



Silly Baby Brother



This month's guests to be spotlighted are Erin and Greg Outslay [a modified dutch name]. They are a fifth generation family from Proctor, Vermont and are eager to have their children, Olivia (2 years old) and Ward, a preemie, carry on this tradition. They love the outdoors in any form, kayaking, hiking, playing on the swings with Olivia and sometimes, just getting in the car and going for rides to "no where" to enjoy the Vermont scenery. Rounding out this young family is a mixed, mostly Rhodesian Ridgeback dog named, Bianca. Both Greg and Erin's family live close by and they spend lots of time with them. Greg's family owns and operates the well known pizza place in Rutland called, The Upper Crust.

Erin is a stay at home mom currently; having been in marketing and graphics before children arrived. Greg is a pharmacist in Brandon at the Rite-Aid Pharmacy. Erin's pregnancy was welcomed and went along quite uneventfully until September 19th at 1:45am when she was awakened with pains that felt like contractions. She knew right away that she was in labor even though she was about nine weeks early. Grandma was called for Olivia and 911 was called for Erin. Off they went to Rutland Regional Hospital. Just a few hours later Erin delivered a baby boy named, Ward, who was welcomed into this world even though he was quite early. Fortunately, as fate would have it, Dr. Leonard was on-call that evening and she had trained at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit [NICU] at Fletcher Allen Health Care and knew all of the procedures required to sustain Ward's little 3lb. 8oz. life. Ward was stabilized and quickly transported to Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. Erin and Greg drive right up with him and Erin had gotten no rest at all! What a trooper [or is it a MOM?]. Ward, his mom and dad stayed five weeks in Burlington and most of the time he was on full ventilation with oxygen. Erin was pumping breast milk and was fortunate to have her own breast pump.

From time to time, Ward had some lung issues, mostly very thick secretions that needed to be washed away with a procedure called a Lavage. Lavage means putting mild saline solution into the lungs and then, brining it out again. This is a very simplified description of what

little Ward withstood during his early weeks in the hospital. There was also a medication called, Surfactant, which was used to coat the lungs and provide relief for easier breathing. After 16 days, he was discharged to a step down unit and then back to NICU after he needed a blood transfusion. After that, he was moving right along towards his discharge.

Olivia stayed with grandparents during all of this medical upheaval and would come up to Burlington to visit little Ward. She called him "My Silly Baby Brother" and told everyone he was "so cute".

The Outslay's knew about the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington because many years earlier, before the addition was present, Erin stayed at the House with her Mom while her Dad had heart surgery at Fletcher Allen Health Care. They were also directed to the House by one of the nurses in NICU. After five weeks at the House, it truly became home to them. They really liked that they didn't have to worry about finances, a safe place to stay, meals, etc. and they could really focus on their situation. They also found that other families liked sharing their stories as well, but if they didn't feel like visiting they always had the option to go to their room. The security system in the House offered them a sense of peace as well. They were impressed that not just anyone could open the door when the doorbell rang.. It had to be a volunteer or staff insuring more security against strangers.

This family was also greatly impressed with Fletcher Allen Health Care as well. Doctors and nurses were all knowledgeable and forthcoming with any information they needed. All in all, they were "thankful" for this experience and the outcome.



The initial interview with the Outslay family was done in late fall, just prior to their leaving the House. On January 8, I spoke with them once again to find out how things were going and how they "survived" the holidays. Erin said their holidays were wonderful, especially with many, many family members present. All of Greg's family was with them for the first time in 10 years.

Ward is thriving weighing 12 pounds now. There have been no problems with his medical being. In late December, they came to Burlington to have a two-month check up with the neonatal physician and was proclaimed healthy. They will need to follow up with a pulmonologist at four months of age.

Olivia is going well and appreciates her brother. Erin related that one day she left Ward in his swing and when she went back into the room Olivia had placed peas, waffles and a cookie in his swing to feed him [all play toys].

Sounds as though it is life at it's best... busy and productive and happy. Congrats to the family from all of us.

Written by Jackie Lambert-Vezina



New Volunteers

Ronald McDonald Family Room

Kaitlin Lepine

Linda Lane

Alla Potashnikova

Cindy Gratton

Ronald McDonald House

Kelly Whitney

Rebecca Mitchell

Karen Costello

Keeley Higgins

Linda Lane

Are you interested in volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House or the Ronald McDonald Family Room? To find out more information, please contact Deanna Cameron, Program Coordinator for Volunteers and Fundraising at 802-862-4943 or by email at Deanna_Cameron@comcast.net.



We would like to extend our thanks to the Starlight Foundation for providing us with a brand new fun center for our Ronald McDonald House. The fun center includes a Wii with several games and DVD player. Our guests have spent many hours already enjoying the system.

Thank you Starlight Foundation!

Volunteer Spotlight.....

Steve Brooks, a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House for a little over a year now, lives in South Burlington. His wife, Holly and Holly's 88 year old Dad, Norm, complete the household. Steve and Holly work at socially responsible venues; Holly works at Vermont Farm Network and Steve at the Vermont Department of Health. His focus is on children with special health needs such as cardiac, autism, orthopedics, epilepsy and cystic fibrosis just to pinpoint a few. There are approximately 3500-4000 of these children in Vermont; children who will live with these problems over their lifetime. Steve is in the area of systems development and also in the area of providing financial assistance to the families of these children and youth. That was the major reason why Steve chose the Ronald McDonald Charities to affiliate with. He wanted to be involved directly with the families of children with problems and he knew the House would provide this for him. Steve's name appears on the House schedule a lot as he volunteers both Tuesdays and Wednesdays on a regular basis and because his work place is close to the House, he often gets called in for other volunteers who have called in to cancel their shift. He rarely refuses. He enjoys talking to the guests and is knowledgeable about the disease entities they are battling as he often has to contact specialists and physicians for the children in his agency's realm.

Steve also enjoys doing special events for the House such as the car show each summer at Libby's and the Halloween Howl. He and Holly enjoy traveling, especially to Washington DC to visit their youngest daughter who is in college in that city right now. They enjoy biking in the summer and cross country skiing or snowshoeing in the winter months. Steve also enjoys reading, mostly non-fiction, he says.

We value his time and his empathy toward the guests. Keep up the good work, Steve!

Written by Jackie Lambert-Vezina



WISH LIST

Ronald McDonald House

- Paper Towels
- Trash bags: 55 gallon
- Ziplock bags- gallon & quart
- Stamps: .45, .28, .17
- Laundry Detergent
- Taxi Vouchers
- Aluminum Foil
- Batteries- AA, AAA, C & D
- Light bulbs- Compact Florescent Bulbs (CFL)- 13-18 watt
- Baby and child size quilts
- Food: Cereal & White Sugar, Flour
 - Packing Tape
- Eco-Friendly Cleaning Supplies
 - Dishwasher Detergent
 - Napkins
 - Swiffer Wet Cloths
 - Disinfecting Wipes
- New Complete Pot and Pan Set
- Plastic Storage Containers (All Sizes)
 - New Complete Knife Set
 - Nonstick Cooking Spray
 - New Highchair

Ronald McDonald Family Room

- Non-perishable microwaveable meals
 - Large paper plates
- Individually packaged snacks & crackers
 - Laundry detergent
 - Combs and brushes
 - Razors and deodorant
 - Canned soup
 - Canned meat & tuna
 - Nonstick Cooking Spray
 - Cooking Oil

Underlined items are the greatest need!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS!!

Monday, March 26, 2012



Celebrity Wait-a-thon

Outback Steakhouse, 150 Dorset St., S. Burlington. Dinner service beginning at 4pm. Call 802-862-0003 for reservations with your favorite local celebrity. Leave them a generous tip so they can be 2012's winner of the MOST TIPS. All tips go directly to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington.

Friday, April 6, 2012 @6pm

Calcutta Night

Elks Lodge, 925 North Avenue, Burlington. This year's event includes emcee, Kim DuBrul, and silent auction along with the chance to win up to \$2000. Get your tickets now... 802-862-4943 or Deanna_Cameron@comcast.net

Sunday, May 13, 2012

Leunig's Mother's Day Fundraiser

Visit Leunig's Bistro on Mother's Day to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities, 10% of all food sales go to benefit RMHC. Leunig's will raffle off a dinner for two with all proceeds from the raffle going to RMHC. "Partner Cards" will be available for \$50. The card entitles the bearer to 20% off their meals for one year. RMHC will receive 50% of the sales of all new cards sold and 100% of the sale of all renewed cards for the entire month of May. Reservations can be made for parties of six or more on Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 27, 2012

Keybank Vermont City Marathon

RMHC is an official Miles for a Mission participant through the Keybank Vermont City Marathon. We are in search of runners to fulfill full marathon, 2,3,4 or 5 person relay teams. Runners are asked to raise funds for RMHC. Full marathon participants are not required to pay a registration fee. Relay runners will pay a small registration fee. Contact Amy at alafam@comcast.net if you are interested or to find out more information.

Friday, June 22, 2012

20th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

Champlain Country Club, Swanton, VT. Be sure to request the day off from work NOW!

For more information on any of our fundraisers please contact us at 802-862-4943 or visit our website at www.rmh-vermont.org or email us at Deanna_Cameron@comcast.net.



Kylie from Vermont Federal Credit Union presented Pam Fenimore with a donation of \$100 from VFCU.



Yummy food from Cloud 9



Kylie and Jacquie Mitchell

This house has been wonderful for my family. It is nice to have a comfortable home like place to stay during stressful times.

Thank you!

-A.B., Bennington, VT



Volunteer

Recognition

Gathering

2/11/12

28th Birthday!

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington, VT

Grants awarded to Local Non-profit organizations that support children's projects

RMHC of Burlington recently awarded grants to the following non-profit agencies. These agencies support local children's projects in our McDonald's market area. Funds used for these grants are generated from the canisters located in the McDonald's restaurants along with local and national promotions within each store along with the sale of newspapers such as the Rutland Herald and the Burlington Free Press:

- Ascension Childcare, Inc.- S. Burlington, VT
- Boys and Girls Club of Burlington-- Burlington, VT
- Burlington City Arts- Burlington, VT
- Burlington Elks Lodge- Burlington, VT
- Champlain College- Burlington, VT
- Hunger Free Vermont- S. Burlington, VT
- KidSafe Collaborative- Burlington, VT
- Mill River Union High School- N. Clarendon, VT
- Northeast Kingdom Learning Services- Newport, VT
- Outright Vermont- Burlington, VT
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont- Montpelier, VT
- Vermont Achievement Center- Rutland, VT
- Vermont Family Network- Williston, VT
- Ronald McDonald Care Mobile- Burlington/ Plainfield, VT
- Catholic Charities of Franklin County- Malone, NY
- Everybody Wins! Vermont- Montpelier, VT
- Helen Day Art Center- Stowe, VT
- Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership- S. Burlington, VT
- Kingdom County Productions- Barnet, VT
- March of Dimes- Waterbury, VT
- Opera Theatre of Weston- Weston, VT
- Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sport- Killington, VT
- Friends of West Rutland Hall- West Rutland, VT

The total amount granted from our local RMHC Chapter for the fourth quarter of 2011 and first quarter of 2012 was \$95,029 along with matching RMHC Global \$6,671. Grand total= \$101,700.

Happy 28th Birthday RMHC!



We had a festive occasion at the Ronald McDonald House to honor our many volunteers February 11, 2012! The event was catered by Cloud 9 and was complimented by a beautiful display of desserts and approximately 300 volunteer service pins.

There were a few special awards presented to volunteers that have shared the most hours with our organization. They were:

Vickie Harlow for most hours served at the Ronald McDonald House.

Susan Snyder for most hours served at the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

Erin Sullivan, Rob and Selah Mueller for doing the most overnights at the Ronald McDonald House.

Our coveted Spirit Award goes to the someone who goes the extra mile, who goes above and beyond being generous with their time to help others. This award was presented to **Jerry and Kathy Fernee** for their dedication and commitment to our organization for more than ten years. The Fernee's are regular volunteers at the Ronald McDonald Family Room, have volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House both as In-House Staff and as Weekend Relief Managers.

This event was a special tribute to our volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room who bring their unique talents, gifts and knowledge to our Ronald McDonald House Charities.



Vickie Harlow



Susan Snyder



Erin Sullivan, Rob, and Selah Mueller



Jerry and Kathy Fernee with RMHC Staff

Remember the Ronald McDonald House Charities with a Donation

Amount of Donation:

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Method of Payment: Cash Check Visa/MasterCard/Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____



This gift is:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Acknowledgment of gift to:

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Burlington

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Please call, mail or email Amy at the address above,
802-862-4943 or alafraam@comcast.net with your
changes.

RMHC Board of Directors

- Fred Peet– *President*
- Monica Smith– *Vice President*
- Mark DiGangi– *Secretary/Treasurer*
- Peter Napoli– *McDonald’s Owner/ Operator*
- Charlie Coughlin– *McDonald’s Owner/ Operator*
- Sally Wichert– *First Congregational Liaison*
- Susan Victory– *FAHC Liaison*
- Ann Wittpenn, M.D.– *Medical Representative*
- JoAnn Wallace
- Pam Baker
- George Beato
- Tom Chase
- Robbi Handy Holmes
- Anthony Neri
- Elinor Ponsetto
- Jackie Vezina
- Joe Vezina



RMHC Staff

- Pam Fenimore– *Executive Director*
- Amy Laframboise– *House Manager*
- Carol Winchester– *Evening Manager*
- Deanna Cameron - *Program Coordinator for
Volunteers & Fundraising*

Newsletter Staff

- Amy Laframboise, *Co-Editor & Graphic Design*
- Pam Fenimore, *Co-Editor*
- Jackie Vezina, *Contributing Writer*

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***A special thank you to the Offset House for
donating mailing services.***

McRaffle Winners

December 2011

- Susan Carlsen
- John Cauffman
- Sidney and Janet Ward
- Steve Roberts
- R. Colletti
- Jamie and Ken Cudney
- FR Joy Council Knights of Columbus 7389

GRAND PRIZE WINNER FOR 2011:

Sandra Melloch

January 2012

- Nancy and Steve Ciardelli
- Pam Baker
- Fay Valley
- David Woodward
- Jodie Laramie
- Diane Byrd
- Leonard Lauber
- Ann Deon