448 – that’s the number of families we served in 2015. As an organization, we’re proud to provide housing and other services to hundreds of families a year when they need support the most. Families like Nikol’s, who left their home in Spokane, WA just months after Nikol was born so she could get a life saving liver transplant. Nikol and her mom spent several months at our House, which became a “home-away-from-home” as she healed. Nikol and her family have returned home, where she is spending some quality time with her big brother.

This year, we were able to make many needed updates to the House so we could better serve families like Nikol’s. We bought 48 new dressers, fitted all of our beds with new sheets and bedspreads, replaced room towels, and even installed new exercise equipment in the gym. These updates have continued to make our home even cozier for families while they stay here.

Additionally, we entered into a new phase of our partnership with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in 2015. We are working together to open the first ever Ronald McDonald House in Alaska as part of a 6 story housing facility they are building on their campus. The Anchorage House will open in January of 2017 and allow us to serve more Alaska families than ever before.

I want to thank everyone who helped us this year: whether you attended one of our events, donated to our cause, funded a grant, or volunteered your time, we appreciate your support. We couldn’t do what we do at the House without your help.

Sincerely,

Dianna Finnerty
Executive Director,
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska
At Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Western Washington & Alaska (RMHC), we support seriously ill children and their families. At the Seattle Ronald McDonald House, we provide a "home-away-from-home" to help families through a difficult time. We also provide a van service for families staying in Anchorage while their children receive medical care.
Our House started in 1983 with just 20 rooms. In 2003, we built two new facilities, including a self-contained apartment unit for bone marrow transplant patients. The renovation quadrupled the House’s capacity, so we can serve up to 80 families per night.
500+ volunteers per month

17 therapy dogs come to the house regularly

449 meals were prepared for families by volunteer groups in 2015

150 movie nights were hosted by volunteers in 2015

275 activity nights were held by volunteers in 2015

43,605 Hours volunteered in 2015
Nikol has been a little fighter since the start. Six weeks after she was born, her skin turned yellow and doctors told her parents she had a childhood liver disease called biliary atresia. In the first week of September, Nikol's family rushed to Seattle Children's and were put on the waiting list for a liver transplant. Her mother recalls "Nikol's situation was serious and we were just in shock. We were very fortunate to get a room at the Ronald McDonald House, instead of renting a hotel." For the next 10 months, her family stayed at the House, making sure Nikol was able to get the care she needed. Her mother says that "with all the pain, inconvenience, stiffness, tiredness, and sleepiness, she was always a happy baby, with a strong will and a smile. Even when her tiny heels got poked daily for blood tests, she was always smiling at the nurses. I start crying when I look back at that." This June, Nikol and her family returned home to Spokane. Since leaving the House, Nikol has been enjoying singing, reading, playing with her big brother, and learning how to take her first steps!
## 2015 Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$11,737,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments - Long Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promises to Give - Long Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment - Net</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,819,921</strong></td>
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</table>

## Liabilities & Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,819,921</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015 BUDGET

2015 Operating Revenues
Excludes investment income

Local McDonald's & Customers' Support 23%
Contributions & Gifts 31%
Seattle Children's Support 9%
Room Receipts, Other 14%
Special Events 23%

2015 Expenses

What does this chart illustrate?
79% of every dollar you donate goes directly towards giving families what they need, like housing & food.

General, Administrative 6%
Fundraising 15%
Program Services 79%
2015 SNAPSHOT

The Sounders made several visits in the summer to play soccer.

A chorus of princesses sang.

Many therapy dogs were snuggled.

Volunteers made amazing dinners.

SO MUCH TURKEY was eaten on Thanksgiving.

The Balladies trick or treated.

Music camp was a ton of fun.

Santa spread Christmas cheer.

Seahawks members and their wives helped us decorate.
ON THE HORIZON

The First Ronald McDonald House in Alaska

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015, agreeing to expand their current partnership to include the first Ronald McDonald House in Alaska.

The new House will be located on one floor of the new six-story Alaska Native Medical Center housing facility. The floor will serve expectant mothers with high-risk pregnancies as well as families with a child receiving pediatric care at ANMC.

The House will feature common areas, a dedicated kitchen, access to a workout space, and even a library. The facility will include 34 rooms, each with their own bathroom, full-sized bed, and sleeper chair. The housing facility will be joined to the hospital by a skybridge, making it easy for families to get the care they need.

To learn more about the project and keep up with any updates, please visit: www.rmhcseattle.org/alaska.
BLANCA'S STORY

Blanca has been an extraordinary member of the community here at the Ronald McDonald House. Not only does she take care of Alexandra, her teenaged daughter being treated for bone cancer, but she also helps other families at the House find strength when they need it most.

"As a caregiver, you need support. When your child is fighting for their life, you feel broken – it’s painful. It’s an emotional tornado," Blanca says. "You have to be strong – so you can help your child feel comfortable when you both feel so much fear."

Blanca understands what many parents here at the House are going through. Like many others who stay with us, she and her daughter have had a difficult road before staying at the House. Blanca's daughter had complained of pain in her arm, so they went to a local doctor. "I thought maybe the doctor was going to come back and say she needed a cast. Instead, he said, 'I'm so sorry, I have bad news – it's osteosarcoma – bone cancer.' I just felt like I couldn't breathe," she says. That choking feeling never truly left Blanca while she watched her daughter get treated with very aggressive chemotherapy at their local hospital in British Columbia, Canada. After nine months, her daughter was referred to Seattle Children's Hospital to pursue a special treatment called proton therapy. This targeted radiation is only available in a few hospitals in the United States.

They applied for housing at the Ronald McDonald House, but spent a few days in hotels before a room became available. When one opened up, it was an amazing day. "The first person I met at the House was Nancy – she is an extraordinary person. I came into the House and just talking with her, I started to feel this calm, this peace. I could feel the welcome this place has. For the first time since the diagnosis, I felt like I could breathe again," says Blanca.

Blanca does her best to lift the spirits of those around her and has lent an open ear to many of the families living with her at the House. She knows how challenging it can be to have an ill child, but knows it's better to face the challenge in a supportive environment than alone. She regularly invites other parents to join her at dinner or just to chat. "I always tell parents who are new – don’t be so stressed. You have to relax and take it day by day, otherwise you’re going to get sick. You have to be there for your kids, so you need to take care of yourself too!"

Blanca says that just being in the House for her is like "nutrients for [her] soul." For Blanca and her daughter, the House has become a peaceful refuge, where they not only take time to heal themselves, but can also help others heal.
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