



Here is a brief overview of the latest developments of the Sweet Pea Foundation:

Sweet Pea Foundation Donates Mini-Refrigerators to RMH of Michiana!

We recently toured the new Ronald McDonald House of Michiana which was built across the skyway bridge from the new Beacon Children's Hospital. With the construction of the children's hospital complete, there was certainly a need for the Ronald McDonald House to grow as well. And it sure did! From a three-bedroom facility that opened in



Ronald McDonald House of Michiana in South Bend, IN.

2002, (We spent one night there while Grace was in the PICU) to a 20-bedroom, 15-thousand square foot facility that includes a large kitchen with multiple cooking stations, dining room, private offices, meeting rooms, play area, meditation space, living rooms, laundry facilities and a private bathroom located in each bedroom. The new house is an amazing and vital



Pete poses with Lauren Smyth, Dir. of Development and Communications at the Ronald McDonald House of Michiana.

space for parents caring for sick children.

We spent many nights in the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana near Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and in one of the Houses located in Chicago, and this new



Pete standing in our guest room at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana in 2002.

facility meets all the needs of parents and families.

The Sweet Pea Foundation was honored to donate 20 mini-refrigerators, one for each of the guest bedrooms. This will allow nursing mothers to store milk for their sick children in the privacy of their own rooms.



Here is a photo of a mini-refrigerator the Foundation donated to RMH of Michiana.

We are looking forward to other ways the Foundation can assist the House and are excited about our ongoing relationship with Ronald McDonald House Charities and look forward to years of continued support of this outstanding organization.

Beacon Children's Hospital Opens!

A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to tour the new Beacon Children's Hospital. The 100,000-square-foot facility, spanning three floors on the Memorial Hospital property, serves children in North Central Indiana. The new hospital features a nature theme and includes a large atrium where patients can gather for activities the Sweet Pea Foundation underwrites. The hospital boasts all private patient rooms with private bathrooms, a playroom, teen lounge, bereavement room, family lounges and an outdoor garden.



Grace is healing in the NICU at Riley Hospital for Children in 2002. As you can see she is in a room with no privacy and we were only able to sit at her bedside.



The hospital is state of the art with very thoughtful design and lots of input from doctors, nurses, and most importantly, parents and patients. All the patient rooms are private (including NICU rooms) allowing families an intimate space to spend with their child. This is a big change from the way patient rooms were set up when we cared for Grace. Now mothers and babies can stay in the same room, regardless of the infant's condition. The privacy that the individual rooms give a family is wonderful!

The SPF Delivers Toys to Cleveland's Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital!

Last fall, the Sweet Pea Foundation delivered toys, books and arts and crafts to the Rainbow Babies & Children's hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Rainbow Babies has been a leader in pediatric health care for more than 125 years and consistently ranks among the top children's hospitals in the nation.



Karen and Bridget Matuch helped deliver toys and books to Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, OH.

Hugs Continue to Make Sick Kids Smile!

Since 2002, the Sweet Pea Foundation has donated over 2,500 Hugs. Hugs From Grace That Will Put a Smile on Your FaceSM are holiday-, birthday- and seasonal-themed goody bags filled with books, crafts, toys and decorations. The bags are handed out to young patients by nurses and child life specialists to keep them busy while they are in the hospital recovering from an injury or illness. Hugs continue to be an important and rewarding part of the Foundation! We receive many thank you cards from patients and families like the one pictured to the right.

