



## the Meadows family

As Tosha Meadows lay in her hospital bed, she hoped she'd feel better in time to attend her high school homecoming. It didn't matter what she wore, or even whether she had a date. All Tosha wanted was to breathe.

Tosha is a 14-year-old freshman at McDonald County High School. At 7 months old, doctors diagnosed her with cystic fibrosis...a condition that makes it difficult for her to breathe. Last year, a severe lower lung infection kept Tosha at University of Missouri Children's Hospital in Columbia for an entire month. Her parents stayed at the Ronald McDonald House®, a home away from home for families with seriously ill children.

"I would not have been able to afford a motel room," said Tosha's mother, Sharon. "Without the Ronald McDonald House, I would have probably had to sleep in a chair."

At the House, Sharon and Michael Meadows found a comfortable bed, hot meals, a place to do laundry and a caring staff. "They're such a blessing," said Sharon from their home in Anderson, Missouri.

Over the course of Tosha's numerous hospitalizations, the Meadows have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House six different times and now consider RMHC of Mid-Missouri part of their extended family.



These days, Tosha is doing better and even enjoys cheerleading and dancing. Her lungs are now healthy enough to sing! And that's not all. Fewer than 24 hours after leaving University of Missouri Children's Hospital, this high school freshman was able to attend her high school homecoming dance. This time, the social event wasn't about football or flowers. For Tosha and her parents, this year's homecoming was truly about...coming home.

In 2006, 250 families were unable to stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Mid-Missouri due to occupancy and structural issues. Building a new Ronald McDonald House would give more families just like the Meadows a place of comfort, a place of rest, a place to call home.



BUILDING A HOUSE  
TO CALL HOME