



Ronald
McDonald
House®
Danville

news from the heart

JANUARY



YOU KEPT A FAMILY TOGETHER

Our son, Rj was born prematurely at 32 weeks. We spent 24 days in the NICU at Lehigh Valley Hospital driving back and forth daily, spending his first Christmas in the hospital. He suffered for about a year with acid reflux problems, but otherwise a normal baby. At the age of three he began to vomit almost daily and had difficulty walking and getting up from the floor.

After numerous tests we were finally sent to Geisinger Janet Weis Children's Hospital. An orthopedic surgeon indicated that we needed to see a neurologist immediately. The neurologist confirmed that Rj had two large brain tumors on his cerebellum, severe hydrocephalus and needed surgery immediately.

Four months after his surgery we learned that his tumors doubled in size, his hydrocephalus was severe, and required surgery again. The hydrocephalus was so severe; however, the doctor was able to remove them. Rj was on a ventilator for one night, spent one night in the PICU, and then transferred to second floor where he had another surgery to remove the extra fluid in his brain.

During this time, we were able to utilize the Ronald McDonald House of Danville to sleep, refresh, and play with our younger son. The House brought us a sense of normalcy, peace, comfort, and safety. It was a place to relax with our family and others outside of the hospital. The House allowed us to be close to Rj without worrying about being far away.

Rj is now 15 years old and doing well. He goes for a yearly MRI and still has his shunt that he will have forever. Rj realizes how much the House meant to his family. With help from his family, they created their own t-shirt fundraiser in his favorite colors. Together they were able to pay it forward and help keep families together.

~Bell Family~

THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT

The children and families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Danville tend to be the sickest, have traveled the furthest distances for care and spend the longest time in the hospital. Celebrating our 40th Anniversary the Ronald McDonald House of Danville has served approximately 410,000 guests from 65 out of 67 Pennsylvania counties, 34 other states and 27 countries. Providing these families with a "home-away-from-home".

When children and their families travel long distances to access top medical care, accommodations for families can be expensive or not readily available. The House helps to eliminate the financial stress which allows families to focus on what is most important - their child.

You can help improve a child's outcome and eliminate the financial stress for families by contributing to our 40th Anniversary. Simply fill out the donation card and return it in the envelope enclosed.

THANK YOU

It is because of You that we have been able to provide 40 years of love, hope, and care. It is because of YOU that we can continue our mission. It is because of YOU that Rj can continue to thrive. On behalf of our families and Rj, THANK YOU!!



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"The Ronald McDonald House of Danville is our greatest life saver. It provides us with a place to sleep that is close enough to our son in case anything happens. It makes days easier. After a long day at the hospital we can go back, enjoy a meal, and have a place to do laundry. It has become our home, a comfortable place after being in the hospital all day to unwind. Without the generosity of the House my son would not be in the amazing position he is. The donations go beyond what happens inside the house, it helps the families be at the hospital for their children and that helps each child thrive even more. We will be forever grateful to all the staff, volunteers, and donors."

~Dalton Family~

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**YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

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"Being able to stay at the house was a blessing. The staff was amazing, the help that they provided to my family was appreciated more than words can say."

~Anonymous Family~

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