

Alysa and Kiana Robinson are active, creative sisters with busy schedules — and both have cystic fibrosis. Every 3 months or more, they leave their Kamloops home for treatment in Vancouver, where Ronald McDonald House helps them to have a normal life in between their life-saving appointments.

"All three of the kids learned to ride bikes here," says mom Nicole Robinson, looking back at the many stays her family has had at Ronald McDonald House BC and Yukon. "It's our home away from home."

Since 2014, staying at RMH BC has helped to ease the financial and emotional burdens for the Robinson family. Nicole and her husband Matt need to take time off work to bring the girls to their hospital appointments, but staying at the House offers a large kitchen where they can store groceries, and also take part in volunteer-run Family Meals.

Nicole and Matt take turns bringing the girls to Vancouver, and being separated so often is hard on the family, especially on their youngest daughter, 7-year-old Audrina. Staying at Ronald McDonald House also helps to relieve this stress, by providing a place where the whole family can be together on the weekends or school holidays.

Most importantly, Ronald McDonald House is a place where Alysa and Kiana can take a break from the hospital and enjoy ordinary childhood moments even when they are away from home receiving treatment.