

By Todd Thatcher
Staff Writer

Inspired by one of their young residents who is currently undergoing cancer treatment, the staff of Rosedale Apartments of Hershey is sponsoring a Food Drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Kimber Emerick and Lisa Delgado, manager and marketing director of Rosedale, respectively, got the idea to conduct the food drive indirectly from residents Traci Angermaier and her son Duncan, a first-grader at Hershey Elementary School, who moved into the complex last June.

"It all fell into place," Emerick said of the drive's genesis. "It was sort of God working in the mysterious ways that he works."

Last May, while they were living in Lancaster, Traci discovered a lump in her son's groin while he was taking a bath. Upon testing, the lump revealed itself to be the beginnings of Neuroblastoma.

"It's a pretty rare childhood cancer," Traci explained. "It just came out of nowhere."

Thankfully, two of Hershey's most prominent medical-services facilities were there for Duncan and his mother in their

time of need.

"We spent a week at the [Penn State Milton S. Hershey] Medical Center and went to the Ronald McDonald House," Traci said. "It was very good to have a place to go and see that you weren't the only one."

The Ronald McDonald House of Hershey serves as a "home away from home" where families can stay while their children are receiving treatment at the Med Center. The House, which operates on a non-fee basis, provides a warm, friendly

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Traci and Duncan Angermaier

DRIVE

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environment for children and parents where they can relax, work, prepare meals, do laundry, and receive comfort and emotional support.

Following their stay at the House, Traci and Duncan – along with her other two sons, Odin, 2, and James, 9 – moved into Rosedale. And after having lived in Hershey for a few months, they have no plans of returning to Lancaster.

"We love it here and I love the schools," she said. "It's been tough, but we've had a lot of help. I've made some friends who have helped us get over to his treatments."

While Traci said that treatment has been going very well and will be completed soon, Duncan's condition will remain too delicate for him to return to school this year.

"His teacher comes here to tutor him," she explained. "We have to watch

him as far as coming into contact with germs. Duncan has about five years until he's [completely] out of the woods."

Though she keeps very busy with caring for her son, Traci is already planning to give back to the organization that helped her through a rough time.

"We want to go to the Ronald McDonald House and donate some time," she said. For now, though, Traci and Duncan are serving as the

"faces" of Rosedale's food drive. "We're going to do whatever we can in between appointments."

According to Emerick, Rosedale's goal with the food drive is simply to collect "as much as possible. We'll make sure it all gets to the Ronald McDonald House."

Donations may include:

- Single-serving foods such as chips, crackers, cookies, candy, cereal, pudding, gelatin, and microwave foods like soup and pasta;

- Non-perishables including toaster pastries, non-dairy creamer, spaghetti sauce, dry pasta, cream soups, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, fruits and vegetables, mayonnaise, salad dressing, instant potatoes, cake and frosting mixes, and microwave popcorn; and

- Home items such as spray disinfectant, toilet bowl cleaner, spray bathroom cleaner, Zip-lock bags, hair brushes, dish-washing liquid, plastic wrap, and aluminum foil.

Items may be dropped off at Rosedale's rental office on Cherry Drive between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Feb. 14-18, and 1-3 p.m. on Feb. 19. For more information, call the office at 533-6677.

JUST HELP

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ROSEDALE APARTMENTS
FOOD DRIVE,** drop items off at Rosedale's rental office on Cherry Drive between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Feb. 14-18, and 1-3 p.m. on Feb. 19. For more information, call the office at 533-6677.