



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado

* *Volunteer Newsletter* *

** A Message from Lyn - RMHC House Manager**



Have you ever had an "Anyway Person?" You know, the one person who will accept you no matter what. That person who, no matter how badly you behave, mess up, feel, or talk to them – that person will always accept you and move on with you to a better day. Your Anyway Person. Do you have an Anyway Person?

Do you know that you **are** an Anyway Person? Those of you who volunteer at our Family Rooms, think about it...a family has a very difficult night with their little patient, they look out the window and see a blizzard, they're annoyed with the vending machine because it just ate their last dollar, they walk down the hall expecting the Family Room to be locked because of the weather but turn the doorknob just in case. And there you are *anyway*. You smile at them, you welcome them into the Room, you offer them the treat of the day, some fresh coffee or juice, a quiet place. Right then, you **are** their Anyway Person. They were grumpy-you smiled anyway. It was snowing horribly-you were there anyway. The vending machine ate their last dollar-you offered them something to eat or drink anyway. You are the Anyway Person!

Those of you who volunteer at our House, think about it...you don't know what trauma a family has just been through, how difficult a decision is that they must make, how tired they are, how weary, how lonely. And they don't know what you might be going through in your own life. They don't talk to you when you meet in the hall or the kitchen, but you smile *anyway* and say "Good morning." They don't say thank you when you go to the basement and bring up some supplies for them, but you smile *anyway* and say "Have a great day." You serve them, you help supply their needs, you **are** their Anyway Person. You come in shift after shift and quietly go about your tasks no matter what. You are there *anyway*. You are the Anyway Person!

Our wonderful bakers and meal cooks-think about it...our families have difficult days at the hospital and come back to the House worn out and just want to take their minds off what is going on. And there, on the counter are fresh homemade cookies, brownies, pies, breads. You have a full and busy life but you take the time to bake and bring it in for strangers—*anyway*. Or you cook your favorite, tasty meal and bring it in. You take time out of your busy life-*anyway*-for people you will never know and you make a difference-a huge difference. You are the Anyway Person!

Our families are able to rest, recuperate and regain their strength to make it through another day of scary medical issues with their little patients because **YOU ARE THERE ANYWAY**. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of our very special **ANYWAY PEOPLE**.

Lyn Hale



** A Message from Tina - RMHC Family Room Manager**

We had a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Event at Flying W! It was great to see those of you who could make it and we missed those of you who could not be with us. If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions on how to make this event even better, please e-mail me and let me know!

The Memorial Family Room is running like a dream! I realize that I sound like a broken record, but I cannot **THANK YOU** all enough for everything you do. You are **SO** appreciated! Thanks to Cori, our Program Assistant, we now are having meals brought into the room for guests. Currently, it is once per week as we are testing it out to see how it is received. My guess is that it will be a huge success and will provide just that much more comfort to everyone who comes in. We've now had over 26,000 guests from over 2,000 families!!! We are touching **SO** many lives. We continue to have about 90% of our visitors from the NICU.

The Family Room at St Francis continues to have more visitors each month! I huge **THANK YOU** to all of you that volunteer there as well! You have all hung in thru many shifts where you may not see a guest...but those instances are decreasing each month as our awareness within the hospital grows and people have a greater understanding of what we do. We have now had over 400 guests visit the room from over 90 families! With the room being located inside the PEDS unit, our visitor percentages look a bit different from those at Memorial...at St Francis, only 47% of our visitors are from the NICU.

I look forward to seeing all of you in March! I love catching up with each of you and learning about what is going on in your lives!

Tina Dewar

**Volunteer of the Year - 2009
Vivian Holland**



Vivian has volunteered in the RMHC Office since January, 2009. She spends her time working on any project

**Spirit of the Charities - 2009
Evelyn Aiken**



The Spirit of the Charities award is given to a RMHC volunteer who has not only

we ask her to do with great enthusiasm! Even when presented with brand new projects, Vivian jumps right in and gives it all she's got. Vivian has a delightful sense of humor and laughs with gusto -- her favorite saying is "Stop the madness!"



March Birthdays

Brittanie Pierce - Mar 1
 Brett Norton - Mar 3
 Amy Suits - Mar 4
 Gloria Banda - Mar 6
 Jeannie Nisbeth - Mar 8 Debbie
 Lacey - Mar 11
 Michelle Kelly - Mar 11
 Amy Tronnier - Mar 11
 Michelle Gardner - Mar 11
 Cathy Jordan - Mar
 12 Marlene Kelley - Mar 13
 Carolyn Jamerson - Mar 14
 Sandra Harris - Mar 16
 Mary Kornblatt - Mar 18
 Nancy Paulsen - Mar 19
 Mary Gilchrist - Mar 20
 Suzette Sprewer - Mar 23
 Tara Downs - Mar 26
 David Redinger - Mar 28
 Kathie Howell - Mar 28
 Earl Patterson - Mar 29
 Kathy Kaylan - Mar 31

Have You Heard About...?

The National Charity League, Colorado Springs Chapter

National Charity League, Inc. (NCL) is a non-profit national organization of mothers and daughters who join together in community involvement within more than 130 local chapters throughout the United States. The mission of the National Charity League is to provide service to its communities while fostering the mother-daughter relationship. Through their volunteer

given much of their time to our charity, but also has our mission living in their heart. The physical award is just that, a stained glass heart with the RMHC logo and the recipients name engraved on it. Evelyn Aiken, a volunteer at Family Room - Memorial Hospital, was this year's recipient! A volunteer since the Family Room opened on January 8, 2008, Evelyn has happily logged over 200 hours! She cannot do enough to make every guest feel as embraced as possible once they walk through our door. If you have not met Evelyn, please try to make it a point to meet her - she's a gem!!!



February Meals Generously Donated By:

The Airplane Restaurant, Cindy Allen, Junior League, Austin Bluffs Evangelical Free Youth Group, North Middle School, Debby Thomas, Rita Vanderpool, Jillian Wetzell, National Charity League, 1st Lutheran Church, Divine Spirit Church, Courtney Camelin, East United Methodist Women, McDonald's, Academy Christian, Andrea Cabello, Community of Christ Church, Deb Beck, The Barrell Family, CS Woman's Club, The Smith Family, 4th Space Operations Squadron, Pikes Peak Neighbors, Shelly & Molly Stellwagen, & Dianne Valdez.



Special Thanks to Janice Parker-Knight and the **Theta Rho Girls Club** from Canon City who

work they "hope to make the world a better place tomorrow."

The National Charity League is a recurring monthly participant in the RMHC Meals Program - providing tasty dinners to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

Contributions made by participants of the Meals Program allow families to focus on their sick little ones and alleviate worries about grocery shopping and cooking during stressful times, allowing more time to spend with sick little ones who are therefore able to get better faster.

made a huge donation of pop tabs, Valentine's Day Cards & Door Hangers for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

You ladies are **FANTASTIC!!!**



**Ronald McDonald House of Southern Colorado
311 N. Logan Ave.
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909**