



Winter 2023

# Love Notes

News & Updates from Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Triangle

## Cash's Gift



Your support helped Cash's family during his treatment and heart transplant.



**Cash is only four years old, but he's seen some things.**

In August, the otherwise healthy child from Rocky Mount simply stopped playing. His parents, Jimmy and Kendria, knew something was wrong. When he refused to go to the pool, they took him to the doctor. There were three medical visits before Jimmy and Kendria insisted on tests. Cash's labs showed he was in kidney failure. He was admitted to Nash General Hospital, and on Sept. 4, he was sent by Life Flight to UNC Children's Hospital.

At UNC, news of Cash's illness grew worse. The team there diagnosed him with heart failure. He had cardiomyopathy of unknown cause, and he was losing ground quickly.

On Sept. 11, Cash was transferred to Duke Children's Hospital and began the wait for a heart donation. His parents moved into Ronald McDonald House.

On Oct. 25, just six weeks after being placed on the donor list, Cash received a life-saving heart transplant. One month later, he and his parents checked out of Ronald McDonald House and returned home to Rocky Mount. To see him on check-out day, you would never imagine his journey.

The season of giving takes on a whole new meaning for Cash's family this year. They are grateful for people they will never meet who supported their stay at Ronald McDonald House. They are thankful for the medical team dedicated to Cash's care. Most of all, they are grateful for the miracle of the second chance they were given.

**Thank you for everything you have done to support Cash's family!**



## Your Gifts Endure!

**We are all fully immersed in the season of giving.**

Ronald McDonald House Charities gives me personal perspective every day on what it means to be grateful – and on the lasting meaning of every gift RMHC receives.

Just weeks ago, Cash's parents were told their son may not make it. On the day I'm preparing this message for *Love Notes*, he is in his parents' car heading home to my hometown, Rocky Mount.

Our world is incredibly small. It is also incredibly beautiful. As you prepare for the holidays in your own home or hometown this year, please know how important you are to children like Cash and

so many others who will live with us in Chapel Hill, Durham, and Raleigh in the coming year. Your kind donations of sweet treats, household supplies, and your financial gifts all make the miracle of Ronald McDonald House Charities possible.

It is our hope you, like Cash, feel loved and supported this holiday season.

With gratitude from all of us,

Oie Osterkamp  
CEO



Many of you have come to know **Kelvin Brown** through his stay at RMHC. In 2023, after more than five years, he was finally released from medical treatment. We miss this special family, and we are thrilled to see Kelvin's life unfold. Thank you for all the love you have shown them!





Sweet **Jett** was born at 26 weeks gestation weighing only 1 ½ pounds. While growing strong in the WakeMed NICU, Jett's parents, Hayley and Michael, called RMH home for 122 days. Jett is now home with his family and just celebrated his first birthday!



Newborn **Ny'elle** spent several months in Duke's intensive care nursery before going home to Fayetteville. Big sister **Navee** and her parents stayed at RMH of Durham for 80 nights.



At just two years old, **Mason** was diagnosed with kidney disease. Mason's family has stayed at RMH of Chapel Hill for more than 120 nights while waiting for a donor kidney from a living donor.



**Arabella** was born five weeks early and needed two emergency surgeries before she could go home to her big brother in Macon, GA. Her parents, Daniel and Morgan, stayed a total of 54 nights at RMH of Durham and RMH at WakeMed.





Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
of the Triangle

506 Alexander Avenue  
Durham, NC 27705

Your **Love** Endures  
for RMHC Families!

## Give the Gift of Time

Share the gift of your time and talents with RMHC through volunteering. Our dedicated volunteers are the heart of Ronald McDonald House Charities, bringing warmth and support to families in need.

From welcoming families at our front desk to providing comforting meals, and everything in between, your unique skills and caring spirit make a meaningful impact on our programs.

**Learn more about how you or your group can help seriously ill children and their families in the Triangle by reaching out to one of our volunteer managers:**

**RMH of Chapel Hill**

Ellison Lambert  
Ellison@RMHCTriangle.org

**RMH of Durham**

Clay Ragan  
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