



Love Notes



HOW YOUR LOVE KEEPS FAMILIES CLOSE IN RALEIGH-DURHAM

Holiday 2019

Community, hope and *the gift of healing*

We see it every day. Families come from across the state, the U.S., and the world. They arrive carrying their belongings, their burdens, and a mix of emotions.

The paths that bring families here are unique, yet there is so much they share in common. For many, this phase of treatment is the opportunity for which they *hope*.

The chance to feel secure in a welcoming environment that offers everything they need is a *gift*.

To share this gift with other families who understand personally the weight of what they face is a *blessing*.

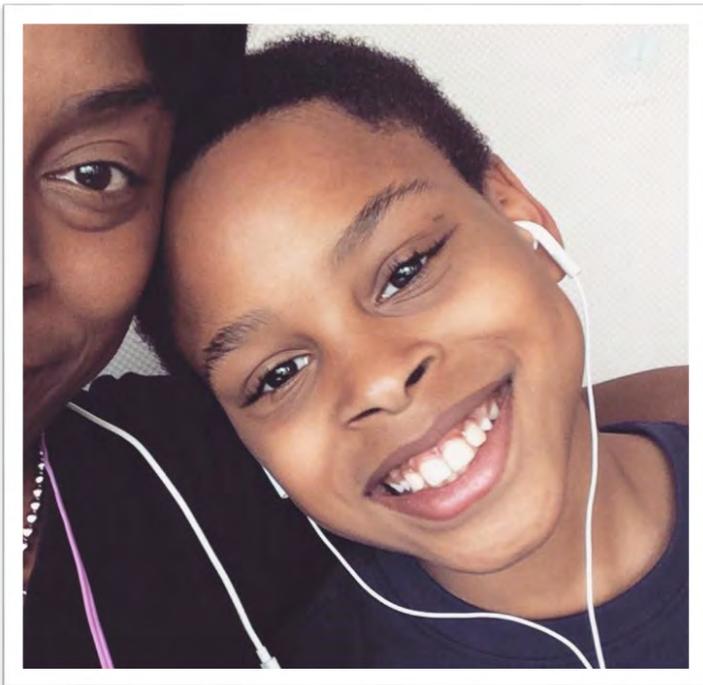
These words – hope, gift, and blessing – are the words of healing. And they are made possible each day by you.

Healing is a mix of science, art, and faith. Healing is not always found in reaching our desired outcomes, like the eradication of disease or the mending of injury.

Sometimes healing comes not from removing pain but rather from standing witness to the pain of others and seeing them through the hardest trials they will ever face. *Of course we wish for good outcomes; either way, there can be healing.*

The Ronald McDonald House community is a living example of the power of healing.

Each kind word and good deed you offer is part of the miracle of healing for RMH families. We wish you a holiday filled with the healing and hope you so lovingly share. 



Clockwise from left to right: **Josh** with his mom, Rashelle, facing leukemia; **Cameron** on the day he went home after heart surgery; **Easton**, heart warrior & cancer survivor; **Brooklyn** giving a thumbs up 'at home' at RMH after a life-saving transplant.



Ezera before treatment at RMH and after the start of the transplant process.

In a very short time, our lives were forever changed...

Late last year, our 6-year-old son, Ezera, was diagnosed with ALD, a harrowing and destructive brain disease.

We were given two options. We chose to give him a fighting chance by leaving everything behind and traveling to Duke for a bone-marrow transplant.

We had heard of Ronald McDonald House but had no idea of its importance. Displaced from our home with a very sick child, we had many questions and concerns. Where we would live was never a concern because of RMH.

We shortened the name of RMH to the “RonDon” when our son’s disease made speaking difficult for him.

At the RonDon, our family was able to stay together and remain a strong unit to care for our son. We had everything we needed like food, toiletries, and linens. We loved the daily activities, from BINGO to therapy dogs. Volunteers with smiling faces have made us feel ‘at home’ in many ways.

The option of crafting a ceiling tile inside and a rock for the serenity path outside was huge for us — it’s a blessing to be able to leave behind a footprint of the path we traveled and a reminder of all the love we received.

Without [Ronald McDonald House], what it offers, and the fellowship available, we have no idea where we would be. We are truly thankful we don’t have to worry about that.

The most meaningful experience for us at the RonDon was walking through the House and being stopped by a caring staff member wanting to know the latest news on Ezera — or just to chat us out of a difficult emotional place.

Without RonDon, what it offers, and the fellowship available, we have no idea where we would be. We are truly thankful we don’t have to worry about that.

We love RonDon!

Thank you to all who support this place!

With love,

The Millers ♥

Chris, Summer, Ezera (6) and Ezlee (5)

A tiny heart healed

Jeanine and Trae didn't expect to have complications with their third pregnancy.

Their first children, both sons, were thrilled to welcome a girl into their close family. Like many parents, they assumed a healthy outcome for their newest miracle.

After her birth, it became clear there was something wrong with baby Alayana, whose color sometimes changed to blue when she cried.

Doctors diagnosed a rare heart condition that occurs when four heart defects exist together, allowing oxygen-poor blood to circulate through the body.

In mid-November, Alayana and her parents came to Durham from Goldsboro for surgery to repair her heart.

Their oldest, Braylen, stayed home with his grandmother, and young Trenton joined his parents at RMH. **With your love and support they can be by Alayana's side during her recovery.**

Alayana is expected to be home for Christmas. 



Baby Alayana



(Above) Alayana recuperates after open-heart surgery. (Below) Big brother Trenton is here to support his parents and little sister.



"In this family, no one fights alone."

Magaly was just five months old when she was diagnosed with leukemia.

At the close of her treatment in Asheville, she was found to be cured of her disease, but a second type of leukemia was found. Young Magaly was then sent to Duke for a cord-blood transplant, thought to be her best hope.

Magaly's father stayed home to continue working, and her mom came to Durham. For nearly five months, her mother lived at RMH to be close to her baby as she fought to recover from her transplant.

Magaly's family rallied, making their decisive slogan, "In this family, no one fights alone."

Magaly is now well and at home with her parents. They call RMH a "true blessing." 



Team Magaly celebrates her discharge from the hospital.



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Durham & Wake

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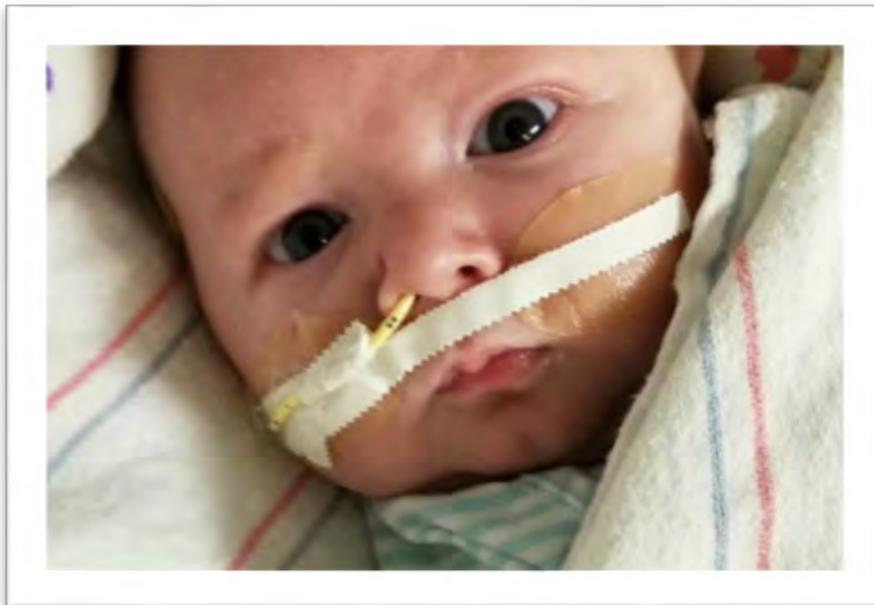
The gift of healing.

Kindness and community
heal families.

Read their stories.

Planned giving: *build your legacy of love!*

Annuities • Bequests • Insurance • IRA Rollover • Stock • Trusts & more



Remembering RMH in your estate
is more than good planning.

Join Security Blanket Society members who will leave a *legacy of love* to help seriously ill children & their families.

Contact Nancy Jones: 919-281-1065,
Nancy@RMHDurhamWake.org



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