



HOME Made

OUR SEASONAL E-NEWSLETTER

Pardon The Interruption

If you're staying with us, or will be here in the coming months, we apologize for any disruption related to expansion construction!

Despite the changes outside, this House is still the warm, welcoming and cozy home our community loves inside.

Our first phase of construction sees the building of a new parking lot along Ring Road, which will pave the way for our existing parking lot to transition into the new building's foundation.

You can visit our website to stay up to date with the project!



What's Happening Today

As we wrap up fall and are well into the holiday season, many ask us what we need the most right now. Donations are what keeps the House operating. Also, granola bars, cereal bars, fruit snacks - anything pre-packaged that a parent can take with them makes a big impact. We

The Kids in the House!

This season, the kids of RMHC Ottawa have been able to come together in some really great ways. Our hallways have been filled with curiosity and a little bit of magic, where friendships are made.

Divine (5) was with us for 114 nights, originally from Iqualit, Nunavut. She helped volunteer Abby with our welcome sign for fall.



Grace (2) and Kaileigh (11) shared in our Halloween fun together. After her kidney transplant recovery, Kaileigh is interested in donating her hair to make wigs for cancer patients in honour of Grace's leukemia journey.



Owen (12) and Robert (6) getting into

are always accepting donations at 407 Smyth Road, just down the road from the hospital, at rmhottawa.com, or by phone at 613-737-5523.

Thank you for being here, and we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday,



Christine Hardy

CEO, Ronald McDonald House Charities
Ottawa

some Minecraft on a frosty fall afternoon.



Jade (3) is battling cancer for a second time in her young life, and can be found hugging anyone who comes near! She is vibrant, happy, and a huge source of joy this season.



A promotional banner for the 50/50 event. The background is a vibrant orange with a pattern of crumpled paper. At the top, there are logos for several radio stations: boom 99.7, Jump! 106.9, boom 101.9, Fresh Radio 104.5, BIG 96.3, and Fresh Radio 104.3. On the left, there is a logo for the Ronald McDonald House Charities Ottawa, featuring a house with hands holding a heart. The text reads "presents the Œuvre des Manoirs Ronald McDonald House Charities Ottawa". In the center, the numbers "50/50" are written in large, bold, white font with a red outline. At the bottom, it says "sponsored by WATERDON". There are also two red heart icons on the banner.

**\$63,800 raised
through 50/50**

Our 50/50, sponsored by Waterdon, was our biggest take home prize ever! This year we had 3 early bird draws, and honoured grand prize winner Marcel a couple weeks ago, where he took home \$31,900 - RMHC Ottawa took home the

same amount, which will offer
319 nights of comfort to
families in the New Year!



Congratulations and THANK YOU to everyone
who bought tickets!

The Ottawa Senators are all about the kids!



On Halloween, we received a call that Vladimir Tarasenko (Sens #91) wanted to spend time with kids at Ronald McDonald House Charities Ottawa.

We welcomed him with open arms as he settled into a world of toddlers and costumed kids who couldn't wait to show him how to paint pumpkins.

His sole purpose was creating smiles, and he did just that, along with lifelong memories for the kids.



Leading into the holiday season, the Sens brought back their tradition of visiting the children's hospital. But this year, the entire team split up into 3 groups, spending time around CHEO campus and including Ronald McDonald House in their merriment!

They spent so much time playing mini sticks hockey with the kids (working up a sweat!), doing arts & crafts, plus Sparty joined in on the fun!

[Check out photos from the event!](#)

Alex and Zack

Alex Belanger's family knows this House better than most, having stayed over 1,064 nights since 2016, when his cancer battle began.



When the Sens showed up in mid-December, Alex (14 yrs old) wasn't interested in being in the spotlight or getting into the mix. But Zack MacEwen (Sens #17) quietly noticed and thought of a way to help. Zack set up mini sticks down a hallway and truly gave this family something to smile about. Zack shared that he lost his dad 3 years ago, and has since dedicated his time to helping underprivileged kids when he's home in PEI.



Being a part of the family at Ronald McDonald House was so natural to him and to all the players who stopped by.

Volunteer Profiles!

MEERA HELPING AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE



Meera is a student at Carleton University, and started volunteering weekly at the House in July 2023.

LISE HELPING IN-HOSPITAL FAMILY ROOMS



Lise has volunteered at the in-hospital Family Rooms since the grand opening in 2013!

She spent the last couple

She helped us at our Ground breaking ceremony in August, and since then has been a friendly face you might see if you stop by.

In her spare time, she crochets bears and donates them to the House!

years inside the House, and is now back to volunteering across the road. If you ever find yourself at CHEO, come and say hi to Lise on the 3rd or 5th floor Ronald McDonald Family Rooms!

FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2024



Hit the slopes with us for our biggest fundraising event of the year!



Skifest set to hit the slopes!

Last year, we raised \$200,000 at Mont Ste-Marie and we are thrilled to be setting out to do it again in 2024!

It will be our 32nd annual Skifest. Registration is open now for sponsorship and teams!

[Click here to see what all the excitement is about!](#)

118

Families have stayed at RMHC Ottawa this year

3,568

Nights of comfort provided

2,450+

In-hospital Ronald McDonald Family Room visitors

That's A Wrap!

RMHC Ottawa Open

On September 18th, we experienced the beautiful countryside and fairways of Camelot Golf & Country Club for a sold out, shot-gun tournament in support of the families who stay here.

Toys for Tots!





On December 18, US Ambassador David L. Cohen and the US Marines came here for the 17th annual Toys for Tots event! Our friends at the US Embassy collect toys leading up to Christmas and present them to families before the holidays.



It was our 35th year hosting the RMHC Ottawa Open, and an astounding \$69,000 was raised for the House!



We are so grateful to everyone who sponsored, donated, helped the auction, volunteered and more - your commitment to this House is what will help our expansion become a reality.

Santa came, and the kids here were invited to choose whichever toy they wanted. But it wasn't just about the toys, there was also some video gaming with the Marines in the family room during quiet moments!





Help us make room for everyone. [Every donation helps us grow the House and eliminate our waitlist.](#) We still need some help getting to the finish line of the expansion.

Thank you for your contribution to this project!

How to get involved next year!



 **PJ WALK** 

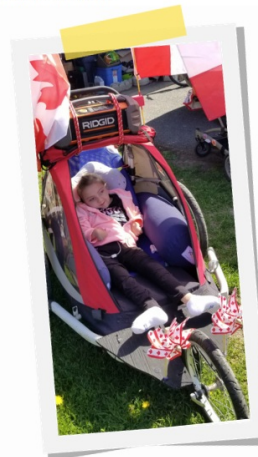
Wear PJs
 Ask how your school can walk, wheel, hop or even skip **167** steps in support of **RMHC Ottawa** families in 2024!

Move 167 steps

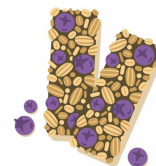

Bring \$2




Just like Faith and her dad Graham did last year, consider making us your charity of choice in the



Our **biggest wishlist item** is "Grab 'n Go Snacks". Anything prepacked that parents and kids can take on the run to hospital appointments. We stock our pantry at the House and Family Rooms in-hospital with snack packs and granola bars. If you can send us any items, let Brianne know at brianne@rmhottawa.com





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