



**Ronald  
McDonald  
House®**  
Alberta

# Volunteer Newsletter

Families rely on the care we provide

## Featured

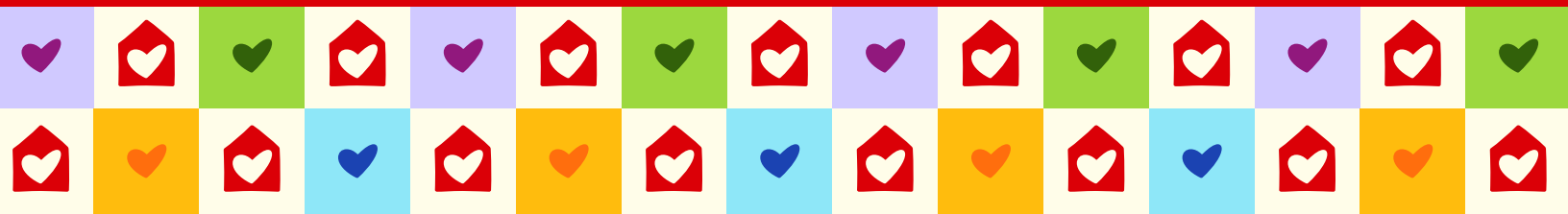
Welcome Message **2**  
1000 Hours Society **5**  
Meeting Corner **8**

Meet Kitchen Concierge, Iain MacDonald **3**  
Because of You **6**  
Upcoming Events **8**

Volunteer Milestones **4**  
Impact Statistics **7**

**22,857**  
**Volunteer Hours**

In-House and Event Volunteers





# Welcome

Every day at the House, something meaningful is happening. A family arrives carrying more than just overnight bags. A parent sits quietly with a cup of coffee and takes a breath. Sometimes, that moment begins with a safe ride to the hospital, offered by a caring shuttle driver. Sometimes it extends beyond our walls through events that bring our mission into the wider community. In each of these moments, whether visible or behind the scenes, you are part of the story. Your presence shapes the experience of every family who connects with Ronald McDonald House® Alberta in ways that are both powerful and deeply personal.

Across our regions, Lakeland Region, Peace Region, and Lethbridge, volunteers bring our mission to life in so many ways. Volunteers dedicate their days and evenings to events that raise awareness, funds, and community support. Thank you feels like too small a word. With 22,857 volunteer hours contributed across our Houses and events last year, the impact you make is extraordinary. We truly could not do this without you.

Volunteering here is never just about completing a shift or checking off a task. It is about the way you greet someone when they need reassurance. It is the quiet comfort of a familiar face behind the wheel, the steady rhythm of cleaning surfaces, treats baking in the kitchen, toys being tidied, and spaces being cared for with intention. It is the energy brought to an event booth, the willingness to show up early, stay late, and represent our mission with pride. The work you do may feel ordinary at times, but to the families we serve, it becomes part of what makes an unfamiliar season feel a little more manageable.

You bring consistency to days that can feel unpredictable. You bring kindness into conversations that may be heavy. You notice when someone needs help before they ask. You show up repeatedly with compassion and generosity, whether inside the House, on the road, or out in the community. That kind of commitment creates a sense of belonging. It turns a building into a community. It turns moments into memories.

As we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week, we want to pause and say thank you in a way that reflects the depth of your impact. Thank you for giving your time so freely. Thank you for sharing your energy, your skills, and your hearts. Thank you for choosing to be part of this mission and for walking alongside families during a chapter they will never forget. Because of you, our Houses, shuttles, and events feel warmer, safer, and more hopeful.

- Team Ronald McDonald House Alberta

# Meet Iain MacDonald

Kitchen Concierge in the Calgary House



## **What first drew you to volunteer with Ronald McDonald House Alberta?**

I've been in Calgary since 2013 for work, and my wife and I are raising our two boys here—now 10 and 12. Our youngest was born in Calgary, and like so many families, we've had our share of experiences at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

During those visits, we became aware of the work Ronald McDonald House does inside the hospital. Seeing that support firsthand—right where families need it most—really stayed with us.

We attended the Calgary Gala and had an incredible time. We even won hockey tickets for what turned out to be the last Flames game before the Covid shutdown, which made the night even more memorable. But what truly left an impact was hearing the family who shared their story at the gala speak about the difference Ronald McDonald House Alberta made during one of the hardest times in their lives.

In the last year or two, though, we've been in a place where we're able to give more than money. Being able to contribute time, energy, and skills to something that has already meant so much to our family feels incredibly meaningful.

## **How has your volunteer experience impacted the way you see community or giving back?**

It puts more of a face on it. I have always been at arm's reach, maybe volunteering here or there and then financial gifts. Now coming to Ronald McDonald House, you see the direct impact of the resources, and you're closer to the people who are using the services. It's the human element.

## **Is there a moment or interaction with a family, volunteer or staff member that has stayed with you?**

It was a group that had come in to volunteer for Home for Dinner. As they were serving, a volunteer knew one of the families staying at the House. They had gone to school together and been in the same choir and hadn't seen each other in 10 or 15 years and connected back at the Ronald McDonald House. What a sense of community. The interaction between them meant a lot to them. They talked for an hour after dinner, and it hit home that there are a lot of people who are going through a lot that you have no idea about.

## **What would you say to someone who is interested in volunteering with us?**

Just try. I started with literally an email. Which turned into a meeting, turned into an interview and then an afternoon in the kitchen. If you are curious, just try. It's an incredible organization that makes a real impact and you will not regret reaching out.



# Volunteer Milestones

**100**

Reaching 100 volunteer hours is a meaningful milestone. We celebrate volunteers who have taken an important first step in supporting families and helping our Houses feel like home.

**250**

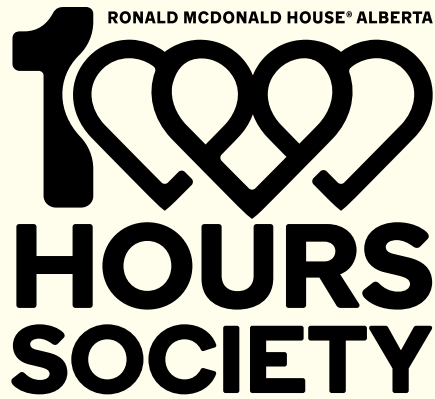
At 250 hours, your commitment is clearly felt. This milestone recognizes volunteers who show up consistently, build connections, and help create comfort and stability for families during challenging times.

**500**

With 500 hours of service, your impact is lasting. We celebrate the dedication, compassion, and care you bring to every shift. Your commitment strengthens our volunteer community in powerful ways.

**750**

Reaching 750 hours is an extraordinary achievement. This milestone honors volunteers who go above and beyond, offering not just time, but leadership, experience, and heart to our Houses and teams.



**Total Lifetime Hours of this group is just under  
55,000 Hours!**

## **2026 Members**

**Gil Baldwin  
Joanne Bilodeau  
Vicky Blinston St John  
Ian Bryce  
Patricia Cunningham  
Vandy Daraseng  
Linda Day  
JoAnne Dieno  
Bill Evans  
Rose Gallace  
Cliff Dennis Gervais  
CPS - Mennonite Baking  
Group  
Murray Hay  
Janice Kirkland**

**David Lawrence  
Philippe Maldiney  
Mike McKendrick  
Cathi Jean Nelson  
Aynslie Price  
Ted Schenk  
Gord Serr  
Mike Stern  
Kwet Teng  
Doug Urichuk  
Luis Walsh  
Cathy Wood  
Lee Anne Gelfand  
Teresa Henry  
Tom Schmaltz**

The 1,000 Hour Society recognizes an extraordinary group of volunteers who have contributed 1,000 hours or more of service to Ronald McDonald House Alberta. These volunteers have shown incredible dedication, generosity, and heart, giving their time again and again to support families when they need it most. Every hour represents a safe ride to the hospital, a family welcomed with a smile, or a moment of care that helped make our Houses feel like Homes.

# Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.

Every day, staff across our Houses see the care, compassion, and commitment our volunteers bring to families during some of their hardest moments. From quiet acts of kindness to steady, behind-the-scenes support, your impact is deeply felt. We asked our team to share what our volunteers mean to them, and their words say it best.

“Because of you, Shuttle Drivers, new mama’s can get to the hospital to be with their newborn.”  
- Robin Govier, Program Supervisor, Calgary House

“Because of you, families can focus on their child getting better at the hospital (instead of worrying about things like cooking, haircuts, entertainment and the commute).”  
- Jason Evanson, Chief Executive Officer

“Because of you our families are able to sit, relax and enjoy all of the neat and tidy common areas in the House.”  
- Patty Zimmerman, Facilities Support Supervisor, Calgary House

“Because of you, families feel welcomed, cared for, and supported from the moment they walk through our doors.”  
- Joanna Cruickshank, Associate Director, Projects, Programs, & Innovation

“Because of you, the Ronald McDonald House feels like a true home-away-from-home. Your warm welcomes at the front desk set the tone of kindness that greets every family. Your delicious baked treats bring a sense of normalcy and warmth to each day. Your countless helping-hand gestures ensure that each guest experiences the care and hospitality they deserve.” - Cassey Jung, Annual Giving Officer

“Because of you, families have snacks and baked goods, keeping them nourished on long hospital days.”  
- Caitlin Riddoch, General Manager, Edmonton House

“Because of you, families feel welcomed, supported, and cared for. Whether you are cooking, driving the shuttle, cleaning, baking, or greeting guests with a friendly smile at the front desk, you make an extraordinary impact on our families every single day.” - Denise Kinghorn, Chief Development Officer

# 2025 Impact Statistics



**23,778**

Nights of Comfort Provided



**1,724**

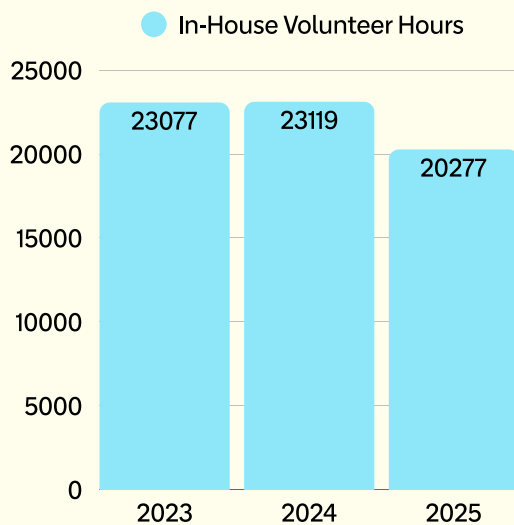
Families Served Overnight



**290**

Families Who Used Day Pass

## Volunteerism



**303**

In-House Volunteers



**348**

Event Volunteers

## Nourishment/Meals



**944**

Home for Dinner Meal Groups



**41,380**

Meals Provided

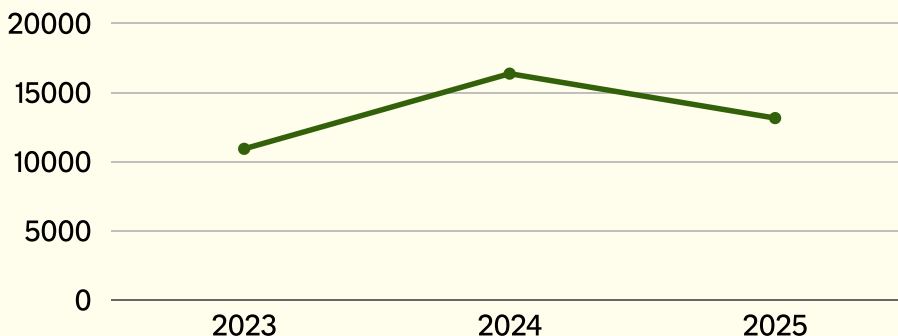
## Comfort Cart



**3,490**

Families Served by Comfort Cart  
\*We opened a NEW Comfort Cart in Lethbridge in 2025

## Transportation



**47**

Active Volunteer Shuttle Drivers



**13,150**

Shuttle Trips

# Meeting Corner

**There are some exciting announcements about our meetings for 2026!**

In addition to our Monthly Meetings, and our Monthly Volunteer Information Sessions, In-House Volunteers will now also get invited to our Ronald McDonald House Alberta & McDonald's 101 meetings.

These meetings are optional for volunteers.

## **Ronald McDonald House & McDonald's 101:**

This is a virtual 2-hour session is hosted by our CEO, Jason Evanson. In this session you will learn more about Ronald McDonald House Alberta, Canada, and Global, and our connection to our founding and forever partner McDonald's. These meetings will happen about once a month, and it is the same material each time.

The second exciting change is that going forward, all the invites will show up as shifts in the Volunteer Hub Calendar! You will now get to sign up, see the event, get the link and receive the reminders.



## **Upcoming Events 2026**

### **Event locations and dates:**

Lethbridge: **May 26**, Lethbridge Country Club  
Grande Prairie: **June 1**, The Dunes Golf & Winter Club  
Red Deer: **June 8**, Red Deer Golf and Country Club  
Cold Lake: **June 13**, Cold Lake Golf & Winter Club  
Edmonton: **June 24**, The Quarry  
Canmore: **June 30**, Silvertip Resort

**Get involved**—learn more at [ronaldmcdonaldhousealberta.org/events](https://ronaldmcdonaldhousealberta.org/events)

