



RMHC
of Central Pennsylvania



Keeping families together

THROUGH THEIR TOUGHEST TIMES

SPRING 2019



"I wish there were more people like the volunteers and donors of RMHC of Central PA in the world," Michelle said. "The world would be a better place. Thank you for helping us during the darkest times of our lives."

~ Quote from Michelle Wallace

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In October 2013, Michelle and Randy Wallace found out they were expecting their first child.

Their eight and 12-week check-ups brought nothing but good news, so Michelle and Randy were really excited for their upcoming 19-week check-up, during which they would find out the gender of their baby.

The news that they were having a girl was received with so much happiness. However, that happiness faded as the technician performing the exam left the room to get a maternal-fetal doctor.

Upon further examination, they were told that their daughter has Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. They were given a bleak outlook for the remainder of their pregnancy and their daughter's quality of life following birth.

Looking for hope, the Wallaces sought after additional medical opinions, researched the syndrome and tried to determine the best choices they could make for their unborn daughter.

Finally, an echocardiogram exam at Penn State Children's Hospital yielded some good news.

As if the Wallace family wasn't already dealing with enough, they found out in



Molli Faith Wallace

May 2014 that their daughter also had a defect of her pulmonary veins called Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return and was advised that their daughter may not make it through the hurdles ahead. But the Wallaces persisted and advocated the best they could for their daughter.

On July 10, 2014, their daughter Molli Faith was born. She was immediately ventilated and taken into the NICU at Penn

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State Children's Hospital, where three days later she underwent open heart surgery. During this time, the doctors and nurses encouraged the Wallaces to seek out the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Hershey as a resource during their time of need.

When they called the RMH in Hershey to reserve a room after Molli Faith's surgery, Michelle said they were "greeted with open arms".

"If it wouldn't have been for the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey," Michelle said. "I don't know what we would've done."

The Wallaces checked into the RMH in Hershey while their daughter was in surgery and 14 hours later, Molli Faith came out of surgery and was stable. For the first time in months, the Wallaces started to see "a glimpse of hope" for their daughter.

Following surgery, it took Molli Faith two and a half weeks to come off of the ventilator, but she made it.

"After Molli Faith came out of surgery, Randy and I would flip-flop visiting time with Molli Faith and recharging at the RMH in Hershey with meals and a hot shower," Michelle said. "We weren't sure how long we were going to stay at the House but it was so nice not to have to worry about traveling, meals, having a place to stay or even having a friendly face to talk to."

The Wallaces stayed at the RMH in Hershey for the first 90 days after their daughter's birth.

As she grew, Molli Faith underwent two major heart surgeries from massive heart failure.

"The RMH in Hershey made all the difference in the world," Michelle said. "We lived over an hour and a half away and while my husband still worked to help sustain our



Molli Faith Wallace

family, the RMH in Hershey was our saving grace."

Michelle especially fell in love with the Pet Therapy Program that RMHC of Central PA offers for their families, as her family has dogs and are animal lovers.

"I wish there were more people like the volunteers and donors of RMHC of Central PA in the world," Michelle said.

"I would look forward to 6:00 PM every day," Michelle said. "The pet therapy helped me get through the day when things seemed grim. I can't thank those pets and their owners enough for their support."

The Wallace family stayed at the RMH in Hershey for over 19 months throughout the last four years.

As a recipient of service, they also enjoy giving back to the families through the volunteer Guest Chef Program and by holding 3rd Party Fundraisers to benefit RMHC of Central PA.

"I wish there were more people like the volunteers and donors of RMHC of Central PA in the world," Michelle said. "The world would be a better place. Thank you for helping us during the darkest times of our lives."

Molli Faith is now almost five years old and is in pre-kindergarten. According to Michelle, "Molli Faith is stable but lives with moderate heart failure. She never lets that get her down – she is as spunky and loving as ever."



Letter From Our Executive Director

From our House to yours – Happy Spring!

2019 is a special year for Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central PA. This year we celebrate 35 years of service to families: 35 years of Keeping Families Close®, inspiring strength, and giving comfort and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care.

To help us celebrate this milestone, we are asking the community to consider setting up a recurring monthly donation of \$35 during our 35th year. Thanks to your continued financial support we are able to provide all services to our families at no charge. That's 35 years of overnight stays, nourishing meals and respite services all for free at our Ronald McDonald House® in Hershey and our Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Hospitality Cart services at Penn State Children's Hospital.

Because of supporters like you, our families find companionship, community and most importantly, time together. Please give to ensure that these much-needed resources continue to be available in the years to come. Visit www.35in35.org to make your donation today!

Thank you for your support.

All the best,

Karla

Karla Mitchell, Executive Director



3rd Annual
Diamonds
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LADIES NIGHT OUT

DIAMOND SPONSORS:



– *Thank you* –

to all our sponsors and guests for attending our 3rd Annual Diamonds & Denim event.

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Introducing Our New Board Members

We would like to introduce our newest Board Members serving Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central PA. We are excited to see the insight and expertise this group will bring to our organization. Thank you for joining!



Katie Breit
Sr. Account Executive,
WPMT Fox 43



Michelle Del Pizzo, MBA, FACHE
Vice President, Operations,
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center



Mark B. Dieffenbach
Director, Specialty Channels,
The Hershey Company



Timothy Fake
Senior Director of Information
Technology, Milton Hershey School



Bradley R. Newman, CFP®
Senior Investment Advisor,
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Dave Wagner
Entrepreneur &
Community Volunteer



Alyssa Livengood Waite, MHA, MSN, RN
Director of Nursing, Women's & Babies Hospital
Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital



Matthew Wildasin, CPA
Principal,
Boyer & Ritter, LLC



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to celebrate RMHC of Central PA!**

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17th ANNUAL MOONLIGHT GALA

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— SAVE THE DATE —



GIN & JAZZ

18th Annual Moonlight Gala
Saturday, November 2, 2019
Hershey Lodge



RMHC
of Central Pennsylvania
Keeping families close

PRESENTED BY:



25TH ANNUAL

Golf Classic
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019



Hershey Country Club

1000 East Derry Rd, Hershey, PA 17033

Shotgun Start at 12:30 p.m.



Sponsorships are available for Golf and Gala! Contact Amy Leonard at 717-533-4001 x156 or email aleonard@rmhc-centralpa.org for information.



Red Shoe Crew

Are you a young professional looking for opportunities to volunteer and network?

If so, please consider joining RMHC-CP's Red Shoe Crew!

Contact Rachel Clippinger at rclippinger@rmhc-centralpa.org or 717-533-4001 x155 for more information.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
of Central Pennsylvania

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Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a Shamrock in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central PA at your local McDonald's restaurant during the month of March. Special thanks to our local McDonald's Owner/Operators for their continued support of the families we serve!