



Frozen Meals Warm Hearts of Families with Sick Children

Ronald McDonald House® provides meals to families in hospital through new programming

(Edmonton, Alberta - For Immediate Release, February 15th, 2017) The Ronald McDonald House® in Edmonton is proud to announce the official launch of its Meals That Mend: Frozen Edition program's entrance into four Edmonton hospitals, including Edmonton's Glenrose Hospital.

"The purpose of this program is to ensure that, even in their darkest hours, families in crisis will have access to nutritional meals and will know they are not alone," says Martin Dugas, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern Alberta. "This is yet another way to provide family centred care where the kindness and support of our community is expressed with direct impact."

The program provides healthy and nutritious meals to families spending the majority of their time in the hospital with seriously ill or injured children. All meals are prepared by volunteers with the Ronald McDonald House as part of their Meals That Mend volunteer opportunities and are delivered bi-weekly to hospitals.

"Our patients and families benefit from the having this new freezer at the Glenrose. RMHCNA's Meals that Mend program helps to keep families together during some of their most difficult times. It allows parents to stay close to the child, and gives them a normal experience of sitting down for a family meal," says Jennifer Bishop, manager of Pediatric Rehabilitation at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

The program has been running at the Ronald McDonald House for more than two years with freezers available to families staying at or visiting the House. The ability to be in hospitals enhances the organization's ability to help more families who might not be able to leave the hospital for a variety of reasons.

"We know that families are often unable to leave the hospital and many are even reluctant to leave their child's bedside. Not only does this program give them a nourishing meal, but also the knowledge that there is an entire community rooting for them. This encouragement brings hope to their journey one meal at a time," says Dugas.

The program is sponsored and championed by the Edmonton Fire Fighters Union Local 209 who support it through financial donations and volunteerism to make frozen meals for families.

"Firefighters appreciate and understand the value of a nutritious meal spent in the company of their families and loved ones," says Greg Holubowich, Edmonton Fire Fighters Union 209 President. "The sponsorship of the Meals That Mend: Frozen Edition program is a natural fit and we are proud to partner with Ronald McDonald House and Alberta Health Services in this most meaningful project designed to assist families in crisis.