



An e-newsletter for friends of Ronald McDonald House Toronto

New in May

Thank you to our community of supporters - please enjoy our latest House and Family Room news!

1st Birthday of the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Markham Stouffville Hospital

The Ronald McDonald House Toronto Family Room at Markham Stouffville Hospital recently celebrated its first birthday! Family Room volunteers and staff celebrated with hospital staff and community McDonald's Owner/Operators. The impact and feedback have been amazing; over 295 families supported, more than 17,000 family visits and 6,500+ hours donated by 50 wonderful volunteers in just one year!

"I wanted to let you know that we are absolutely thrilled with our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Toronto, and the supportive, warm atmosphere you and all your volunteers provide for our NICU and paediatric families. One common theme we've noticed in our parents' feedback is how pleased and thankful they are for a true haven away from the constant medical atmosphere they've been immersed in. You bring families back to reality and given them a break from the sounds of IV pumps and monitors.

On behalf of our little patients & their families, as well as all the staff and leadership team, I'd like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for our families!"

- Deepa Grewal, MD, Chief of Paediatrics, Markham Stouffville Hospital

Families with children being treated in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and families from the Paediatric Unit at Markham Stouffville Hospital are able to use home-like setting of the Family Room as much needed respite from the clinical environment to have some quiet time, a cup of coffee or tea, or even a quick nap.

Here's to another amazing year! [See more photos](#)



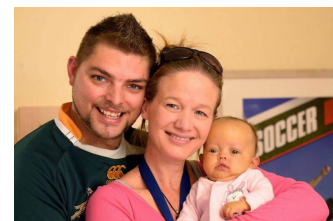
Home for Dinner and Bags of Kindness

If your organization, company or group is looking for a way



#McHappyDay Thank You

On May 7th we celebrated the 21st McHappy Day! More than \$4.2 million was raised in



Aurora's Story

Aurora has travelled all the way from South Africa with her family to receive medical

to help our families, please consider hosting a [Home for Dinner](#). Spaces are available in **July** and **August** - book your dinner soon!

Another way groups enjoy supporting our families is through donating of [Bags of Kindness](#). After the chaos of their child's sudden diagnosis and emergency medical transport, many of our families arrive at the House with nothing. Whether you choose **Breakfast Bags** or **Welcome Home Bags**, our families are grateful for the thoughtful essentials Bags of Kindness donors provide.



Update on Thalia

For those who were touched by [Thalia's story](#), we have an [update](#) for you! Thalia is doing very well and her mother firmly believes that the support she received in the Family Room at Credit Valley Hospital made it possible to get Thalia home in time for their first Christmas as a family. Thalia's mom,

communities across Canada and will help support local children's charities across the country, including Ronald McDonald House Toronto. All across Canada, media personalities, special guests and athletes 'adopted' restaurants and rolled up their sleeves to work behind the counter. Since its inception in 1977, McHappy Day has now raised more than \$45 million! To everyone who took time out of their day to participate, we thank you for your support! To see our fabulous photos from McHappy Day, [click here](#)



LEGACY FAMILY

May is Legacy Giving Month

A legacy gift is a way to help keep our doors and hearts open to families who need us, well into the future. By including Ronald McDonald House Toronto in your estate plans, you will join a very special Legacy Family who is helping keep families together - now and for years to come. A gift in your Will is a way to make a lasting difference for a

treatment at The Hospital for Sick Children. Aurora's parents thought of nothing but getting Aurora to a hospital with the expertise to treat her Gastroschisis and the ability to perform a bowel transplant. They were ready to sleep on park benches in Toronto if they had to, but quickly learned about how Ronald McDonald House Toronto could help. [Read Aurora's story](#)



McCuaig Miracle Benefit

Three-month-old Emma McCuaig was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma, and the Cornwall family stayed at the House during her treatment. When Chelsea, a close friend of Emma's mother, heard the diagnosis she quickly opened a Scotiabank account for community donations. What resulted was a huge

Charlotte, has been inspired to show her thanks by participating in Mud Hero on August 23 to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Toronto. [Support Team Thalia at Mud Hero](#)

cause that's close to your heart. To learn how you can leave a legacy that changes families' lives, please contact Judy MacGowan at (416) 977-1346 or jmacgowan@rmhtoronto.org.

outpouring of community support that Chelsea organized into the **McCuaig Miracle Benefit**. What's more, the local Cornwall Scotiabank branch matched each dollar raised, doubling the amount donated to the House! [Read more](#)

DONATE NOW

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