Louisa was diagnosed with high-risk AML leukemia in December of 2018 at only 12 years old. Because of some rare mutations, Seattle Children’s was the best place to be treated but it was over 1,000 miles away from her home in California.

“We made the decision to bring Louisa, knowing that we would be away from friends and family and our support system,” says her mom, Hilary. “Seattle became our second adopted home and Seattle Children’s and the House are both very special places for us.”

Over the last three years, Louisa lived at the House for a total of 18 months, once during her first round of treatment and again when she relapsed and had a bone marrow transplant.

It was hard being away from home, but Louisa and Hilary found a lot of support at the House. “This place has meant so much to us. It didn’t just provide housing. Whether it was cleaning supplies, a warm meal, a stamped envelope, gifts for kids for special occasions, or the special quilts that are handmade for the kids who are staying there, every need was lovingly anticipated and fulfilled.

It was also a place of comfort for us,” continued Hilary. “Walking into the House always felt like home.”

For Louisa, the House helped her get through her treatments. “The homemade meals and being so close to the hospital were some of the things that made me feel less scared.

“It was a place to connect with other families,” adds Hilary. “As a mom with a medically overwhelming diagnosis, it was truly a lifeline to me.”

After her successful transplant, Louisa has been able to go home and start getting back to being a teen. “I am doing online classes and I started driver’s ed. I am hoping to play lacrosse again and get my driver’s license in the spring.”

And to the RMHC community, “Thank you so much for everything you have meant to our family,” says Hilary. “We hope you know the difference you make in the lives of so many.”

Louisa's Story

IN THIS ISSUE:

02 Holidays at the House
02 2021 Gala Thank You
03 Expansion Update
03 Ways to Give
04 5th Anniversary in Alaska
Holidays at the House

We are grateful to have some generous donors and volunteer groups to help bring holiday cheer to the House this year. Thank you to the Holiday Cruise Group for providing meals on Christmas Eve and Christmas, Madison Park Capital for pies, Trophy Cupcakes for Christmas Eve treats, Rick Rizzs of Toys for Kids for gifts for families, Amazon Worldwide Benchmarking & Solutions for gifts for families, Microsoft PRSS for stocking stuffers, Linda Hunnell for Christmas stockings, the Seahawks Women’s Association for BMT movie night baskets, and Sally Fiorini for decorating the House for the holidays.

2021 Gala Review

Our 2021 virtual gala and auction was a great success! Together, our community of donors, supporters, and volunteers raised over $470,000 for the House to keep providing essential services for families.

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Western Washington & Alaska gratefully acknowledges the following corporations and individuals for their sponsorship and support of the 33nd Annual RMHC The House That Love Built:

Presenting Sponsor: John L. Scott Foundation
Gala Sponsors: McDonald’s of Western Washington, Seattle Children’s, Wizards of the Coast, Bama Companies, The Coca-Cola Company, Franke, Inc., Keurig Dr Pepper, Mize CPAs, Pacific Northwest Baking, S2K, the Schuler Family Foundation, and Spawn Ideas

Be sure to save the date for next year’s gala on October 22, 2022.
Building Hope

It has been very exciting to watch the progress on our expansion. The exterior of the building is almost complete and the interior is being drywalled and primed. Work on updating our kitchens is also underway, including adding new cooking spaces and an expanded pantry for families and creating a dedicated kitchen where volunteers can prepare meals.

We look forward to welcoming more families in 2022. Thank you to all who have made this possible! We continue to fundraise for this project. If you are interested in being part of this exciting moment in RMHC history, contact Vanessa@rmhcseattle.org.

Many Ways to Give

Families at the House recognize the valuable role you play when you give a gift to RMHC.

“Donors should know they are helping people through what might be the worst time in their lives, and it means so much.” - Jenna, mom of Avery

With 2021 soon coming to a close, we would like to ask you to consider giving a year-end gift to help families who call the House home. There are many ways to give, including:

A gift of stock. Contact us for instructions on stock gifts and wire transfers.

A gift through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF). We are happy to accept donations through your DAF. Our EIN is 91-1061043. Let us know if you have any questions or alert us of an incoming gift from your DAF so we can confirm its receipt.

A gift through your IRA. Did you know that anyone over 70 ½ can give a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) through their IRA? Contact your IRA custodian to initiate a transfer.

An item from our wish list. Support families by purchasing items that are needed. You can find the wish list on our website.

A meal sponsorship. We will continue to provide boxed dinners to families this winter. Learn more about becoming a meal sponsor on our website.

If you have any questions, you can contact Heather Bauer at heather@rmhcseattle.org or 206-838-0614. Thank you for giving families the care and support they need during a very difficult time.
Celebrating Five Years in Alaska

Five years ago, we welcomed our first families at the Ronald McDonald House at Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC). Having a House in Alaska was a goal for our organization and it has been exciting to create and grow this program.

Thanks to our dedicated, on-site staff and our amazing partners at ANMC, we have been able to house 1,400 families annually. We appreciate everyone who has volunteered and donated to support this program and look forward to continued care for families in Anchorage.