

LIGHT THE HOUSE

for the families at
Ronald McDonald
House BC and Yukon



40
years
1983 - 2023



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
British Columbia & Yukon

A colorful illustration of a house with various patterns and colors (blue, green, red, yellow, pink) and a snowman in the foreground. The house has several windows and a door. The background is a light blue sky with stars. The title 'Light the House' is written in white on a blue rectangular background in the top right corner.

Light the House

Dear Friend of the House,

The Holidays are a special time of year and all families have just one wish: to cozy up and spend quality time with their loved ones. At Ronald McDonald House British Columbia and Yukon, we ensure that families who are far from home can celebrate together and enjoy the festivities of the season, even while they are going through the most difficult of times as their child receives life-saving medical treatment.

Here's how you can help make the Holidays bright at RMH BC this year:

- 1. Fundraise and Light the House from your home, workplace, office, or school with RMH BC donor recognition bulbs.**
- 2. Adopt a tree in the House as a team-building activity, or gift a family the special moment of decorating it together.**
- 3. Adopt a Family in the House and help bridge a funding gap that gives our families a caring place to call home while their seriously ill child receives treatment.**
- 4. Donate to our Virtual Wish List or donate \$150 to Gift a Night and help keep a family close over the Holidays.**
- 5. Assemble your team of colleagues to take part in our various Corporate Engagement opportunities.**

All funds raised will give our families the simple comforts of home: a comfortable bed, a kitchen to enjoy a home-cooked meal and a place to put up their feet at the end of a long day. Your generosity will also provide a community of support for families who are away from home during the holidays, and help provide joy, tradition and normalcy at a time when their lives are anything but normal.

We hope that you will consider joining us to Light the House for RMH BC families this year.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Pass'.

Richard Pass, CEO
RMH BC & Yukon

About Ronald McDonald House BC & Yukon

When the unthinkable happens and a family is uprooted for their child's critical medical treatment, there are many barriers they must overcome to stay together. Hotel stays are expensive, siblings need to be cared for, and staying in the hospital long term is unsustainable. That's where RMH BC & Yukon comes in - a trusted and provincially mandated charity for 40 years, we have served over 25,000 families and counting.

Our House is built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child. By easing the financial and emotional burdens of caregivers and by taking care of important practical needs, our House allows parents to focus entirely on caring for their children.

More than just a place to stay, RMH BC provides a community of support and makes special moments possible every day: bedtime stories, home-cooked meals, and time spent celebrating holidays with family and friends.

2023 marks 40 years of incredible support from our circle of care, which has allowed us to serve so many families from BC and Yukon. We look forward to the next 40 years and beyond, of giving sick children the healing power of being together with family.

Meet the Zyla Family

From Courtenay, BC

When baby Rosie was only 3 days old, her parents found out that she had a heart defect, and that she would need open heart surgery at 4-6 months of age. "Everything was a blur," remembers mom Tara Zyla about those early days.

Then, one weekend they got the call from the hospital: they needed to be in Vancouver at 8 AM on Monday for surgery. On the day before they were supposed to leave, they were relieved to find out there was a spot available for them at RMH BC.

Staying at the house covered the basics - where to park, where their next meal was coming from - so that they could better focus on taking care of their new family.

"It was such a lifeline," Tara shared. "It was all we could do to manage what was going on. You're afraid that you're going to lose your child but having a safe and comfortable place to come home to: you can't put a price on that."



RMH BC serves **up to 2,000** families, like the Zylas each year in our **73-bedroom** house.



Families stay with us anywhere from a few days to over a year. The longest consecutive stay by a guest family in 2022 was **332** nights.



No one expects to spend the Holidays in the hospital, but you can help bring the festive magic to RMH BC families.

How To Get Involved

Light the House from your Community

Between **November 1 to December 24**, help us Light the House from your own community by collecting donations through the sale of paper light bulbs at your business, school or workplace. Donors can write their name or a message of hope on each bulb, which you can proudly display on your wall or common area.

You will receive a Light the House package that includes: light bulb icons, downloadable promotional posters and the option to set up a fundraising page to collect online donations.

Fundraisers with shop fronts or corporate groups are welcome to apply for a \$5 countertop TipTap Pay device where donors can simply tap their credit card to make a \$5 donation. Funds will be added to your Light the House fundraiser and automatically received at the House. Limited quantities available.



Gift a Special Holiday Memory to a Family by Adopting a House Tree

We have 20 trees available for families and corporate groups to decorate in the House and enjoy this festive tradition together. By sponsoring a tree with a generous \$2,500 donation, you can partake in the festivities by coming in as a team and decorating your tree (between Nov 27 - 29) or you can send in your own ornaments for families to use to decorate your adopted tree. We can't wait to share the results of our families' creativity!



Make a Donation

Browse our **Virtual Wish List** and help support families with this low-contact option. Choose from a variety of gift packages for kids, teens and parents or Gift a Night of comfort to a family. Honour a loved one by making a donation in their name!



Corporate Engagement

Assemble your team of colleagues to make a lasting impact together over the Holidays. Contact partnerships@rmhbc.ca for more information on how your organization can get involved.

Visit rmhbc.ca/light-the-house to view our Virtual Wish List, to Gift a Night or for additional ways to keep families together to share special moments over the Holidays.

Registration Form



Other resources that we can provide:

- A personalized online fundraising page
- Promotional posters
- Digital RMH BC logos or Impact Statements

For more information, please contact us:

P: 604-736-2957
E: community@rmhbc.ca

Company (if applicable): _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Participation Options:

We would like to Adopt a Tree in the House and have families decorate the tree for \$2,500.

We would like to send decorations for our sponsored tree.

After the event, we would like to donate or collect our decorations.

We would like to Adopt a Tree in the House and have our team decorate (November 27-29) for \$2,500.

We will bring decorations for our sponsored tree and would tentatively like to book:

____ November 27 between 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

____ November 28 between 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

____ November 29 between 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

After the event, we would like to donate or collect our decorations.

We would like to Adopt a Family in the House for \$2,500.

We would like to participate by Lighting the House in our community. Please send paper RMH BC light bulbs to the address indicated above.

I would like to learn more about receiving a TipTap device for my office or store.

We would like to make a donation of \$_____ to support families at the House this holiday season.

Preferred Payment Method:

Cheque (made payable to Ronald McDonald House BC & Yukon)

Credit Card (We will contact you to process the payment securely)

Please e-mail a completed form to community@rmhbc.ca, referencing Light the House 2023.

