

# "POA Youth Helping Other Youth"

## MN POAC Youth & Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, MN

This Fall, MN POAC members, Karen Meyer, Wendy Lommen and I, challenged our youth to create and donate fleece blankets for the Ronald McDonald House of Mayo Clinic. The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota, provides a "home away from home" and offers support to families seeking medical care for their children. Each child who stays at the House receives a fleece blanket to take home with them. In addition, youth were encouraged to save pull-tabs from cans and cardboard Ronald McDonald House tab banks were distributed to store them. The aluminum is recycled and the proceeds benefit the charity.

When the Charlie and Tracy Olson read about this project in our Fall newsletter, they decided to support this effort as their annual project memorializing Emilie, their daughter who was tragically lost in a school bus accident several years ago. They purchased fleece for her class and 31 blankets were made by her classmates honoring Emilie Olson. The Olsons with their children, Rilee, Lucee, and Sidnee, brought their huge stack of beautiful blankets to the Spooktacular as well as other families for a total of 43 blankets donated at the show to Wendy Lommen, who is the President-elect of the Board of Directors of the house at Rochester. Our MN member, Darcy Bormann, whose family owns a craft business, also sent the fabrics for 13 more blankets to be assembled. All of the blankets were signed out by families to be completed and donated by the Awards Banquet. Thank you to all the youth who stepped up for this cause. In addition, the Mullenbach and Katzenberger families presented huge containers of pull-tabs as well. There will be many happy children who will benefit from our efforts with cozy warmth this winter during difficult personal times in their young lives.

*Eva Dahl*



Wendy Lommen, President-Elect, RMCD House, Mayo



Christina Blomquist, MNPOAC Youth (left) and Wendy & the Olson family with blankets (right)

