

B.E.C.O.N .  
August 1, 2025

There was only one guest, who was today's speaker. Sarah Brockel from Ronald McDonald House Charities, who presented information about the fundraising event Corks & Canvas. Plan to attend this event on September 5, 2025 at the Northern Hotel. See the flier, along with this email.

Craig, representing the foundation, explained that 10% of the club's earnings goes into the endowment fund @ D.A. Davidson. There are two accounts at D.A. Davidson. One is the endowment account, which has about \$548K and the club's money market account, which is used for granting and has a balance of about \$25K. The recent grants were \$10K to CASA and Family Services. Although the Metra events have been slim there is still a way for us to fund grants. Other ways to fund the foundation, rather than directly from the funds of the club, include Bingo at Columbia club, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. More info will be sent out. A presale will allow you to purchase more cards for a lower cost. Also there is a Facebook event open to the public for Bingo, so share on FB. The Social committee will host a cocktail hour before the bingo, so come and get your mystery bag!

Ales for Trails is requesting help with their event. Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Shawnee has contact info, if you're interested.

Shawnee is looking for someone to spearhead the school supplies drive.

The club donated \$2K to Kids and Cowboys. Tim thanked everyone for all the help.

Dina or Rene posted on FB about Tumble Weed needing to fill their pantry, so please bring in food items to help, as they are in desperate need of supplies.

The fundraising committee still needs some members on the committee to help with ideas of how to raise funds outside

Rene mentioned that the gun raffle is happening again. The sales will all be online. Rene will post online today and will bring posters next week. It's actually a visa gift card for the amount of the gun, so those not interested in guns can still participate. .

The membership committee need more members

Shawnee needs more people to sign up for the fair events.

The rodeo events on the following weekend need fewer volunteers. There is only one spot right behind the grandstands, so only 5 people per event are needed.

November 1<sup>st</sup> Halloween Pub Crawl. Mark your calendars.

Sarah:

Basics: RMH global is supporting families of critically injured children. For the house in Billings: she read their mission statement and what they actually do, which is caring for families, while medical providers care for the injured children. The connect families with other support providers. They started with a small house, but have expanded to 20 rooms and 24 bathrooms and two large kitchens. The house has changed a lot over the years, but the mission is the same.

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They serve more than Eastern MT, they serve families who are getting care in our community (i.e. people from WY are getting help).

She presented the numbers: total families served, etc. They also service patients who are getting dental care and can't go home right away.

She explained that Billings Clinic and St. Vincent work together, along with other health providers. to support the healthcare of children.

RMH has a family room outside of NICU, which allows families to be close to their child, but live close enough to go home. The room is supplied with things they might need (i.e. snacks)

She presented information about a family that had a baby born at around 1lb and stayed there for 104 days.

They have a pantry for food, toiletries, etc.

They collect pop tabs, which they recycle.

How can you be involved?

- Collect pop tabs, Round up when you go McDonalds – all of the round up money goes to RMH, which is about 7-10% of their funding.
- Meals from the Heart program, is their meals and pantry program. They provide at least one hot meal per day to their families. But if you have a group/team that wants to come in you bring in the food and make dinner for their families.
- Attend the Corks and Canvas event.
- Donations directly to RMH to support the families. Water leaking, toilet problems, hail damage, you name it, it's still a house and they need to maintain it.

Questions:

Is there a wait list and how do you determine who gets to stay? As of now they have never had to anyone on a wait list. Most of the referrals come from hospital social workers.

Is there a charge? \$25/night donation, if possible, but no charge required. Cost is about \$125/night cost.

How do you manage families who want to bring a lot of people? Upon check-in there is a limit to how many can stay in a room, so they have to sign up how many. But visitors are welcome to visit.

The zoo has given some passes to help get the families out a little bit.

Danielle from the Family Tree next week. Board meeting August 12<sup>th</sup> for new members.

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