



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

July 2014

Two More to Love

Recently we had a chance to sit down and speak with Jamie and Una Pea on the day before they were checking out of the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House and going back to their home on Hawaii Island with their new twins, Emiko and Isamu.

Counting the two newest additions, Jamie and Una now have five children who are four-years-old or less. It sounds challenging but the young couple is looking forward to the opportunity — and embracing it.

Their sudden emergency situation began on January 6, during Jamie's

regularly scheduled prenatal exam at her doctor's office in Waimea. The doctor noticed that Emiko's heart beats weren't accelerating the way they were supposed to be. "So that's when they realized that something could be wrong," Jamie recalled. "They did an ultrasound and thought they saw fluid in her chest cavity and around her head."

After consulting with doctors at Kapiolani Hospital, and after their extended family (which includes their church congregation) immediately stepped in to make sure the couple's other three children would be looked after while they were gone, Jamie and Una left for Oahu.

Jamie was 34 1/2 weeks into her pregnancy when she arrived in Honolulu, and the first thing doctors did was to confirm the troubling diagnosis. Then, without hesitating, specialists at Kapiolani Hospital scheduled an immediate C-Section.

going on. It scared me and I was crying on the table because I felt helpless. There were tons of people around Emiko, and I could hear someone yelling 'compressions, compressions!'"



Jamie and Una Pea waited at the Ronald McDonald House for Emiko, along with their other children Mahonri, Liahona, Isamu and Levi.

After she was resuscitated, the process of draining the excess fluids began. It took a while and she was still swollen. "They weren't sure what caused Emiko to have the edema condition and Isamu not to be affected at all. A lot of babies in her situation don't get out of it. They either die or it just takes a long time for them to recover."

Jamie continued her story: "Emiko was hooked up to the ventilator for five weeks and they couldn't give us any idea of when she was going home, or even if she was going home. The first couple of days they told us she was the most critical child in the NICU and that really tore us apart. She was hooked up to everything, with multiple chest tubes coming out. She was on a ton of medicine."

But Emiko responded with a strong will to live, and soon the outlook turned positive, much to the excitement of everyone involved.

"She came so far in the weeks after Isamu was discharged," said the proud mother. "She just kept improving, and the doctors and nurses couldn't believe how fast she got out of her situation. They started calling her our 'miracle baby.'"

Continued on page 2

Wish List

Gift Cards

Restaurants
Stores/Markets/Visa
Gasoline gift cards
Prepaid phone cards
Family activity passes
Movie tickets

Household Items

Paper towels & napkins
Microwavable paper plates
Plastic forks, knives & spoons
Ziploc bags – quart, gallon
Garbage bags (yard & kitchen)
Cutlery set
Can openers electric/manual

Food Items

Cooking oil
Fresh fruits & vegetables
Frozen meals (microwave)
Individually wrapped snacks
Cup O' Noodles

Miscellaneous

Rolls/sheets/books of Forever postage stamps
Office supplies
Fitted white sheets – full/twin
New Pillows
White photo-copy paper (letter & legal size)



Isamu visited his twin sister Emiko in Intensive Care and held her hand as she fought for her life.

"They removed Emiko first, and when they pulled her out she was 8 lbs, 1 oz. because she was so swollen," said Jamie. "Then came Isamu at 5 lbs. 14 oz."

Soon after birth, Emiko's lungs collapsed and she stopped breathing. "They had to resuscitate her and immediately get the fluid out of her chest because it was the fluid that was causing her lungs to collapse," Jamie related. "I was anesthetized, but I could hear everything that was

Message from our President



Terri Chong

Aloha,
Making sure that seriously ill children and their families receive the support they need takes a team effort. We could never do it alone. In fact, the way RMHC-HI operates is a virtual study in collaborative success. Connecting and partnering, creating new relationships and strengthening existing ones, building from a base

of strong community need and opportunities for involvement, has been the cornerstone for expanding our Ronald McDonald House ohana. Nearly all aspects of our 27-year-old Ronald McDonald House program, and in fact, many of our greatest achievements are related to our partnerships with and support from a community that cares. These include:

-Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), who consider the Ronald McDonald House program an important tool in the holistic approach to treatment of a seriously ill child. Not only does RMHC-HI look after the needs of many of the hospital's Neighbor Island patients' families, but also works together with KMCWC to operate a "Family Room" on the hospital's second floor children's wards and Intensive Care Units. This resource for families of inpatient children offers a place of respite and support during some of a child's most critical times.

-All of Ronald McDonald House guests are referred by medical professionals, social workers, insurance companies,

and other entities that work closely with the families to determine their needs. These referring partners are on all islands, and work with our Ronald McDonald House team to insure that families are welcomed, embraced, and supported during their time of greatest need.

-Whenever both Ronald Houses are full, a collaboration with Outrigger Enterprises since our inception in 1987 makes rooms available at an Outrigger Hotel property until a guest room opens up at the Ronald McDonald House.

-SpeediShuttle, our ground transportation partner, helped expand our services by allowing us to offer transportation to and from the airport for our families. Donations of vehicles from Servco and the Michelle Wie Foundation make it possible for us to shuttle families between the Houses and the hospitals for appointments and treatments.

-Twenty-five-year-plus relationships with McDonalds of Hawaii, Outrigger Enterprises, the Sullivan Family, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Bank of Hawaii, and the longtime support of so many more companies, businesses, community organizations and thousands of caring individuals have helped us gain the resources necessary to continue offering such important safety net and support services to Hawaii's seriously ill children and their families. These are our families, in our community, and our commitment to work together to take care of our own. It is incredibly gratifying to have the support of so many partners and people who are as intent as we are to provide the help that these children and families need so much.

Mahalo to our caring community.



Two More continued

When it had been unclear when they would be able to take Emiko home, the Peas brought their other three children to stay with them at the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House.

"We stayed together as a family here and we would not have been able to do that without the help of the Ronald McDonald House," Una said. "The first day we moved in here, it felt just right. We established friendships with other families staying here and with the staff."

Jamie marveled at the normalcy her family felt when staying at the House. "Our kids call everyone "uncle" and "auntie" because they feel so comfortable here," she said. "I really believe that we wouldn't have been able to do it without the help of this place. It's really been our home and it has helped us not get ruined financially, which can really add to the pressure of everything else. It's just such a good environment. It's definitely become like our second home after being here for two months. I know we're going to miss our family that we established here. We're going to miss everybody."



Happy and ready to go home. Emiko (in pink) and Isamu are ready for life ahead.

Mighty, Happy to Help the Kids

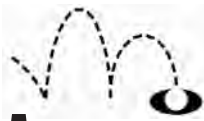
Don't forget! For every Happy Meal and Mighty Kids Meal sold throughout 2014, our friends at McDonald's of Hawaii are donating five cents to RMHC-HI.



Those nickels will really add up and make a big difference to our ability to serve the children and families.

Thank you McDonald's customers for your continual support of our mission through participating in special promotions like this one and by dropping your change into the handy collection boxes near cash registers.





An easy way for businesses

to be supportive, even small companies, is to step forward right now with prize donations for our July 17 RMHC-HI Golf Classic.

You will be helping the kids and families and your company's name will be listed in our tournament program and prize brochure!

Please call Lisa, at 973-5683 ext. 243!



Shop and help at the same time

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price to us! Be sure to register RMHC-HI as your charity.

AMAZING SUPPORT

Dianne and Bob Pereira, owners of Midas Hawaii, stopped by the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on June 3 to drop off a check for nearly \$19,000! The donation was generated through their APIII Memorial Golf Tournament. Thank you Dianne, Bob, Midas Hawaii and everyone who played in their event!



Meet Tia!

Tia Fuchigami is a 16-year-old Kailua High School junior who has stepped forward to show her support for RMHC-HI by conducting Make Change Count campaigns on our behalf, and also by getting started as a volunteer. One day she hopes to become a nurse.

Tia is motivated to help others from experiences she recently had as a patient at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, where she received a kidney transplant.

Tia and her family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Palo Alto during her surgery and convalescence and it was then she realized she wanted to help others. "I was so touched by all the volunteers that I decided when I return to Oahu, I would try to give back in my own way," explains Tia.


Tia is a remarkable young lady, invigorated by her second chance at life, and destined to make her mark in the world. Bravo!

Tia (right) delivers one of the jars of coins she collected to RMHC-HI's Candace Asam-Lopez.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

The children of Our Savior Lutheran School in Aiea decided to "Make Change Count" and raised over \$1,815.85 for RMHC-HI!

 Our Savior Lutheran School

THANK YOU!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mahalo!



Derby Camp BIG GUYS, BIG HEARTS

Here are some of the participants in Brian Derby's annual Offensive Linemen Camp at Kaimuki High School surrounding RMHC-HI's Gene Davis. All the players taking part in the camp pitched in to donate much needed supplies for Ronald McDonald House.

Thanks to Brian Derby and his campers, the House is now stocked with basic necessities such as rice, and a wide variety of canned goods.

Couponing to help the kids!

Look at this support for RMHC-HI by Sacha Cruz and her Facebook group, "Sharing the Aloha 4 Couponing"!

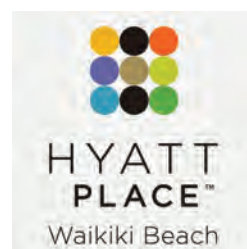
The members of her group donated baby clothes, food, formula, diapers, wipes, hygiene items, cleaning products, non-perishable foods, hair dye, and first aid items. For members to participate, all of the items donated had to be obtained by couponing.

Sacha delivered the items to Ronald McDonald House on June 9 with the help of her husband Joshua and family.



MAHALO HYATT PLACE WAIKIKI BEACH!

These are some of the incredible staff at Hyatt Place Waikiki Beach, led by G.M. Bonnie Kiyabu (far right), who conducted a series of fundraisers for RMHC-HI totaling more than \$6,100! They presented us with the check at a special reception on April 3.



A Mother's Devotion

On December 31, Leanne Cardenas of Wailuku, Maui gave birth to her daughter Eliana almost three months prematurely.

Eliana's early arrival and the three months she spent in Intensive Care caused many anxious moments and brought back stark memories of the premature birth of a baby boy in 2012 who sadly, didn't survive.

But little Eliana fought every day, and slowly but surely, she gained the strength necessary for her to finally be able to go home to be with mom, dad Carlos, and her 5-year-old brother Isaac.

Leanne stayed at the Oahu Avenue House for the first two weeks after herself being released on January 5. Then she moved over to the Judd Hillside House to allow her husband and



Eliana showed her personality even while she was in Intensive Care.

son to come and stay with her. "Us being able to stay together under one roof made such a difference," Leanne recalled. "We were able to face these difficult challenges together."

While at the Ronald McDonald House, Leanne would walk down the hill to Kapiolani Medical Center early every morning to get extra time with Eliana and then come home late that night to eat, sleep, and get ready to do it all over again the next day. Her dedication paid off beautifully!

Yes, Leanne has seen many sides of being a mother. "It's the most important thing to me," she says. "I love it. Nothing else really matters to me except my kids and my husband. I'm just getting to know Eliana and I can't wait to watch her grow and see her and her brother playing together. Being a mom is truly the greatest feeling of all."



Leanne and Eliana cuddled all the way home to Maui.

Rock N' Roll Night



MAHALO to everyone who joined us for **Moms On a Mission's Rock N' Roll Night** on March 22 in the Pomaika'i Ballrooms at Dole Cannery!

It was retro fun at its very best with music of the 60's and 70's provided by the group LS 34. Rock & Roll Night also featured a dinner buffet; door prizes; and a "candy bar".

This fun "happening" raised nearly \$6,000 to help the kids and families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.



Foodland Super Markets and Newman's Own Foundation have collaborated on a \$10,000 donation to RMHC-HI!

Visiting the Judd Hillside House on April 17 to present the check to the organization was Jenai Wall, CEO of Foodland (second from the left). Accepting on behalf of the charity were (left to right) Candace Asam-Lopez, Bridgette Kahana'o'i, Kanoe Paauhau, and Terri Chong.

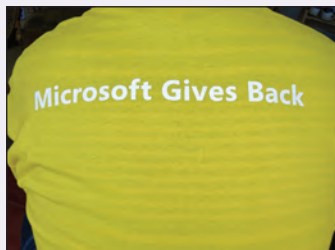
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mahalo!

We ♥ Microsoft

When the Microsoft Store opened at Ala Moana Center last summer, RMHC-HI and the kids and families we serve gained an incredible community supporter! But Microsoft isn't just some monolithic corporation, it's really made up of bright, caring individuals from our own community. They have become a familiar sight to staff members and long-term families at the Ronald McDonald Houses.

Some of the ways that the caring folks from the Microsoft Store have stepped up to help us perform our



important services to families include cooking, housework, yard work, newsletter processing, software trainings and much more.



Several groups of our friends from the Microsoft Store have prepared nutritious meals for the families.



ABM, a company providing maintenance and repair services (and many other services), spent most of the day at the Judd Hillside and Oahu Avenue Ronald McDonald Houses on March 14. A large group of their energetic employees volunteered their manpower and expertise to tackle important and difficult tasks.



Among the projects that they accomplished included putting in new flooring and upgrading plumbing fixtures; repairing a fence; and painting.



Levi Strauss' top performing managers (worldwide) took time from their Honolulu conference to volunteer at the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on February 25. Their one condition: "We want to work hard." The contingency of 36 did just that!

Having Faith

Hawaii Island's Neav McAlister has been dealing with a situation that no mother ever wants to face — her four-year-old daughter Faith Pai's serious medical issues. Faith was diagnosed with AML, a form of leukemia, in September and endured a treatment plan of four intense



Faith loved the beautiful butterfly friend she met at the Ronald McDonald House.

chemotherapy rounds.

After the last round, Faith's blood counts improved enough, and mom and daughter were able to check out of the Ronald McDonald House and return home to Captain Cook for Faith to recuperate.

Mom, Faith, and dad Rafer, can't wait for their lives to be restored to normal — although Neav says that it never really will be exactly the same. "When you're told that your child has a life-threatening condition, everything changes."

On Oahu, mom was like a rock of support for her daughter, mustering the strength and courage each day to guide Faith through her many appointments and medical procedures — and the down time in between. Neav, a first time mom, managed to be Faith's best friend and favorite playmate, too. With mom by her side, Faith knew the Ronald McDonald House was her home, even if it would be temporary.

Neav describes being a mom this way: "It's this all-encompassing thing. You are the nurturer, guardian, teacher, and cheerleader," she says. "My daughter inspires me every day with her amazing amount of energy and her enthusiasm about the wonders of nature. This Mother's day I felt so grateful, fortunate and just happy being a mom."



Treatments complete! Neav and Faith got through it together at the Ronald McDonald House.

It's easy to stay connected to what's going on at the Ronald McDonald House and with the families staying there. Which is the best for you? All three?

- Join our e-newsletter list. We'll send you a message every month or so with House updates. You can forward it to your friends and relatives.
- "Like" us on Facebook "Ronald McDonald House Hawaii". We update our page regularly to make it a window into daily life at the Ronald Houses.
- Bookmark our website (www.ronaldhousehawaii.org). Our website contains all the basic information as well as contact tools and volunteer applications. Our home page also contains a link to our 360 degree, self-directed virtual tour. It's almost like being there.

Watanabe Floral

A BIG MAHALO to the incredible folks at Watanabe Floral and all their customers, for the outstanding support! Through several in-store promotions, they were able to raise \$2,725 for RMHC-HI during the month of May.



Left, at an event at Watanabe's on May 10, RMHC-HI's Candace Asam Lopez, Gene Davis and Kalei Grant had a chance to meet customers and thank them for helping the kids and families of Ronald McDonald House.

Right, Ronald got wrapped up in Mother's Day balloons.



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Volunteer Spotlight

2014 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

by Michael Ahakuelo, Volunteer Services Manager



It was time to show how much we value our outstanding corps of volunteers.

So, when some 100 of our volunteers gathered on Thursday, May 29 for the annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon we made sure there was plenty of great food, entertainment and warm fellowship!

This year's theme was "Shine, the brightest stars are those who shine for all the benefit of others."

The annual celebration event was held at the Ka'ikena Lau'ae Restaurant at

Kapiolani Community College, and aimed to thank all the wonderful individuals, groups, and supporters who unselfishly give of themselves. A delicious buffet lunch was provided along with entertainment from Jason Alan.

Maile Miller, a mother who is staying at the Ronald McDonald House, delivered some very moving remarks

that acknowledged the importance of our volunteers.

Volunteering is a big way to be a part of the RMHC-HI ohana. Over 2,500 volunteers supported "The House that Love Built" in 2013.

Mahalo Ronald McDonald House Volunteers for your ongoing support!



After the luncheon, volunteers gathered for a group photo.



Maile Miller shared her story and thanked the volunteers.