

KEIRA'S LOVE FROM ABOVE



IN HONOR OF KEIRA OAKES

It's that time of year again! We are gearing up to begin our annual charity drive for the Ronald McDonald House in honor of Keira Oakes. For those of you who may not know, Keira was a beautiful baby girl who earned her wings during delivery on December 30, 2007. She was our daughter, granddaughter, big sister, niece and cousin. So, every year, as we near her birthday, our families have honored her memory by donating filled Christmas stockings to the infant children of the Ronald McDonald Houses in the Tri-State Area.

Last year, because of you we were able to reach over 40 families at area Ronald McDonald Houses! This year, we are again looking to reach or exceed this same goal. The stockings will go to those babies directly serviced by the Ronald McDonald House who are receiving in-patient care, as well as those babies/families where the Ronald McDonald Houses offers their services through their "Family Rooms."

Some of the Tri-State area hospitals who are serviced by the Ronald McDonald House, and thus receive our donations, are: CHOP, St. Christopher's, Shriner's, Atlantic City Medical Center, Capital Health, Cooper, Kennedy, Shore Memorial, South Jersey Healthcare, Virtua, Nemours/Alfred I. duPont, Christiana, and Bayhealth Medical Center.

Any items you could send in to fill these stockings would be much appreciated.

Recent recommendation from RMH is that clothing sizes should be from 9 months to 24 months since typically the really little babies are not 'dressed' in the NICU. We continue to be grateful for rattles, board books, small picture frames for the parents, phone cards, and disposable cameras (maybe even Chap Stick and hand cream for the moms!).

As you might surmise, many of the babies are in the NICU, so there are a few restrictions we were asked to adhere to when stuffing the stockings. They asked that we not include any items pertaining to food or feeding items (i.e. bottles, spoons, and bowls) as everything regarding feeding has to be extremely sterile and free of all toxins given the delicate health of the babies. Other than these restrictions, anything else you can think of that a baby age 0-24 months would like or could use is welcomed!

We do realize that during the Holiday Season you are all inundated with requests for donations, so please do not feel obligated in any way to participate in this. We would appreciate any support you can give, including your prayers! If you would like to donate, you can drop any items off at school.

All donations should be dropped-off / picked-up no later than Sunday, December 11th. We thank you all for your love and support!

Love and Peace,
Keira's Family

Here are a few suggestions:

KA and KB – 0-24 month onesies

1st grade – 9-24 month outfit

2nd grade – board books (small; able to fit in stockings)

3rd grade – 0-24 month socks

4th grade – 0-24 month hats

5th grade – Christmas stockings (Dollar Store!)

6th grade – disposable cameras

7th grade – rattles/small toys

8th grade – Chap Stick, lotion or phone cards for parent use

Any questions, please contact: Michelle DiTrollo, michelledt@comcast.net