Leo’s Story
Emily Prigge loves living in her small town of Cottonwood, Idaho because her four children have lots of room to run and play and are part of a close knit community. But when Leo, her youngest, started having medical issues, the remoteness and lack of specialized care became a severe obstacle for his health.

“Our doctor is also our neighbor,” Emily said. “We just have a primary care doctor for everything. They deliver babies, perform surgery and do checkups...it’s a very small-town feel.”

After months of driving back and forth between Cottonwood and Boise, Idaho, doctors determined Leo has a mutated gene and a combined immunodeficiency. His condition is so rare that there is only one other known case in the US right now. Leo’s immunology doctors recommended a bone marrow transplant (BMT) at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

With the sole focus on Leo’s treatment and recovery, the Prigge family loaded up and moved to Seattle in January. Leo’s family couldn’t wait for a better housing arrangement, and they initially stayed in an AirBNB for a month, which cost them $10,000. The realities of medical costs, in addition to skyrocketing housing prices and inflation, quickly made this unsustainable.

It was a huge relief when Leo’s seven-year-old sister, Gianna, was a 10 out of 10 match to be his bone marrow donor. After Leo’s transplant, the family was able to move into the Bone Marrow Transplant Apartments at the House. As part of his recovery, Leo must be completely isolated from the outside world and much of the House. Their RMHC apartment has allowed his family to easily do this while benefiting from additional support services RMHC provides.

“The toy room is the kids’ favorite part,” Emily said, “and just being the mom and having to feed everyone, it’s nice to know that if we have a long day at the hospital, there’s always a meal for us if I don’t have time. Also, having space for the kids to unwind.”

Leo’s bone marrow transplant was a success. After five months of living at the House, the family will be leaving for Idaho. Emily is grateful for the support the House provided when the family most needed it. **Story continues inside**
The day before checking out, Leo crawls around the outside playhouse, grabbing a stone and dropping it into a toy cart.

Emily smiles as she watches him. “He is a spitfire like our second daughter. He’s usually bound and determined, which is a good attitude and character to have being sick,” she said. Emily will have to drive to Seattle monthly for Leo’s checkups, but she’s hopeful they will never have to be residents at the House. They do hope to return again one day as volunteers.

“‘It’s been really amazing to see people donating their time and just being really caring and thoughtful to strangers.’ Emily

Help feed families at the House! As we open our expansion and begin to welcome new families, we need your help to feed them. Please give and make sure they have nourishing meals waiting for them after long days at the hospital. Our volunteers cook 70 meals each day so families can focus on their children and help them get better. Our meal quantity will increase to 105 in the coming weeks as more families join the House.
Join us in person at the Seattle Sheraton at 5:30 p.m. on October 22nd for the 34th Annual RMHC “The House That Love Built” Gala! Please spread the word and help us gather our RMHC community so together we can build a warm and inviting home for families.

We need your help now more than ever as we expand our budget to accommodate 25 more families. To register or donate go to https://rmhcseattle.ejoinme.org/2022GalaReg

Contact Vanessa@rmhcseattle.org or Emma@rmhcseattle.org with question or if you would like to explore sponsorship opportunities.

The John L. Scott Foundation Presents
The House that Love Built
34th Annual RMHC Gala

On June 21st, we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for our expansion at House A, which will enable us to welcome 25 new families in the coming weeks. Capital campaign donors and key stakeholders came to tour the building and celebrate this new chapter.

Having a larger House means we can accommodate more families nightly. Knowing they have a place to stay will give parents one less thing to worry about and more time to focus on their children’s treatment and healing. In addition to 25 more residence rooms, there will be new quiet spaces, lounges, an expanded kitchen, an outside courtyard, brand-new laundry machines, a craft room and much more!

We are grateful for our community’s enthusiastic support of this project and their commitment to helping families at RMHC.
Volunteers needed!

We are excited to announce we are welcoming volunteers back in person! We depend on our volunteers to keep the House a warm and welcoming place, and we truly can’t do it without you. Our meal program is currently searching for kitchen meal helpers. We also have openings for front desk volunteers, drivers, and much more! Please use the QR code below to find the position that fits you and your schedule.

Every job is important and valued at the House, and we need your help to fill these key roles. We are so excited to find the perfect position for you!