



inside this issue...

- Meet our new Trustees
- Mid-year Christmas cheer
- The Bequest Society
- A word from our families
- Staff happenings



The Rotary Club of Downtown Auckland Creative Learning Centre.

'learning' is now part of our families' visits

We're celebrating one of the most exciting developments for children staying in the House.

Each week we can have up to a dozen school age siblings of Starship patients staying in the House – and a similar number of pre-schoolers. Despite the play areas, books and toys available, these children have often been spending long dull days in the House or at the hospital.

Siblings can be with us for a few days, weeks or months. They may come just once or, in the case of some families, return every fortnight, every month, every quarter or six months.

Cumulatively, some healthy children spend as much time out of school as they do in class and their parents are often too stressed by the

condition of their ill child even to think about providing education for them. It's often just one task too many when

they are worried about their child, their jobs, their finances and being isolated from their friends, extended family and community.

While children who are only with us for a few days might enjoy a short break from study, those away from school for any time quickly get bored without the stimulation and structure

it provides. So the good news is: we're starting a school room!

Huge thanks to the wonderful people at the Todd Foundation who have given us funding to pay for a trained and experienced teacher and enough money for a year's resources.

One of the Todd Foundation's goals is to 'Ensure children are school-ready by age five and thereafter participate actively in school life'.

Todd Foundation executive director Kate Frykberg says "Siblings of children at Starship hospital are generally not able to participate in school at all while they are staying near the hospital, so the application from Ronald McDonald House Auckland for a siblings learning centre is a very good fit with the second part of our goal. We hope that the learning centre will support the learning and emotional needs of siblings, as well as reducing stress on the whole family at such a difficult time."

Having a motivated, inspiring teacher for the children will mean we'll be able to fully utilise the Rotary Club of Downtown Auckland sponsored Creative Learning Centre with its computers, The Southern Trust Activities Centre classroom, and the entertaining and educational software donated by Sunshine Books.

We're advertising for a teacher right now and we're getting great guidance and support from Cushla Brown, the head teacher at the Starship



The Ulysses Charity Bike Ride April 23, 2006.



radio lollipop

Mondays in the House are now full of fun for our younger residents – with Radio Lollipop volunteers, games and activities 6-8pm. RMH Auckland is the first House in the international network to have Radio Lollipop piped onsite!



special thanks and big hugs

Funds kindly donated since our April Newsletter:

Capital Campaign Donors

ASB Trusts, CCF Canterbury and West Coast branch, CCF Hawkes Bay branch, CCF National Office, CCF Northern Division, CCF Rotorua branch, CCF Taranaki branch, CCF Tauranga branch, Chinese Lions Club of Auckland, Rotary Club of Downtown Auckland, Mrs Irene Jaegersborg, Niels and Rita Jaegersborg, The Trout Family, Valerie Harland, West Coast Development Trust.

Major Donors

David Levene Charitable Trust, Estate of Donald David Stanley, Flivay International Limited, Lions Club of Helensville, Lions Clubs International District 202G NZ, Lodge Selwyn No 274, Otahuhu Historical Society, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Rotary Club of Whakatane Charitable Trust, Sanford Limited, Southland Community Trust, The NZ Community Trust, The South Auckland Charitable Trust, TC Trust (Pokeno), The Todd Foundation, Ulysses Motor Cycle Club.

In Kind Donors

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Recent Donors

Advance Trident, Aileen McNeil, Alf Hikuwai, Alison and Kerry Moffat, Alison Guy, Andrea & Dawson Tamatea, Angela and Royce Pedersen, Ann & Bryan Jenkins, Aon Risk Services, Betty Fyers, Brenda and Taylor Pore, Brent and Andrea Taylor, Bronwyn and Bruce Cooke, C and J Nicholas, C Noble, Carol Bennett, Catherine Booth, Charleen and Bob Toes, Christine and Dion Lowe, CNC Design, Crystal Seel, Dale Anderson, Deborah & Paul Collins, Dee Wallace, Diana Wellsted, Doria and Phil Collins, Dorothy Beaumont, Dot and Phil Godfrey, Dr and Mrs Ian Wallace, E Huch, Electronic Navigation, Elizabeth Donaldson, Elizabeth Molloy, Ella Allington, Eric Grainger, Evelyn Gates, G & L Kroon, George and Jill Paterson, H M Derrick, Hampidijan Family, Helen and Lionel Timu, Ian Cannan, Inner Wheel, Irene Jaegersborg, Isabel and Alan Cotter, J & L Richardson, J Green, J M Callan, James Brown, Jan & Jim Calcott, Jan Campbell, Jennifer Bradley, Judy and Mike Stringer, Julie Brittain, June Read, K A and A F Moffat, Kelvin King, Shar and Tony Kingi, Kevin De Jong, Linda and Guy Ryder, Linda and Neil Robertson, Lindsay & Neville Osborne, Luisa Giacon, Lynda & Rob Foster, M A Gilbert, Malcolm Campbell, Mandy and Brett Carter, Marise Logan, Mark and Chris Wilson, Mark and Judith Spring, Mark Taylor, Martin Page, Mary and Toshi Brunning, Maureen Gavin, Melinda and Wayne Williamson, Michael Madden, Michelle Alexander, Mihi Timu and George Pineaha, Miss Beverly Cameron, Mr Kinley, Mr & Mrs Andrew and Alma Bonnar, Joy & Grey Whitney, Mr & Mrs T and L Imre, Mr and Mrs Belcher,

Mr Jon Ellison, Mr R James, Mr Ronald Denham, Mr Steven Potter, Mr Vinod Bhaga, Mrs Dale Osborne, Mrs Dawn Gerbick, Mrs E S Keat, Mrs Elizabeth Wilson, Mrs J Baggen, Mrs J E Brown, Mrs Jillianne Hoskyn, Mrs Jocelyn Wells, Mrs L N Sheppard, Mrs M P Ashby, Mrs Mona Forshaw, Mrs Ngaire S Bramley, Mrs Noelene Funnell, Mrs R D McLaren, Mrs R I Keogh, Mrs Raewyn Carson, Mrs Raye Wellington, Mrs Rosanne Wickham, Mrs S J Murphy, Mrs Sue Withey, Murray Hall, Murray Whanau, N & L Woodward, N Whyte, Olga Kataovich, Olive and Chris Murray, Patricia Santer, Peter and Una Bell, R E Cossey, Rae O'Brien, Raewyn and David O'Sullivan, Richards family, Rory and Jane Latchem, Rosalie Hawes, Ruth and Gordon Salisbury, Sandra Blackwood, Sarah and Tony Boros, Selina & Peter Mackie, SL Greenshields, Sue & Jo Bouwhuis, Suzanne and Daniel Simpkin, T J Walker, Tim Crick, The Anne Family Trust, The Wallace Family Trust, Trudy Daw, Violet Kloet, W G and K M Abercromby, Wendy Travis, Yolanda Van Heezik and Phil Seddon.

corporate kindness



Without the generous donations of the Mad Butcher our families' stays would be nutritionally less interesting and far less tasty!

These Wednesday dinners are a highlight every week – especially for long stay families like the Kingis. Our families are very grateful for your donations and delicious meals. Thank you Mike, Julie and Peter and all the crew at the Mad Butcher for your wonderful ongoing support.

RECKITT BENCKISER

Finish dishwashing powder, Pine-O-clean and Dettol handwash are just three of the fine products that Reckitt Benckiser donate to the House saving us over \$15,000 annually in cleaning material costs. And this month with their takeover of Boots, they have also provided the House with two 'state of the art' laptops and two desktop computers – super timely as we are about to orientate our new fundraiser and front of house staff member and needed to equip them to do the job. Many thanks Steve and his head office team!



The Southland Community Trust made a generous \$10,000 grant towards our 2006 increased operating cost. It's great to see how our work for their families is appreciated by these wonderful funders from the deep south.

Thanks to these recent new in-kind donors

Telecom NZ (community discount), ADT Fire Monitoring (3 year free alarm monitoring) and Multiplex (pledge of staff time for a 2006 development project). Together these gifts have shaved \$15,000 or more from our 2006 costs.

staff news



Welcome to the House

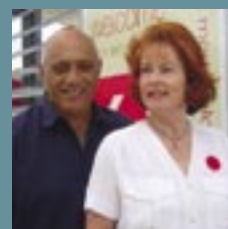
Jackie Zimanye, who's been with our weekend housekeeping team for two years, has shifted roles and will now be a weekend House supervisor.

Accountant Glen Farquharson has joined the staff as acting financial controller while Angela Smith is on a year's maternity leave. Angela and partner Hamish had a new addition to their family on July 31 – Daniel, a brother for two year old Mia.

Glen, who is married and has a 16 year old son, lives on Auckland's North Shore. He spent eight years working at Epsom Girls Grammar School but since then he's chosen to do contract accounting assignments. "I like the variety," he smiles.

At the end of July we welcomed Rebecca Shadwell to the team. Rebecca, who is our new Fundraising Manager, has been working in London.

Monty and Noelene Brunt are settling into the custodians flat and are supporting the weekend and evening teams.



contact details

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(Continued from page 1)

School. (Our children can't go to the Starship School because the Ministry of Education will fund it only for inpatients).

Our aim is for the children to have fun. Some sessions may be based on lessons the children are doing in their home classroom. At other times the plan is to take the children out to explore Auckland and learn 'life' lessons from the big smoke!

The Todd Foundation kindly donated extra funds so we will be able to take the pupils on trips around the city: the railway station, the ferries, the zoo, the Sky Tower; the possibilities are endless.

We hope to have the schoolroom open by the beginning of the 4th term.

kia ora

Thank you friends and family, we've just \$363,941 capital to find! The West Coast Development Trust's 'closing' gift of \$10,000 received this month (towards our \$7,700,000 capital expansion) recognised the help we give their families.



Though situated in Auckland, the House is truly a national 'treasure' that shelters and supports families from North Cape to Bluff, when their child needs treatment at Starship. Check the pie chart on the next page of this edition that shows the origins of our families this year to date.

The main contractors have now left our site and we have been able to commission all of our rooms in time for mid-winter peak demand and already we have been full for several nights in a row! The capital sum we need to find was also reduced by a very good result on the main contract cost which came in under budget thanks to the wonderful project team we worked with: ASC, Canam Construction, Peter Healey, and Rawlinsons.

Only four outstanding elements of the building project remain: an all weather playground in the stage one courtyard, a wind-lobby to protect our front foyer, the refurbishment of 16 of our original stage one bathrooms and landscaping of the grounds. We are working hard to have these completed for our planned October opening celebration – check our next newsletter for details of this special event.

Help make this an 'extra special' occasion by supporting our newsletter appeal for a one-off gift to plant the grounds, or if you want to help our families more directly, please consider a night or two room subsidy or a small monthly regular gift. If you are already a committed donor, thank you. Every dollar we receive from our newsletter appeals goes directly into making the House a 'home away from home' for families less fortunate than yours or mine, so your ongoing support is invaluable – we couldn't do it without you.

Beth Harman, CEO

Our finished new wing at dusk.



trustee introductions Meet our new Trustees...

Mark Conelly

Mark Conelly was the first person to join the Child Cancer Foundation board who wasn't either a parent of a child or a health professional. Instead his involvement came via service group Rotaract and helping organise the first national camp for Canteen. That was in 1987. Mark joined the board two years later and remained with it, including four years as chairman, until 2000. With his day-time role as chief financial officer for Noel Leeming Group, Mark brings a strong financial and managerial background to our board and an appreciation of the need the House fills. "I totally support the ethos of having families together." He says organisations like RMHA now face more obligations regarding the way they behave, how they raise money and how they spend it.



Simon Lala

As the parent of the child who has had cancer, Simon Lala has been intensively involved with CCF and Canteen for more than 10 years. In recent weeks he was awarded a life membership of CCF. He's a Chartered Accountant.



Stuart Jenner

Stuart Jenner's seen huge changes since his son Antony was born with heart problems 15 years ago. He can remember grabbing a spare hospital bed while Antony was in one hospital; another time he slept in nurses' accommodation. The contrast between those early experiences with paediatric health services and last year when he was able to use the RMH Family Room at Starship to take a break during Antony's most recent surgery, is enormous. "When your child is sick the stress is unbelievable but I really believe if you take the stress off the parents, then it helps the kid get well. And it takes pressure off the medical and nursing professionals because otherwise they end up counselling the parents."



Peter Healey

Peter Healey brings to the role an intimate knowledge of the recently completed refurbishment and redevelopment project. He's been across the work of every contractor and subcontractor, representing the Trust's interests every step of the way. Visiting the House several times a week for two years has given him an insight into our families' lives. "Helping children was something I feel strongly about and what you guys do at the House is magic," he says. Peter's our new community representative.



"HELPING CHILDREN WAS SOMETHING I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT AND WHAT YOU GUYS DO AT THE HOUSE IS MAGIC"

– Peter Healey



Santa was on vacation so 'Mrs Claus' stepped in!

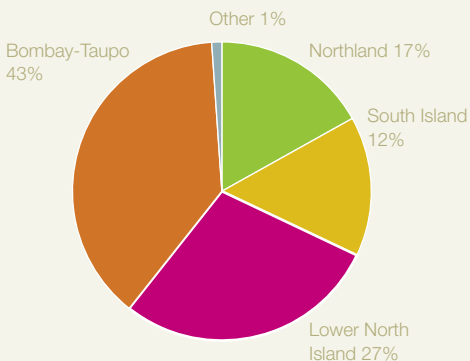


Ron and Sue Saunders kindly donate the hams and pork each year.

house occupancy

where our families are from

During the period January to June 2006, House families came from the following regions (as measured by bed nights occupied):



Auckland families stay with us in our ten Family Room critical care beds and make up 90% of the day room visitors we support seven days a week, 8am to 8pm.

around the house

mid-year christmas cheer!!

Taking the chill out of mid-winter has been a family affair for Angela and Tony Rowland for the past 8 years.

Roping in members of Angela's extended family, the generous Hamilton couple recreate Christmas magic for families in the House every year at this time with a lip-smacking feast including roast pork, baked ham, roast veges, all the traditional trimmings and topped off with fresh fruit salad, trifle and a cake.

As crackers popped, and corny jokes were swapped, the smiles on the faces of parents and face-painted children alike couldn't get any wider... especially when Mrs Claus arrived with the presents. "You can't have Christmas without presents," says Angela.

She and Tony own McDonald restaurants in Tokoroa and Te Awamutu and provide the gifts and all the food – with big-hearted support from Ron and Sue Saunders who donate the hams and pork each year.

With the new wing open, both House kitchens were pressed into action on June 26 as the team was cooking for 120 people. "Every available oven was in use."

Earlier in the month the management team from the Rowland's Tokoroa restaurant came to visit the House and begged to become

involved with the mid-winter Christmas celebrations. But that's going to stay in the family – Angela's parents and aunties have been coming to the House for years and don't want to give it up. So now the dynamic duo are considering a February barbeque at the House as a way of involving their Tokoroa team.



Face-painter extraordinaire Carmel McCormick transformed our children.



The Rowland family team: Lynn Falconer, Christine McIntosh, Patsy Lyall, Callum Lyall, Tony Rowland, Angela Rowland, Jan Ballantyne, and Brenda McIntosh.

leaving the gift of love

When parents are faced with coping with their child's serious diagnosis or injury, some of the most important support they can have is from their own Mum and Dad.

Nearly every night at the House we have grandparents staying with us – either as the main caregiver for the Starship patients, or to provide essential emotional and practical backup to the child's parents.

Tauranga's Ross Hinde shares a special bond with his grandson Matthew who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy. So in May when Matthew needed rods inserted in his spine to relieve pressure on his internal organs, Ross was right on hand to support Matthew, his sister Amy and their mother Rachel.

"Matthew really looks up to his granddad," says Rachel. Ross's help was crucial during the anxious hours after Matthew had twice needed to be resuscitated in surgery. Ross says "It was marvellous that I was able to be there and support Rachel and Matthew rather than staying at home and waiting by the phone for hours to hear what was happening."

Just a month after surgery, Matthew is already back studying part time at Otumoetai College and healing well. Meanwhile Ross has been put to work at Rachel's home creating an extra bedroom and wielding a paintbrush.

At the House we see so many examples of grandparents making a positive difference in the lives of their children and grandchildren. But we are also extremely grateful to the grandparents who choose to make a difference in the lives of every family who stays in the House or the Family Room.

These are the members of our Bequest Society who have chosen to leave a legacy to Ronald McDonald House Auckland in their will. Bequests are an important source of funding for the House because they support our work in perpetuity; provide us with a buffer against the vagaries of Government funding and help us meet the growing demand for our services.

One of the core members of our Bequest Society is June Read who has been a 'cheerleader' for the House for a number of years. June's interest in health stretches back to when she completed her pharmacy training, and a three week locum at Hobson's pharmacy in Papakura stretched to working there for more than 50 years!

June is a charter member of Zonta, a club for professional and executive women, and through her profession met our former chairman Paul Cressey who introduced her to Ronald McDonald House.

June's legacy is already evident at the House and the Family Room. "The tables and chairs outside are the result of Zonta fundraising." Not to mention the many scrumptious muffins, soups and casseroles for families and the all the bolster cushions on the Family Room sofas.

"I love the wonderful warm feeling which prevails here, seeing the patients, hearing

them laughing and at play; the work you do here makes me proud to be connected to such a wonderful charity," she says. June's passion for the House motivated her decision to leave a bequest to Ronald McDonald House Auckland in her will and she's an enthusiastic member of our Bequest Society.

Bequests can be targeted to support an individual element of the work of the House or can be 'untagged' funds that will allow us the flexibility to meet any previously unseen need. Potential 'bequesters' can consult with us about how to make a gift specific to a certain area of need and we have established a number of funds with specific objectives which may be of interest.

We encourage people who have made a gift to the House in their will, and those who are considering it, to have an active relationship with RMHA and our families.

Every couple of months we invite Bequest Society members, and those interested in finding out about the society, to come to the House, have lunch with our families, hear our news and listen to our guest speaker. The lunch is an informal, fun and friendly way for society members and prospective members to meet others who, through their generosity, also support the families staying in the House. The food is great and the company sensational!

Please join us for lunch on August 30. There's absolutely no obligation to commit to a bequest and no pressure to join the society. We simply enjoy hosting people who want to learn more about the work of the RMH Auckland Trust and the ways we support hundreds of families from across New Zealand through some of the toughest days of their life.

To find out more about bequests, talk to your lawyer or financial advisor and see our website www.rmhauckland.org.nz

If you're able to join us for lunch we'd be delighted. Please call Lorraine on 09 303 1365 and let her know you're coming.

Amy, Ross and Matthew Hinde (below).



Get an insight into the early-bird world of Breakfast television with journalist and broadcaster Kay Gregory.

The popular and energetic co-host of the Breakfast show will be the guest speaker at the Bequest Society Lunch at Ronald McDonald House on August 30.

Kay, who lives in Hamilton, is a familiar face from her time as a One News reporter and then more recently her three years as a One News weather presenter. She's been co-hosting the Breakfast show with Paul Henry since the beginning of this year.

But Kay's interest in people encompasses more than her 20 year career as a journalist. For the past three years she's also been a celebrant, conducting weddings, funerals, naming ceremonies and any other type of celebration she's asked to. She's in such demand her work as a celebrant takes up as much time now as her broadcasting career.

Make a note now to join Kay and Bequest Society members in sharing a lunch with families in the House, midday, August 30. Call Lorraine on 09 303 1365 for more information.

If you want to know more about the Society or bequesting please don't hesitate to call Beth on: 09 303 1365, or email: beth@rmh.co.nz

Can you help with our Wishlist?

Sugar (we go through 5/6 BIG packets each week); Coffee, plunger and instant; Potatoes and other vegetables that keep; Butter, cheese and other staples; Magazines; Canned tomatoes for pasta sauce; DVDs (especially childrens and teen titles); Baby nappies small to toddler sizing (often families have to leave in a rush); Toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner; copy paper.



donation form

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr (Please circle)

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Day Phone: () _____

Mobile: () _____

Email: _____

Please email post my receipt

Help us make the House a more colourful place with the donation of a flowering plant.

Yes I would like to 'sponsor' a beautiful blue hydrangea:

\$35 x 1 \$60 x 2 \$80 x 3

I would like to support the House operations:

\$130 one family for one night

\$260 two nights

\$390 three nights

I prefer to pay by: (Circle card)

Cheque Credit Card (Visa/MasterCard)

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

I would like to make a regular commitment to Ronald McDonald House Auckland of:

\$ _____ Please send me an AP form:

Monthly 6 monthly

Quarterly Yearly

Please contact me with more information on:

Remembering Ronald McDonald House Auckland in my will

Becoming a Bequest Society member

a word from our families...

the kingi family

When Taniora Kingi went home to Napier this month, life must have looked pretty weird through his five month old eyes.

For a start he and Mum Shar, Dad Tony and big sister Te Ara aren't all living in the same room. There's only one kitchen. And they're the only family living in the house!

Up until early July, the only home Taniora has ever known is the one he's shared with up to 40 other families – Ronald McDonald House Auckland.

Shar was eight months pregnant when on Christmas Eve last year she noticed Te Ara's eye was protruding.

Three different doctors over the holiday period delivered the same message: 'don't worry, all's well'. But the family GP saw things differently. Within days Te Ara was in Starship, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia and the family was at Ronald McDonald House.

Shar remembers the day of the diagnosis: "There were floods of tears and phonecalls. The family came in droves to support us."

It's support that has continued through lumber punctures, constant white cell counts, a nasal gastric tube, 23 blood transfusions, four bouts of intensive chemotherapy and the birth of Taniora on February 11.

SHAR REMEMBERS THE DAY OF THE DIAGNOSIS: "THERE WAS A FLOOD OF TEARS AND PHONE CALLS."

The family's tackled each challenge together. Tony arrived at the House with dreadlocks. Facing chemotherapy, Te Ara was not only allowed to cut her own hair – she also took the scissors to Dad's!

Shar set up a website to keep their many friends and supporters at home in Hawke's Bay up to date with what was happening – and, just as importantly, so the Kingis could keep in touch with news from back in the Bay.

An excerpt from her journal: "We are back at Ronald's now and keeping Te Ara under lock and key... Even though her chemo has stopped we still need to keep a close eye on her and restrict certain activities for a while. Let that little system of hers build itself up..."

The last weeks of the family's time with us were spent in one of our four transplant units while Te Ara slowly rebuilt her precious counts. Shar: "For the first time we were able to do things like a normal family: cook a meal and eat all together. It was great not having to race to the kitchen when no-one else was around and picnic in the corner or rush back to the room."

Over their time in the House and at Starship, the Kingis had highs and lows.

Tony says "Every day was just another day. It didn't matter what the weather was like.

If your child wakes up with a smile, it's a good day. If they're in pain, it's hard."

They've supported many other families and drawn strength themselves from those whose child is further down the treatment track than Te Ara. Tony again: "It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor. Everybody just looks after each other and supports each other. Doctors only know it through a book but they have never lived it. The parents have lived it."

"HER STRING OF 'BRAVERY BEADS' – EACH COLOUR REPRESENTING A DIFFERENT PROCEDURE, OR DRUG, FINGER PRICK, OR SCAN – IS NOW TALLER THAN SHE IS" – Shar Kingi

Over the months Tony's been called on frequently to thank the volunteers who cook the shared family dinners on Wednesday nights.

And at the core of each of his speeches is a simple message. "Thank you for your support. Thank you for your help. We, the parents, are here, that wonderful hospital up the hill is here and Ronald McDonald House is here, all for one reason. We're here for the kids."

