SUMMER 2024

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

FROM THE HEART



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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UNBREAKABLE BOND

A Beautiful Story of Courage & Hope

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EVENTS:

Addison Rotary Open, The Trains At NorthPark, and Friends of The House

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Keeping families together®

Ronald McDonald House® Dallas

2023-2024

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Our Global Vision

A world where every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children.

Our Mission

We provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families and promote healing when children need healthcare.

Our Core Values

We lead with compassion and respect
We focus on the critical needs of children & their families
We recognize & celebrate the diversity of our people & our programs
We operate with accountability & transparency
We strive for excellence in all that we do while putting our mission first

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Jill Cumnock

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50 years of RMHC

Ronald McDonald House Dallas

KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE®

EDITORIAL & DESIGN: Anyika McMillan-Herod , Lana Hall, & Carlos Perez-Lopez.
On The COVER: The Clyden Family, our featured story.

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

FROM THE HEART

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Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

FROM THE HEART

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Summer 2024



ANYIKA MCMILLAN-HEROD
Chief Development Officer
aherod@rmhdallas.org

Dear Family and Friends,

I am thrilled to introduce our latest venture into storytelling with the relaunch of our very own **FROM THE HEART** newsletter into a digital and print mini magazine. This new format allows us to expand our narrative and share the heartwarming stories of resilience, community, and love that unfold daily within our walls here in Dallas, in a myriad of ways.

As we open this new chapter, we invite you to dive into the pages of our magazine and discover the profound impact your support has on the families we serve. Each article and photograph capture the essence of the house that love built, bringing to life the stories that bind us together. This edition of **FROM THE HEART** also includes our 2023 Annual Report. Enjoy the journey through these pages and thank you for being an integral part of our Ronald McDonald House family.

Warmest regards,
Anyika McMillan-Herod

Our House In Action











Love in Action: Janie Faulkner's RMHD Mission

Creating a meaningful experience for families, & fostering a culture of compassion and service

In a world often defined by hustle and bustle, there exists a place where the essence of love and service permeates the very walls. The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (RMHD) stands as a beacon of hope for families with children in need of medical care, offering a sanctuary of support and comfort. We had the privilege of sitting down with one of RMHD's esteemed staff, Janie Faulkner, deemed by some House guests as "Fairy Godmother." Her journey from corporate America to the heart of service embodies the spirit of this remarkable organization.

Can you share a bit about your journey at RMHD and how you first became involved?

I worked with a great friend of mine at Verizon, Libby Lenz, who was on the RMHD board and a Front Desk volunteer. She told me about RMHD and what a great service it provided to families with children that required medical attention.

Personally, I always had a desire to do Missionary work, but I had my career at Verizon and my family, so that wasn't a possibility for me. I thought to myself maybe this is my calling to fulfill my desire to serve in a different manner. My friend set up some meetings for me to meet with a couple of the leadership staff but at that time they did not have any part-time openings. However, through this meeting I knew this was my calling.

They did not have an opening at the time but through our conversation, I learned they had a system they had not deployed so I offered my time and expertise to test the application, develop the training, and train the Family Services staff and deliver it. Finally, there was an opening, and I was hired in January 2010 as a **Weekend Family Services Assistant**. It has been the best decision I ever made! I have had the opportunity to advance within RMHD and went from a **Weekend Family Services Assistant** to a **Weekend Family Services Manager**. Then in 2018, after I retired from Corporate America, a full-time position became available at RMHD. In 2023, another great opportunity opened, and I now hold the role of the **Senior Family Services Manager.** My work at Ronald McDonald House of Dallas has truly been a blessing because I have been able to fulfill my desire to serve others.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your work at RMHD over the years?

The most rewarding aspect of my job at RMHD is helping families and meeting so many wonderful people!

How have you seen RMHD grow and evolve during your time here?

I could just go and on about the amazing growth at RMHD, from our leadership team, new RMHD services, like the Chef program, to our House expansion to a total of 89 rooms, new technology, volunteers, and Teen Team programs growth. I'll never forget how we all learned together to still provide our services even during a worldwide pandemic! COVID did not hamper us for long before we were up and running with new safety rules for all our families.

Can you recall a particularly impactful moment or experience that has stayed with you from your time at RMHD?

There have been so many impactful moments! The joyous ones of parents so happy and excited because their child got to ring "the bell," witnessing a child affected by scoliosis and going through more than 40 surgeries, to now seeing him as a teenager standing straight. The moments of holding a mom's hands because she is worried about her sick child, to that excitement on a child's face on their first trip to our "Toy Room," or the family that received



free tickets from a donor for an incredible event. Again, I could just go on and on because this is "The House that Love built" and I have been blessed to be a part of it for 14 years.

What motivates you to continue working for RMHD, and how do you stay inspired in your role?

Love and helping one another, that is my spiritual belief. As long as the Good Lord gives me the ability to serve physically and mentally, then I will continue my journey at RMHD to serve our families and all the beautiful children.

How has RMHD made a difference in the lives of families and the community, from your perspective?

RMHD gives the families "hope, love and peace." It also gives our community a chance to be a part of this wonderful service for families. It reassures our hospital partners that their families have a safe and loving place to come to after a long day of appointments.

Are there any significant challenges you've faced in your role, and how have you overcome them?

There have been challenges along the way, but I have stayed focused on RMHD's mission and my mission of serving families. I know that life is a challenge but the peace in my heart moves me to always do my very best and things will always work out.

What advice would you give to someone who is considering a career in nonprofit work or at RMHD specifically?

We live in a materialistic world and at the end of our lives we cannot take things with us. But, the love and feeling of serving is something in your heart that remains with you forever.

How do you think RMHD's mission and values have shaped the organization's culture, and how have they influenced your work?

RMHD mission and values are the core of everything we do, and I focus on delivering a service to our families that demonstrates that.

Looking ahead, what are your hopes and aspirations for RMHD's future?

I hope RMHD continues to grow in all areas of community support, volunteerism, and family programming, so we can continue to provide exceptional services to any family throughout the world.



Serving Hope & Healing Through Food

Chef Zach Price, the culinary maestro at Ronald McDonald House Dallas (RMHD), is not just cooking meals; he's crafting experiences of comfort and connection for families in challenging times. "I didn't become a chef to become a celebrity chef or to try to make a ton of money," Zach shares. "I love bringing people together around food."

Zach's culinary journey is as unique as his approach to cooking. From wild game processing to executive chef at Rex's Seafood, and even launching his own restaurant, his diverse background has shaped his creative flair in the kitchen. "I hope to bring a great dining experience to our families, where they never get tired of the food," he explains. "Maybe try new dishes influenced from various cultures that they may not have tried in their regular lives."

Deciding what to cook each day is a challenge he embraces, aiming for variety and cultural influences. "Cooking at the house is different than at restaurants," he notes. "I try to not repeat any meals on back-to-back days and work in various cultural influences throughout the week." Zach's dedication to creating memorable meals extends beyond the kitchen. He aims for each meal to be special, especially for families going through tough times. "My favorite meals are when families ask for the recipe because they liked it so much," he beams.

The Meals that Heal program at RMHD serves three meals a day,



> *From check-in to check-out, we want the families to know we are always there and that we will not let anyone go hungry*

Chef Zach

rmhdallas.org/meals-that-heal/

seven days a week, 365 days a year, providing crucial support to families. "By us serving three meals a day, families do not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from or the cost of eating out," he explains. "They can focus on the healing of their child, which is the most important thing."

Volunteers play a vital role in the program, helping prepare meals and creating a warm environment. "Our volunteer groups help us create a warm and welcoming atmosphere," he says. "From our groups that have been cooking here for 20 plus years to a first-time group, they all contribute to this special place."

Beyond his professional endeavors, Chef Zach Price is deeply involved in the community, utilizing his culinary skills to support various charitable causes. He is known for his involvement in charity events and fundraisers, often lending his expertise to benefit those in need. His passion for giving back extends to his work at RMHD, where he sees food as a means of not just sustenance but also of solace and community.

One of Zach's most memorable experiences at RMHD was when a young boy, who had just lost his mother, expressed a simple wish for breakfast for dinner. Unbeknownst to the little boy, Chef Zach had already planned a breakfast-themed dinner for that evening. This serendipitous alignment of menu and heartfelt request underscored the profound impact that a thoughtfully prepared meal can have on those facing adversity. It reinforced Zach's belief in the power of food to comfort, connect, and uplift spirits, even in the darkest of times.

For Zach, the kitchen at RMHD is more than a place to cook—it's a source of pride and a symbol of care and compassion. "From check-in to check-out, we want the families to know we are always there and that we will not let anyone go hungry," he affirms. "Our kitchen is a special place, and I hope we continue to grow and share this experience with new families and volunteer groups."

In a world where every meal is a moment to cherish, Chef Zach Price and his team at RMHD are serving up nourishment, hope, and a taste of home.

Huck Kurinsky

Huffy Youth Ambassador & BMX National Champion Under 12







Huck Kurinsky lives by Cleveland's famous Ray's Indoor Bike Park, the largest in the world, and started riding at the age of three. It was clear from the beginning that Huck was a natural and he has thus competed nationally, winning numerous awards. He's placed First for the past few years and holds a record for doing a backflip at the age of seven. He also serves as the first-ever Youth ambassador for Huffy, training under Olympic BMX free stylist, Nick Bruce, who will be competing in Paris this summer.

Kurinsky's involvement with Ronald McDonald Houses across the country was inspired during his grandmother's battle with brain cancer. While she received her chemotherapy treatments, BMX became a way for the family to get away from it all. The time spent riding and with the local community was a welcomed break and helpful means to cope with his grandmother's illness.

Since then, Huck has donated bikes and scooters to several Houses, most recently at Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. It was a joy to witness Kurinsky's "peer to peer" delivery of the bikes and the smiles on the faces of our kiddos who benefited from his thoughtful support. Moments of HOPE are treasured at the House that LOVE built!

See Huck in action!

Leave a Legacy Through Planned Giving



Imagine a legacy that echoes love and support for generations to come.

At the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas—The House That Love Built—we invite you to consider leaving such a legacy through planned giving. These thoughtful contributions are more than just donations; they are profound commitments to the health and well-being of children and their families facing medical challenges in Dallas.

By including the Ronald McDonald House in your estate plans, you do more than provide shelter; you offer comfort, community, and care during times when families need it most. Planned gifts ensure that our doors remain open and our hearts ready to welcome those in need, today and in the future. These gifts also provide financial benefits to you, the donor, including tax advantages that make giving even easier. Join us in sustaining a sanctuary of hope and healing. Your legacy can be the light that guides families through their darkest times. Consider leaving a legacy with the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas and see how your gift can become a cornerstone for continual care and love.

For more information, please contact
development@rmhdallas.org



The Unbreakable Bond of Love

A Story of Courage & Hope

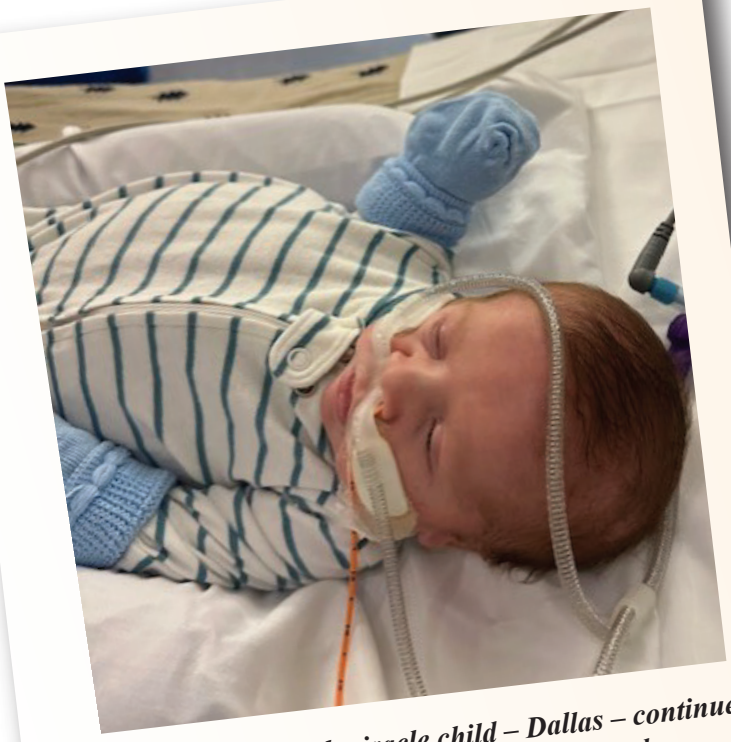
Kenneth and Jackelyn Clyden's journey from Celeste, Texas to Ronald McDonald House of Dallas began with the joyful anticipation of their blended family welcoming their first child together. Several weeks after sharing the "peanut" ultrasound photo with family to announce the pregnancy, their excitement turned to shock during a routine ultrasound that revealed two heartbeats and the knowledge that they were expecting conjoined twin boys.

Their physician at the time referred them to another doctor in Rockwall who quickly determined they could not handle their case. "They said in 26 years, they had never seen anything like it," says Kenneth.

Conjoined twins occur once in every 50,000 to 60,000 births and generally have a poor prognosis. The total survival rate is 7.5 percent. Typically, only 60 percent of the surgically separated cases survive.

Several referrals and consultations led the Clydens to UT Southwestern, where they discovered the twins whom they named Kenneth, Jr., and Dallas, were connected at the pelvic area. Approximately 75 percent of conjoined twins are joined at least partially in the chest and share organs with one another. If they have separate sets of organs, the chances for surgery and survival are greater than if they share the same organs.

Unfortunately, Baby Kenneth developed serious health complications, leading doctors to inform the couple that saving both twins wasn't possible. "We were devastated and weighed the risks," explains Mr. Clyden. "We decided to start telling people we were not going to have the children." To their astonishment, at Jackelyn's 30-week ultrasound appointment they were given the news that a team of doctors





Today, their beautiful miracle child – Dallas – continues to defy the odds, a testament to the strength and resilience of this remarkable family.

from Children's Health, Parkland, and UT Southwestern had decided to try to save one of the boys. Dallas being the most likely as he wasn't presenting as many complications as his brother.

With this news, they scrambled to secure care for their other children at home while they prepared to transition to the Metroplex. They checked in to RMHD on March 4 and then to Parkland an hour later and had the c-section on March 5. The boys arrived at 9:01am and by 3:26pm it was just Dallas. Kenneth explains that every day is a learning experience, as Dallas has four kidneys, three lungs, and from the diaphragm down, he still has all his brother's parts.

"We've found refuge at Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. Without it, I have no idea what we would do. It would be six hours in the car a day, an added burden." The Clyden family exemplifies courage and hope.

> **"We've found refuge at Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. Without it, I have no idea what we would do."**
>
> ***Kenneth Clyden***



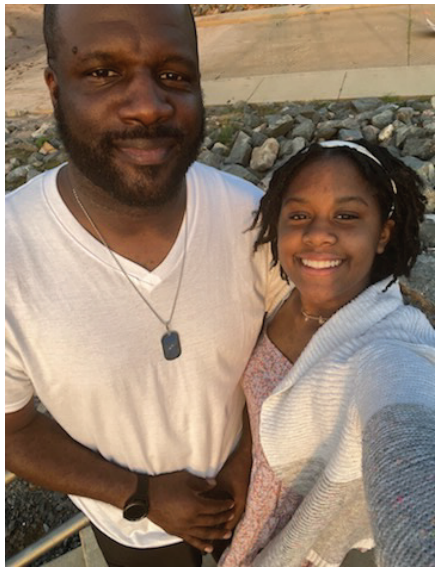
Finding Strength

Tori's Journey with Ronald McDonald House Dallas

TRUEINSPIRATION///

Tori, a spirited 13-year-old, embarked on a challenging journey this year when she began experiencing fainting spells and unexplainable seizures. Starting 7th grade with vigor, her health took a sharp turn, raising concerns for her safety and well-being. Tori's family found solace and support at Ronald McDonald House Dallas (RMHD), a place they had heard of but never truly understood until now.







Navigating through Tori's medical challenges, including mental health issues, the family sought help from the Children's Network and Hospital. They were guided to an outpatient program to aid Tori in coping with her changing health status. The program, though not in their local area, provided crucial support, which could have been a strain on the family if not for RMHD.

Connecting with RMHD through a caseworker, the family found a community that surpassed their expectations. Previously shrouded in mystery, RMHD became a sanctuary where love and support were abundant. Tori's recovery progressed positively, and the family is now preparing to return home, a milestone made possible by the unwavering support of RMHD.

RMHD became a pillar of strength for Tori's family, offering shelter, meals, and financial relief, allowing them to focus solely on Tori's recovery. The caring community at RMHD provided a sense of belonging, where everyone's story was valued, and mutual support was the norm. For Tori's family, RMHD is not just a temporary shelter; it's a beacon of hope and a blessing they will forever cherish.

In their own words, "Thank you, Ronald McDonald House, for keeping us grounded, keeping us together, and for being a place of immense support. We are forever grateful."



The Crouches are second generation supporters of RMHD. Bert served as Chair of the Board of Directors and Haylie recently joined the Board.

Haylie & Bert Crouch

What inspired you to donate to Ronald McDonald House of Dallas?

We have been involved at RMHD as volunteers for over 20 years, and have directly witnessed the impact the House has had on so many families who have lived under its roof. We believe wholeheartedly in RMHD's mission and values, which makes it a very easy charity to want to support.

Can you share a memorable experience or interaction you've had with RMHD or the families it serves?

My most memorable moment serving at RMHD was years ago at the annual Halloween Party. I was working at the bean bag toss station and the cutest little 4 year old girl dressed up as a princess came up to toss the bean bag. She had the most joyful smile on her face and said she had a secret to tell me. I bent down and she whispered in my ear that in 5 days she was getting a new heart! Her contagious smile, joyful spirit, and thankful heart brought me to tears! She was days away from a major, life-threatening - yet life-transforming surgery - and she radiated nothing but peace and joy as she had fun in her home away from home.

How do you believe your donations have positively impacted the community or the families staying at RMHD?

We have every confidence, and have seen firsthand, how the money we have donated to RMHD over the years has gone to improve the accommodations, experience and comfort of the families RMHD serves.

What message would you like to share with other potential donors considering supporting RMHD?

You can trust RMHD to be a good, wise steward of every dollar it receives.

In what ways do you hope to see RMHD grow or evolve in the future, and how do you envision your continued support playing a role in that growth?

As Dallas continues to emerge as one of the premiere cities for pediatric healthcare, so too will the needs of RMHD grow. We're excited to see all the ways RMHD may expand its impact and its reach in the next decade, and we look forward to supporting RMHD in doing so.





A Journey of Love and Service at RMHD

Meet Lori and Jesse, Two of our loyal volunteers

Jesse, a retiree, was inspired to volunteer at Ronald McDonald House Dallas (RMHD) after finding out about it through an email at church. She describes her experience as wonderful, noting RMHD's longstanding positive impact on the community. “I have really enjoyed the staff and the families. Shiloh is pretty great too!”

Jesse aims to bring sunshine to families' lives. She advises potential volunteers to be open to diverse tasks beyond the front desk. Volunteering has enriched Jesse's life, providing pride in her association with the House and a sense of purpose. She easily balances volunteering with retirement and appreciates RMHD's professional and welcoming environment. Jesse's heart has been touched by Shiloh's ability to bring smiles to children's faces.

Lori was inspired to volunteer through her husband's involvement with the Southwest Airlines Golf Tournament benefiting RMHD. When she was laid off, it provided her with the opportunity to get involved firsthand. Her memorable experiences stem from the small moments interacting with children and families each week. Lori believes her volunteer work impacts families by making their stay easier and more comfortable. She advises potential volunteers that little things make a big difference to families. Volunteering has enriched Lori's life by increasing her appreciation and making her more tolerant and patient.

Being retired, volunteering gets her out of the house at least once a week. Lori finds our House special and a blessing to have available, highlighting the impact it has on families. Seeing children thriving after receiving treatment at RMHD has touched her heart. She emphasizes the appreciation from families and employees, noting that volunteering at the House that LOVE built makes her feel good.







2024 Gala

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas Raises Over $400,000 through "Over the Moon" Gala

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (RMHD) is thrilled to announce the success of its Over the Moon Gala, which raised over $400,000 to support its core programming. The event, presented by LiquidAgents Healthcare and co-chaired by Lindy and Brad Berkley & Meredith and Dr. Andrew Clavenna, was held on April 12th at Northwood Club, and featured a cocktail reception, dinner, live auctions, and live entertainment.

The gala also honored Sandra Estess and Dr. Dale Fuller, two of RMHD's Founding Board Members, with the inaugural Estess-Fuller Heart of Gold Award that will be presented in the future annually to individuals who exemplify extraordinary commitment and compassion toward RMHD and the families it serves. Estess and Fuller have dedicated over 40 years to the organization's mission of supporting families with seriously ill or injured children.

"We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, attendees, and supporters for their generosity and commitment to our mission," says Jill Cumnock, RMHD CEO. "The funds raised will enable us to continue providing a home-away-from-home for families facing the challenge of caring for a seriously ill or injured child."

RMHD would like to extend a special thank you to the following sponsors for their support:

Presenting Sponsor: LiquidAgents Healthcare

Eclipse Sponsor: Gwen Irwin

Full Moon Sponsors: Lindy & Brad Berkley, Janice & Tim Go, Sewell Automotive Companies

Crescent Moon Sponsors: Meredith & Andrew Clavenna, Sandra Estess & Darden McFarlin, April & Chad Cook, Cate & Jeremy Ford, Lauren & Stephen Swann, Kacy & Carter Tolleson, Foundation Support Specialists, Grove Family Foundation

New Moon Sponsors: Carrie & Sanjay Bhasin, Children's Health, Ralph & Barbara Cox, Melinda & David Emmons, Jennifer & Steve Reynolds, Lauri & Mike Hainsfurther, Cecilie & Ronnie Holman, Mr. & Mrs. Jon Kelley, Sally & Mike McWilliams, Laura & Matt Petka, Carolyn & Karl Rathjen, RMHC Greater North TX, Scottish Rite for Children, Southwest Airlines, UT Southwestern Medical Center/Southwestern Medical Foundation, Jean H. & John T. Walker Jr. Fund, Carol Wilson

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PRESENTS

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BENEFITING THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF DALLAS

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Oh, what a sight on this sparkling day,
At the Trains at NorthPark, hooray, hooray!
I've never seen such a magical view,
Trains zip and zoom right out of the blue!

They twist and they turn on tracks so small,
Over the mountains, winter, spring, fall.
They chug through the cities, fields, and towers,
I could watch these trains for hours and hours!

The whistles they blow—oh how they sing!
Like the chirps and the peeps in the start of spring.
There's a big red caboose and an engine so bright,
I clap and I cheer with all my might.

Mom says it's all for a house of love,
Where families stay, snug as a glove.
A place that helps when times are tough,
At Ronald McDonald House, love's enough.

So thank you, dear trains, for the fun and the cheer,
For helping the kids and families so dear.
I'll dream of your tracks and your whistle's sweet sound,
In the world of trains where love's all around.

Click here for a special message from our TRAINS Co-Chairs

NEW 5000 ft² SPACE · NEW MERCH · STEAM EXPERIENCE

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

GOLF & GIVE BACK TO RMHD

WALKER & DUNLOP
INVESTMENT SALES

The 34th Annual Addison Rotary Open

Monday
September 9, 2024
Gleneagles Country Club

benefiting

Ronald McDonald House Dallas



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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF DALLAS

(Formerly known as Young Friends)

When you join the Friends of the House of Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, you're joining a community of passionate, like-minded individuals.

If you're looking to grow your personal network, develop your professional and leadership skills, or give back to a great cause – Friends of the House is perfect for you.

Young Professionals – RMHD Needs Your Leadership!

Join Now!

Meet the



Anyika McMillan-Herod
Chief Development Officer

As the Chief Development Officer for the past year, Anyika's role encompasses fundraising, marketing, storytelling, and partner engagement, all crucial elements in supporting our mission. Leading a dynamic Development team, she works closely with our board of directors to secure the resources necessary for RMHD's operations. Being located at the House allows her to witness firsthand the positive impact of our work on the families we serve, which motivates her daily. She sees RMHD's future marked by expansion, both physically and programmatically, to better serve our families. She is grateful for the compassion and generosity of our donors and supporters, and she hopes they recognize the profound difference they make in the lives of those we serve "RMHD's commitment to providing free services resonates deeply with me, and joining this wonderful organization has allowed me to honor my family's legacy in healthcare, while bringing hope to families in need." Outside of work, she is deeply involved in the arts as a director, actor, and playwright.



Theresa Remek
Database Manager

Theresa's role involves keeping track of families and donor support. One memorable experience was meeting the Burgos family, who left a lasting impression with their kindness. Theresa believes her work positively impacts the community by ensuring families are supported and funds are managed effectively. The continued growth and need to serve families motivates her to support RMHD. She sees RMHD making a difference in the future by continuing to lead with compassion and respect. Theresa wants donors to know that without them, we can't serve families effectively. Her inspiration to join the organization came through her membership with the Junior League of Dallas. Outside of work, she is passionate about her family.



Katie Ibrahim
Manager of Special Events

Katie is the Manager of Special Events, overseeing the Spring Gala, Trains at NorthPark, and serving as the liaison for the Young Professionals' Group, Friends of the House. She plays a vital role in raising funds for RMHD through events, introducing the mission to new audiences. Her work positively impacts the community by offering families a supportive environment away from hospitals. She is motivated by the significant need for her services and the impact on families. She sees RMHD continuing to be a crucial support system for families in the future. Katie wants to express gratitude to donors and supporters for helping us do the work of keeping families together during challenging times. Outside of work, she is involved in theatre and child development. She is inspired by RMHD's mission and the opportunity to contribute to it.

Development Team

The friendly faces of RMHD



Victoria Upton
Corporate and Community Engagement Coordinator

Victoria forges partnerships for donations, ensuring families' needs are met beyond the House. Her journey began volunteering with her mother's group, mistaking RMHD for a McDonald's. This serendipitous encounter ignited her passion for community service. She sees RMHD as crucial in providing hope to families, motivating her daily. Victoria emphasizes donors as the heart of RMHD, recognizing that their contributions, whether financial or in-kind, are the lifeblood that sustains RMHD's mission. "RMHD is vital in providing hope and help to families in need," she shares, emphasizing the profound impact the organization has on those it serves. Outside work, she supports education and spirituality at her church, aligning with RMHD's solution-oriented approach.



Lana Hall
Marketing & Communications Manager

Lana serves as the Marketing & Communications Manager, overseeing digital marketing, website, public relations, and event promotions. She finds interviewing families a favorite aspect of her role. Lana believes her work positively impacts the community by effectively communicating RMHD's mission and engaging supporters. She is motivated by seeing the impact of the organization on the lives of so many families. Lana's message to donors and supporters is "Everything you do and have done makes a huge difference. We are grateful and we appreciate you." Outside of work, Lana enjoys volunteering in her community, family time, singing in choir, and staying active. Her passion for working at RMHD stems from her teaching for over a decade in her parents' daycare and her experience as a respite care provider for special needs kids throughout college.



Courtney McNeal
Development Associate

As the Development Associate, Courtney plays a pivotal role in providing administrative and operational support to the development team, ensuring the success of fundraising initiatives and maintaining strong donor relations. Her decision to join RMHD was deeply influenced by a personal encounter with the organization's mission while managing the TRAINS exhibit in 2023, which ignited a natural instinct to contribute to RMHD's impactful work. Courtney's favorite aspect of RMHD is the close connection to the families they serve, emphasizing, "I love being in the house and witnessing the direct impact of our efforts." Outside of work, Courtney enjoys spending time with her family, engaging in film or theatre projects, and making spontaneous trips to Home Goods.

Meet the Development Team

The friendly faces of RMHD



Carlos Perez-Lopez
Graphic Designer

Meet Carlos, the creative behind RMHD's most recent visual narrative. Responsible for designing marketing materials, fundraising campaign colateral, and promotional items. "I believe that through my work, I can create a sense of belonging and support for our families," he adds. "By visually communicating RMHD's values and mission, I help build a compassionate community." Carlos finds motivation in using his skills to make a difference. "Knowing that my work contributes to a caring environment for our families inspires me." Looking ahead, he envisions RMHD expanding its reach and services, providing more families with vital support. To donors and supporters, he expresses heartfelt gratitude, noting that their support allows RMHD to continue its mission.





Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

Annual Report 2023



Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

FROM THE HEART

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND CEO



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support of Ronald McDonald House of Dallas—the House that Love built. Your generosity has been the cornerstone of our ability to provide a comforting home away from home for more families than ever before.

2023 marked our return to full operations post COVID and our House has been full! This translated into a 25% increase in our operating budget for the 2023 Fiscal Year to $4.2M. A bigger house requires more resources to operate --- from staff, to programming, volunteers, and a plethora of household goods and supplies. Your support is helping us keep pace during this dynamic growth mode.

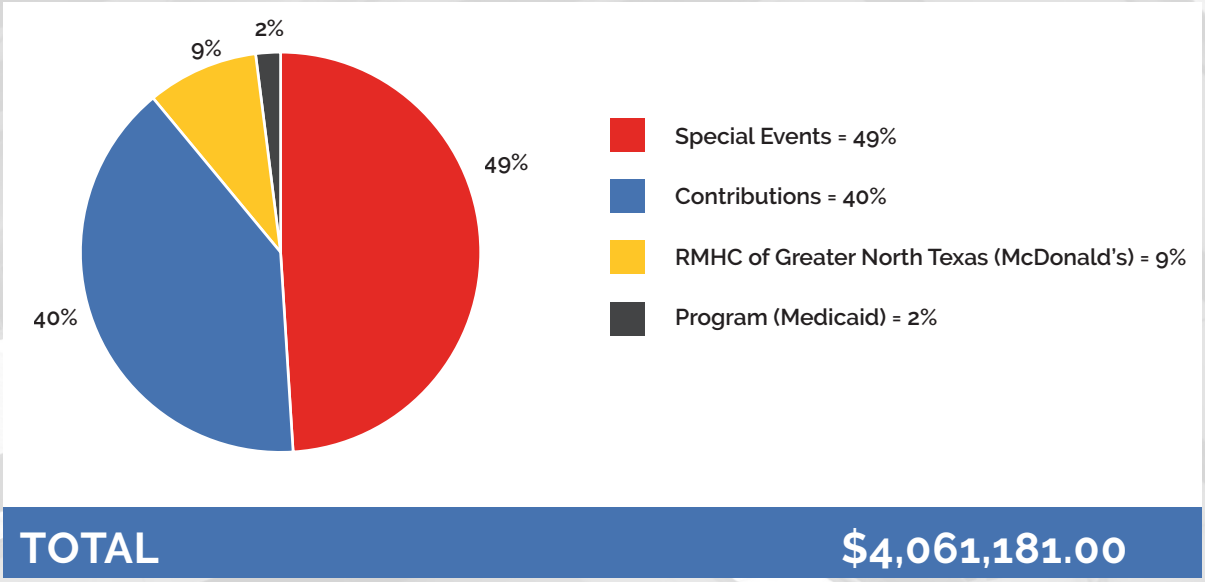
Thanks to the generosity of so many friends and partners, our doors remain open, our kitchens full, and our rooms a sanctuary for those who walk through them in their time of need. Your contributions have touched countless lives, offering not just shelter but also compassion and community. As we continue this journey, your role in our story remains invaluable, and for that, we are profoundly thankful.

Thank you so much for joining us in this important work of keeping families close and ensuring HOPE and a free HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME for many.

Warmest regards,
Pat Staudt, Board Chair
Jill Cumnock, CEO

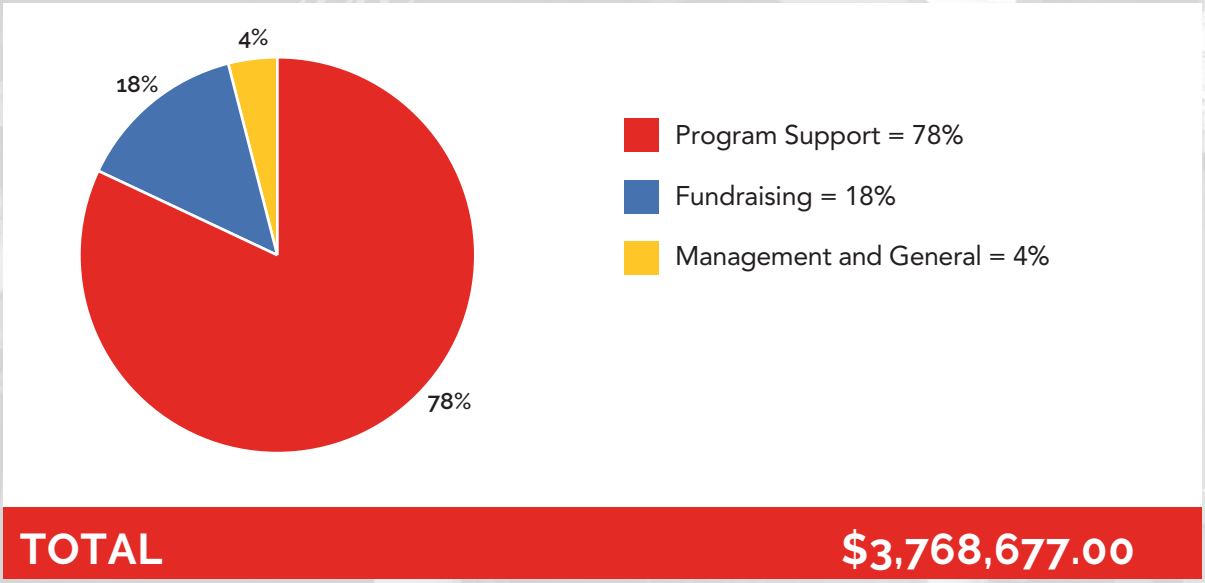
INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

INCOME



TOTAL **$4,061,181.00**

EXPENSES



TOTAL **$3,768,677.00**

$4.2 million operating budget

The vast majority of our funding comes through private donations, grants, our signature fundraising event – Trains at NorthPark – and other fundraising events including a spring Gala, Addison Rotary Open, and Friends of the House events. We also receive support from our program (Medicaid) and RMHC of Greater North Texas.

THE IMPACT & SNAPSHOT OF 2023

648
Children served through our Hospitality Bags

916
Children served at the Scottish Rite Frisco Family Room

1234
Families served at the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

$3,891
saved by families

In addition to the emotional support, families also get substatial financial relief. The out-of-pocket savings for an average stay of two weeks is approximately $3,891 per family

23,836
overnight stays at the House

1,095
meals provided cooked

3,064
volunteers and helping hands!

12 days
average length of stay at the House

41
states and
13
countries served

Approximately 75% of our families traveled from within Texas, 21% from out of state, and 4% internationally. In 2023, we housed families from 13 countries, including Belgium, Peru, Indonesia, Kenya, and South Africa.

Top 3
diagnoses:

#1 – Orthopedic
#2 – Oncology
#3 - Cardiology

253 activities provided to families

80% Average daily occupancy of the House

2,201 trips to hospitals provided to families in our vans

1,600 volunteers worked the 2023 Trains at NorthPark exhibit

1,464 volunteers served our House, Family Room, and Hospitality programs

DONORS

Thank you for your gifts of treasure that so effectively blessed the hundred of families served by Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. The gifts listed in this annual report were received between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023. We work diligently to ensure all donor names are listed and correctly acknowledged. We apologize for any incorrect or omitted names. Please email aherod@rmhdallas.org or call 214.624.5365 with any corrections or concerns.

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Keeping Families Close
$50,000 and above

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Perot Foundation
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater North Texas

Keeping Families Strong
$25,000 and above

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> **"It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."**
>
> **- Kahlil Gibran**

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Keeping Families Inspired

$2,500 and Above

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> **No one has ever become poor by giving.**
>
> **- Anne Frank**

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Keeping Families Whole
$1,000 and Above

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> **Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.**
>
> **- Leo Buscaglia**

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> It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.
> - Mother Teresa

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> **The heart that gives, gathers.**
>
> **- Marianne Moore**

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> **Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.**
>
> **- H. Jackson Brown Jr**

Ronald McDonald House® Dallas

Keeping families close®

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas
4707 Bengal Street
Dallas, TX 75235
214.631.7354

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Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (RMHD) is keeping families together, inspiring strength, and giving love and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care.

In an effort to lessen the burden, reduce stress, keep the family intact, and enhance the quality of life for these families, RMHD provides temporary housing in a caring home-like atmosphere. The Ronald McDonald House program was built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on healing their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal, or where they will lay their head at night to rest.

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BE A FRIEND OF RMHD

Ronald McDonald House® Dallas

Join Our Teen Team

Ways To Get Involved

Wishlist

- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Individually-Packaged Snacks
- Bottled Water
- Paper Towels
- Swiffer Wet/Dry Cloths