



Ronald McDonald House Charities ♥ 16 South Winooski Avenue. Burlington, VT 05401 ♥ 802-862-4943 ♥ www.rmh-vermont.org

You Go Girl!



This writer was invited into the guest suite at the Ronald McDonald House to interview the Blair Family. Shayna, who is 15 years old has T-Cell Leukemia and because her immune system is compromised she needs to stay away from crowds of people and the public in general.

When I walked in, there, sitting on one of the beds was a beautiful young woman, totally bald, with huge, dark expressive eyes. That was Shayna. She was quick to tell me that she will be 16 years old in August! Her Mom, Patsy and grand-mom, Lois (Mema) were also present. At home was "Dad", Bob and 17 year old brother, Chaz. Bob recently obtained his job at Malone Furniture and could not take much time off right now. They all live in North Bangor, New York (with a physical address in Brandon, New York). Patsy works at the local school in the cafeteria and also does many other jobs at the school, including subbing in the classrooms. Shayna is a freshman but because of her illness has been unable to attend classes and has been issued a home tutor. She recently has been too ill to even do homework. Shayna related her medical history in a very informed manner. She was not feeling well on February 14th of this year and was taken to the doctors the next day. She had no appetite and was very pale.

Her Mom wanted her checked out for "anemia". Her blood tests came back showing leukemia and she was admitted immediately. She has been on chemo (causing hair loss), blood transfusions and other treatments. Kidney failure became one of the "side effects" of these modalities and she has been on dialysis. She was weak, dehydrated and has lost much weight. She is struggling to put the weight back on and she is now shy of only five more pounds before she reaches her weight goal. Currently, she is suffering from foot problems, probably neurological

that makes her feet numb and hinders her from walking safely. Being 15 years old, she has a boyfriend, Alex, who has been very supportive of her all though this difficult time. Her foot problem is worrisome to her because she has a prom coming up and she wants to go to it. "My dress is pink and sparkly and long". "I have matching shoes, heels." When asked if she would be able to dance in the heels she answered, "I take my shoes off and dance barefoot". She is also getting a wig for the occasion. She does not mind if she has to wear a mask as long as she can go.

Shayna was active in school. She was in the chorus and x-country running. She was also active in SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). She was in "Bye, Bye Birdie" as well.

Her home tutor program has been sporadic because of the ups and downs of her illness. She had seizures and was admitted to the hospital for two weeks in PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit). She wanted it known that she loves Dr. Homans! The family has only praises for Vermont Children's Hospital. The nurses on pediatrics are the "best" and helped her with the decision to go bald without covering her head. She also gets massages at the VT Children's Hospital through the "Love Bug" program. Make-A-Wish has been in to visit her as well.

The family has used the Ronald McDonald Family Room a great deal, with Mema making a full Sunday dinner there every week. Pot roasts was one of the meals! They also take advantage of the Quiet Rooms as well. In the Ronald McDonald Family Room they appreciate the refrigerator for storing foods, the computer and laundry center. They laughingly suggested that the shower there could be bigger.

The Blair Family first used the Ronald McDonald House many years ago when Patsy's sister gave birth to a preemie. Her name is, Cassie and she is now 20 years old.

Shayna has a very positive attitude with her short term goals being putting on that additional five pounds, going to the prom with Alex, wearing her pink, sparkly dress and being able to dance. The wig will probably be brown like her own hair "but with some blonde highlights in it". You go girl! You are feisty, fun and don't you change a molecule of yourself. We all, at the Ronald McDonald House, wish you and the entire Blair family the very best.

Written by Jackie Lambert-Vezina

Volunteer Spotlight.....



Mark DiGangi

*Sec./ Treasurer of
RMHC Board of Directors*

Mark DiGangi is a Ronald McDonald House Charities Board Member, currently serving as the Secretary/Treasurer. When asked how he came to be involved with RMHC, he answered that two friends and Board Members, George Beato and Ethan Bond, brought him aboard. Then, there is a back-story. Pam Feni- more, Executive Director, said that Mark had won a weekend voucher for a stay in Stowe. He and his wife, Tanja, could not use it and thought that perhaps someone at the House could make good use of it and took it to the House. While there, Mark also spoke with Pam about RMHC changing financial institutions and also mentioned that he would like to become involved with the House in a financial capacity. Pam filed that information into the back of her mind. After he left he sent Pam a lovely plant, which to Pam's amazement with her well known "black thumb", is still alive! When an opening on the board came around Mark was voted on. He serves as Chairman of the Investment and Finance Committee. His financial knowledge is a great asset to the Board, especially when planning for long-term projects.

Mark lives in Essex Center with his wife, Tanja, and four children, two daughters aged 16 and 17 and two sons, age 8 and 9. They also have a dog and a cat who refused to divulge their ages! They attend St. Pius Church in the village. Mark and Tanja are kept very busy attending various sporting events with Mark often coaching some of them. Their schedules are further complicated by Mark's being out of town several days each week for his bank. His territory covers all Vermont, and upstate New York from Albany on. Tanja is co-owner of Bellos Hair Designs in Burlington and has a flexible schedule which helps the family logistics a great deal. They are fortunate to have both sets of

grandparents close by to help out with childcare should the occasion arise. Omi and Papa, Tanja's parents live very close by while Mark's parents, Nonna and Nono live in Rutland.

Mark is Vice-President for a private bank within TD BankNorth. It deals with wealth management and works closely with high worth individuals for both banking solutions and financial needs as well as long term planning. It is this expertise that is so valuable to the RMHC Board. Mark also was instrumental in helping the Burlington Boys and Girls Club build a new club house. Mark always knew that he wanted to work as a volunteer in an organization focused on children. He feels that he certainly will do more of this sort of work when he retires.

Meanwhile, he and Tanja love to watch the kids sporting events and travel a bit. In the winter, they head for warmer climates such as the Caribbean and in the summer they plan a family vacation on Cape Cod. Keely will soon be attending Hunter-Colby College so trips will be taken there as well.

In closing, Mark said that he thought that one day he would have political aspirations. He became quite animated while talking about the deficit in the city's spending, Medicare/Medicaid and certain areas of broad energy policies. He was adamant in his belief that employers should be providing long-term care benefits as a portion of everyone's insurance policy. Mark has an easy going manner about him, is well spoken and friendly. Bet he could win any election of his choice.

Written by Jackie Lambert-Vezina



Many thanks to Chris Kesler and staff at **earthlogic** for their donation of time and talent in creating a new website for our RMHC. If you have not been to our new website please visit:
www.rmhcvvt.org

Note: Our email addresses now match our domain name (i.e. pam@rmhcvvt.org; deanna@rmhcvvt.org; amy@rmhcvvt.org)



New Volunteers

Ronald McDonald Family Room

Al Bergeron, Jr.

Bill Talantino

Kathy Klaff

Craig Weatherly (golf committee too!)

Jeffrey Hill

Jennifer DiMauro

Paige Rolfe

Ronald McDonald House

Alan Beams

Larry Monserrate

Lisa L'Esperance

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the House or the Family Room please contact our Program Coordinator, Deanna Cameron at 802-862-4943 or by email at: Deanna@rmhcvvt.org

Did you know there is a very simple way for you to help raise money for the Ronald McDonald House? Just remove and save the pop tabs from empty drink cans before recycling them. Then bring your pop tabs in to the Ronald McDonald House or mail them to: 16 South Winoo- ski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401.



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS!!

Champlain Valley Fair- Two "All You Can Ride" Bracelets

Purchase raffle tickets from RMHC for your chance to win two (2) All You Can Ride bracelets for the Champlain Valley Fair. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Drawing will be held on August 1, 2012. To purchase tickets online visit:

http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=yrmvzncab&o_eidk=a07e5vk3gxx0c152e55 or contact Deanna: deanna@rmhcvt.org

June 18

The Scuffer 10% Night

Treat your family to a dinner out and support RMHC Burlington at the same time. 10% of the day's proceeds at The Scuffer on Church Street in Burlington will be donated to RMHC of Burlington.

June 22

RMHC Benefit Golf Tournament

Champlain Country Club, Swanton, VT. 8am registration , 9am shot gun start

Tournament is a four person scramble. Registration is \$100 per person and includes a light breakfast, bag lunch and post-tournament buffet by Outback Steakhouse. Email Deanna at Deanna@rmhcvt.org to register or for more information.

July 17

Drink

10% of sales at Drink on St. Paul Street in Burlington will benefit RMHC of Burlington. Stop into Drink after 4:30pm and enjoy one of their house made infused vodkas or their famous mojitos.

WISH LIST

Ronald McDonald House

- Paper Towels
 - Trash bags: 55 gallon
 - Ziploc bags- gallon size
 - Postage Stamps
 - Laundry Detergent
 - Taxi Vouchers
 - Batteries- AA, AAA
- Light bulbs- 60 watt Energy Efficient Bulbs
 - Food: Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese
 - Packing Tape
 - Eco-Friendly Cleaning Supplies
 - Dishwasher Detergent
 - Stainless Steel Cleaner

Ronald McDonald Family Room

- Keurig Cups (K-Cups)
- Non-perishable microwavable meals
 - Large paper plates
- Individually packaged snacks & crackers
 - Laundry detergent
 - Combs and brushes
 - Hotel size shampoo
 - Razors and deodorant
 - Canned meat & tuna
 - Jam/ Jelly

Underlined items are the greatest need!

Remember the Ronald McDonald House Charities with a Donation

Amount of Donation:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Method of Payment: Cash Check Visa/MasterCard

Card #: _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____



This gift is:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Acknowledgment of gift to:

Ronald McDonald House Charities 16 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862.4943



Adding new sites!

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is branching out to other parts of Vermont as the word gets out about the services we offer children that do not have access to a dentist where they live. We have been "on the road" since late September 2009 and hope to someday work ourselves out of a job because the children we see are improving their oral hygiene habits. Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease today, five times more common than asthma.

This school based program now serves children in Springfield with our first visit treating about 30 children with multiple cavities. In September, we will add three other schools in Springfield that are in need of dental services. We have also added Concord, Vermont along with Lunenburg, Tunbridge, and Westshire.

In July, the Care Mobile will travel to Springfield to have students in the MedQuest program take a tour and "job shadow" our professional dental staff. These students have expressed a desire to pursue careers in dentistry.

We have currently partnered with six Federally Qualified Health Centers. They are: The Health Center in Plainfield (our Clinical Partner), Little Rivers Health Care, Northern Tier Center for Health, Springfield Medical Care Systems, Community Health Services of Lamoille Valley, and Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. These FQHC's receive a higher reimbursement from Medicaid which helps with our growing expenses. We currently travel to about fourteen different schools providing dental services and are watching for others to add in the future.

Here is a quote from a parent of one of the children we treated. *"Thank you for giving my son his smile back!"* The children are the reason we continue this effort through the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

Pam Fenimore, Executive Director



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington, VT

Grants awarded to Local Non-profit organizations that support children's projects

RMHC of Burlington recently awarded grants to the following non-profit agencies. These agencies support local children's projects in our McDonald's market area. Funds used for these grants are generated from the canisters located in the McDonald's restaurants along with local and national promotions within each store along with the sale of newspapers such as the Rutland Herald and the Burlington Free Press:

- Burlington Parks and Recreation- Burlington, VT
- Cambridge Elementary School-Jeffersonville, VT
- Champlain Adaptive Mounted Program- S. Hero, VT
- Grace Preschool- Rutland, VT
- The PuppeTree, Inc- Post Mills, VT
- Rutland Bandits AAU Club- Rutland, VT
- Rutland South Supervisory Union- N. Clarendon, VT
- Shrewsbury Mountain School- Schrewsbury, VT
- Vermont for Independent Living- Montpelier, VT

The total amount granted from our local RMHC Chapter this quarter was \$18,500 along with matching from RMHC Global \$4,500. Grand total= \$23,000.

A Big Thank You for Fulfilling Our Wishes!

Many thanks to all of our **wonderful** donors who have helped fulfill our Wish List requests. We wouldn't exist without your support.

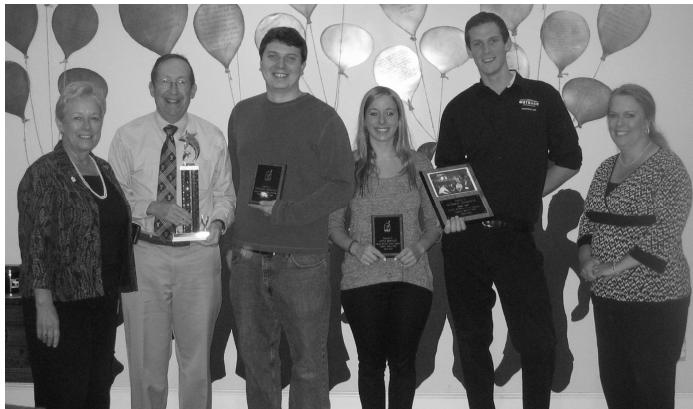
Recently, we received a large donation from **Georgia Pacific**. The company donated several cases of napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, to our Ronald McDonald House.

We also replaced two sleeper sofas at the House thanks to **La-Z-Boy**.

Georgia Pacific and La-Z-Boy support our Ronald McDonald House Charities through a special corporate agreement.



And once again...the winner of the
"Celebrity Wait-a-thon"
at the
Outback Steakhouse is.....
Dr. Lewis First &
Dr. "Buzz" Land!!



Pictured left to right: Pam Fenimore, Dr. Lewis First, Chris Shumway, Anna Herman, Mike Sneed—General Manager of Outback Steakhouse, and Deanna Cameron. Dr. Land is not pictured.



Guest Comments

"Thank you for giving me and my family a place to stay while my brother goes for an endoscopy. It is a real comforting environment here. This is the fourth or fifth time you have provided a place for us, two times it was for me and I am thankful for that. My little brother is the light of my life and when he's in a comfortable place he is happy.

Thanks for that."

Around the House...



Ellen Zak



Ginette Brainard
and Monica Smith



Adela Kalogjera



George
Chamberland



The
Purvee
Family

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

16 So. Winooski Avenue

Burlington, VT 05401-3828

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Check if appropriate:

- My name is misspelled
- My address is incorrect
- I receive more than one copy
- I no longer wish to receive the newsletter
- I wish to receive an e-newsletter

Please call, mail or email Amy at the address above,
802-862-4943 or amy@rmhcvt.org with your changes.

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Deanna Cameron - Program Coordinator

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Amy Laframboise, Co-Editor & Graphic Design

Pam Fenimore, Co-Editor

Jackie Vezina, Contributing Writer

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donating mailing services.

McRaffle Winners

February 2012

Shannon Portal

Raymond Gushea III

Susan Mackey

Theresa Dufresne

Margaret Schmittman

Tom & Cindy Collard

Deborah Bouvia

March 2012

Michele Thomas

Alison Benedict

Carlynn Farr

Toni Taginski

Hank Adams

Wendy Horne

Sally Tomaselli

April 2012

Jim & Kathy Murray

Susan Burgess

Cindy Blickarz

Danielle Fougere

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May 2012

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Blue Spruce Grange #574

Merton & Ora Pike

Susan Moses

Jacqueline Bouffard

