Upcoming Events

Men in Kilts - April 12-28
Vote for your favorite local guy in a kilt with a $10 donation to RMHC starting April 6. Who’ll be crowned king of the kilt this year? You decide!

Bob's Brown Beer Release Party - May 13
Join us for the return of Bob's Brown Beer! Bring the family to this all-ages event at the Nickerson Street Saloon, 3pm-close.

Color Run Seattle - May 14
The Color Run benefits RMHC this year and you can save $5 off with the promo code RMHC when you sign up. This year’s run is unicorn themed, so expect lots of rainbow-colored goodness along the route!

The Muddy Mortal Run - June 16-18
RMHC benefits from this Harry Potter inspired festival which includes a 5k run, obstacle run, vendors, and so much more. Tickets are online at muddymortal.com and are extremely limited.

Family Spotlight

Twelve year old Sam and her mom Natalie have been living at the House for five months. “My husband and son are back home, holding down the fort; this leaves me alone to care for Sam the majority of the time, which is why I am thankful for the little things the House has that make life so much easier for us!” says Natalie.

Families can depend on the House for basics like laundry facilities, a stocked pantry, a room of their own, and several volunteer-prepared meals a week. “Especially in the beginning, when Sam was not feeling well, having the pantry available to us made life so much easier. There truly was no way for me to leave her side to go to the store,” Natalie adds.

Beyond providing the basics, the House also has been a place where the family has found community. “Sam has been lucky to meet another girl here, Sofia, who has basically become an older sister to her,” says Natalie. “Being a preteen is never easy and Sam is so glad to have a friend to talk to and just hang out with.” Sam has also enjoyed meeting others her own age through special teens-only camps, where she’s made projects like a painted canvas.

The House has also been a place where Sam can feel the love from her local community - she’s decorated the room with photos, encouraging notes, and posters from friends and family.

“Teams at home have been supporting Sam by wearing #Samstrong shirts or writing #Samstrong on their arms, legs or uniforms. One special gift was a cup filled with affirmations on sticky notes created by some 8th grade girls at Sam’s school. The notes meant Sam could start her day off by reading a note of encouragement: they remind her to think positive, fight hard, and that everyone is pulling for her.”

Even though the family cheers on the WSU Cougars, they have also felt the love from the UW Dawgs. Jake Browning and Henry Roberts, UW football players, have befriended the family and even helped Sam get the perfect Christmas present for her brother. UW basketball star and leukemia survivor Katie Collier has been an inspiration, becoming good friends with Sam.

“Going through something like this just turns your world upside down,” explains Natalie. “So having all the little things taken care of so we can focus on what’s most important: taking care of Sam’s health and helping her beat cancer.” ♥
Iditarod Ride-Along

Seven year old and Anchorage House resident Jens was whisked through the streets of Anchorage by dogsled for the opening day of the Iditarod! Thanks to a donation from Donlin Gold, Jens rode along for the race’s opening 11 miles.

Jens’ father, Dean, says his son had a great time meeting mushers and their dogs. Since the family is from Nome, where the Iditarod finishes, they are all fans, especially Jens. “He got to meet some big name mushers, including Dee Dee Jonrowe, a female musher, who recently fought cancer herself. She told him, ‘Don’t give up little guy! If I can do it, you can do it.’ It was so great for Jens to hear that.” Jens also hung out with Hugh Neff, known as the Gypsy Musher, who autographed a copy of his book for Jens. The book tells Neff’s stories from the trail from the point of view of his dogs!

“The House was so accommodating,” says Dean. “We realized that Jens would need another pair of snowpants and gloves, and they went above and beyond to help us out. It definitely made all the difference with the cold weather!” The family will be staying at the Ronald McDonald House while Jens gets treatment for neuroblastoma.

Leave a Legacy

A bequest to RMHC is more than a line in your will. It’s an open door for a family with a child facing cancer, a hot meal for an exhausted parent and so much more. Contact Heather Bauer for more information about bequests at 206.838.0614 or heather@rmhcseattle.org

Hockey Challenge 2017

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise $150,000 for Hockey Challenge, presented by the Seattle Thunderbirds! This money will help us provide a home away from home for more than 450 families annually and make critical services available, like a stocked pantry and laundry room, volunteer-provided hot meals, and more.

“We as an organization are very proud that we are able to help the House raise such a significant sum every year. This Challenge is an important part of our history that we look forward to it every season,” said Colin Campbell, T-Birds Vice-President. “We appreciate the volunteers and alumni that join us each season to make the Challenge such a success.”

Players also participated in #WhyISkate on social media, sharing their love of the Challenge. One player wrote, “Hockey has enriched my life while introducing me to some amazing and inspiring people. The RMHC Hockey Challenge presents the perfect opportunity for the Seattle hockey community to showcase its skills and generosity.”

Additionally, our Hockey Challenge Kid Captain, Bretton, had a great time at the game. He got to drop the opening puck and met up with players after the game. Mathew Barzal even gave him a signed stick. Bretton’s mom Kara, who attended the event writes that “it was a great night! I’m so proud of Bretton, his fight, his journey, and most of all his compassionate heart to always want to give back.”

We asked Bretton’s hockey coach to tell us a little bit more about this incredible kid. Coach Larry explains, “It’s wonderful that Bretton was honored at Hockey Challenge. Not because he has cancer, but because he is a solid young man and an inspiration to us all. He has such a passion for hockey. He lives, eats, and sleeps hockey! My son and Bretton did nothing but play hockey for years: ice hockey, roller hockey, ball hockey. Bretton could be found at drop-in games, Blazer games, and practicing his game. He’s always striving to get better.”

The team was happy to cheer Bretton on from afar. “We’ve all been wearing #8, Bretton’s number, a lot. We always want to do whatever we can to support him and his family,” says Coach Larry. “He is family: my ice is his ice! When he’s ready, he has a spot back on the team.”

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Sponsor a Night

Give a family the critical housing they need when their child is ill. Your donation of $30 helps to sponsor a night for a family, providing them with a home away from home when they need one most. Donate today!

Putting the Fun in Fundraising

Men in Kilts, our popular fundraising competition, returns April 12th! A long time competitor for Team Bungie, Mark Fleig chatted with us about his experiences.

“The Bungie Foundation focuses on giving back to our community wherever, whenever, and however we can, particularly to youths,” says Mark. “I’m honored and humbled to represent such a giving community.” Since he loves any excuse to dress in costume, he’s participated in Men in Kilts every year since it began six years ago. “The Men in Kilts fundraiser represents an incredibly fun and rewarding opportunity to raise funds for those in need while meeting like-minded individuals around the area,” he adds.

While he’d welcome your vote this April, he notes that “I’m more interested in increasing our community awareness, visibility, and participation than whom [voters] choose to support, as it all goes to the same cause. Vote for me, or against me...either way, vote!”

Men in Kilts happens April 12th - 28th this year and each vote is a $10 donation to RMHC. All voting takes place online at: http://meninkilts.rmhcseattle.org/. May the best man win!

Volunteer Spotlight: Hannah Johnson

Always ready to lend a hand with a smile, volunteer Hannah Johnson makes sure that our communal spaces are clean for families and does whatever other tasks we might need help with. Hannah got started as a volunteer after staying at the House with her mother and sister in 2015.

“While at Ronald McDonald House, I don’t think I took the time to appreciate everything that this organization helped us with,” Hannah says. Volunteering for Hannah is a way she can pay it forward to other families staying here, to help others on the journey she understands all too well. “Volunteering is something that makes me feel good, to know that I’m making a difference.”

Hannah drives all the way from Poulsbo once a week to help out, doing everything from sweeping to sanitizing our kitchen. Having the extra help doesn’t just keep things looking nice, it actually is vital for kids with compromised immunity so they can heal. Something as simple as a common cold can be very dangerous for a child who is going through certain treatments, so we can never have too many “Helping Hands” volunteers to help make our home away from home safe.

“When Hannah came to us, wanting to volunteer, her schedule was really busy with school and work. We decided she should take some time, let things settle down, and then come back,” says Judy, Manager of Volunteer Services. “When you say something like that to a volunteer, you don’t know if they will come back. But Hannah was different - she came back and said she was ready to do whatever we needed. It’s a real testament to her commitment as a volunteer.”

“To anyone looking to volunteer at the House, I would say do it - don’t hold back,” Hannah says with a smile. We’re always in need of people who want to volunteer to do the critical work that Hannah does around our House. Visit the volunteer page on our website, rmhc-wwaak.org, to learn more about how you can become one of our “Helping Hands.”
Snapshot of Our Seattle House in 2016

62 days was the average length of stay for a family

Our House has a capacity of 80 families at one time - and we had 97% occupancy throughout the year.

28,603 nights of stay

The shortest stay was 4 days but we also have many families who need to stay for over a year.

465 Families Served:

238 families came from Washington state, but we serve families from all over the Northwest including Montana, Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon.

Volunteers made our house a home by preparing 465 meal nights, putting on 274 activities, & hosting 118 movie nights.