

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION

Dear Friends,

If you're reading this right now, chances are you have had some form of engagement with our organization over the years. Maybe you were a recipient family of our services, participated in one of our special events, are a regular donor, serve on a committee or volunteer in another capacity for our organization.

No matter how you've come to know us, I think we could all agree that volunteers are at the heart of our organization and honestly, we would not be able to provide our services as efficiently as we do without them. We find ourselves in an unusual position, post pandemic, with a need for program volunteers like never before. We have a gap of volunteers serving at our Ronald McDonald House in Hershey and at our in-hospital programs at Penn State Children's Hospital and Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital that include our Family Room, Hospitality Cart, and Kiosk services.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in serving our organization and our recipient families in a more significant capacity, please consider volunteering. To learn more, please scan the Volunteer QR Code and click on your area of interest. You can also call 717-533-4001 and ask to speak to our Volunteer Manager for additional assistance.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to see you soon!

Karla

VOLUNTEERS ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR ORGANIZATION!



Thank You for Helping RMHC-CP Keep Families Together in 2023!

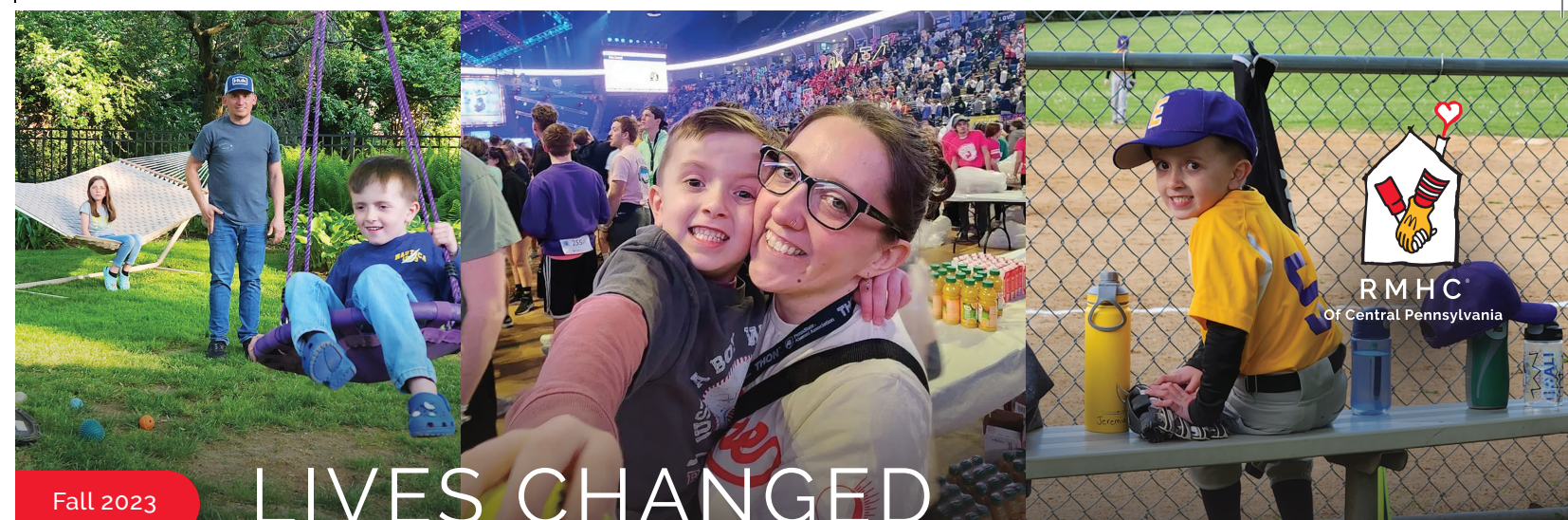


Karla Mitchell
RMHC-CP Executive Director



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Hershey, PA 17033-2304

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The Reedy Family Story

On June 7, 2019, Eric and Samantha Reedy were told their son Jeremiah had Rhabdomyosarcoma, a diagnosis that would change all of their lives forever.

Rhabdomyosarcoma is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form inside of soft tissue, connective tissues, or bone.
- National Cancer Institute

At just three years old, Jeremiah was faced with what would be the biggest battle of his life, a battle won by only 55% of people diagnosed, according to the National Cancer Institute.

"My world went dark. I fell to my knees screaming. It was such a punch to the gut, and my mind immediately went to the worst-case scenario," said Samantha Reedy, Jeremiah's mom.

While the initial surgery to remove the mass of Rhabdomyosarcoma living in Jeremiah's abdomen was a success, there was still a possibility that microscopic disease could be left behind. So, 67 weeks of chemotherapy and 22 rounds of radiation (post operation) was what the doctors ordered.

"Jesus in my heart, makes me brave," said Jeremiah.

Despite his bravery the Reedy family had one thing that they still needed to work out: their living arrangements. Radiation daily, at 6 a.m., meant the Reedy family would have a lot of early mornings to come, if they couldn't find a place closer to the hospital.

Greg Baiocchi, Medical Social Worker at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, informed the Reedy family of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Pennsylvania's services.

"Our doors are always open to families who need a comfortable and safe place to stay, as it's our mission to do what we can to

keep families together while their children are receiving essential medical care at Penn State Health Children's Hospital (across the street)," said RMHC-CP Executive Director, Karla Mitchell.

Jeremiah and his mom stayed 3 nights at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, while undergoing treatment.

"If it were not for RMH, we would have had to wake up by 4 a.m., to make it on-time every day, and the travel back and forth, while he was so sick, would have been exhausting for us both. RMH gave us a place to rest, play (germ free) and focus on Jeremiah's care. I only needed to worry about treatment and taking care of my son," said Samantha.

The treatments were successful, which meant Jeremiah and his family could go home. Checking out of RMH, the Reedy family was back together, all under one roof, their roof. Mom (Samantha), and Sister (Elliza), Dad (Philip), and Jeremiah.

"Our doors are always open to families who need a comfortable and safe place to stay, as it's our mission to do what we can to keep families together while their children are receiving essential medical care..."

"Cancer takes a toll on the entire family. Each one of us struggled in our own ways during treatment," said Samantha, grateful to be reunited again.



The Reedy Family

"RMH gave us a place to rest, play (germ free) and focus on Jeremiah's care. I only needed to worry about treatment and taking care of my son."

- Samantha Reedy



Jeremiah Reedy

Article continues inside



NEW STAFF MEMBERS

With over 25 years of experience cultivating event excellence, **Melissa Conchilla** joins Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA (RMHC-CP) as the new Special Events Coordinator. Harnessing her expertise in team management, project development, budgeting, and scheduling, she plans to orchestrate seamless and unforgettable occasions that will have immeasurable impact on all attendees and event beneficiaries.

A Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Penn State, with an emphasis in lighting and electrical design, affords Melissa a unique acumen of technical know-how and creative flair. Her organizational and inventive problem-solving skills seamlessly fit into planning parties, anniversaries, auctions, and more.

Residing in Greater Harrisburg for over 20 years, Melissa infuses each event with a sense of familiarity that community leaders recognize and love. Her ability to build and nurture relationships within the community is a vital asset to have when cultivating the most fruitful community engagements. She makes it her goal to create the most meaningful connections at every RMHC-CP event.



Melissa Conchilla
Special Events Coordinator
RMHC-CP | Hershey, PA



Rachel Sutton
Development Manager
RMHC-CP | Hershey, PA

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Pennsylvania (RMHC-CP) welcomes a new Development Manager, **Rachel Sutton**, who brings more than five years of fundraising experience in the national nonprofit sector.

Guided by her passion for philanthropy and desire to positively impact families across the region, she is thrilled to be a part of RMHC-CP's larger development efforts. She will work to grow and engage major donors to meet current and future needs of the Ronald McDonald House and wider RMHC-CP services.

Previously, Rachel held roles at United Way and the National Frozen and Refrigerated Foods Association. She received a B.A. of Sociology and Anthropology from Messiah University, with minors in Psychology and Cross-Cultural Studies. She also obtained two post baccalaureate certificates in Fundraising and Nonprofit Management.

Outside of work, playing soccer is one of Rachel's favorite pastimes. Regularly competing in various tournaments throughout Pennsylvania, she was a founding member of the first annual Central PA Unity Cup, a "World Cup style" adult recreational tournament featuring teams from Dauphin, Cumberland, York, and Franklin counties.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Jeremiah Reedy



Jeremiah and Elliza Reedy

Article continued from front panel

LIVES CHANGED

The Reedy Family Story

Since returning to 'normal life' Jeremiah has picked up right where he left off.

"He plays baseball and loves Pokémon, Wild Kratts, sharks, fish, fishing, ocean life, animal facts, and he enjoys being outside as much as possible," said Samantha.

"He was in a battle for his life, but those days were filled with joy for him because of the incredible people that came into his life at RMH and Penn State Health Children's Hospital." - Samantha Reedy

The family still returns every four months for Jeremiah's check-up appointments, to ensure he remains cancer free.

"When we drive past RMH, Jeremiah never misses a beat; he always says, 'Mom, remember when we lived there? I miss those days!' He was in a battle for his life, but those days were filled with joy for him because of the incredible people that came into his life at RMH and Penn State Health Children's Hospital," said Samantha.

Jeremiah is currently receiving endocrinological treatment, as his growth has slowed since receiving his cancer treatment, but despite this, "Jeremiah is doing wonderfully," said Samantha.

To help RMHC of Central PA provide services to families like the Reedy family, visit rmhc-centralpa.org!

2023 STATISTICS

SO FAR IN 2023...



2,604

Individual Meals Provided



458

Families Served



6,060

Family Overnight Stays Provided



GIFTS & DONATIONS

FIVE EASY WAYS TO GIVE



#1 Round-Up!

Round-Up for RMHC is an easy way you can support RMHC of Central PA. Next time you are at your local McDonald's, whether you are in the drive thru or inside the restaurant, ask to "Round-Up" your order total for RMHC! When you order from McDonald's and Round-Up for RMHC, you'll leave with more than a meal. You'll leave knowing you helped keep families together.



#2 Wish List!

RMHC-CP issues a monthly wish list of items needed to support the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. The wish list is updated each month to include the items we are most in need of at that time. Please note that all donations must be new and unused due to infectious disease policies. All food donations must be prepared in our kitchen or commercial kitchens only - we are unable to accept food and baked goods that are prepared in home kitchens.

Donations may be dropped off at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey at 745 W. Governor Rd. anytime 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week.



#3 Donate!

You can support our mission of keeping families together by dropping off a cash donation, sending a check payable to RMHC of Central PA, or by going to our website at rmhc-centralpa.org.

Our house is built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child.

not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest. Your support can help us keep families near the care and resources they need.

Please send or drop off your donation to: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA, 745 West Governor Road, Hershey, PA 17033.



#4 Recycle!

You can help support the Ronald McDonald House of Central Pennsylvania (RMHC-CP) by saving the tabs you pull from canned beverages and other aluminum cans. We can only accept aluminum tabs. Tip: if the tabs don't stick to a magnet - they're aluminum!

Tabs are collected at the Ronald McDonald House between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (745 W Governor Rd | Hershey, PA 17033). We ask to put larger tab donations directly in our "Tab Hut" located in the parking lot which is available 24/7.

When everyone "pulls together," we can make a difference!



#5 Pack a Bag!

Provide "Going Home Bags" to our guest families that are heading home from their stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. These bags include the essentials (what a family might have an immediate need for), as they return home from a lengthy stay at the RMH.

To sign up to provide Going Home Bags for the families at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, please contact our Volunteer and Operations Manager, Alyssa Noel, at 717-533-4001 x158 or anoel@rmhc-centralpa.org.

Everything offered through RMHC of Central PA is offered at no charge thanks to the generosity of our donors & volunteers.

MEMBERS 1ST FCU HIGHLIGHT

At this year's Diamonds & Denim Ladies Night Out, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Pennsylvania (RMHC-CP) launched a pilot project that would provide "Going Home Bags" to our guest families heading home from their stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey (RMH). Thanks to a generous matching gift from Members 1st Federal Credit Union, more than \$5,000 was raised to provide bags to families for the remainder of 2023.

The Ladies Night Out (LNO) Committee helped assemble the first of our going-home bags. These bags included the primary essentials that families might need as they return home from a lengthy stay at the RMH.

"I can't imagine being in their shoes, and how stressful and uncertain everything can feel when arriving back home after being away for so long, but I hope these bags provide some support and comfort to all the families returning home," said LNO Committee Chair, Ellen Kyzer.



2023 EVENT SPONSORS

Specials Thanks to All Our Wonderful 2023 Event Sponsors Who Made the Following Events a Success: Diamonds & Denim Ladies Night Out, Golf Classic, Sporting Clays Tournament, and the Lancaster County Community Auction.

Thank You!

Top 2023 Event Sponsors



44 Business Capital
Arbon Equipment Corp.
Bohler Engineering
Capital Blue Cross
Cargill
CDI LLC
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
Coca-Cola
DHL
Donald B. Smith Inc. (DBS Roofing)
Ephrata National Bank Faulkner
Automotive Group
H+K International
Hamilton Health Center, Inc.
Hershey Fresh Market
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Mariner Wealth Advisors
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Mile6
Mowery Construction
Northeast Foods
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Spring Gate Vineyard
Springs Equine Performance Services
Steward Management Group, Inc.
Taylor Farms
The Bama Companies
The High Companies
Truist
Tyson Foods
UPMC



Share Your Story:
You're Not Alone and
Neither are They.

To share your RMHC story
with us, email
marketing@rmhc-centralpa.org
or click the QR code above.