



## **Ronald McDonald House Shuttle Program – One Year Update More mileage means more relief for families in need**

February 17, 2016 – (For Immediate Release) After a year on the road, you may be seeing more of the familiar van throughout the City of Edmonton, as the Ronald McDonald House shuttle has expanded its service to include both the Stollery Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

In 2015 the RMHCNA shuttle, generously donated by GoAuto, made over 11,500 trips for families staying at RMHCNA and families using the RMHCNA Day Pass program.

“This program has really provided a relief for families as they are able to save significantly when it comes to time and finances. For the families from outside of Edmonton, they don’t have to worry about navigating the city and paying for parking during an already stressful time in their lives,” says Martin Dugas, CEO of RMHCNA.

In the beginning of 2016, RMHCNA extended its service to get families to and from the Royal Alexandra hospital. In only a few weeks the shuttle has over 20 families regularly using the service to visit their children in hospital.

“Another great thing about the shuttle program has been the way our volunteer shuttle drivers have bonded with families. They are a friendly face in a storm for our families. They are there to talk or listen as they journey to and from the hospital, or just to be a safe place for them before the beginning of a long day,” says Suzanne Pescod, Director of Communications with RMHCNA.

In order to keep the program going, RMHCNA relies on volunteer shuttle drivers and donations towards maintenance and fuel for the shuttle. As service from the shuttle is expanding, RMHCNA is hoping to increase the amount of vital gas card donations necessary to the program.

“I’ve met amazing families while driving the shuttle! Many ask me why I volunteer at RMHCNA. My answer is always the same...I get so much more out of this than I give. So many families have left a mark on my heart in that short shuttle ride. No matter what their story is, I’m honoured to be there for the families,” says volunteer shuttle driver Diane Parker.

For ways to become a Shuttle Shift Hero, like donations towards maintenance, insurance and gas, visit [www.rmhcna.org](http://www.rmhcna.org) or call 780-439-5437.

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### **For more information please contact:**

Suzanne Pescod  
Director of Communications  
Phone: 780-904-2885  
Email: [suzanne@rmhcna.org](mailto:suzanne@rmhcna.org)

### **About Ronald McDonald House Charities® Northern Alberta**

All Ronald McDonald Houses are independently owned and operated non-profit organizations. Ronald McDonald House Charities® Northern Alberta (RMHCNA) is the only facility in Edmonton and the surrounding area that provides temporary and affordable accommodation for families whose children are being treated in one of Edmonton’s medical facilities.

Website: [www.rmhcna.org](http://www.rmhcna.org).