



MISSION Finding Comfort at the MOMENT: House that Love Built



To Michael and Tricia Roller, the Ronald McDonald House is nothing short of a blessing. At just six-months-old, their daughter Samantha had just been diagnosed with neuroblastoma – a type of childhood cancer that affects the nervous system – and transferred from their hometown of Lafayette, IN to Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health. There, Samantha soon began several months of intense chemotherapy treatment. Wanting to be near their baby's side, the Roller Family turned to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana for help.

"The Ronald McDonald House was a huge blessing to our family," Tricia says. "At a time where Riley only allowed one parent in the room at a time, the House made it possible for us to both be by her side every day and not have to worry about how we could afford to make the long drive every day."

During their time at RMHCCIN, Tricia and Mike found comfort from the services and generosity provided by the community and Ronald McDonald House volunteers. Tricia recalled how much this hospitality meant during a particularly difficult week, right before Christmas, when Tricia's father passed away after his battle with cancer.

"Mike [my husband] was staying at the House during this time. At a time when I was so emotionally drained and couldn't even think about Christmas shopping – the Ronald McDonald House provided us not only with a gift for Mike, myself and Samantha but also for our [then] three-year-old daughter who was staying with another family member. It really meant so much to all of us," Tricia recalls.



Samantha at six-months-old, right before her diagnosis.



Samantha today: Seventeen-years-old and cancer-free!

Today, Samantha is seventeen-years-old, cancer-free and heading into her senior year of high school. She is smart, actively involved in her community and driven, and when Tricia speaks of her daughter, her voice is full of pride and joy. Like most teenagers, she is looking ahead and trying to imagine life after graduation. Does she attend nearby Purdue University or follow her dream of joining the United States Air Force? Though Samantha's path is uncertain, her parents know her future is bright. Over the years, Samantha's annual follow-up scans and tests continue to go well, and the family is looking forward to her final follow-up appointment next year.

"We are so grateful to the Ronald McDonald House for all they provided and for allowing us to stay together during such a difficult time...We are happy to give back and help support other families that may find themselves in a similar position," Tricia says.