Tyler Cross was born with a very rare skin disease called Epidermolysis Bullosa, a connective tissue disease resulting in extremely fragile skin that blisters and tears from minor friction or trauma. Children with EB are known as “Butterfly Children” because the disease makes their skin as fragile as the wings of a butterfly.

Tyler’s parents, Terry and Joan, were introduced to Ronald McDonald House Charities many years ago. Tyler’s older brother, Justin, was also diagnosed with this same rare disease that took his life at age 22. With the family living in and out of hospitals for 13 years, it was a godsend to learn about the House and the amenities it had to offer their family.

“The Ronald McDonald House has been life changing for us. For my husband and I, the RMH is a second home. We have a place to eat supper, a place for a shower, it’s the simple things you miss like being able to put your clothes in a dresser and not live out of a suitcase. We thank all of you for changing our life.”

Tyler, now age 17, has been an inspiration to everyone. He lives in constant pain, yet puts smiles on the faces of everyone around him. Even when that pain is most severe, such as when hospital nurses take two to four hours every day to change the bandages covering his entire body, he sings through the pain. He has been known to hold concerts at Blank Children’s Hospital, singing to lift the spirits of the nurses and the other children on his floor.

He has shared his story many times and was even called to Capital Hill to meet with members of congress to stress the importance of funding research for Epidermolysis Bullosa and share how the disease has impacted his life. Tyler understands that a little bit adds up and can go along way. He has often donated his piggy bank to various charities and people in need. As he says, “your change, like pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters can change the world!”

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

As we were putting together this newsletter, we learned that Joan and Terry’s home in Corning, IA is in dire need of a new roof. As you can imagine, even with the best medical insurance, 13 years of hospital bills have made an enormous financial impact. We want to help them replace their roof and we need your help. We have never directly asked for money for a specific family before, however, this situation is so unique, we thought the need justified the ask.

If you would like to contribute, the family has set up a fund to accept donations at Iowa State Bank called the Tyler Cross Fund. You can stop by any Iowa State Bank location to donate or mail in a donation to any of their locations. Their main location is 627 East Locust, Des Moines, IA 50309. Be sure to make a note that it is a donation to the Tyler Cross Fund. If you have any questions you can call the bank at 515-288-0111 or visit www.iowastatebanks.com

**YOU CAN ALSO DONATE ONLINE AT**

WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/HQUASC
2014 EVENTS

32ND ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S CHARITY STEER SHOW
For the past 32 years, Governor Terry Branstad has joined forces with the Iowa Beef Industry Council and the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association to host the Governor’s Charity Steer Show. At the Governor’s request, the three Ronald McDonald Houses of Iowa would be the beneficiaries of the first event. We are grateful to Governor Branstad for continuing the tradition and helping us support children and their families for 32 years. The 2014 event broke records for the third year in a row, raising $225,850 for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Des Moines, Iowa City and Sioux City.

For the past three years, the Iowa youth who have raised the steers in the show come to the Ronald McDonald House with their families to volunteer for a day. Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Reynolds graciously stop by to eat lunch with the kids and thank them for all of their efforts. Below are pictures of the 32nd Annual Governor’s Charity Steer Show and the Ronald McDonald House volunteer work day.

RIDE FOR RONALD
Cora and Scott Lahr stayed at the Des Moines Ronald McDonald House in 2012 while their 3 year old son Emmett was battling cancer. They saw first hand the services we provide and knew they would want to give back.

They are giving back and in a big way!!! They rallied their community of Lake View, IA and put together a bike ride in support of the Ronald McDonald House. Local families opened up their homes around Black Hawk Lake and hosted stops for the participants. At each stop a family was placed that has benefited through the services provided and would share their story.

After such a successful event they are planning to hold another ride on August 1, 2015. The bike ride is complete with raffle opportunities, visiting host homes, and ending at Stones Pier and listening to a live band.

This event was such a success it won Event of the Year in Lake View during their Progress for Promise days.
HELPING OTHERS

SHOW YOUR STRIPES #FORRMHC

We celebrated the 40th Anniversary of RMHC while we shared stories and showed our red and white stripes by using #forRMHC. With help from Ronald McDonald we thanked our donors, volunteers and supporters. The day included some of the following fun: McDonald’s breakfast burrito drive up at Clear Channel Radio station, on-air with Van & Bonnie, “Random Acts of Ronald” throughout the day to make people smile and ended with a live remote at McDonald’s restaurant on 22nd street with KISS 107.5 FM.

WICKED WOODS

This Halloween, The Wicked Woods haunted attraction raised $400 for the Ronald McDonald House. Hosted by The Green Guys Landscaping, Wicked Woods had their 5th successful year with over 300 guests.

BEREAVEMENT BASKET PROGRAM

Our recent addition of the Bereavement Basket Program sends a little bit of love to families who have suffered from the loss of a child. We have provided baskets to 15 families since July.

COLOR FOAM 5K

July 26, 2014 – Des Moines Water Works Park hosted the Color Foam 5K. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa partnered with the race crew for the event. With help from volunteers and RMH staff we were able to raise $427.

JOHN DEERE DES MOINES WORKS

Since 2013 John Deere Des Moines Works has been a monthly volunteer group that has provided us with many things including but not limited to monetary donations to help open our Respite Room at Blank Children’s Hospital, wish list items, hours of volunteer service, help with our Giving Tree Program and tons of maintenance work around the House.

PICTURED BELOW: DENNIS MAHONEY & TONY WEAVER – THEY WORKED HARD TO SCRAP AND REPAINT OUR FRONT ENTRANCE TO MAKE OUR “HOME AWAY FROM HOME” HAVE MORE Curb APPEAL. THANKS FOR MAKING THE HOUSE LOOK GOOD AND PROVIDING THE MATERIALS TO DO SO!

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LOVE LETTERS
As a candidate for Troop 316 Eagle Scout, Chase Sprague chose the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) as his project. Chase has been a Boy Scout since he was in Kindergarten and is now a senior at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. He is employed part-time at the Windsor Heights Hy-Vee.

For his Eagle Scout project, he asked the Windsor Heights Community to donate items from the RMH “Wish List” for usage at the House. Chase said, “I’m surprised at how much people are willing to donate.” Other Scouts from his Troop, as well as his supportive family, helped him gather and deliver to the House numerous items which filled two vans.

Chase chose the Ronald McDonald House because his own family had stayed in the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City at one time. Chase was born more than 17 years ago with complications and within two hours of his birth had to undergo surgery. His abdomen had closed while in utero and his organs were left outside of his body, however, an amazing surgeon at Blank Children’s Hospital was able to correct the problems. He spent two (2) months in Blank Children’s Hospital healing under the care of a great team of doctors and nurses.
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MARCH 1, 2014 THRU OCTOBER 31, 2014

THANK YOU

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa, Inc. is supported by the donations of individuals and local businesses who would like to thank you for giving to support the House. The following is a list of donors posted through the below dates. Should there be any omissions, please write, call or e-mail the House.

THANK YOU ONES

We are grateful for the support of:

10

11

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loving and warm home-away-from-home for families that we are still your local charity. We are providing a safe, even though we are located in the Des Moines area, the House and wanted to let us know she will deliver the product tomorrow. We have families that in their home on a regular basis. She had coupons to purchase Tide for their lives. Just as I am writing this I took a phone call. It they are going through one of the most stressful times in their hearts long after they leave our House.

which keeps our doors open each and every day. Many of the families have left a loving legacy in honor of their family member. Even though we may not be in the Des Moines area, we are still your local charity. We are providing a safe, loving and warm home-away-from-home for families that travel to hospitals and other medical facilities in our area to receive the care that is not available in our own community. Please remember us next time you are looking for a local charity to help, even though you may not be in the Des Moines area there are many ways you can help your local community by helping The House That Love Built.

So, as we are located in the Des Moines area, we will provide you with information on how to have a family occasion and special times, we ask you to remember that all families will always have a homebase at our House going through a difficult time. Those families are not always able to say thanks, so I will do that for them... thank you for preparing hot meals... from being a large kitchen to being a small service kitchen.
I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION...

☐ $250 ☐ $150 ☐ $100 ☐ $75 ☐ $50 ☐ OTHER $ _____________

☐ My check/payment is enclosed ☐ Please charge my: ___Visa ___MasterCard ___American Express

Card Number: ___________________________________________ Exp. Date _______________

Name on Card (Please Print) _____________________________ Your signature ___________________

NAME ________________________________________________________

ADDRESS _____________________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP _______________________________________________

E-MAIL _________________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER _______________________________________________

☐ Skip my acknowledgement and save the funds for your programs. I know my gift is appreciated and being utilized well. My cancelled check/credit card statement will serve as a receipt (all gifts $250 or more will be sent a written receipt.)

Please clip and mail to:
RMHC
1441 PLEASANT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50314

Make checks payable to the Ronald McDonald House.

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