



Ordway Family Story

My name is Kevin Ordway and I would like to share my journey with you that brought my family to the Ronald McDonald House. On October 3rd, 2005 my wife, Mary, our two year old son, Lucas, and I arrived in Twin Falls after a long anticipated move from Colorado. Mary was pregnant with our son Nicholas. Nineteen hours after we arrived to our new home Mary was in the emergency room because of complications with the pregnancy. The doctors said she needed to be transported immediately to Boise and placed on strict bed rest. They also told me to be prepared to stay there for the next 3 months. Lucas and I went back to our house and I quickly rummaged through moving boxes. I grabbed some clothing, diapers and any other essentials and set off for Boise, moving truck still in our driveway.

When we arrived at St. Luke's I rented a room at the hospital. It cost about \$70 for one night. I knew I needed to find affordable accommodations. The Ronald McDonald House became our home for the next 2 ½ months. Lucas and I were able to spend everyday with Mary while she was on bed rest. One month after our arrival Nicholas was born, 10 weeks prematurely. His lungs were severely underdeveloped and he was immediately put on life support. His likelihood for survival was less than 25%. Because of the Ronald McDonald House Mary, Lucas and I were able to be with Nicholas every day while he fought for his life. We were able to give him the love and support that was so essential to his healing. The close contact we kept with his doctors and nurses provided Mary and me with understanding and support. On December 12th, one month before his actual due date, I drove Nicholas, Lucas and Mary back to our home in Twin Falls. Today, Nicholas is healthy and thriving.

While four years have passed since we stayed at the Ronald McDonald House, our memories and appreciation are still as strong as ever. The time we spent at the Ronald McDonald House was the most difficult time of our lives. Staying involved, volunteering and giving back has helped my family not only recover but to grow into better people. We encourage anyone who has been through a similar experience to get involved and make a difference for someone who will soon walk in the same shoes you have already worn.

Kevin, Mary, Lucas, and Nicholas