



Porath Family Story

Dear Ronald McDonald House,

You might not remember us, but this is the Porath family. Our twins Hallie Jo and Connor were born 14 weeks early at St. Luke's on May 3, 2005. We had a long road filled with many ups and downs. We lived at the Ronald McDonald House for 3 months until Connor was ready to come home. We then moved our family into a motor home for the 2 months remaining in Hallie Jo's stay.

We are doing very well now. We've added a third child to the family, fortunately without complications! Hallie Jo is blind and has cerebral palsy as a result of her prematurity. At 4 years old, she is now crawling, but doesn't talk understandably yet. She is learning a bit of sign language and beginning to practice walking with a walker and some assistance. Best of all she continues to progress, and bless us with her smile every day.

Connor is doing wonderful; he suffered no lasting effects of the prematurity, and is also attending preschool this year. He's a rowdy farm boy who loves his sisters. He loves to look at the pictures of himself weighing just 2 lbs. and reminisce about when he was "just a little tiny baby."

We are so frequently reminded of how much the Ronald McDonald House meant to us during what we consider to be the most difficult time of our lives. It is such an amazing place and we were so blessed to be able to make it our home for 3 months. Thank you again for all that you do for families who need it so badly.

Cody, Marni, Hallie Jo, Connor and Mylee Porath