Try alternative giving!

Surprise your loved ones with holiday gifts that support sick children & their families.

Learn more inside.

Security Blanket Society: Recognizing ‘forever gifts’

Named for a child’s favorite blanket, our new Security Blanket Society recognizes donors whose planned and estate gifts will wrap families with the support and comfort they need when caring for a seriously ill child. These ‘forever gifts’ are invested in our endowment and provide perpetual income in support of our mission.

The Security Blanket Society launches this year with a series of articles in our Love Notes newsletter. More information may be found on our website.

At our Annual Meeting in June 2020, we will unveil a donor wall in the Durham House to recognize founding members of the Security Blanket Society who have notified us of their intentions by April 30.

If you have already remembered RMH in your will or estate plan, please let us know so we can celebrate your gift now and ensure that your gift will have the impact you desire.

For information or to share your legacy plan, contact Nancy:
(919) 281-1065, Nancy@RMHDurhamWake.org
As November approaches, we’re reminded to live with a spirit of thanksgiving. Two Duke patients know very well to be grateful for each new day they are given.

Both teens, Kelvin and Hannah, are living at RMH of Durham as they await life-saving kidney transplants.

Kelvin’s positive outlook and smile mask the years of pain he endured living with sickle cell disease. In May 2018, Kelvin underwent a cord-blood transplant with hopes it would cure his disease. The cord-blood donation came from an unrelated donor.

Recovery was difficult, and there were serious setbacks. It was also successful; Kelvin is now free of sickle cell.

His treatment, however, led to respiratory failure and kidney failure. He’s currently in end-stage renal disease.

Kelvin’s daily dialysis regimen is keeping him alive. He receives an incredible 10.5 hours of treatment each day. When he isn’t connected to machines, he’s in clinic at the hospital or taking college courses online.

One floor up from the long-term suite where Kelvin and his parents live at RMH is 14-year-old Hannah.

Like Kelvin, Hannah is bright, talented, and strong academically. Also like Kelvin, Hannah has faced life-threatening illness since birth.

(Continued on p. 3)
Holiday gifts with heart:

A conspiracy of love!

You can make holiday wishes come true!

Touch your loved ones this year with a memorable gift of love for RMH families!

For a donation of $10, we’ll send a card telling them a holiday gift has been made by you in their honor.

If you like, we can mail the cards to you to send with a personal note.

The Wishing Tree is a holiday wish-list extravaganza.

With your family, friends, coworkers, and others, you can bring holiday love to children & families at Ronald McDonald House.

Holiday wishes:

- Holiday gifts for pediatric patients & their siblings at RMH
- Food and supplies for caregivers at the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Duke and WakeMed Children’s Hospitals
- Food and supplies for children & families staying at RMH

Materials: www.RMHDurhamWake.org/the-wishing-tree/
Schafers live by motto: “Give whatever you can…”

Life was tough growing up on the east side of Detroit. But one of the things Jerry Schafer learned early in the school of hard knocks was “give whatever you can…it’s the responsible thing to do.”

When asked how they made decisions about their estate, Brenda said, “Not having children, we wanted to be clear what would happen. We developed our plan together, and were very judicious about where we wanted to leave gifts. It has given us great peace of mind to make these decisions when we are in good health and sound minds.”

“Having a place to call home is one less burden. If we can take that burden away from a family, it is a great gift.”

Both Jerry and Brenda have held leadership positions at RMH. He is a former President of the Board who currently serves on the Finance Committee, and she is a new member of the Board. Having been involved for so many years, Jerry shared, “I have implicit trust in the organization – it has the highest of integrity.”

Brenda added, “RMH is important to us. We know that, regardless of families’ situations, illnesses like those the children face are financially devastating. Parents have to make great sacrifices. Having a place to call home is one less burden. If we can take that burden away from a family, it is a great gift.”

Read more about leaving a legacy to RMH on p. 4.

Holiday miracle, continued

Hannah was born premature and received small bowel and liver transplants at six months. The next several years were good – until September 2018, when drugs used to treat a serious infection damaged her kidneys. Like Kelvin, Hannah has regular dialysis to keep her body functioning until a match can be found.

The good news for both teens is a living donor can save their lives.

Donor surgery is minimally invasive, and most donors go home after just one night. The recipient’s medical insurance will even cover the costs associated with the donation. All that’s needed is the awareness and willingness of qualifying donors.

For information on how to become a donor, contact Duke at 919-551-3965.