

# Silver Linings

Spring 2016



SOUTH ISLAND

## Keeping families close



Both bravely battling cancer, Dunedin 4-year-olds Millie-Rose (left) and Darcie are best friends who have found strength, laughter and hope in their time together at our Christchurch facilities.

## Dunedin darlings find strength in togetherness

Newfound best friends Millie-Rose and Darcie, both 4, may have met under some of the most trying circumstances - but their mothers are thankful they've found each other.

The girls' bond goes much deeper than most childhood friendships, as they are each battling cancer and undergoing intensive treatment regimes at Christchurch Hospital.

Both from Dunedin, Millie-Rose and Darcie have found companionship, strength and hope since meeting at our 26-room Christchurch House in March this year.

Millie-Rose's mum Carol says she knew something was wrong with her little girl when she noticed a large lump on her neck in February, leading to a diagnosis of Metastatic Neuroblastoma and a 16-18 month treatment protocol in Christchurch.

Darcie's mum, Cheryl, says after vomiting and complaining of headaches on a family camping trip in February, it wasn't long before they flew to Christchurch where Darcie was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma and began an intensive six month chemotherapy regime.

Today, the girls both have feeding tubes held in place by brightly coloured Disney stickers and have lost their bundles of blonde hair due to gruelling chemotherapy cycles.

Too young to completely understand what's going on, Millie-Rose believes there is 'rust' in her tummy which the doctors are helping to get out, while Darcie has been told when the lambs are born and the daffodils come out in Spring she will get to go home. ...continued on page 2

# Host a Roast

**HOST A ROAST AT YOUR PLACE  
IN SEPTEMBER AND HELP US  
KEEP MORE FAMILIES CLOSE. VISIT  
[WWW.HOSTAROAST.SQUARESPACE.COM](http://WWW.HOSTAROAST.SQUARESPACE.COM)  
TO FIND OUT MORE!**



## From the Chairman, Paul Deavoll

Ronald McDonald House South Island has been a hive of activity in the second quarter of 2016, highlighting the dedication of our passionate volunteers and staff.

In June, more than 500 volunteers took to the streets across Canterbury and Southland in our National Street Appeal and we hosted another successful Supper Club event in Christchurch. We have also been blown away by the support of many other community events across the South Island. This is indicative of the unwavering support we receive from the communities we serve – thank you to everyone who played a role in the success of these events.

With the swift arrival of Spring, it is also timely to reflect on why we need to continue these efforts in the latter months of 2016. In the second quarter of this year, occupancy at our facilities has been over 90%, and we continue to be a crucial home base to hundreds of families while their children undergo hospital treatment. With this growing need for our services comes the continuing need for community support, so we can do what matters most – keep families close.

Walking alongside us in that mission, is you. Whether it be in-kind donations, monetary gifts or volunteering in the Family Dinner Programme, your support is what enables us to overcome challenges and plan for the future, always striving to help our families find strength in togetherness.



...cover story continued from page 1

Despite the heartbreak these families are facing, Millie-Rose and Darcie have found happiness by spending time together.

Carol says her family would be lost without the friendships of families and staff at the House.

“At Ronald McDonald House we are home. We have a sense of belonging because of the friendships we’ve made and the battles we are all facing together.” Likewise, Cheryl says staying at the House has been the positive part of Darcie’s cancer journey.

“When your world comes to a complete halt and your life as you know it has been ripped out from under your feet, the House is the safe place you find yourself accidentally calling home.

“It’s where you take time out of the hospital, spend time with family and make some amazing friends too. Even after five months not a day goes by where I am not amazed by the generosity and kindness that bursts from its doors.”

Both mums praise the Family Dinner Programme which operates almost every night of the week for removing the stress of organising meals.

The House also allows Darcie and Millie-Rose’s Dads and big brothers to visit from Dunedin in the weekends and school holidays – always a sure way to lift the girls’ spirits.

Carol and Cheryl beam when describing the heart-warming bond between their daughters.

“They’re two peas in a pod, it’s like they were meant to meet each other,” says Cheryl.

Millie-Rose has learnt to ride a bike while staying at the House, while Darcie has come out of her shell and regained her confident and cheeky personality. The first two months of Darcie’s treatment were gruelling, and because of this it was like she had lost trust in people, says Cheryl. But with loyal, loving friend Millie-Rose by her side and feeling at home at Ronald McDonald House, Cheryl says it’s been amazing to see her personality return.

While the future remains uncertain for the Dunedin families, Cheryl and Carol say they are living life moment to moment. And the girls have big plans for when they grow up; Millie-Rose wants to be a black and white schnauzer or a nurse, and Darcie wants to go to school like her big brothers.

Meanwhile, Darcie and Millie-Rose are happy cuddling their mums in our lounge, playing hide-and-seek under our office desks and giggling through the House hallways – because nothing beats having your family and friends by your side when you’re sick.

*“They’re two peas in a pod, it’s like they were meant to meet each other.”*

# » House Happenings «

**1.** Christmas came early for families like Michael's at Ronald McDonald House South Island in July, with Santa Claus and presents bringing smiles to many faces. Our Christchurch House was transformed into a Winter Wonderland and thanks to our friends at Lincoln University, families were treated to a beautiful Christmas dinner. But not only that, Santa Claus was on hand to give each and every child a special present!

**2.** Ready, set, race! Our friend Aubrey Aitken from Mayfair and Districts Lions Club and Hamish Mcleod from Property Brokers stopped by our Christchurch facilities to meet houseguest (and cyclist!) Ruby and present a very generous donation to our families from the successful Mt Somers Mountain Bike Race. Established 10 years ago, the event was created purely and simply to raise money for worthy community causes. We are humbled to be the major recipient from this year's race, and can't wait to see cyclists race in this fantastic event on February 25, 2017. Visit [www.mtsomersbikerace.co.nz](http://www.mtsomersbikerace.co.nz) to find out more.

**3.** A heartfelt thank you to volunteers like Anna, who lends a hand every Thursday in the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Christchurch Hospital. Situated in the Child Oncology and Haematology Centre, the Family Room is a space where any family on the ward can relax with a cup of tea, food, and a friendly-face. In 2015, volunteer hours totalled 14,693 the equivalent of around seven fulltime staff – highlighting the vital role of our volunteers.

**4.** Cooking is usually the last thing families like Hunter's have on their mind after a long day at the Hospital. We have been overwhelmed by the number of community groups and organisations who continue to give their time to ensure our families can enjoy home cooked nutritious meals together. Pictured here is the crew from What Now with Hunter, who along with Whitebait Studios cooked three nights in a row in our Christchurch facilities! **To take part in the Family Dinner Programme, call 03 377 3311 or email [admin@rmhsi.org.nz](mailto:admin@rmhsi.org.nz).**

**5.** Don't just dream it, do it! That's the motto of Ashburton local Emma Todd and her friends, who after deciding to take part in our Family Dinner Programme went the extra mile and also purchased almost every item on our Christchurch House wish list! From new lamps for all 26 rooms, through to baby monitors and car seats, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of these friends, as well as the Ashburton and Geraldine communities who pitched in to help.



# » What our families have to say «

It is heart-warming to read the messages families write after staying in our facilities, and what better way to show you how families are stronger together than by sharing these special words from guests of the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital.

12 July 2015.  
 Fantastic Place to come and get away to refresh!  
 Thanks so much to the amazing people that run behind the scenes, this Ronald McDonald house is a treasure to have in Invercargill  
 AMAZING!  
 Selley & Jonny Dewlin (Invercargill)


2nd August 2015  
 what are wonderful Place for families out of their normal family life with children in hospital. This is a wonderful asset to Southland.  
 Carl Jukes

What an absolute blessing to stressed out families! Thank you so much for providing an oasis in the midst of much worry. 😊

31st July 2015  
 What an amazing journey we have had in the last 8 wks. Thank you all so very much. We greatly appreciate every thing Ronald McDonald and NNU have done for us and Grace.  
 To often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.  
 Thank you for including us in the Ronald McDonald family.  
 Will we meet again (Longbeas & Volunteer)  
 Jona & Jason Chaney

6 Aug  
 Awesome facility here, thanks to all those involved.  
 Andrea & Heather.

I Love you



BABY

(born 12/13/15)

21/9/15  
 Kay A  
 ORN SALESMAN

21.4.15  
 A WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE ABLE TO MEET UP WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHILE BEING IN HOSPITAL AND STILL CLOSE TO OUR BABY. IT WAS GREAT BEING ABLE TO HAVE OUR OTHER CHILDREN JOIN US. SO THEY COULD BE A PART OF THINGS.

26/4/15  
 When your life is turned upside down and you unexpectly end up in hospital it is a place like this that helps retain some sanity. The care and support offered by everyone is amazing.  
 Ronald McDonald house has been my haven for a week and I can't express my thanks enough.  
 Southland should be so proud of our hospital and facilities.  
 Forever grateful  
 Tom Morrissey and family

# » What's going on Down South «

The latest happenings from the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital



The Analytical and Monitoring team from New Zealand's Aluminium Smelter regularly donate household items to the Family Room, Southland Hospital.

## Teamwork fills the Family Room Pantry

The Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital pantry is being kept full, thanks to the team at New Zealand's Aluminium Smelter at Tiwai Point.

While running a fun 'My Lunch Rules' competition, Invercargill local Kim and the Analytical and Monitoring team from New Zealand's Aluminium Smelter discovered

our Family Room needed everyday items to make sure our facilities feel like home.

"Just like all my other zany ideas, they embraced it," says Kim.

The team each chose one or two things from the Family Room wish list to donate, and in return they received copies of the My Lunch Rules recipe booklet. Kim says after positive feedback from the team they now regularly donate to the Family Room pantry.

"It's pretty easy to put an extra pack of cereal or some tinned fruit in your basket when you do your shop, especially when we all know it's going directly to help the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital." To check out our latest wish lists, visit [www.rmhsi.org.nz](http://www.rmhsi.org.nz).

Southland stars and experienced dancers are set to take over town with rock 'n' roll next month, raising funds for the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital.



We are thrilled to be chosen as the charity of choice at this year's Rocking with the Stars on Saturday October 29 in Invercargill, which is also raising funds for the Invercargill Rock 'n' Roll Club.

The event gives 10 Southland celebrities an experienced rock 'n' roll partner and three months to learn to dance. Their hard work and dedication comes together as they don their blue suede shoes for one night of serious rock 'n' roll fun.

A professional dancer will be judging the celebrities' fancy footwork and will also be performing on the night.

Like us, one of the event organisers, Melanie Luke, says family is at the heart of Southland and the Invercargill Rock 'n' Roll Club.

"The Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital is an amazing asset and it has already touched the lives of many people in our community.

"The event is proud to partner with Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital for this year's event."

Rocking with the Stars tickets are on sale now at [ILT Stadium Southland and ticketdirect.co.nz](http://ILT Stadium Southland and ticketdirect.co.nz) - \$30 for adults and \$20 for students and children. Keep up to date with the event by rocking over to their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/rockingwiththestars](http://www.facebook.com/rockingwiththestars).



Olympic cyclist Eddie Dawkins with dance partner O'Leah Black after winning the 2011 Rocking with the Stars  
PHOTOCREDIT: Stephanie Thorne-Alexander

## SBS Bank staff roll up their sleeves in Southland

As an organisation with its heart truly grounded in Southland, it's a privilege to have SBS Bank become a Room Sponsor in our Invercargill facilities.

SBS Bank staff have walked alongside us for over five years, beginning with support of our National Street Appeal and the Family Dinner Programme, before signing on to sponsor a room in our Christchurch facilities in 2012.

We are thrilled to further strengthen our partnership with the organisation who are now sponsoring Room 4 at the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital.

By sponsoring one of four rooms in our Southland facilities, SBS Bank is enabling us to provide a home base for families, just moments away from their children in Southland Hospital's Neonatal unit and Children's ward. As a community-focused organisation, SBS Bank General Manager Strategy and Marketing Phil Jamieson says the team are happy to lend a hand in Southland.

SBS Bank senior investment consultant Iain Walker with Ronald McDonald House South Island CEO Matthew Mark at the official opening of the SBS Bank room at Southland Hospital.



"We're looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting involved with the Southland-based team!"

"We already have a strong relationship with Ronald McDonald House South Island through our sponsorship of a room in the Christchurch House so we have a good understanding and appreciation of the time and effort given by all of the team and their many volunteers to families in need. As a member-owned bank, our focus is always on providing value and benefit so we're looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting involved with the Southland-based team!"

# » Little hands, big love! «

Encouraging little ones all over the South Island to lend a helping hand to children just like them.

Here at Ronald McDonald House South Island we believe little hands can make a big difference to the families we support.

Most kiwi kids know nothing beats having family by your side when you're sick and our families know first-hand that being together can create the strength needed to fight their child's illness.

You and your little helpers can join many other schools, kindergartens and community groups from Picton right down to Bluff who help keep our doors open 24/7 to families who need us the most.

It might begin as small change - but to a family in need it changes everything.

**To find out more about community fundraising with your little ones, call 03 377 3311 or email [ricki@rmhsi.org.nz](mailto:ricki@rmhsi.org.nz)**

### Tips to get little hands helping:

- » Take a tour around our facilities in either Christchurch or Invercargill to learn about what we do
- » Let the little ones brainstorm ideas
- » A gold-coin donation pyjama day at school
- » Keep the kids together with a fundraiser school sleepover
- » Art auction where mums, dads, grandmas and grandads can buy the artwork
- » Spelling bee



*Paparoa Street Primary School students held a successful pyjama day on June 10, to coincide with our National Street Appeal. Pictured here is their school council visiting the House to present their generous donation.*



### Generosity on the menu at Christchurch Supper Club

The Christchurch Art Gallery was humming with over 300 Supper Club guests on June 24, all raising their hearts to support our mission to help families lead happier, healthier lives.

A highlight on the fundraising calendar for us, Christchurch Supper Club is a unique experience for supporters and their guests to take part in a mystery dining experience, celebrating fantastic local cuisine at 41 unique venues and restaurants around the city.

We were thrilled to have the Comerford family from Upper Hutt join us to bravely share their incredible story with guests.

We also wish to thank our generous supporters and sponsors of the event, Continental, Lion, Carlton Bar & Eatery, Giesen Wines, Bryan Andrew Auctioneer, Andrea Allen, Pete Smith, Forever Young Photography, Pernod Ricardo, Gold Band Taxis, Kiwi Eftpos, Shipleys, Groundwork by Julie Abbot and Canon.

To all the guests, volunteers, restaurants, chefs and venues involved – thank you. We simply could not do what we do without your support.

**We can't wait to take Supper Club back to Queenstown on October 20.**

**Email [robyn@rmhsi.org.nz](mailto:robyn@rmhsi.org.nz) or call 03 377 3311 to book your table today!**



### Limehills' Little Helpers

Limehills School students are giving back by cooking meals for families at the Ronald McDonald Family Room, Southland Hospital.

Members of the school's student volunteer army, Hannah (12) and Georgia (11) say they've had a lot of fun working together on the project.

"I like helping other people because I think that they are in a difficult situation. If I was in the same situation, I'd hope that people would do kind things for me," says Hannah.

Limehills Principal Jim Turrell agrees, saying it's important for learning to be meaningful and to benefit not just the student, but also others in the community.

"This type of learning is really exciting for students and teachers and is becoming increasingly popular with schools."



*Cathedral Grammar students held a bake sale to raise money for our Christchurch facilities. The junior school students loved visiting the House to present their cheque and learn more about the families we serve.*



## Kiwi Truckies backing Kiwi Families

Working trucks from all over New Zealand will be rolling towards Wigram Airforce Museum next month as part of the 'Show and Shine' Trucking Show.

Organisers are expecting about 270 trucks on display, not only to support the road transport industry but also raise funds to help us remain a home away from home for kiwi families.

New Zealand Trucking Association CEO David Boyce says like Ronald McDonald House South Island, his organisation's members are family-orientated.

"There are many members whose family has used the facilities or they know someone who has, so we're passionate about doing the right thing for families."

With a Fonterra tanker on display for kids to climb aboard, toy trucks to play with and hundreds of trucks set to line the old runway, the expo is sure to provide fun for the whole family.

Importantly, David says the expo is also an opportunity to learn more about how to share the road safely with trucks, all part of a great new awareness campaign run by the association in schools.

Join us at the 'Show and Shine' Trucking Show on Saturday October 8 at the Wigram Airforce Museum. Entry is a gold coin donation. To keep up-to-date with the latest news, drive over to the Show & Shine Christchurch Facebook page or the website, [www.christchurchtruckingshow.co.nz](http://www.christchurchtruckingshow.co.nz).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## Events for Ronald McDonald House South Island 2016

### OCTOBER

#### » Saturday 8 'Show and Shine' Trucking Show

Get revved up and ready for some trucking action at the Trucking Expo. During the day a large exhibition of trucks and accessories will be on display at the Wigram Airforce Museum. Ronald McDonald House is honoured to be the charity of choice at this event, so put the pedal to the metal and head along!

#### » Thursday 20 Queenstown Supper Club

A must-do experience! The Lake District's restaurants, unique venues and chefs collaborate with us to create a mystery dining experience. Email [supperclub@rmhsi.org.nz](mailto:supperclub@rmhsi.org.nz) to book your table today!

#### » Saturday 29 Rocking with the Stars!

Southland stars and experienced dancers are set to takeover town! Tickets are on sale now at ILT Stadium Southland and [ticketdirect.co.nz](http://ticketdirect.co.nz) - \$30 for adults and \$20 for students and children. Keep up to date with the event by rocking over to their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/rockingwiththestars](http://www.facebook.com/rockingwiththestars).

### DECEMBER

#### » Saturday 10 A Day at the Polo, Port Hills Polo Club, Tai Tapu

Watch heart-stopping polo matches while enjoying a two-course meal and a complimentary drink in the Summer setting of a garden marquee. This event sells out every year – be in quick to secure your table of 10 guests. Email [robyn@rmhsi.org.nz](mailto:robyn@rmhsi.org.nz) to book your table today.

# New and renewed Room Sponsors



# Trusts and Grants



## » Our Families «

Families from all over New Zealand stay at our facilities while their children receive hospital care for many different reasons. Sometimes they stay for just one or two nights, but some families can be with us for many months. Here are our family statistics from the second quarter of 2016.

### Our most common diagnoses are

26% Neonatal	2% GastroIntestinal
26% Oncology	5% Antenatal
17% Surgical	2% Accident
8% Medical	1% Renal, Liver & Kidney
6% Ear, Nose & Throat	1% Burns
5% Orthopaedic	1% Psychological

### Our families come from

Canterbury	29%
Southland	20%
West Coast	17%
Otago	11%
Queenstown & Lakes	10%
Wellington	10%
Waikato	1%
Lakes	1%
Marlborough	1%



## OUR PEOPLE:

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