



# McFAMILY MATTERS

RMHC® New Zealand news for the  
McDonald's Community



**SPRING 2019**



30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Back by popular demand! **Share the Love** was a great 2018 fundraising campaign that ran in all McDonald's restaurants throughout the country for RMHC New Zealand and will launch again in 2019 on October 30th!

We need you to ask customers to add \$1 to their order to purchase a heart sticker that they can add to the house to fill it with Love.

We have set some big goals this year and need **Share the Love to raise \$500,000!** This huge target can only be reached with the commitment and support of all restaurants and crew. We need **every restaurant** to raise \$2,800 during the two weeks that Share the Love will run for, through selling heart stickers and any extra fundraising. This is a great time to organise an extra fundraiser to bump up your total - such as a raffle, mufti day or bake sale!



These funds are essential for continuing to support the rising and ongoing operating costs of providing free accommodation to over 4,300 families per year from all across the country while their child is in hospital away from home.

#### LOOK OUT FOR:

- Your heart stickers and house posters will arrive in restaurants on the week of **October 21st – get them ready to put up for the start of the campaign.**
- Detailed information in the Managers Guide on metime – so the whole team can be prepared
- Weekly Restaurant Updates.
- **National and regional awards** for fundraising efforts during the two week campaign.
- **Visits and calls from the RMHC team to see how it's all going.**



# A Safe Haven

The Kupa Family from Reporoa recently spoke at the 'Light for Life' event in Auckland about their journey with RMHC New Zealand since their son, Caleb, was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma.



Four-year-old Caleb Kupa had been having stomach pains for a long time without any diagnosis. He had seen the doctor for numerous blood tests without any alarming results. When mum Rachael took him to Rotorua hospital for faster access to scans, she was sure it would not be anything serious. However, an ultrasound scan found an unknown mass in Caleb's abdomen.

The next week was a blur for the Kupa family. They had been planning to move house that weekend. Instead, they found themselves rushing up to Auckland while friends and family took care of the move back home in Reporoa.



On arrival, Caleb was admitted into hospital and the family were able to stay close by at Ronald McDonald House. After further scans and tests, Caleb was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma. He was facing 16 months of intensive treatment, including surgeries and two stem cell transplants.

The House was the family's safe haven throughout Caleb's treatment.

“  
**The staff were always there for a hug, you didn't have to say a word, just a comforting hug**  
”  
*Rachael, House mum*

Rachael loved the community feel in the House. “We met some amazing families, we would leave our room door open and the children would come and go and play. It was a sense of normality for them,” says Rachael. “Izak would be cheeky with the staff; he'd get them to chase him. Caleb and Izak could be themselves, it felt like home”.

After Caleb's transplants, he could come off the ward and join his family in one of the House's apartments, which are equipped to accommodate children after transplants. “Having the apartment was just amazing. We are so thankful. We could just lock ourselves away and be in isolation and not have to worry about bugs,” remembers Rachael.

To date, the Kupa family have spent 336 nights at Ronald McDonald House, and could spend many more. It is only because of the ongoing support of McDonald's that we are able to continually support families like the Kupa's through their medical journey.



# House Heroes

## Fun for Families



Disney on Ice



Elsa from Frozen

Organisers of McDonald's Co-Op events, MetroEXP, kindly donated hundreds of tickets to the **Disney on Ice** shows in Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch. Families were thrilled to be treated to a night out, and parents and children alike loved seeing their favourite Disney characters come to life. It is so great to see McDonald's suppliers getting involved with RMHC New Zealand as part of the McFamily.

## Light for Life

Franchisees of McDonald's Whangaparaoa, **PJ and Pooja Goel**, were recently part of the Light for Life event that **raised over \$31,250** for RMHC New Zealand. PJ and Pooja had attended the event in the past and saw potential to get involved. They became gold sponsors and RMHC New Zealand became one of the four benefiting charities alongside Cancer Society, Unicorn Foundation, and Totara Hospice South Auckland. The night was a multi-cultural event with charity speakers, dancers, delicious food and a live auction.



PJ and Pooja Goel presenting the cheque



RMHC New Zealand CEO Wayne Howett speaking at the Light for Life event

## House Hero Highlights



Crew from McDonald's Blenheim were all on board with the Blue Weekend

Teina, Shift Manager from McDonald's Blenheim recently got the restaurant involved with RMHC New Zealand by holding a Blue Weekend. Teina was inspired to support RMHC New Zealand when she visited one of the Houses while on her Customer Experience course. After seeing the difference her fundraising could make, Teina organised the Blue Weekend, supported by her Franchisee Wilhelm Maas, wherein crew could wear a Blue T-Shirt during their shift for a gold coin donation. They also encouraged customers to add a \$1 donation to their order!

After completing her Customer Experience Training – which included a tour of the Ronald McDonald Domain House in Auckland - Divina Harris (McDonald's Richmond) was so inspired that she not only played a big role in supporting the Nelson Supper Club but also took on a second fundraising project with 'The Give Initiative'; a giving relay that encourages participants to donate and raise awareness of a charity of their choice. Divina posted a series of videos about RMHC New Zealand on their Facebook page and committed to make a hugely generous personal donation.



Divina hanging out with Ronald McDonald at Nelson Supper Club

**Thank you so much to Teina, Divina and House Heroes across the country for your ongoing support of RMHC New Zealand and getting your wider communities involved! If you have someone you would like featured get in touch with Jo – joanne.powell@rmhc.org.nz**

# Super Supper Clubs & Family Dinner Nights

## Supper Club Season

**Supper Club Dunedin** was once again a roaring success raising a record breaking **\$172,000!** Former Highlander Buxton Popoali'i joined the fundraising efforts and challenged himself to complete an hour-long prone hold. Not only did he complete the impressive task, but he managed to raise over \$14,000 through donations from the public as well. Huge thanks to **Justin and Eterei Stonelake** as well as the wider Dunedin Ambassador's team who continually go above and beyond in their support of RMHC New Zealand.



Buxton during his one-hour prone hold with the support of Aaron, Ben and Katie Smith



Photo credit: Karoana Vincent

Franchisees Jenny and Glen Johnson at Nelson Supper Club

For a number of years franchisees **Jenny and Glen Johnson** have wanted to put Nelson on the Supper Club map. This year that came to fruition with the inaugural Nelson Supper Club, held at the start of August. The event was an **amazing success raising over \$57,000**, which is an incredible result for the events

first year. The Prosser family spoke about the 65 nights they have had to stay in a Ronald McDonald House and it was amazing to see the Nelson community rally together to donate over \$8,000 (the amount it costs to host a family for 65 nights) through Host a Family donations. Local Ray White offices supported the event through providing auction items and an auctioneer for the night. It is so great to see partners of RMHC New Zealand coming together to reach such amazing achievements. Congratulations to McDonald's Richmond and the Nelson team!

## McDonald's involvement in Family Dinner Nights



McDonald's Head Office

Families staying with RMHC New Zealand have recently been treated to a huge amount of delicious dinners cooked by generous McDonald's teams. Team Archways, McDonald's Head Office, Hira Corporation, McDonald's Tauranga, McDonald's Orewa and McDonald's West Auckland have all spent hours in the kitchen over the last few months to create tasty and nutritious homemade meals for families staying in one of the Ronald McDonald Houses. After spending hours on the hospital ward, coming back to the smells of cooking and a welcoming smile can mean the world to a family with a child in a hospital away from home.



McDonald's West Auckland



McDonald's Tauranga



Team Archways



McDonald's Orewa



Hira Corporation





## JANUARY

## FEBRUARY

- 6 Waitangi Day
- 22 PwC Challenge – Wellington

## MARCH

- 1 McDonald's Golf Tournament - Feilding
- 1 1-Day Golf Tournament -Waikato
- 1 - 31 House to House - Nationwide
- 6 Rotorua Supper Club
- 7 PoA Golf Tournament -Auckland
- 29 \*Invercargill Supper Club

## APRIL

- 2 Waikato Supper Club
- 4 M Factor Fashion Show - Christchurch
- 13 McDonald's Ohope Classics
- 13 Great Forrest Events - Wellington
- 19 - 22 Easter
- 25 ANZAC Day

## MAY

- 10-17 RMHC New Zealand Family Appeal - Nationwide
- 10 RMHC New Zealand Street Collection - Nationwide
- 18 Bollywood Dinner and Dance

## JUNE

- 2 ASB Christchurch Marathon
- 3 Queen's Birthday
- 18 Auckland Supper Club
- 21 \*Christchurch Supper Club

\*RMHSI co-ordinated event.

## JULY

- TBC Gazley Volkswagen Wellington Marathon
- 24 House Mid Winter Christmas Party - Auckland
- TBC Warriors Game Day Activation - Auckland
- TBC McDonald's Quiz Night - Dunedin

## AUGUST

- 1 Dunedin Supper Club

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Dunedin Marathon

## OCTOBER

- 17 Wellington Supper Club
- 18 \*Queenstown Supper Club
- 20 ASB Auckland Marathon
- 22 House Birthday - Auckland
- 28 Labour Day
- TBC Ray White Golf Tournament - Whangamata

30 OCT - McDonald's In-Restaurant fundraiser -  
12 NOV Share the Love

- TBC Kathryn Wilson Sole to Soul - Auckland

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Red Shoe Ball - Auckland
- 22 McDonald's Golf Tournament - Hutt Valley

## DECEMBER

- 7 \*A Day at the Polo - Christchurch
- TBC McDonald's Spookers/Rainbows End Crew Event - Auckland
- 17 House Family Christmas Party - Auckland
- 18 House Family Christmas Party - Wellington