

A Pandemic – A Pioneer - A Plan – A Pizza



The current Pandemic situation set many Pioneer volunteer projects on a back shelf. It had a major impact on organizations and communities who welcomed the efforts of those volunteers. One such organization was the Ronald McDonald House in Minneapolis Minnesota.

Patients undergoing treatment for catastrophic illness and their families still needed the housing and facilities offered by this home-away-from-home. A problem arose when volunteers who showed up daily to prepare family meals, and the food used in those meals, were banned from the home due to health concerns for vulnerable patients. Economically, the cost of all meals would now be borne by the Ronald McDonald organization – a charity that runs on donated support. The need to feed people was important and posed a problem that must be met.

Legacy West Pioneer Chapter president Pat Jeukens took up the task of replacing some of the meals Pioneers would have supplied and prepared and served. She called Minnesota based Heggie's Pizza Corporation and offered to purchase a goodly number of pizzas to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Heggie's after hearing the purpose of Pat's request, jumped in and donated the pizzas themselves! What a lovely circle of caring.

Move on a couple of months and Pat again contacted Heggie's Pizza to purchase and donate additional pizzas. To her surprise Heggie's informed her that they had put the Ronald McDonald House on a regular rotation of pizza delivery at no charge.

Thanks to Pat's pioneer spirit of seeing a need and moving to meet it, she inspired further good actions and there is pizza on the menu now and then for people who return each day tired and hungry to their temporary home.

Submitted by: Kathy Hanson