



**Ronald
McDonald
House®**
Central PA

Family Stays Newsletter

Summer 2026

More than a place to stay. A place to stay strong.



To help Ronald McDonald House Central PA provide services to families like the Uhrings, visit
RonaldMcDonaldHouseCentralPA.org

Meet the Uhrings: What started as heartburn on New Year's Eve turned into something neither Alyssa or Andrew anticipated.

Alyssa Uhring had been feeling off, experiencing heartburn on December 30th that continued into New Year's Day. When she checked her blood pressure at home and saw high readings, the Uhrings went straight to their OB's office. They immediately sent her to Labor and Delivery. Within hours, Alyssa was lifeflighted to Penn State Health Golisano Children's Hospital in Hershey with a preeclampsia diagnosis, where her care team spent four days working to stabilize her blood pressure.

On January 6th, they couldn't wait any longer. Anya arrived twelve weeks early, weighing 860 grams, just under two pounds. She was admitted directly to the NICU for treatment of prematurity-related jaundice, feeding, and breathing challenges. Before Alyssa was discharged, a social worker introduced the family to the Ronald McDonald House. They checked in a few days later, unsure of how long they would need to stay, but certain of one thing: Anya needed them close, and the House made that possible.

No commute. No hotel bills. No impossible choice between being present and being practical. They were simply there, for every care time, every setback, and every hard conversation with their baby's care team.

Anya spent more than three months in the NICU overcoming bronchopulmonary dysplasia, an infection, and the need for a blood transfusion while learning to breathe on her own and reaching each feeding milestone. The Uhring family spent 91 nights at Ronald McDonald House Central PA, sharing warm meals after long days at her bedside, finding quiet spaces to decompress, spending time with emotional support animals, and connecting with other families who understood exactly what they were experiencing.

Today, Anya is home and doing well, growing, meeting milestones, and making up for lost time with the same determination she showed from day one. She is loved by friends, family, a dog named Appa, and two cats, Kiara and Mochi.

Anya's story cannot be separated from the proximity the Ronald McDonald House Central PA made possible. It serves as a reminder that families are not alone in those hallways and that the Ronald McDonald House exists because being close to your child isn't a luxury; it's medicine.

The Uhring family will be forever grateful for what Ronald McDonald House Central PA gave them during the hardest months of their lives.

A Letter from Leadership

At Ronald McDonald House Central PA, every day is centered around one simple but powerful truth: when a child is hospitalized, **family stays**.

This summer, as we introduce our refreshed brand identity, I've found myself reflecting on what those two words truly mean. Family stays through long days at the hospital, difficult conversations, moments of uncertainty, and small victories worth celebrating. And because family stays, we stay too — providing comfort, care, stability, and a community of support when families need it most.

While our new look reflects the future of our organization, the heart behind our mission remains unchanged. For more than 40 years, Ronald McDonald House Central PA has been a place where families can find rest, connection, and hope during some of life's most difficult moments. Whether it's sharing a warm meal prepared by a Culinary Experience Program volunteer, watching siblings laugh together on our playground and patio spaces, or simply enjoying a quiet cup of coffee with another parent who understands, these moments matter deeply.

What makes this mission so special is the people who bring it to life every single day. In this newsletter, you'll meet new members of our staff and Board leadership, learn about exciting upcoming events like our Golf Tournament and Sporting Clays fundraiser, and see the incredible impact our Culinary Experience Program sponsors and community partners continue to make for our families.

To our donors, volunteers, sponsors, hospital partners, and supporters: thank you for making it possible for families to remain close to their child's bedside without the added burden of where they will sleep, eat, or find support. Because of you, families find more than a place to stay — they find strength, compassion, and a sense of home.

Thank you for continuing to walk beside us as we begin this exciting new chapter.

Karla



Karla Mitchell
Executive Director



**Ronald
McDonald
House®**
Central PA



New look, same heart

At Ronald McDonald House Central PA, our mission has always been rooted in keeping families close when they need it most.

We are proud to introduce a refreshed brand identity that reflects the warmth, resilience, compassion, and hope families experience every day through our programs and services. While our look may be new, our commitment to serving families throughout Central PA remains exactly the same.

Our refreshed brand represents who we are today and our vision for the future as we continue expanding our impact across the communities we serve. It honors the strength of the families who stay with us, the generosity of our supporters, and the incredible network of volunteers, partners, and donors who make this mission possible.



Purpose

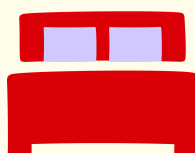
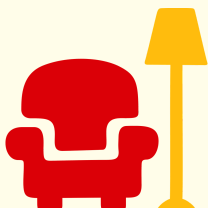
Caring for families with children who are ill or injured.

Vision

A world where every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children.

Mission

We provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families and promote healing when children need healthcare.



Welcome!

Board Directors

Christy Pierce

*Highmark, Director of Strategic
Network Programs*



Lyndsay Tawney, MHA, MS, CCC-SLP

*Administrative Director of Women's and
Pediatric Service Lines at Penn Medicine
Lancaster General Health*

New Staff



Josh Gibson

Culinary Experience Manager



Joshua Gearhart

Digital Marketing Coordinator



Heather Wincovitch

*Fundraising Coordinator,
Special Events*



Don Yordy

Facilities Manager



Liam Quirin

*Annual Giving &
Database Coordinator*

More Play Made Possible



The playground project has moved from planning into its final stages, and we are incredibly excited about what is taking shape. What began as a vision for a vibrant outdoor space is becoming a thoughtfully designed area where kids can climb, explore, imagine, and simply enjoy being kids.

Designed with fun, safety, and accessibility in mind, the playground will welcome children of all ages and abilities. With climbing structures, open play areas, and features that encourage movement and creativity, it is already bringing new energy and joy to the House.

As we near completion, this space is becoming more than just a playground. This space will provide moments of normalcy during difficult times, giving children opportunities for laughter, movement, and time outdoors while offering families a meaningful break from medical routines.

Stay tuned for the grand reveal as we prepare to open this special space to our families. To stay up to date on this and other House updates, sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.



Peaceful Patio Retreat



The new patio area at the House is now complete, offering a calm and welcoming outdoor retreat designed for families to unwind and reconnect. With landscaping finished and the final touches in place, the space has fully come together into a bright, peaceful environment.

Surrounded by greenery and soft natural elements, the patio creates an inviting setting where families can step outside for fresh air, share a meal together, or simply enjoy a quiet moment away from the demands of the day. It is a meaningful extension of the House's mission to provide comfort, rest, and a sense of normalcy during challenging times.



Support our Spaces

Ronald McDonald House Adopt a Room

**Support a room.
Support a family.**

By adopting a room at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, you provide more than just a place to stay - you ease the financial burden for families traveling far from home for medical care, allowing them to focus on what matters most: being together during a difficult time.

Learn more



Ronald McDonald House Family Room

**Bring comfort
closer to care.**

Ronald McDonald House Central PA offers monthly sponsorship of our Family Room at Penn State Health Golisano Children's Hospital for \$500. Your gift helps support our programs year-round and provides a sponsored breakfast for families during your month.

Learn more



When a child is hospitalized, everything changes.

Your sponsorship helps ensure families have a place to rest, recharge, and remain close to the care their child needs.

Ways to Give

There are many ways to support families at Ronald McDonald House Central PA. From gifts and fundraisers to everyday donations and program support, every act of generosity helps **keep families close to care.**

1 Leave a Legacy

- **Cash Gift:** Immediate impact
- **Securities:** Tax-wise asset giving
- **Bequest:** Leave a lasting legacy
- **IRA Assets:** A smart way to give
- **Charitable Remainder Trust:** Give and receive income
- **Life Insurance:** Transform a policy into a gift

2 Culinary Experience Program

Cook, connect, and give back. Work alongside our Culinary Team to prepare meals for families staying at Ronald McDonald House Central PA.

3 Third Party Fundraiser

From lemonade stands to corporate 5Ks, your independent fundraiser helps keep our doors open. Help raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Central PA by hosting your own fundraiser.

4 Everyday Ways to Help

Stock Our Shelves: Help provide meals and snacks for families year-round

Pop Tabs: Collect pull tabs to support families staying at the House

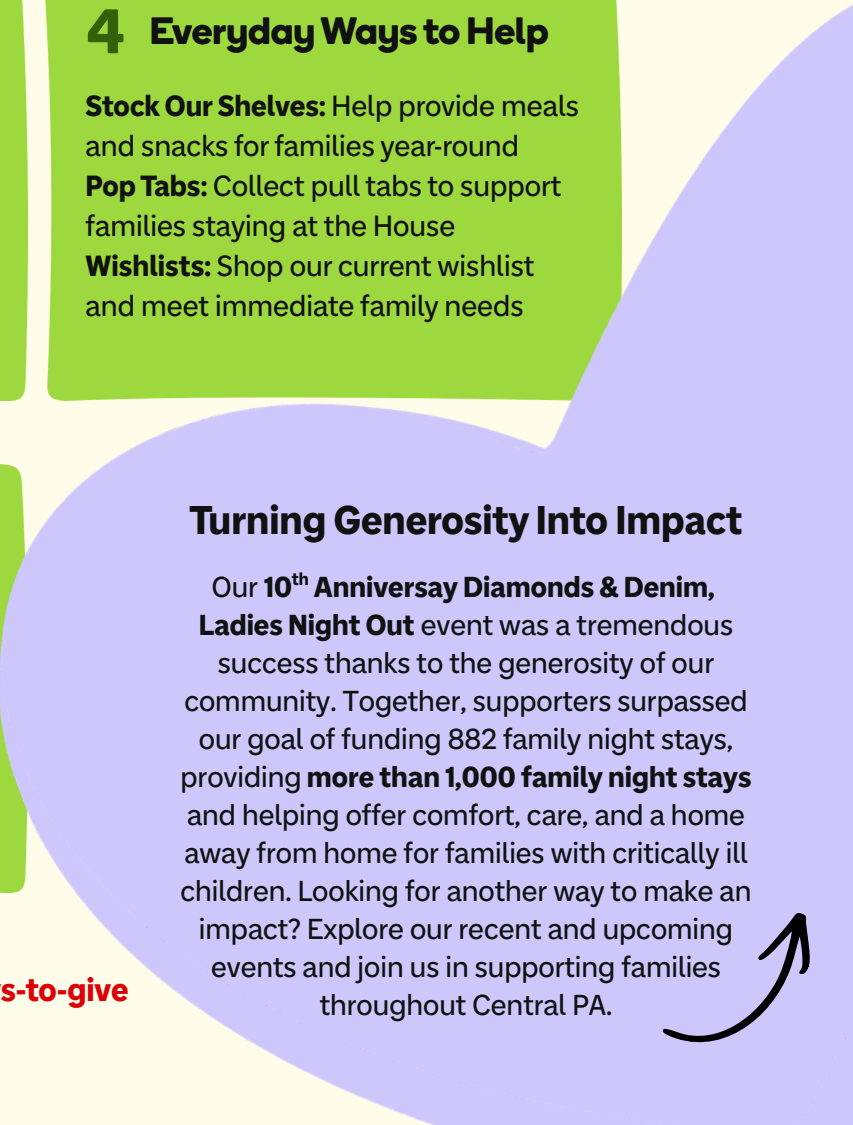
Wishlists: Shop our current wishlist and meet immediate family needs

5 Other Ways to Give

- **United Way Giving:** Employee giving through United Way Capital Region
- **CommunityAid:** Use partner #50295 when donating
- **Vehicle Donation:** Donate your car to support families
- **Facebook Fundraisers:** Fundraise for the House on social media

Turning Generosity Into Impact

Our **10th Anniversary Diamonds & Denim, Ladies Night Out** event was a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of our community. Together, supporters surpassed our goal of funding 882 family night stays, providing **more than 1,000 family night stays** and helping offer comfort, care, and a home away from home for families with critically ill children. Looking for another way to make an impact? Explore our recent and upcoming events and join us in supporting families throughout Central PA.



To learn more about ways to give, visit:

RonaldMcDonaldHouseCentralPA.org/ways-to-give

Support Families Today



Hershey Country Club
Monday, July 27th 2026

The Golf Classic brought together friends, community members, and supporters for a great day of golf, connection, and giving back to families staying at Ronald McDonald House Central PA. You can still help us reach our goal of providing **280 meals for families during their child's medical journey. Donate today!**



TOURNAMENT

Blue Ridge Sportsman Club
Sept. 18th, 2026

Help support families with seriously ill children by becoming a sponsor today. **Sponsorship opportunities are still available!**

Not on the course? You can still make a difference. **Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success.**

Scan the QR code to learn more!



Sharing More Than a Meal: Our Culinary Experience Program

Our Culinary Experience Program gives businesses and community groups a unique opportunity to make a direct impact on families staying at Ronald McDonald House Central PA. By preparing and serving a meal, volunteer teams provide more than just food, they offer comfort and care to families focused on their child's medical journey.

For participating businesses, the program is a rewarding team-building experience that brings employees together while giving back to the community in a meaningful way. We are grateful to the many organizations that joined us this summer to help feed and support our families.

Thank you to our Culinary Experience Program partners:

Penn State Health Pediatric Specialties Clinic
Hershey Company
Life Lion
Hershey Hotel
Fulton Bank
PSECU
Apex Advertising



“We cherish the opportunity to serve meals to these families while they have a lot of other things on their mind.”

Tim Shuey

Project Manager at Pyramid Construction Services, Inc.



745 West Governor Road
Hershey, PA 17033-2304

Printing and mailing graciously donated by The Hershey Company.

How You Can **ROUND♥UP** for Ronald McDonald House



Mobile App

Round Up is now available in the McDonald's Mobile App! Add it easily to the end of your order with a simple click.



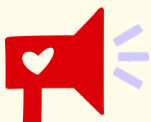
In-Store Kiosk/Front Counter

At the end of your order at the instore kiosk or at the front counter, there is the option to Round Up for Ronald McDonald House. Click the button and help support Ronald McDonald House families!



Drive-Thru

After placing your order in the drive-thru, ask to Round Up for Ronald McDonald House! It will automatically be added to your total, no change needed!



Always Ask!

Ask to Round Up every visit if you can because small change makes a big impact. Every cent counts towards helping families stay.



Round Up helps to keep all Ronald McDonald House Central PA services free for families with hospitalized children.

