

A game-changer for families

Passing it forward: Macca's Match For Good changing lives off the pitch

When it comes to the Macca's Match For Good, the most important result is off the field.

This double-header isn't just another football fixture on the calendar; it's a rallying point for the community, turning passion for the beautiful game into real-world support for Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) New Zealand. With every pass and every goal, football fans and families can help keep loved ones together when it matters most.

This year's event carries a uniquely personal touch. The Wellington Phoenix men's and women's teams will wear bespoke kits designed by children currently staying at Ronald McDonald House. The jerseys, adorned with eight hearts, four butterflies, and a flower, are a vibrant symbol of the real stories at the heart of this cause.

After the final whistle blows in the men's fixture against Perth Glory and the women's game against Brisbane Roar, these special match-worn shirts will be auctioned off, with every dollar raised going directly to RMHC® New Zealand.

The fundraising spirit extends well beyond the stadium. From March 9 to 15, McDonald's restaurants across the country will match every donation made through kiosks and the Drive-Thru. Customers can easily contribute by rounding up their order to the nearest dollar or adding a \$1 donation, knowing their generosity will be doubled.

For families like the Slaughters, this support is a lifeline. Early last year, Jordan and Ashleigh Slaughter's world was turned upside down when their four-month-old daughter, Layla, was diagnosed with aggressive infant leukaemia. Within hours, the family was airlifted from Wellington to Christchurch for urgent treatment.

For months, as Layla endured intensive chemotherapy and multiple surgeries, Ronald McDonald House



Nix players in the special charity round kit - From March 9-15, McDonald's will match every donation made at kiosks and in the Drive-Thru to support families staying at RMHC®

became their anchor.

"Ronald McDonald House became our second home," says Ashleigh. "Having somewhere close to hospital, meals provided, and a space where Layla's big sister Bailey could play lifted an enormous burden. When everything else felt out of control, that support meant everything."

Today, the family is back home in Wellington, together.

Simon Kenny, Head of Impact and Communications at McDonald's New Zealand, says the response to last year's match showed just how much the cause resonates.

"Last year's inaugural Macca's Match For Good was a great way to link our support for RMHC and the Nix, and it really showed how powerful sport can be when it's used to bring people

together for something bigger," says Kenny. "Having children and families from Ronald McDonald House design the kit puts their stories front and center, and we know that will mean a lot to our customers, franchisees and fans across Aotearoa."

This sentiment is echoed by Lisa Tai, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities® New Zealand.

"The support we received through last year's match was incredible, and families felt that generosity in very real ways," says Tai. "It's a beautiful reminder that this is about real families, real experiences, and keeping people close during some of the toughest moments of their lives. We're so grateful to everyone involved for continuing to show up for our families in such a meaningful way."

The Macca's Match For Good is an opportunity for the community to rally together. Whether it's by cheering from the stands, donating at a McDonald's restaurant, or bidding on a jersey, every action contributes to a much bigger goal: keeping families together when they need it most. It proves that a simple game of football can change lives.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, 14 March, when Wellington Phoenix faces Perth Glory (Men, 3:00 pm) and Brisbane Roar (Women, 6:00 pm) in a high-spirited double-header at Hnry Stadium, Wellington.

Find out more at mcdonalds.co.nz/football



This year's bespoke Macca's Match For Good kit was designed by children staying at Ronald McDonald House.



For families like the Slaughters, whose daughter Layla was diagnosed with aggressive infant leukaemia, Ronald McDonald House was a lifeline.