



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Alberta



Alberta Health
Services

Extra Support for Families in the NICU

RMHC Alberta Providing Comfort Items Bedside in the Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit

(For Immediate Release) Calgary Alberta – September 23, 2021: Parents and caregivers with children in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit at Foothills Hospital are getting a little bit of extra support from Ronald McDonald House Charities this morning. The first **Comfort Cart** in Calgary begins its work delivering snacks, drinks, and comfort items to families spending hours at the bedside of their babies.

“Approximately 30% of the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Calgary have children in the NICU,” says Jason Evanson, CEO of RMHC Alberta. “The opportunity to connect with all of the families who are staying in the NICU and bring them comfort and support is a driving force of our mission. We are able to bring that home-away-from-home feeling we deliver every day at the House – right to the hospital bedside.”

The Comfort Cart provides an array of beverages, snacks and comfort items that were curated through focus groups with families who have been through the experience of having a baby in the NICU.

While the House serves families who need to travel for vital medical treatments – the Comfort Cart is a resource for all families who are spending their days at the hospital, including families living in Calgary.

“When you have a baby at the NICU life is a blur, you are drawn to spend as much time as possible with your baby all the while taking care of yourself drops to the bottom of your priorities,” says Loralee Johnson, Co-Chair of the Foothills Medical Center Parent Advisory Council Team. “Many parents skip meals and put their personal care last. This program will allow parents who are in what is likely the most stressful time of their life to have a little more comfort and extra precious moments with their babies. A huge THANK YOU from the FMC PACT group and all the families in the NICU.”

The Comfort Cart is operated by volunteers from RMHC Alberta. To inquire about volunteering please visit www.rmhcalberta.org.

RMHC Alberta would like to thank Sofina Foods for their support of the Comfort Cart.

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ABOUT RMHC Alberta

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Alberta provides a home-away-from-home for families needing to travel for vital medical treatments. RMHC Alberta operates four Houses across the province (Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Medicine Hat) which provide accommodation, services, and programming to help alleviate the financial, physical, and emotional challenges faced by families with sick children.

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