



Ronald McDonald House®
Scranton

Issue: 4th Anniversary

Date: 5/21/19

Keeping families close

Donate Today



The Ronald McDonald Family Room and Moses Taylor Hospital Staff celebrated the 4th Anniversary of the Pediatric Ronald McDonald Family Room and its mission to keep families close inside the hospital.

Happy 4th Anniversary

For the last four years, the staff and volunteers of the Ronald McDonald House of Scranton have been proud to partner with Moses Taylor Hospital staff to offer sick children and their families our mission just footsteps from where their child is being treated in the Pediatric Unit. The Ronald McDonald Family Room gives families and sick children a private space to rest and recapture the normalcy of home complete with snacks, drinks, and toys.

THE KEAY FAMILY STORY



Amanda & Elijah Keay, and baby Evelyn

I (Amanda) was initially brought to the hospital with the suspicion of preeclampsia at 29 weeks. After a few days of tests, my husband and I were told that the doctors recommended me staying in the labor and delivery unit until the baby either reached 34 gestational weeks, or the baby started to be in distress.

Thankfully, from the time we were admitted into the hospital, the doctors were able to hold off delivery until 33 weeks. During our stay in the Hospital, my husband had been introduced to the wonderful staff in the RM family room and were told that we would be able to stay at the house due to the fact that our daughter would be staying in the NICU for a while. We stayed at the RMH for the full 25 days that our daughter was in the NICU.

Our home was just about an hour away; so being so close to the hospital was beyond wonderful.

We were surprised that something like this actually existed. We had heard about Ronald McDonald Houses before, but never really took the time to see what was offered and what services they gave free of charge to the families.

Our favorite part of the House was how beautiful and “homey” it was. It is really hard being away from your house for even a few days; but the RMH was comfortable and clean and felt like you were coming “home.” In fact, after the first two weeks we were actually referring to the Ronald McDonald House as “home”.

We want to thank every volunteer and donor from the bottom of our hearts. For every person who cleaned the family room in the hospital: thank you for providing a calm, clean and cozy space to sit and catch your breath after being in the NICU for hours on end. Thank you for every person who came and made meals at the house for the families. My husband and I looked forward to seeing those meals in the refrigerator.

Having fresh, wholesome meals to look forward to at night was delightful. Thank you to every staff member at the Ronald McDonald House. Everyone was friendly and kind. And lastly, thank you to the shuttle drivers as well. That service was very nice to have when my husband had to return to work.

MEET THE STAFF: BRIDGET SLAGAN



Title: Family Room Coordinator

What do you do at RMH?

As the Family Room Coordinator, I am responsible for ensuring that the Family Room program at Moses Taylor Hospital and Geisinger Wyoming Valley are running smoothly. I work with the volunteers as well as other staff members to ensure the rooms are welcoming for families that have children in the pediatric and neonatal intensive care units at the hospitals.

Why do you love your job?

I love that every day that I work, I have the opportunity to make a positive impact on our community. I love the mission of the Ronald McDonald House and meeting new families both at the House and Family Room.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy the outdoors especially running and hiking. I also enjoy reading and painting.

What is your favorite food?

Steak and potatoes

What is your favorite television show?

Gilmore Girls



Family Room Testimonials



"The Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for many families. They are able to get a change of scenery from all of the medical equipment, even if it is just for a short period of time. The parents and children love that there are snacks and drinks available even when they are unable to leave their rooms. The volunteers put a smile on not only the patients, but the staff as well."

-Brikele Mallick

"As a nurse in the Pediatric unit at Moses Taylor, I highly value having the Ronald McDonald Family Room as well as the dedicated volunteers. The families and patients are always thrilled to be able to get out of their rooms, and check out what the Family Room has to offer. The snacks, drinks, and overall atmosphere are always welcomed by the patients and families. The volunteers never hesitate to share their smiles and are very helpful in making the patient's hospital stay a little brighter. It is an appreciated part of the Peds unit!"

-Harmony Beattie, RN

"I have been lucky enough as a parent not to have had seriously ill children, so when I began volunteering at the Family Room in Moses Taylor Hospital, I did not know how I would be able to help. I have come to understand that having a calm, beautiful, clean, quiet place, away from the constant stress and trauma of a hospital with a sick or injured child can be a relief for the soul. I have had visibly distraught parents walk into the room (especially for the first time) and almost instantly relax. When the parents are more relaxed, they can more easily confront the problems in front of them. I am happy to have had a part in maintaining that calming environment. Visiting with the families and the kids and bringing toys and snacks is also rewarding as so many just need a break and a friendly face. I am grateful to have been a volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House Family Room."

-Lynn Medalie

Show Your Stripes Race Series



Two fun 5K's
One Great Local Cause



Keeping families close™



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