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Cooking for Compassion at Ronald McDonald House

Are you aware of the wonderful work done every day by the people at the Ronald McDonald House? Their mission is to provide support to families with sick children by giving them an affordable “home away from home.” Hodgson Schilf Architects saw the need to contribute to the Edmonton community by providing their support to the staff and the many other individuals involved with the Northern Alberta Ronald McDonald House.



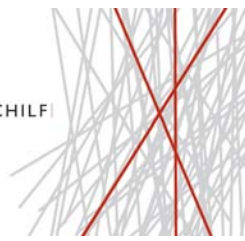
On Friday, March 12th, our company got together to cook a meal for the 90 people staying in the house. Bridgette Jarosch from our office along with Elise Street, the Recreation Coordinator for the house, worked together to organize all the details of the evening. The dinner menu consisted of spaghetti and meat sauce, garlic cheese toast and caesar salad. But of course, since no meal is complete without something sweet, we served cupcakes for dessert! We divided all of our eager employees--- Daphne and her son Jack, Jonah, Matt, Bridgette, Roger, Marty, Jeff, Shannon and Jordan --- into teams and each member was assigned a task to help prepare the meal in two of the large and well-equipped kitchens at the home.

After preparing the meal, our company was fortunate enough to be taken on a tour of the house by Campaign Director Wendy Dugas, where we learned so much about what Ronald McDonald House is all about. As soon as we took our first steps into the front entrance, which displays a donor board filled with the names of the many individuals and groups who have made generous contributions to the House, we felt an immediate warmth. What a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere! We found out that, between 2007 and 2009, an expansion was made to provide room for the growing number of families in need. The Northern Alberta Ronald McDonald House now has a total of 30 bedrooms--- each



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equipped with a private bathroom, plus three well-equipped large kitchens, large common areas, several play spaces for the children, and an underground parkade.

This experience has allowed our company to see, first-hand, the invaluable contributions of Ronald McDonald House, which provides a space where families in difficult situations are able to meet and draw strength from each other. Hodgson Schilf Architects would like to thank the Northern Alberta Ronald McDonald house for allowing us into their home to do our small part in helping these families.