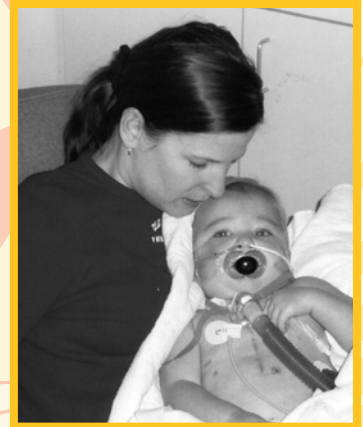




## the *Smith* family

For the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House®, life is like a puzzle. Several pieces are missing. They're away from home. They're away from their family. They're away from their child.

The puzzle for Laura and Doug Smith of Jefferson City began when their son was just a week old. That's when he had his first open heart surgery. Cooper was born without one of his heart chambers. He and his family have endured two years of operations, hospital stays and sleepless nights, one where they almost lost him. A feeding tube, a heart lung machine...a ventilator. Cooper had to relearn how to walk and talk. For a family with a seriously ill child, these are the pieces of everyday life.



Laura, Doug and their daughter, Claire, stayed and played at the Ronald McDonald House while Cooper was hospitalized. They found comfort in the House's warm beds, hot meals and encouraging words from staff. And when Cooper was too sick for the family to leave the hospital, the Smith's found an escape in the Ronald McDonald Family Room®—a special hospital area for families with sick children.

The Smith's don't know yet what the future holds for Cooper. They're still assembling the pieces. But they do know the Ronald McDonald House helped them with their puzzle.



Your contribution to the *Building a House to Call Home* campaign will allow the Ronald McDonald House to help thousands of families in the future just like the Smiths - families who need a place of support, a place of comfort, a place to call home.



BUILDING A HOUSE  
TO CALL HOME