



Ronald
McDonald
House
INLANDEMPIRE

WINTER 2023

Keeping Families Close®

Family First

Having a child in the hospital is an indescribable experience. It can be overwhelming at times especially when you become an advocate for your child's health. Over the past 17 years, the Espinoza Family has stayed at the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House (IERMH) every time their daughter has been admitted to the hospital. The Espinozas began their journey in October of 2006, when their daughter, Valerie, was airlifted from Eisenhower Health in the Coachella Valley to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH).



Valerie was diagnosed with a brain tumor which required her to be hospitalized for extended periods of time. The Espinozas live in Thermal, CA and the commute to LLUCH is 80 miles from their home. They have other children, including Valerie's twin sister Vanessa. Making that kind of commute daily is not something they could do with all of their children. When Valerie's mom, Veronica, learned that the IERMH was available, she was grateful to have a comfortable place for her and her family to stay while Valerie was in the hospital. "Before coming to IERMH, I was resting on a hospital couch and trying to reserve a 15 minute shower at the hospital ... IERMH welcomed us and opened their doors to my family and I," said Veronica Espinoza.



Valerie has been hospitalized over the years for respiratory issues, reoccurring benign brain and leg tumors and each time her family has been able to stay right across the street from her at IERMH. Twins Valerie and Vanessa are now 17 years old and Vanessa remembers staying at IERMH when she was younger. In July of 2023, Valerie was hospitalized with a bacterial respiratory infection. Her sister Vanessa said of their most recent stay, "I was

delighted to see that the House has been renovated and can accommodate many more families like mine from the Coachella Valley. I know the Ronald McDonald House will continue helping out many more families to come."

The Espinoza Family recently attended and shared their story at the 7th Annual A Few Good Men and Women Gala. On that evening Valerie shared, "I want to thank the Ronald McDonald House for keeping my family close together, especially when I needed them the most. And I know the house will help many more families like mine stay together."



Letter from the Director



OUR MISSION
To provide comfort, care and support to children and families in Southern California



OUR VISION
A community where children and their families embrace life and healing with a sense of hope, enthusiasm, courage and joy.



OUR VALUES
Compassion, Integrity, Respect, Innovation and Transparency.


The House That Love Built

2023 marks my 17th year at the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House (IERMH). Every time I think I have seen it all, I find another mini miracle bestowed upon the House. When you run a non-profit organization you have to be able to recognize the blessings in disguise. In July of 2023, a major slab leak required IERMH to reach out for your support.

The force of the leak was increasing daily and a few pipes leaked into guest rooms. We shared our crisis with you and you immediately sent in donations to help cover the costs associated with the repairs. We also shared that we had air conditioning units out in 5 rooms. July had the highest occupancy this year and the rooms could not be occupied without air conditioning. This caused the IERMH to start a wait list for families for the first time since the expansion in 2017. Yet, once again, it was you that stepped forward with donations to get the air conditioning fixed.

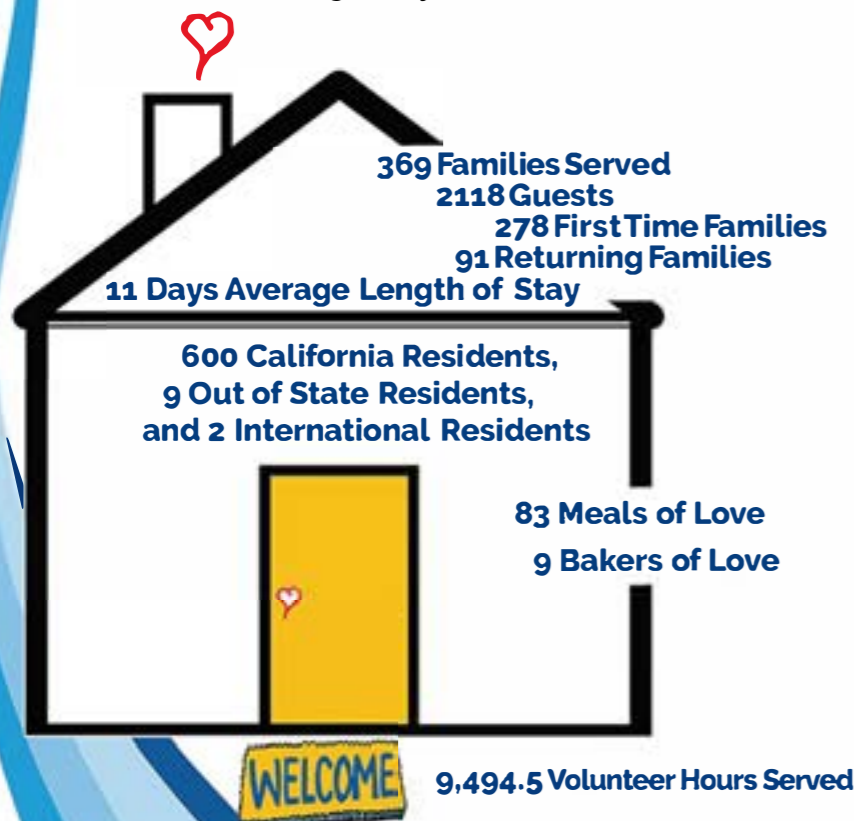
The mission of the IERMH is to provide comfort and care to families that have a child in a local hospital. IERMH accomplishes this by offering families a room with a private bathroom, right across the street from Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Staff, donors and volunteers fill the house with unconditional love. Families that stay at IERMH are provided with food donations, meals through the "Meals of Love" Program, areas for children to play, and mental health services through the in-house Family Support Services Team.

As we always say, it takes a village to keep the IE Ronald McDonald House going. This year our greatest gift has been you. Yes, YOU. Thank you for helping IERMH through the challenges. Thank you for making the IERMH mission possible. We appreciate you!

With much gratitude, 

Here's What Is Going On Under the Roof

Calculated through July 2023



Your Donation Makes a Difference

In 2022, you made it possible for 763 families to stay at the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House. Your generosity offers hope to families with critically ill children. The families that stay at IERMH are facing overwhelming challenges that go beyond the health of their child. They are also navigating a sense of normalcy for their family and dealing with financial burdens. It is a time of uncertainty.

The average length stay for families is 16 nights.

The average monthly cost for the electric bill at IERMH is \$7,000.00.

The average monthly cost for the gas bill is \$700.00.

The average monthly cost for the phone bill is \$2,500.00.

Your contribution helps alleviate some of the financial burden IERMH families face when their child undergoes medical treatment. The IERMH allows families to stay together while they stay near the hospital. Your donation will help fund a family into the New Year. Your donation really does make a difference.

Homecoming!



Rosaline Cooper's family stayed at the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2022 and 2023. Rosaline's journey began at birth when she was diagnosed with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) complicated by dextrocardia. This means that Rosaline's heart did not develop properly and it was positioned on the right side of her chest instead of normal position on the left.

November 4, 2023 marked the one year anniversary of Rosaline being placed on the "Donor List" for a new heart. She started with a B1 status which escalated to A1 on December 3, 2022. At this point, you might think that the fear of the situation would be debilitating, but not for Rosaline and her family. This was a time for miracles to happen.



Her family returned to IERMH on December 5, 2022, and two days later on December 7th at 7:00 a.m., Rosaline was wheeled into the operating room after being told she would likely never receive a heart transplant. 17 hours later at 11:45 p.m. her transplant was completed. A normal transplant takes 4 hours. Her chest was left open for a couple of days following the transplant, so that doctors could go back in for a few more hours of surgery. Her chest was closed and the procedure was complete two days later.



Rosaline encountered some complications after her transplant which required her to stay in the hospital through the holidays of 2022 and the beginning of 2023. On February 6, 2023, Rosaline was allowed to check into IERMH while she received outpatient treatment. Having received her driver's license before her transplant, she was proud to be able to drive to IERMH from the hospital across the street. "The Ronald McDonald House means a lot to us because if this wasn't here, I would have to stay in the hospital," said Rosaline.



Family Highlights



Baby Noah was diagnosed with Spina Bifida in the womb. His mom, Deborah, reached out to IERMH through Facebook when she was 37 weeks pregnant. She knew she would deliver Baby Noah at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and staying at IERMH was important. The Harris family stayed at IERMH for 3 weeks in June of 2023.

Deborah said, "I have to say the Ronald McDonald house is a huge blessing. I would not have made it through this or been able to be as strong as I needed to be for Noah without this place. Thank you everyone for all the support prayers and positive thoughts. You guys definitely carried me and made me strong to be strong for our Noah and my other children during our 3 weeks stay. Forever Grateful!"



In September of 2023, the Haywood Family were faced with the challenge of having their twins in the NICU at LLUCH. They stayed with two other children at IERMH while they waited for their twins to come home.

During their stay, the Haywood's made the most of their time at the House. Not only did they find comfort and support, but they also enjoyed the amenities of the House, including spending quality time playing piano. The twins will spend their first holidays at home!

Family Support Services

Family Support Services (FSS) is led by John W. Bakaly, PhD, and his team of 6 interns earning accreditation hours. FSS provides emotional support, education and resources to the families and staff of the Ronald McDonald House. Emotional health is just as important as physical health.



"To me, being part of FSS means being part of a larger community where the main goal is to provide support and compassion to one another. Here at RMH multiple cultures, ethnicities/races, SES, genders, and occupations come together to help each other through some of the darkest moments. The best part of my role is being able to authentically connect with so many families and to be someone they can lean on when they want support."

- Elexus Paylor, FSS Psychology Trainee

Many Hearts, One Mission



Wow! DCH Subaru of Riverside knows how to Share the Love! IERMH was selected by DCH Subaru of Riverside to be part of the Share the Love campaign that started in November 2022 and ended in January 2023. A donation was made to IERMH in the amount of \$31,355.00. DCH Subaru of Riverside is the only "Legacy Donor" awarded in 2023.



For first time since 2020, IERMH was able to celebrate volunteers and donors by hosting an appreciation dinner. IERMH is so appreciative for the love and support received from volunteers and donors. IERMH wouldn't thrive without you!



The Home Depot Foundation, San Bernardino Home Depot 0610, volunteered their time and the supplies needed to beautify the entrance to the House.

The 2023 Golden Spatula was awarded to The Muslim Community of the Inland Empire in honor of their service for the Meals of Love Program!



2023 Adopt-A-Room Sponsor, Dr. Bob Piecuch, M.D. has almost 50 years of experience in the field of medicine. Dr. Bob works in the neonatal unit and specializes in treating infants born prematurely. He is now sponsoring a room for families at IERMH!



Inland Empire Boosters Club invited IERMH to their inaugural Gala for a special presentation.



San Manuel Cares showed up at IERMH ready to cook and clean for the families. You could feel all the love pouring out of them into the House. San Manuel Band of Mission Indians truly does care.



Sanchez Family Organization

The Meals of Love program at IERMH has had a fantastic 2023! The Meals of Love Program allows volunteers to come in and prepare a meal for the families staying at IERMH.



Amazon Meal of Love

2023 Volunteer of the year

Each year a volunteer is highlighted for their selfless service to the IERMH. This year volunteer photographer, Ricardo Tomboc, is being recognized for his selfless service and dedication to IERMH. Ricardo began volunteering in 2016. You will likely see Ricardo if you attend an IEMRH event. He's the photographer behind the camera capturing memories. Ricardo has an interesting background.

He was a Crime Scene Investigator for San Bernardino Police Department for over 30 years. He has served as a Police Commissioner and Fire Commissioner for the City of San Bernardino. When he retired, Ricardo discovered that he could use his talents to help local nonprofits. IERMH is fortunate to be just one of the nonprofits that Ricardo serves.

"The RMH helps parents in their darkest hour of need. I recall sleeping in my car in a hospital parking lot while attending a friend's needs back in the 70's. I spent many nights sleeping in my car when my mother was in the hospital. I also spent several nights in my car when my wife was going through surgery. I know what these parents are going through," said Ricardo. Thank you Ricardo for being part of the IERMH Family.



You can Adopt-A-Room

Your generosity offers hope to families with critically ill children. An individual, family, organization, small business or corporation can adopt a room. This is an annual sponsorship and sponsors have the first right to renew when the year is up. Whether you live near or far away from the Ronald McDonald House, families that we serve come from your community; they are your neighbors. For details please call Thomas Franke at 909-747-1257.

If you want information about the Volunteer Program, Meals of Love or other giving opportunities at IERMH, please call Annette Florez at 909-747-1261.

The "Fun" in Fundraising

Signature Events



Walk for Kids 2023 was an incredible day! Over 1,000 people came out to support the IERMH. Thank you to our walkers, teams, sponsors, donors and families for being there.

2024 Walk for Kids will be held on April 28th.



2023 A Few Good Men and Women Gala
 Honorees: Bianca Rae, Gil and Marlene Ruttenberg, Lizette Vela, Peggy Michel, Ricky Jenkins, Steve and Candace Garvey, Tim Leiweke and Willie Rhine were joined on stage by Gala Alumni. This wonderful group of people does amazing work in the community and we are excited to have them represent IERMH.



The Annual Golf Tournament is a great day on the course and a great way to gain awareness of the IERMH mission. Golfers are able to support the house at the Fund a Family Par 5 hole.

Community Events

There are many community events held to support IERMH year round.

Here are just a few:



Shoot, Loot and Scoot presented by The Establishment Club



February 2023 Mountain High Ski and Ride Day



The Grand Finale Paintball event was held on October 28, 2023. This event has raised nearly \$200,000 over the past 15 years.

Thank you to IERMH Top Tier Event Sponsors:



FONTANA FOUNDATION OF HOPE



SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS



FONTANA CALIFORNIA



MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS



A SOVEREIGN NATION



supporting children in your community



IERMH 2022 Impact



Ronald McDonald House®
 INLAND EMPIRE



9,427 FAMILY NIGHTS PROVIDED



763 GUESTS SERVED



369 FIRST-TIME FAMILIES



741 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS



64% OF ALL GUESTS HAVE A CHILD UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE IN THE HOSPITAL



0 FAMILIES TURNED AWAY



447 CHILDREN IN THE HOUSE



12 DAYS AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY



1,812 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES HOURS SERVED



103 MEALS OF LOVE



3 BAKERS OF LOVE



8,560 VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED



Any time you order from McDonald's, ask to "Round Up." By rounding up your order, your change helps to provide comfort, care, and a place to stay for families with children receiving medical treatment. Keeping families together during a time of crisis gives them the continued strength and support they need. This is why McDonald's is calling on its customers to give a little change that will make a big impact. IERMH has visited over 30 McDonald's locations in the San Bernardino and Riverside Counties to help encourage McDonald's Staff to ask customers to "Round Up!"

"Rounding up your total seems small but it's so impactful. The change adds up quickly and, in turn, ensures children receive every possible minute of their family's love, care and laughter while receiving care at nearby hospitals," said Todd Horner, a local McDonald's Owner/Operator. "We're proud to continue supporting the mission of Ronald McDonald Houses in SoCal and finding ways for our customers and wider community to support as well."



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

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Become a "Friend of the Family"

Help families stay at IERMH by donating at:
<https://rmhcsc.org/inlandempire>



Our Circle Of Healing is a unique group of sustaining donors who give monthly to ensure families have year round access to essential support when they need it the most.

"RMHC is like family - they take care of us."

- Burrell Family

To join, visit our website by hovering your cell phones camera over the QR code and follow the instructions



Join the Circle Of Healing in 1..2..3

1. Highlight "Monthly" option and choose the amount you would like to donate (you can change the amount any time)
2. Enter your personal information
3. In the "Leave A Comment" section type in "Circle Of Healing"

Thank you!



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