



Hi! My name is Natalie Sekulich and I am writing this on behalf of my son, Makary Sekulich, who is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Martin Elementary. For the past several years we have organized a pop tab collection in our community for the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we collected 720 pounds...yes you read that right 720 POUNDS! We collected that many pounds because of our Village here in Round Lake Heights, ALL the elementary schools in District 41, Prince of Peace and the surrounding communities!! This year I am hoping we BLOW that number away and get even closer to 1,000 pounds! LET'S DO IT!! COLLECT THOSE TABS!!

I am writing this letter again this year because we have personally experienced all that the Ronald McDonald House Charities has to offer families of children who are sick or who have to have surgery, like Makary did the summer of 2014 when he was just 5 years old. Makary has Cerebral Palsy in his legs and they did a surgery that is helping Makary walk better, use less energy to get around and he is better able to just be a kid and do things just like everyone else which he was not able to do prior to surgery!! It truly has been life changing!

We stayed at the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie's that summer for 48 days/7 weeks while Makary had this life changing surgery in Chicago. We continue to stay at Ronald McDonald House whenever Makary has his appointments downtown, which is about once every 4 months now.

I couldn't have imagined what our lives would have been like then and now without the Ronald McDonald House! Staying at the House gives us the opportunity to stay together as a family. Makary has 2 siblings, Mason who is now 15 (10th grade at Grant) and Mikayla who is now 11 (6th grade at Martin). When you have a child in the hospital only one parent can stay in the room and there are visiting hours for siblings. Without the House, I would have had to have my family torn apart for those 48 days/7 weeks but because of the House we were able to stay there and support Makary throughout his entire journey, as a family. Not only did we have a very comfortable bed to sleep in every night, but we also had home cooked meals and activities provided by the many volunteers that gave their time at the House.

The Ronald McDonald House has changed our lives FOREVER and we are so honored and feel so blessed to be able to come together with you as a community and continue to support the House and all that they will offer many families in the future.

I learned a very interesting fact while I was down there...the Ronald McDonald House Charities only gets 20% from McDonald's...while 20% may be a lot...they still have to raise the other 80% by fundraisers, donations and pop tabs! So PLEASE start collecting now and continue to do so until the first week of the New Year so that we can help other families stay together too!!

Collect them all...pop tabs, soup can tab, pet food can tab...anything with a tab. Just make sure it is aluminum not metal by using a magnet if you aren't sure. A metal tab will stick to the magnet and an aluminum one will not. You want the aluminum one!

**The winning class will receive a wonderful surprise too!!!
NOW GET GOING AND COLLECT THOSE TABS!!**

**THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!!
The Sekulich Family**

***First day to turn in pop tabs: Monday, December 4th
Last day to turn in pop tabs: Friday, January 9th***

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT POP TABS

There are about 1,430 pop tabs in one pound.

There is *more* aluminum in just the tab than there is in the whole can!



About 63,360 pull pop tabs = 1 mile