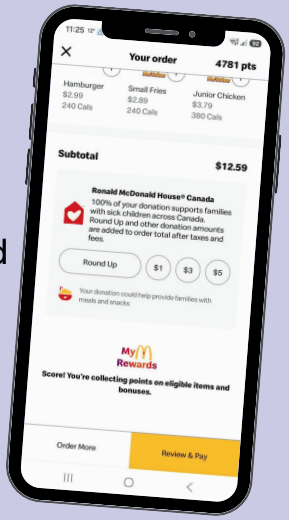
ROUND ♥ UP

for Ronald McDonald House

on the McDonalds App!

Every cent donated locally through Round Up stays right here in the province to support Ronald McDonald House NL and the families we serve.

Small change. Local impact.



Family Bingo night led by amazing volunteers



Holiday Cards NEW DESIGN!

Share your holiday wishes while supporting families travelling for their child's medical care.

Our new holiday cards are now available in packs of 10!



Because not every child will be home for the holidays.

Stay up to date!

Follow Ronald McDonald House on social media!