

# Community of Support

## RMHC® Brings *Community of Support* to Rogers Behavioral Health

In 2018, Bridget and her mother, Kathy, traveled from Franklin, Massachusetts to Wisconsin so Bridget could attend the residential program for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) at Rogers Behavioral Health. In November of that year, when Bridget turned 18, she transitioned to the Partial Hospitalization Care Program (PHP) in Brown Deer, which meant a long term stay in Wisconsin. This was when the two were first connected with the Ronald McDonald House®.

“The Ronald McDonald House was our home for the next six months and I’m really not sure what we would have done without it,” says Bridget.

During their stay, the two found solace in the Great Room, a large communal space where guest families often gather in between appointments. Kathy was grateful for a place to connect with other families.

“When your child is struggling, it’s a difficult time for everybody. For me, I was away from home, we were across the country. I was scared, overwhelmed, and incredibly lonely. The Ronald McDonald House, the Great Room in particular, provided a place for me to connect with other families, other parents who were going through their own challenges, but were of tremendous support. We laughed, we cried. We ate a lot of snacks. We made connections that were just invaluable.”

The therapeutic programming at RMHC brought Bridget comfort and opportunities to meet other guests of all ages. She enjoyed painting during Art Therapy and learned how to play the ukulele in Music Therapy. Bridget recalls that Pet Therapy was everyone’s favorite and shared, “that’s where I met Alfie, who is admittedly my favorite. All of [the programming] kept me from feeling so homesick and kept me connected with people, some of whom I might not have ever connected with.”



*People with OCD experience persistent distressing thoughts that cause extreme anxiety. When Bridget’s OCD latched onto money, she struggled with the idea of spending any of her earnings. Bridget’s decision to purchase a paddle board for herself signified a major victory.*



Even though the pair is now back home in Massachusetts, they are still in contact with many of the families they connected with during their stay. “They’ve become lifelong friends,” says Kathy.

Knowing what RMHC® Eastern Wisconsin has meant to their family, Bridget and Kathy were thrilled with the announcement of the new Ronald McDonald Family Room® in the new Ladish Co. Foundation Center on the Oconomowoc campus of Rogers Behavioral Health.

“Knowing other families are going to have the opportunity [to experience the community of support at RMHC] is just really heartwarming,” remarks Kathy. Bridget and Kathy agree that the Family Room is going to change a lot of lives and have a positive impact on people who are really struggling. Bridget added “It’s exciting, we didn’t expect it. It’s amazing and one of the best things ever!”

Thinking about their RMHC experience and the families Kathy met on their journey, she shared, “Anytime you can lighten their load a little bit, it’s just invaluable. We’re so grateful to have been a part of RMHC and we’re so supportive of [the Family Room] endeavor. The Ronald McDonald House will forever hold a place in our hearts.”



**Ronald  
McDonald  
Family  
Room®**

The Ronald McDonald Family Room will serve as a welcoming, home-like space for families, just steps away from their children receiving treatment at Rogers Behavioral Health. The Family Room provides family members and other caregivers a place where they can relax, prepare a meal, have a snack, or rest while preparing for the emotional and mental demands of having a child in the hospital.

For over a decade, RMHC has been serving families whose child is being treated at Rogers. Establishing a Family Room Program within the Ladish Co. Foundation Center will allow both families residing at RMHC and other Rogers’ families to benefit from this supportive, comforting environment that is just footsteps away from where their child is receiving treatment. We will have one of the first Family Room Programs in the entire RMHC system to exclusively support families with behavioral health needs.

“This is an incredible step in Rogers’ history of providing highly effective mental health and addiction treatment for those who are struggling, the people that love them, and the communities we live in,” says Pat Hammer, Rogers President and CEO. “We will be forever grateful to the Ladish Co. Foundation and Ronald McDonald House Charities® Eastern Wisconsin for their support and partnership in ensuring these resources are available when needed most.”

“Having family members nearby while supporting a patient receiving treatment has proven to have a positive impact on their recovery,” says Ann Petrie, President and CEO of RMHC® Eastern Wisconsin. “We are proud to partner with Rogers to deliver family-centered, compassionate care to those facing mental health challenges.”

RMHC Eastern WI will continue to welcome and provide overnight accommodations for Rogers families who are eligible to stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee.