

THE TARHEALER



Fall 2009

Faith Grows with Baby Shepherd

When Stephanie and Noah Joyner found out they were pregnant with their third child, they were absolutely thrilled. Halfway through the pregnancy however, they learned the baby had a two vessel umbilical cord instead of the standard three. Initially, doctors weren't overly concerned but, at 32 weeks, doctors recommended weekly ultrasounds, as well as other tests, as they had concerns about the baby's growth.

Five weeks later, when Stephanie went for an ultrasound and exam, the nurse asked, "Are you ready to have this baby?" The baby had lost weight in the womb and the doctor felt it was crucial to induce labor so that Stephanie would not lose the baby.



"I was completely unprepared," Stephanie recalled. "My husband wasn't with me as we thought this was a standard appointment so my mother and I had plans to meet him later for dinner." Instead, after hours of labor, Stephanie gave birth at Rex Hospital in Raleigh to a 5-pound, 5-ounce baby boy named Shepherd. In the coming weeks, the parents would feel certain they picked the perfect name for their baby boy from Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

A specialist soon told them that Shepherd needed surgery for a coarctation of the aorta, which is a narrowing of the aorta that causes the heart to pump harder.

He was quickly transported from Rex Hospital to N.C. Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill. Upon arrival, Shepherd was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Stephanie and Noah checked into a local hotel. On their second day in Chapel Hill, they found the Ronald McDonald House. "I was totally blown away at all of the things the House provided that we hadn't thought of," Stephanie said.

On April 1, 2009, Shepherd underwent heart surgery to repair his kinked aorta. The surgery went well, but complications ensued. First, fluid build-up on his lungs and, then, a yeast infection prolonged his stay in the hospital. Happily, 3-month-old Shepherd is now at home with his parents and big brothers, Aslan, 3, and Haddon, 2, as well as a home health nurse who is with the family 16 hours per day. He still has a tracheotomy tube to facilitate breathing, but he is finally able to nurse. Little Aslan likes to demonstrate on a doll to show the home health nurses how to wash his baby brother. While the journey to Shepherd's complete recovery is still long, Stephanie and Noah's faith is seeing the family through this time. They will likely have more stays at the House in the coming months because Shepherd will need another heart operation, but, as Stephanie put it, they are grateful for the House "whose sole purpose is to serve as a cushion when the bottom falls out." ♦

Save the date!

A Tasteful Affair

Sunday, November 1, 2009, 5:30–7:30, The Carolina Club

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Recently, one of our dear long-time volunteers, Peter Heiman, passed away. Like so many of our volunteers, Peter was charming, funny and always delightfully entertaining. After retiring, he had moved to Carrboro, written a cookbook, taught salsa classes and volunteered at the House. Although Peter had macular degeneration and faced inevitable blindness, he always had a positive outlook on life. When I met Peter 13 years ago, he rode his bike to the House from Carrboro because he could no longer see to drive a car. When he had to give up the bike riding and switch to the wonderful Easy Rider van service available to elderly and infirm transit riders in Chapel Hill, he continued to show up at the House like clockwork

to volunteer each week. As blindness set in, Peter held on to the things he loved—dancing and volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House. I remarked to him one time on his wonderful positive outlook in the face of a degenerative disease. His response? “What am I going to do? Mope around the house?”

Peter was just one of many who give so much to the House. Despite their own economic challenges or poor health or the demands of day-to-day lives, they continue to give of their time and talents. And it is truly these people who make this place possible. If you are one of these special people, thank you for inspiring our work and for giving the families who stay here hope for the future.

— Shelley Day

Our Hearts Remember

Amaurie Whitaker	Ella Bodani	Reid Bass
Avery Blum	Kadyn Taylor	Tianna Mitchell
Cloey Hyatt	Leah Porterfield	William Konrad, Jr.
Cooper Blackburn	Madison Lynch	Wanda Locklear
Darryl Crawley	Maggie O'Connor	Xzabian D. Coley
Dawson Martie	Michael Thomas	

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Contributing Photographers — Expressive Capture Photography,
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Mailing — Chapel Hill Service League

Twig Shares in December

20% of your purchases given back to the House



Shawn Slome is the owner of Twig, a local store that is focused entirely on eco-friendly, fairly traded and sustainable organic products.

Twig will donate 20% of your holiday purchases back to the House **when you mention the**

House at time of checkout. The promotion runs from **December 1–15**, so mark your calendar and be sure to visit Twig at 99 S. Elliott Road next to Whole Foods Market in Chapel Hill. And, for more ideas on gifts for family and friends during the upcoming holiday season, visit their website at www.twigliving.com. ♦



Leave Feeling Satisfied, Even If You Don't Take a Bite.

Delicious Food to Tempt your Taste Buds

Mark your calendars for the social event of the season! The 19th Annual A Tasteful Affair will be held on **Sunday, November 1, 2009 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** at **The Carolina Club** on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. Ron Stutts from WCHL-1360 will, once again, emcee the event, which will feature delights from over two dozen of the finest food and drink establishments in the Triangle. You don't want to miss the food, fun and excitement!

Individual tickets are \$50. For \$125, you can receive our "Patron Package" which includes: Two (2) tickets to the event, an exclusive wine and hors d'oeuvres preview, listing in the event program, and one free raffle ticket (\$10 value.)

There will also be a silent auction filled with an array of items donated by businesses in our community and from across the country. Here is just a sampling: Venus & Serena Williams autographed tennis ball, Roy Williams autographed items, VIP tickets to The Daily Show, airline tickets and travel packages. (If you would like to contribute an item, please contact the House.) ♦



A Tasteful Affair Delight in Giving

Sunday, November 1, 2009
5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Carolina Club
To purchase tickets, visit www.chapelhillrmh.net
or call 919-913-2040.

Grab the Girls for a Night of Fun

Need a night of pampering and relaxation with your best girlfriends? We've got just the ticket! Save the date for the 5th Annual Girls Just Wanna Have Fun to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill on Thursday, March 4, 2010! Indulge yourself with three pampering services. Choose from a variety of services including: massage, facial, manicure, make-over, hair cut, tarot card reading and more. Enjoy all of the pampering your heart desires as well as delicious appetizers, a chocolate fountain and two beverages for only \$65! Make it a ladies night out to remember! ♦



Photo by EXPRESSIVE CAPTURE

"Kids Helping Kids" Kicks Off

We are excited to announce our first annual **Kids Helping Kids** campaign for the 2009-2010 school year. As part of this new program we are contacting schools across North Carolina to encourage them to become a part of the success story of the House by holding fundraisers, wish list drives and pop tab collections. At the end of the year, each participating school will receive a certificate as well as an invitation to send students to the end of school year bash to be held at the House! If you are a parent, student, teacher or administrator and would like to see your school make a difference in the lives of the families and children of North Carolina, contact: elizabeth.hullender@chapelhillrmh.net or call 919-913-2040. ♦



Light up the Life of a Family this Holiday Season!



The holiday season is just around the corner and so is the 16th Annual Light-A-Luminary event. We need help recruiting people to participate in this project to light up local neighborhoods in honor of families staying at the House. Your neighborhood can join us on December 12 for the community lighting or choose another date that works for you. To become a neighborhood coordinator or to learn more about this project, contact elizabeth.hullender@chapelhillrmh.net or call 919.213.9040. ♦

Luminary kits are \$6 each and include 8 white luminary candles, 8 bags, 8 cups and a bag of sand.

A “Sharing” Season

A Southern Season in Chapel Hill, famous for an extraordinary array of gourmet food and wine, has a long-standing tradition of supporting area charities through its “Community Spotlight” program. We are thrilled to announce that throughout the month of December, the Spotlight charity will be The Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill! On December 19, we will be on hand to talk directly with shoppers and, throughout the month, the House will have collection boxes at each register for donations. This Holiday season, share decadent treats and perfect gifts with your loved ones and give to the families at the House at the same time! We hope to see you there! ♦

On June 18, the rain clouds disappeared and 120 golfers descended upon UNC Finley Golf Course for the 21st anniversary of the Carolina Kids Classic golf tournament. Players enjoyed a round of golf with Honorary Host Coach Butch Davis and Honorary Host Emeritus Coach Dean Smith, the opportunity to bid on UNC sports memorabilia and a delicious reception courtesy of Carolina Catering. Sponsorships and the auction brought in a grand total of \$194,000 for the House, NC Children’s Hospital and The Childhood Trust. Thank you to all of the sponsors and golfers who made the day such a success! ♦



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Find out what’s happening at:
<http://twitter.com/RMHChapelHill>



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[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chapel Hill-NC/Ronald-McDonald-House-of-Chapel-Hill/26231428543](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chapel-Hill-NC/Ronald-McDonald-House-of-Chapel-Hill/26231428543)

Making a Difference with Hearts and Hands

Norman and Bettina Roberts Foundation issued a generous \$10,000 challenge grant. 100 percent of the Board met the challenge and donated \$15,000 to the House. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Check out how these school groups made a difference!



Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
at UNC-Chapel Hill
raised more than \$1,600 with
their Waffle Night!

Delta Sigma Pi fraternity at UNC
raised \$450 with their
Ronald on the Run 5K in May.



The geometry classes at
Chapel Hill High School
raised \$1,340 with the
3rd Annual Golf-O-Rama.

East Chapel Hill High School
raised more than \$270
this spring.

West Wilkes Middle School
raised \$84.



Rashkis Elementary School
in Chapel Hill
held a coin drive for one week in
May and raised \$634!

Carroll T. Overton School
in Raleigh
raised \$100.

Would you like to get your group involved?
Email elizabeth.hullender@chapelhillrmh.net or call 919.913.2040
and ask for our school "Kids Helping Kids" toolkit.

Volunteer Spotlight Shaniqua McClendon



Shaniqua McClendon is a busy girl. Whether she's volunteering during her weekly shift on Saturday mornings or helping out with special events, she's always willing to do what's needed. Shaniqua has been a volunteer at the House since July 2007 when she simply Googled "volunteer opportunities" and discovered the "House with a Heart." Her favorite memory of the House was during the holiday season when she was able to help a mother of five wrap gifts for her children.

A recent graduate of UNC, Shaniqua splits her time between jobs at RBC Centura and Macy's while juggling volunteer gigs at the Ronald McDonald House, SECU Family House and Empowerment. As she has just finished her studies in business and public relations, she hopes to attend graduate school and eventually work for a non-profit.

A few fun facts about Shaniqua: she's a twin, lived in Queens, N.Y., until she was 9, and is currently reading The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. ♦

Donor Spotlight
Carl Fox



Carl Fox first became aware of the House when working as a volunteer in the Intensive Care waiting room at UNC Hospitals in the mid-80s. There, he was deeply saddened at the sight of so many families sleeping there, some of whom appeared to be living on the coffee and Little Debbie Cakes volunteers provided.

When he learned about the House and all that it offered to families of pediatric patients, he was glad to support it with his time, talents and monetary donations. "The interactions and friendships that families experience in the House are something they would not share or experience in a hotel."

In his spare time, Carl enjoys golf, physical fitness, billiards, bowling, cars, cooking and teaching high school Sunday school at the Church of the Holy Family. Carl Fox, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Chatham and Orange Counties, is also a Board Member at the House. Thanks, Carl, for all you do for the House! ♦

Board Spotlight
Emily Moseley



As the spouse of a doctor specializing in orthopedic oncology, Emily Moseley knows how important a nurturing environment is to parents coping with a very sick child. Hearing stories of how her husband's patients have received much needed support from the House, Emily was inspired to volunteer. A mother of two, Emily appreciates what the House provides and has "really been struck by how much some parts of life march on, even in times of great difficulty," as witnessed first-hand while volunteering.

After volunteering for a year and a half, Emily wanted to become more involved, so she joined the Board of Directors in January of this year. As a lawyer at Kilpatrick Stockton in Raleigh, she brings a great skill set to the Board and the Development Committee. We feel very fortunate to have her! ♦

Corporate Donor Spotlight



Terra Nova Global Properties is a full-service, locally-owned real estate company focusing on the community in which they do business and insuring their clients' investments. Kara Hart, co-owner of Terra Nova, has a passion and love for the House, where she has been a volunteer since 2002. Kara also served on the Board of Directors from 2003-2008.

When asked why Terra Nova chose to become involved with the House, she said, "I see the needs of the guests on a weekly basis and cannot help but give back to such a deserving organization." Kara is ever thankful that the House exists. "Being in the House on a regular basis, you truly see the staff and volunteers fill a much needed service in our community – and they do it with such heart."

Terra Nova supports the House through sponsorships for A Tasteful Affair and Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, a particularly appropriate project for this woman-owned company. We are grateful for their generous contributions to the House! ♦

Calling All Friends

Have you been looking for new networking opportunities? Are you interested in helping the families at the House but can't commit to a regular weekly shift as a House volunteer? Would you like to be a part of the fun at special members-only social events? Are you interested in helping with unique fundraising events to support the House? If so, you can be a founding member of a new group that is forming this fall in Chapel Hill. It's our very own **Friends of the Ronald McDonald House** group!

To find out more, please join us for our first, no-obligation session on **Thursday, October 1st from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the House**. Refreshments will be served but pre-registration is required. Please contact elizabeth.hullender@chapelhillrmh.net to sign up or for more information.

Memberships start at \$25.00 and all members will receive:

- Special gifts for each level of membership
- Email news blasts, alerting you to activities and events
- Invitations to future Friends Events
- Discounts on Special Events and purchases of RMH merchandise.

In Their Own Words



My son often has to be seen by the doctors at UNC and at times hospitalized for medical problems. Ronald McDonald House has been a great place, truly a blessing. The staff is great and the families are amazing. Prior to my son being ill I had heard of RMH but never knew what it was all about, but now I know how great it is.
- Tania

It's great to know that when families are going through difficult times there is someone there to try to make that time a little easier. Your time, support, conversation and hard work is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping my family and myself get through this journey we have to go on. May God forever bless you and your family.
- The Jarnells

Thank you so much for all of your generosity and hospitality! You are all wonderful people and it is a great thing that you do. Your help has taken so much stress away from my family during this difficult time. Thanks again!
-Shawn, Bew, McKaiden and Misty

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF CHAPEL HILL

101 Old Mason Farm Road

Chapel Hill, N. C. 27517

phone: 919.913.2040

www.chapelhillrmh.net

fax: 919.966.7651

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RONALD'S WISH LIST

Items listed below are used on a daily basis at the House. Your donation of these necessary supplies benefits the comfort and well being of families staying at the House.

For the Kitchen

Breakfast Items

(Bread, milk, eggs, orange juice, granola bars, cereal)

Lunchbox Items

(Juice boxes, sandwich meats, chips, snacks, pudding and fruit cups, fresh fruit)

Baking items

(Cake and cookie mixes, canned frosting, sugar, flour, butter)

Coffee creamer and sweetener

For the Bathroom

Toothbrushes

Feminine products

Travel-size toiletries (soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)

Around the House

Laundry detergent

Paper towels

Facial tissue

Dishwashing liquid and dishwashing detergent (machine)

Always helpful

Phone cards

Target, Walmart, grocery gift cards

Please, help us keep the children safe; items must be new!

Donations accepted 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at

101 Old Mason Farm Road in Chapel Hill.

For more information, contact the House at 919.913.2040.

Thank you for sharing!



Mark Your Calendars

A Tasteful Affair

Sunday, November 1, 2009

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Carolina Club

Light a Luminary Project

Community Lighting Night

Saturday, December 12, 2009

(rain date: December 19th)

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

Thursday, March 4, 2010

6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

The Carolina Club

Sport a Shirt Share a Night

Friday, May 7, 2010



More Than Ink On Paper