

Dear Friend,



Thanks so much for joining the Red Shoe Society. We're excited to team up with you to spread the word about this worthy cause, raise money for families in need and - most importantly - have a lot of fun! This ain't your mama's fundraising group and we've got a lot of great events planned for the year.

Our community is fortunate to have state-of-the-art medical facilities for our children. However, many families have to travel great distances for this level of care. The Long Beach Ronald McDonald House provides a "home away from home" for families at little to no-cost to them. A family is never turned away based on their ability to pay. That's why it's so important we get involved and ensure this great cause continues to flourish.

The House offers a warm environment and compassionate staff for families in distress. If you haven't yet taken the tour, please do so. It's not only a beautiful place, it's a place filled with beautiful and inspiring stories, like Remi.

When Remi was born at only 25 weeks gestation, her mom Arafat described those early days in the NICU as, "a horror film, one I certainly would not wish to watch, let alone play a starring role in." For more than three months, Remi's parents, Arafat and Payom, called our House their home so they could remain close to Remi while she fought to survive. Arafat says, "my daughter's great fight for life is one I will forever be inspired by."

And while the talented team of medical professionals saved Remi's life, it was the Long Beach Ronald McDonald House that provided much needed comfort and support to her parents for those long weeks filled with uncertainty. Arafat shares, "if anyone has had to deal with a long hospital stay, you'll agree with me that one of your biggest wishes is for life to come to a standstill...to give you room to breathe, to cry, to find your voice, and to simply catch your breath." The Long Beach Ronald McDonald House provided that for Arafat and Payom.

Remi's family is just one of the more than 5,100 families (19,000 guests) who have stayed at the House since they opened their doors in December of 2011. Your annual donation of \$125 is the same as the cost to fund a family for one night in the House. So, your contribution makes a tangible difference for the people you're supporting. And, if that's not enough, you're going to get invited to some pretty great parties, too!

If you're interested in getting more personally involved with the Red Shoe Society, please contact Susan Wyant-Hermansader at info@redshoesocietylb.com or Rebecca Jackson Lai at rjackson@rmhsc.org to learn more about our volunteer opportunities, events, committees, and Red Shoe Society Board.

Cheers to a great year ahead and to all the things we'll accomplish together!

Thanks!

Susan

Susan Wyant-Hermansader
Red Shoe Society President

Rebecca

Rebecca Jackson Lai
Development Director
Long Beach Ronald McDonald House

