

# hope lives here

This year, I've spent a lot of time thinking about what it means to have hope. As my 15-year-old daughter Ailish has fought a long battle with Ewing's Sarcoma, even small moments of hope for the future have made all the difference to our family.

More than a year ago, we were devastated to learn of a large tumor in Ailish's abdomen. It was hard to think about anything other than what it was going to take to keep my child alive, and our family together. Frightened and worried, we immediately packed up our lives and drove more than 1,000 miles to Portland so that Ailish could receive the specialized care she needed at Randall Children's Hospital.

As a mother, I felt so helpless. Being far from home, and our usual support systems, I couldn't believe all the new challenges facing our family. Overwhelmed by a new city, the prospect of a long-term hotel stay, and Ailish's intensive treatment, I was worried for the future I'd imagined for my family and the future I'd imagined for my daughter.

But the moment we arrived in Portland, we learned that Ronald McDonald House Charities was there to help. They opened their doors and provided us with our first glimmer of hope that everything might be ok.

We had a beautiful and safe space to stay, warm homecooked meals, and compassionate staff and volunteers to lean on when we needed them. With the incredible cost of Ailish's medical care, we were surprised and relieved to find out that it wouldn't cost us a single dollar to stay at the Ronald McDonald House and be close to her bedside.

Throughout 2020, I've watched RMHC stand up in the face of uncertainty and provide respite to hundreds of families who are caring for their seriously ill child during an incredibly scary time. These families, like mine, are relying on you to ensure that can RMHC provide the housing and access to medical care that our children so desperately need.

Last month, after 347 nights at the Ronald McDonald House, everything we'd been hoping for finally came true - Ailish finished chemo and we headed home to Arizona. I will forever be grateful for the hope we found within the walls of RMHC and for people like you who make that happen.

Please make a gift today. Because when you give, Hope Lives Here.

*Jackie West*



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Oregon & SW Washington

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**Portland East House**  
2620 N. Commercial Ave.  
Portland, OR 97227

**South Waterfront House**  
3410 S Bond Ave.  
Portland, OR 97239

**Bend House**  
1700 NE Purcell Blvd.  
Bend, OR 97701

**Springfield House**  
116 St. Joseph Pl.  
Springfield, OR 97477