

1st Qtr 2023

around the HOUSE 35 years

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RMHC
of the Southwest

Impacting Families like Neil's



Meet a winning team, The Hiatts

By Julie Barron Wells

In a moment the life you knew is changed forever when your family is facing a medical crisis with a child.

For Team Hiatt, it changed Thanksgiving Day in 2021.

No one imagined that the rambunctious boy playing football with his brothers and cousins was not well.

Neil is one of 3 red headed boys that belong to Tirell (Tye) and Paige Hiatt. Blake(8) Neal(8) and Zac(3) are active boys. So while visiting family in Idaho, an uncle noticed Neil's eye was bulging. Neil admitted that it itched. They

were able to get Neil into a clinic immediately and that was the day life changed. "Something that should not be there", was discovered behind Neil's eye. Doctors told the family they had "more questions than answers" and sent them to Salt Lake City. The doctors were trying to send them by ambulance, but while



the discussion was happening, they were watching Neil and his brothers playing football as if nothing was out of the ordinary, so they decided the Hiatts could handle the challenge.

Being challenged is natural for Team Hiatt. As a Coach, Tye plays to win and Paige spent her college days playing Volleyball at Idaho State University. It's one thing to

want to win at sports and quite another trying to beat Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH), a rare disease that is attacking your 6-year-old son. LCH is hard to say, and was harder to explain to Neil. Paige remembers helping him understand that he would be going through tough times. They renamed it the "Ugly Sickness" so Neil could understand better. Faced with ongoing medical treatments, chemo and the disruption of life, the Hiatt family then faced moving across the country to Portales, New Mexico where Tye was beginning his new job as a football coach for the Eastern New Mexico Greyhounds.

(continued next page)

Upcoming Events

March 10: RMHC of the Southwest Birthday! Happy 35 years!

April 28: Les Chaussure Rouge Soiree (2023 Red Shoe Shindig) 6pm
Centerpointe Event Center
For tickets, visit rmhcsouthwest.com

July 27: Quarterback Sack Kick-OFF
Lunch with Coach Joey McGuire

August 7: Show Us Your Stripes 3rd
Annual Golf Tournament at the Rawls
Golf Course

For sponsor and team info, contact
Julie Barron Wells 806.773.1199

Impacting Families (continued)

Far from family, Paige was bringing Neil to UMC Children's in Lubbock, Texas, for treatments alone. "I remember thinking, where the heck is Lubbock?" As she and Neil left home. At home Tye took on the other parent duties. "We had so many questions our life was turned upside down. We had hardships financially that we were navigating and so many medical questions. I didn't know how we could do it all. Then we got in at RMHC. At first all I could imagine was how much it would cost. I found out, the cost to us, was absolutely nothing, for as long as Neil would need treatments. We came for treatments and Tye and the other boys came on weekends. RMHC truly became our home away from home. We were cared for as a family and we got to be with other families just like us. Neil made friends who helped him, and he helped others too. It's tough watching your little boy being poked and having to sit still through treatments. After Neil was asleep I could talk, laugh and cry with other parents. We learned how to accept this and how to deal with it. Neil adores Ironman

so Tye told Neil that the portal on his shoulder (for chemo) was his "Ironman Port". I'll never forget his face when we told him he was strong like Ironman." Those little things keep us all strong.

And strong isn't the half of it. Neil has faced many transfusions, and treatments. Yet, Neil is the first to hold Paige's hand. "When I see my mom look sad, I hold her hand, give a hug and kiss and tell her it is okay, Ironman is here." Neil shared.

"While Neil was in the care of his medical team RMHC had the rest of us. Before we would ask, RMHC always had whatever we needed, and even some special surprises that gave us good memories of this time. We got to meet and watch the Men's Basketball team, some of the football players came and played catch with Neil and we even were given tickets to a baseball game. Doing normal things with our family meant so much. When Neil turned 7, his RMHC family an Ironman birthday party! There were balloons, games and plenty of cake to celebrate Neil" said Paige.



Friends, family and even some of his nurses came to RMHC for Neil.

Just as Neil's treatments are ending, Neil has had two scans with no visible cancer cells, the Hiatt family feels they are on the tail end of things and are optimistic.

Team Hiatt is moving to Cedar City, Utah, where Tye has taken an offensive coordinator position for Southern Utah University.

"One thing we would encourage anyone who wants to give to a good cause is to know that the support system and help of RMHC impacts families like mine when you need it the most. We are so grateful to anyone who has supported this mission, and as a family we plan to give back to RMHC." said Paige.

RMHC Kitchen Renovation 35 years



Looking Good! A recent Kitchen Re-Do, seems to have added new flavor to the house!

VOL NTEER for RMHC

Just missing U

The "Why" of Volunteering

Meet Volunteer Jessica Yandell, TTU Student Intern from Warner Robins, Georgia.

As a little girl, I remember touring the Atlanta Ronald McDonald house with my Girl Scout troop and being interested in everything I was shown. As I've grown up I've always wanted to find a way to help people and once I had the opportunity as a Texas Tech student to volunteer I chose RMHC of the Southwest. Even after my required time was done, I have stayed to help RMHC. I have fallen in love with the cause. I've met some

amazing people. I've seen incredible organizations that reach out to donate. I am now serving as an intern and feel like everyone on the staff is family. RMHC of the Southwest has welcomed me with open arms and while I love learning about my community, I feel so great about helping families. I didn't know giving back to others would feel this wonderful.

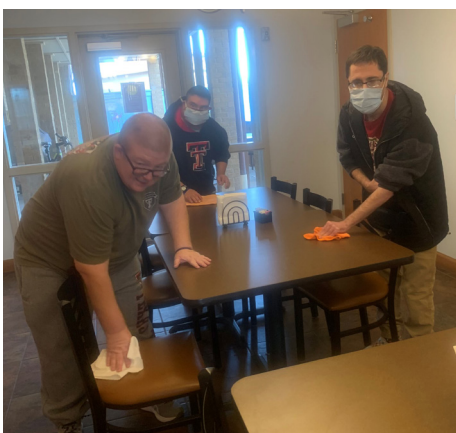
Want to Volunteer?

Contact Anna Bocanegra
anna@rmhcsouthwest.com
806-744-8877



It truly takes a village!

There is one day each month that brings many smiles to RMHC of the Southwest. High Point Villager Volunteer Day is something everyone seems to love. From the moment the Villagers arrive, they are busy taking care of cleaning, and organizing. The laughter and happiness the Villagers bring into the house is contagious. This Co-creating effort benefits everyone involved. Thank you High Point Village for volunteering and helping "Keep Families Close".



Impact & Inspire with Intent

Do the "I's" have it?

Leadership is something that I am taking seriously in my role at RMHC of the Southwest. I am learning each day ways to be the very best I can be. I am naturally a TEAM player and as they say there is no "I" in team. However I have learned that every team does need a few "I's".

The first is **Impact**. When you support RMHC of the Southwest, you are impacting real people immediately. Every meal, every load of laundry, every overnight stay directly helps families in need. We see the impact that caring for the entire family during a medical crisis of a child can have at the exact time it is needed. Local people you hear about on the news, in school with your kids, and sometimes friends or family are impacted from the donations and volunteers supporting RMHC. It's the little things that help real people in simple ways during a very complicated time.

Next, **Inspire**. Each morning I am grateful to be in this place where what we do matters. I get the honor of seeing it from the inside. I see the people who

work here who are never lazy and go above and beyond when needed. I see the hundreds of volunteers from all ages and walks of life who show up to help in ways that are immeasurable. I see the donations that come in to pay for a fresh coat of paint, new playground equipment, replaced bedding and so much more. I see the history of 35 years of people who have helped "Keep Families Close". I hear about the children who are born prematurely, are fighting cancer, have survived a terrible accident or illness. Their stories inspire. It's inspiring to be part of this incredible mission.

Third is **Intent**. How much is enough, what is your support doing? There are many great causes in the world, and right here in your own backyard RMHC of the Southwest is one. RMHC of the Southwest won't help millions of local families this year, but we might help one that matters to you or someone you know. That is the intent. Real families, right here where you are. The need is real. It's like keeping an umbrella in your car, you doubt you are going to need it but so

glad to have it if you do. RMHC is an umbrella with intentions. The mission takes care of families with any medical crisis,

from any background, and for as long as needed. The intention is to care for the entire family, and it works. You can be certain that any time, talent, or treasure you share with RMHC of the Southwest will be used with the intention of "Keeping Families Close".

While "I" have accepted a few I's to navigate and strategically lead this organization, I know I need many others to be successful. It takes us all.

I know that Together, WE Serve Families and that is something I can't do alone. Come join US, and I promise you too will feel the impact, inspiration, and intent that I feel.



Emanuel Ramirez

Permian Basin Gives



Thank you to all of the RMHC of the Southwest friends in the Permian Basin for supporting families during the 2023 Permian Basin Gives. There are 2 RMHC Family Rooms in the Permian Basin now. Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, and Midland Memorial Hospital.

Call RMHC of the Southwest Family Rooms are now open. To volunteer please contact: 806-744-8877

Les Chaussure Rouge SOIRÉE



Share your *Heart & Sole*, in the *red* shoes you choose!

Grab your favorite *chaussure rouge* (red shoes) and join us for dinner, drinks & dessert!

Bid on an assortment of *fabuleux* items in Live & Silent Auctions

Pair your chaussure rouge with your favorite *Parisian* (or after 5) attire.

VIP early entry for *diament, platine, doré*, and *argent é* sponsors at 5 p.m.

Tickets: Individual \$175 | Couple (2) \$300 | Table (8) \$1000

Purchase tickets at rmhcsouthwest.com or call 806. 744.877.



APRIL 28 | 6 PM

Centerpointe Event Center
4925 Marsha Sharp Fwy

S'il vous plait!

Are you ready to Slip on your favorite Chaussure Rouge (red shoes)? Join RMHC of the Southwest April 28th for Les Chaussure Rouge Soiree', (the Red Shoe Shindig). Come enjoy a glimpse of the fashion, the food, the art and the entertainment of France without boarding a plane. RMHC will take all your senses to the most visited country in the world, France. Wear your favorite pair of red shoes along with after five attire and help families with hospitalized children. You and friends will enjoy authentic French cuisine prepared by the Award-Winning Chef John Walters of Chez Sami. You will be treated to complimentary wines and spirits throughout the event. A decadent macaroon and dessert tasting station will delight and indulge you. You will be amazed by the talents of Ariel Dancers and Jazz music during the early evening. Have fun bidding on hundreds of superior silent auction donations while you stroll along an artisan's sidewalk complete with vendors, and more as you feel like you are right

around the corner of the Eiffel Tower. Later, keep your red shoes on as the fun continues and RMHC will bring you back to Lubbock for an amazing Live Auction and dancing to the Kinky Wizards. The evening is sure to be filled with all the elegance, sparkle, and cultural ambience you would find in France with the flair and fundraising for RMHC of the Southwest.

Je voudrais réserver un billet. (I would like to reserve a ticket.) visit rmhcsouthwest.com



RED SHOE CREW 2023



Do you have a deep passion for serving your community and want to help support Ronald McDonald House Charities

of the Southwest? We're looking for volunteers like YOU to join our Red Shoe Crew! The Red Shoe Crew is a group of 15-20 caring, civic-minded professionals and individuals who seek to participate in philanthropic and leadership endeavors while advocating and fundraising for RMHC of the Southwest. Red Show Crew members are volunteers of RMHC of the

southwest and support the organization through advocacy, fundraising, and volunteering. Each member will be provided with the support and resources to enhance their fundraising experience and develop a "Champion" mindset for RMHC. Additionally, Red Shoe Crew is an annual campaign for RMHC of the Southwest with a goal of fundraising \$50,000. Red Shoe Crew members will work collectively and individually towards this goal from April through August. Members will achieve this goal by hosting at least 2-3 individual fundraising events and help raise additional funds through RMHC's Summer Cookout, a Red Shoe Crew Capstone Event. While our goal

is to raise funds to support our mission, the Red Shoe Crew is intended to bring our supporters together to network, build, and help grow our organization's brand among the community.

If you, or someone you know is interested in building their skills in project management, networking, team building, strategic planning, interpersonal communications or wants to work with diverse populations, please visit our Red Shoe Crew website by scanning the QR Code or reach out to our Development Coordinator, JC Lopez at jc@rmhcsouthwest.com before March 3rd for more information on how you can get involved.



Thank you

Office of the Chancellor!

It's not often that RMHC staff, volunteers, donors and families get treated to a night at a Lady Raider Basketball Game, but when we do.... We GO! Thank You to the Office of the Chancellor for a fun-filled evening cheering for the Lady Raiders.

