



Meet the 2021 Virtual Haunted Walk Event Co-Chair

Ryan McDonald, Past Patient Ambassador

Ryan McDonald has come full circle and it is with immense gratitude and enthusiasm that he is co-chairing the Boston Shriners Hospital's 2021 Virtual Haunted Walk. In his early teens, Ryan was badly injured in a fire and became a patient at the Boston Shriners Hospital. He knows first-hand the importance of excellent and accessible care after a life changing accident.

Ryan suffered second and third degree burns across his chest, arms and hands when his clothing caught fire in a bonfire accident on the beach. His injuries resulted in a two-week inpatient stay at the Boston Shriners Hospital undergoing multiple procedures and several years of outpatient care and rehabilitation.

Now 27 years old, Ryan looks back on his time at the hospital and recalls it as a life changing experience - not because of the pain he endured - but from the perseverance he witnessed from other young patients and the unbelievable love and care every patient received from the doctors, nurses and volunteers.

After his accident, finding himself with loss of full mobility, Ryan started to play badminton in the backyard. This backyard play transformed into an annual fundraising tournament, with proceeds to benefit the Boston Shriners Hospital. Over the last eight years, Ryan has hosted and played in his tournament, which has grown to become a 100-plus person event with participants from across the country, all playing and raising funds to honor the team who cared for Ryan after his accident. To date, Ryan, with the support of his family and friends has raised over \$50,000 for burn care at the Boston Shriners Hospital.

Currently, Ryan works in the Back Bay for a full-service commercial brokerage firm, Boston Realty Advisors, and resides in East Boston with his girlfriend and badminton partner Kate Flanagan. This year he hopes to continue raising funds and awareness for the Boston Shriners Hospital by co-chairing this event. Check out Ryan's team, **Jager Invitational**, named after his badminton tournament on the Virtual Haunted Walk website.



For more information or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Carolyn Wahto, Senior Development Officer, by telephone 617-371- 4807 or e-mail cwahto@shrinenet.org.

Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Boston - Virtual Haunted Walk Register and donate at BostonHauntedWalk.org

