WINTER 2025

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

FROM THE HEART

CEO Jill Cumnock Celebrates 15 Years of Leadership at RMHD

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Cooper Flagg Visits with RMHD Families

Pg. 25

2026

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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.
We are deeply respectful.
We act with integrity.
We are firmly committed.

Founder

JoAnn Cornet, M.D. (1929-2016)

Chief Executive Officer

Jill Cumnock

Chief Development Officer

Anyika McMillan-Herod

Ronald McDonald House® Dallas

Keeping families close™

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EDITORIAL & DESIGN: Anyika McMillan-Herod , Lana Hall, & Carlos Perez-Lopez.

On The COVER: Cooper Flagg holding one of our House guests at a community basketball clinic this summer.

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 Developement Officer – Anyika McMillan-Herod



ANYIKA MCMILLAN-HEROD
Chief Development Officer

Ronald McDonald House® Dallas

Keeping families close™

Dear Friends of RMHD,

As we look back on 2025, my heart is full of gratitude for the remarkable community that continues to surround Ronald McDonald House of Dallas with generosity, compassion, and unwavering support. This year, because of you, thousands of families found comfort, stability, and hope during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. One parent recently shared, “RMHD gave us a place to breathe again. In the hardest season of our lives, this House reminded us we weren’t alone.” That reminder—of care, connection, and community—is the heart of our noble mission.

Our programs grew stronger, our impact deepened, and our mission shined more brightly than ever. Every act of kindness, from volunteer hours and home-cooked meals to heartfelt donations and corporate partnerships—made a profound difference in the lives of every child, every family that crossed our threshold. Please know that your hands and heart for RMHD helped transform our House into a true home for families who needed it most.

As you explore this issue of From the Heart, I invite you to take pride in the stories, milestones, and memories made possible through your support and engagement. These pages reflect our inspiring community’s LOVE in action and several of the lives you’ve helped us touch.

January 2026 will mark the start to our 45th anniversary year and there is so much momentum and excitement building. What began as a small gesture of compassion over four decades ago, has grown into a legacy of care that continues to uplift families from across Texas, our country, and the world. We look forward to honoring this milestone with you throughout the year—and shaping the next chapter together.

Thank you for joining us in this important, rewarding work—from the heart, and for the House.

Blessings and regards,

Anyika McMillan-Herod
Chief Development Officer
Ronald McDonald House of Dallas



Ronald McDonald House Dallas

We extend our deepest gratitude to our outgoing Board members for their steady leadership and generosity. Their support has strengthened our mission, expanded our impact, and ensured that every parent who walks through our doors feels supported and seen. We are profoundly grateful for the heart each has poured into our House.

With equal excitement, we welcome our newly appointed Board members – leaders whose passion, expertise and commitment will guide the next chapter of Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. We look forward to working together to continue providing comfort, community, and care for families during their most challenging moments.

To those who served and those who now step forward, thank you for choosing to share your time, resources, and knowledge capital with the House that LOVE Built.

Our Thanks To:

Kim Besse

Matt Freimuth

Blair Mercer

David Podeszwa

Keith Wright

A Warm Welcome To:

Angie Buckmeier
Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer
Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Bryan Diers
Managing Director
Bank of America

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Matt Moore
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OUR HOUSE IN ACTION









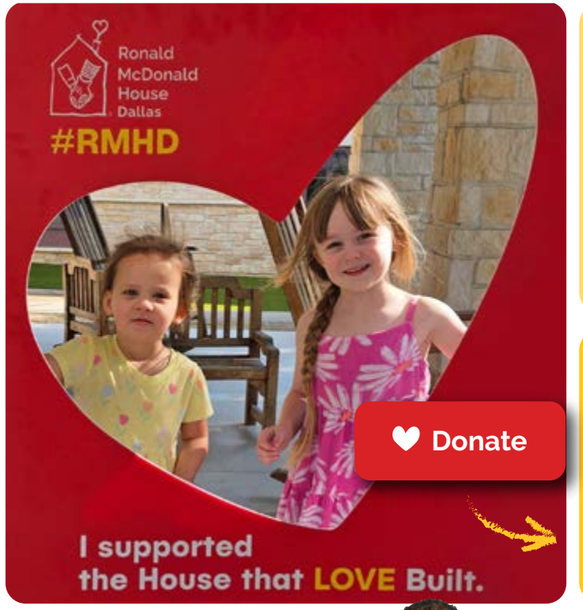
























> *I've always considered it an honor to work for an organization that helps make such an incredibly difficult journey a little easier."*

Celebrating 15 Years of Leadership: The Heart and Vision of RMHD CEO Jill Cumnock

December marked Jill Cumnock's 15-year anniversary as CEO of Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. She humbly stands as a testament to purpose-driven leadership and an unwavering commitment to families navigating the unimaginable.

From the moment Jill discovered the opportunity at Ronald McDonald House Dallas, she felt an immediate and natural connection. The mission aligned perfectly with her passion for serving children and families—a commitment shaped by her education, early work experience as a social worker, and genuine desire to make a difference.

"I can only imagine how devastating it must be for a parent to learn that their child is facing a serious illness," Jill reflects. "Knowing this, I've always considered it an honor to work for an organization that helps make such an incredibly difficult journey a little easier."

Fifteen years later, that sense of purpose is stronger than ever.

Under Jill's leadership, RMHD has experienced significant achievements and milestone moments of growth:

- **Welcoming Shiloh, RMHD's first Chief Cheer Officer**, who has brightened countless days for families, volunteers, and staff.
- **Launching Camp Cornet** that provides joyful summer experiences at the House for patients and siblings—giving parents precious time for respite.
- **Opening the first Ronald McDonald House of Dallas Family Room six years ago** at Scottish Rite for Children in Frisco, bringing RMHD's unique comfort and compassionate care directly into the hospital setting.
- Establishing an impactful hospitality Cart and Bags program at four partner hospitals to spread comfort and joy while children are hospitalized.
- **Completing our most recent expansion in 2019** and raising all necessary funds ahead of schedule to grow our House from 58 to 89 bedrooms.



- **Maintaining House operations safely through the pandemic**, ensuring families continued to receive essential support.
- **Growing the annual budget by over 165%**, thus strengthening the organization's ability to meet the growing demand for RMHD's free services and the evolving needs of our families.

Jill is quick to emphasize that none of these accomplishments were hers alone: "These achievements were only possible because of our incredibly talented staff, dedicated board members, and the unwavering support of volunteers and donors."

Among the many meaningful traditions at RMHD, the holidays remain one of Jill's most cherished times of the year. "Being away from home during such a special season is incredibly hard," she says. "We pour our hearts into making every holiday feel warm, festive, and filled with joy for our families."

For Jill, the inspiration behind her 15 years of service is clear: the families. Every day, she witnesses quiet, powerful moments of courage—parents who smile through exhaustion, siblings who stay cheerful despite their own worries, and children enduring treatments with remarkable resilience.

"Their determination reaches straight into your heart," Jill shares. "It resets what 'hard' really means."

These moments shape her perspective, remind her of what truly matters, and motivate her to give her absolute best—day after day.

As RMHD honors Jill Cumnock's 15 years of leadership, it celebrates a legacy defined by compassion, strength, and vision. Under her guidance, the House has grown not only in size but in heart—continuing to provide – for FREE - a true home away from home and a supportive community for families during their most difficult journeys.



We are so fortunate to have had Jill at the helm of this amazing organization that LOVE Built for 15 years now. She leads tirelessly with passion, heart and care for the families that we serve, her team, our board and volunteers. Congratulations Jill on an amazing run and we look forward to working with you during the next 5, 10, 15 years!!!

Pat Staudt

(VP Bank of Texas & Past Board Chair)





The 35th Annual Addison Rotary Open

Was FORE the Record Books

2025 proved to be a record year for the 35th Annual Addison Rotary Open, presented by **Miter Foundation**, and benefiting Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. Our friends of the Addison Rotary, led by a dynamic committee with **Greg Grimm** as Chair, raised $285,000 for our House through the September tournament held at Gleneagles Country Club in Plano. These generous funds helped to ensure over two weeks of compassionate care for our families.

We are so thankful for the incredible generosity and dedication of every Rotarian, volunteer, sponsor, and community supporter that made this year's tournament one for the record books.







2025 ARO Committee

Greg Grimm, Chair
Meredith Clavenna, RMHD
Peyton Boddie, RMHD
Keith Einstein
Tommy Hardeman, RMHD
Randy Lasley
Taylor Meek
Blair Mercer, RMHD
Graston Norris, RMHD
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WOGA Gymnastics











BANK OF TEXAS
PRESENTS
The TRAINS AT NORTHPARK

The 2025 Trains at NorthPark, presented by Bank of Texas once again delivered a spectacular season of wonder, joy, and heartfelt community support for Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. Under the thoughtful leadership of Co-Chairs **Elizabeth Anderson**, **Vanessa Fuquay** and our first Junior Chair, **Manning Fuquay**, along with Honorary Chairs **Lacy and Clayton Sands**, this beloved North Texas tradition that serves as RMHD's signature fundraiser, continued to delight families while raising essential funds to support the children and parents who call our House a home-away-from-home.

We remain profoundly grateful for the long-standing partnership of **Nancy Nasher**, **David Haemisegger**, **NorthPark Center**, and our Presenting Sponsor, **Bank of Texas**. Their compassionate generosity continues to elevate the Trains experience each year and preserve its place as a cherished holiday tradition in Dallas and North Texas.

This year, we welcomed three new custom sponsorships. **Children's Health**, a long-time partner, supported TRAINS' Sensory-Friendly Hours, ensuring inclusive programming for all families. **VanTrust Real Estate**, one of RMHD's newest corporate partners, presented the annual Sneak Peek event, offering sponsors and their teams a festive early preview on opening day. **Donate2Impact**, a first-time Trains sponsor, underwrote one of the exhibit's most beloved activities — the Scavenger Hunt.

Trains at NorthPark raises over $1M for our House annually. This unique fundraiser—and seasonal business—thrives thanks to more than 1,000 volunteers, hundreds of donors, talented railcar painters, dedicated staff, and dozens of community partners. Together, we keep the Trains running on track and our mission strong.

Thousands of families shared meaningful moments throughout this year's exhibit, including one attendee who said, "Visiting the Trains reminds us what the holidays are all about—magic, kindness, and being together."

Trains Thanks

2025 TRAINS AT NORTHPARK LEADERSHIP

Co-Chairs
Elizabeth Anderson
& Vanessa Fuquay

Junior Chair
Manning Fuquay

Honorary Chairs
Lacy & Clayton Sands

Host Committee
Lilly Albritton
Neda Bahramnejad
Jess Bass Bolander
Heather Bennett
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Hannah Buser
Sheetal C'Ganti
Hayley Creecy
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Gaby Gonzales
Bianca Hernandez
Carrie Hill
Courtney Johnson
Barrell Jones
Robyn Krivacic
Crystal Lightbody
Elisabeth McHugh
Sally Pretorius Hodge
Katie Royal
Brinkley Schneider
Kristen Shear
Jennifer Welden



EVENTSPOTLIGHT///

This year, we launched Art on the Rails, a unique auction of a "fine art" custom painted five car train for art and railcar collectors, alike, benefiting RMHD. Renowned gallerist, JD Miller of Samuel Lynne Galleries, painted the inaugural one-of-a-kind train in his celebrated Reflectionism style.

2025 TRAINS AT NORTHPARK – TOP SPONSORS

PRESENTING SPONSOR
Bank of Texas

CONDUCTOR SPONSORS
Big Outdoor
DART
Experior
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North Texas McDonald's Owner/ Operators
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Sewell Automotive Companies
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LIGHT RAIL SPONSORS
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Scottish Rite for Children
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Lindy & Brad Berkley Family Foundation
Mary and Tim Rooney
Misty and Steven Smathers
Nancy and Jon Esber
The Enrico Foundation
The Martin Brower Company



A Day of Giving, Gratitude, and Joy!

This year, Ronald McDonald House of Dallas exceeded its **North Texas Giving Day** goal of $100,000 — raising an incredible **$118,827 from 186 generous donors**! These critical dollars helped provide one week of operations for our House.

It was truly a wonderful day, made possible by the support of **AMN Healthcare**, **an Anonymous Donor**, and the amazing spirit of our community.

The day kicked off with an Open House, complete with a tour, “State of the House Address” by CEO, Jill Cumnock, and a moving mission testimonial given by former House guest, **Jackson Rainbow**, who stayed at RMHD a decade ago with his family while facing pediatric cancer. In the afternoon, our families enjoyed activities including a delightful performance by Cara Mía Theatre Company, a lively DJ, visits from the Creature Teacher, face painting, piñata making, and the always-loved Hooves of Love.

We are deeply grateful to every donor, volunteer, and staff member who made it all possible.















LoveLeague

Give Monthly. Love Always

Our Monthly Giving Group

Love in Action: Heartbeats of Hope

When a child is seriously ill, nothing matters more than having family close. Members of our **LoveLeague**, Ronald McDonald House of Dallas' new community of monthly givers, will help provide SUSTAINED comfort, care, and a place to call home for families facing medical crises. Monthly giving offers financial flexibility, convenience, automation, and most importantly – enduring impact and support. Join the LoveLeague today to ensure HOPE and a home-away-from-home for a family facing the unthinkable. Love shows up every month — and so can you!



Use QR to Donate

Donor Membership Levels

$10 a Month
Heartbeat Hero

$25 a Month
Love Builder

$50 a Month
Love Leader

$50+ a Month
Love Champion



A Giant on the Greens:

HF Sinclair's Dino-Powered Tournament Raises Big Money for RMHD

This year's HF Sinclair Golf Tournament, held at Stonebriar Country Club in Frisco on October, 20, raised over $1M, benefiting three area charities, including Ronald McDonald House of Dallas! We are privileged to be among the beneficiaries and are grateful for HF Sinclair CEO, **Tim Go**'s, ambassadorship. He and his team, including Senior Vice President, **Dale Kunneman**, who spearheads this impactful tournament, consistently engage with our House through volunteerism and in-kind support.





Our House received $462,179 from 40 generous sponsors. Many thanks to each for choosing to support our noble cause. These contributions supported a month of compassionate care offered through our free programs and services to 300+ families.



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Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
AT&T
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Axios Industrial
Baker Hughes
Bartlett Group/Excel Modular
BASF Corporation
Becht
BNSF Railway
BrandSafway LLC Houston
CDW Advanced Technology Group
Cust O Fab
Equilibrium Catalyst, Inc.
Ferguson Industrial
Herc Rentals
Honeywell
IMUBIT
Ketjen
Koch Engineered Solutions
Marmon On-Site Services
Mid-America Pipeline Construction Inc.
Midland
MRC Global
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Refined Technologies
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STRONGHOLD, LTD.
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The Ryan Foundation
Topsoe, Inc.
TrinityRail
Turn 2 Specialty
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Universal Plant Services
Worley
Woven Metal Products



From Heart to Hoops

Cooper Flagg Visits With Families From Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

Immediately after facing the cameras for his first major press conference and hosting a community basketball clinic as a Dallas Maverick, Cooper Flagg spent part of his day visiting with families staying at Ronald McDonald House of Dallas.

For a House that serves families in moments of profound vulnerability, special outings, family activities, and “curated moments of joy” such as this visit with a celebrated athlete, often brighten dark days. These experiences remind our families that they belong to a global community that will support and stand with them as they navigate their medical crisis.

Ronald McDonald House holds a special place in Flagg’s heart given the personal experience his own family had with the House in Maine twenty years ago when his twin brothers were born prematurely. The intentional and thoughtful time Cooper spent with some of our families this summer reflects his impressive instinct to show up where it matters. He didn’t rush. He listened. He knelt to speak eye-to-eye with children who have spent more time in hospitals this year than most adults have in a lifetime. He greeted parents who have mastered the art of being brave and hopeful. The smiles he sparked weren’t momentary but lingered long after he left.

For families in the middle of medical upheaval, joy is not frivolous — it is medicine. A moment of normalcy, a spark of excitement, a reason to laugh together. A visit like Cooper’s was a bright moment for the parents and kiddos chosen to attend the press conference and community clinic.

As the Dallas/Fort Worth community begins to cheer for the Mavericks’ newest recruit on the court, Cooper’s thoughtful engagement serves as a reminder of something deeper: in this community, strength is more than physical talent. It is compassion. It is a presence. And it is the shared belief — held by athletes, parents, and donors alike — that families deserve care not just in the hospital, but in every moment in between.













For the first time, Ronald McDonald House Dallas participated in RMHC's nationwide engagement initiative 'Thank You Day.'

McDonald's Thank You Day is a day to engage, encourage, and collectively express our gratitude to our local McFamily for fundraising on the behalf of our mission — through Round Up for RMHC, Donation Boxes, Penny Per Pound of Fries Sold, and Penny Per Happy Meal Sold.

With the assistance of Board Members, RMHD Staff, and RMHD Volunteers, 95 stores and over 3,000 McDonald's crew members were engaged and personally rewarded for their efforts to advocate for RMHD's mission and the families we serve everyday.

Our McFamily



Bringing A Little Love to the Hospital:

Ronald Mcdonald House Of Dallas Expands Its Reach With New Hospitality Cart At Medical City Children's Hospital



In a continued effort to serve families when and where they need support the most, Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (RMHD) has officially launched its newest Hospitality Cart at **Medical City Children's Hospital** in Dallas. This exciting addition marks a significant milestone for the organization, representing its **fourth hospital location** now benefiting from the program.

For families facing the stress and uncertainty of a child's medical treatment, the Hospitality Cart provides comfort in its simplest—and often most meaningful—forms: snacks, warm beverages, toiletries, small activities, and a compassionate connection during challenging moments. With the new cart at Medical City Children's Hospital, RMHD continues to extend its mission beyond its House doors and directly into hospital hallways.

This expansion joins RMHD's growing network of partner hospitals, including:

- **Cook Children's Medical Center – Prosper**
- **Medical City Frisco**
- **Texas Health Frisco**

The partnership with Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas underscores a shared commitment to family-centered care. By bringing essentials and emotional support straight to parents and caregivers, RMHD helps alleviate small burdens that can mean a great deal during long hospital stays.

The Hospitality Cart program is sustained through community support—and helping hands are always welcome. Each year, thousands of families benefit from this initiative, and keeping the carts stocked is a collective effort. Those wishing to contribute can do so by donating directly through RMHD's Amazon Wish List.

Together, one cart at a time, we are bringing our brand of "heart and hope" to partner hospitals.

linktr.ee/rmdhdallas

You can help stock our carts by scanning this QR code!



Roxanna Duran

Comes Full Circle with RMHD

Roxanna Duran was just a little girl the first time she walked through the doors of the first Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, located on the campus of St. Paul Hospital. She didn't know what to expect at that age—hospitals were overwhelming, medical terms were confusing, and her world felt suddenly unfamiliar. But the House? The House felt different. It felt warm. It felt safe. It felt like home.

Her family had been searching for answers about a serious issue with her leg, and after waiting far too long for the right referral, they finally met a specialist who delivered news no parent ever wants to hear: She should have been here sooner. They were faced with an impossible choice—fight to save her leg or amputate.

Roxanna's mother, her biggest advocate and fiercest protector, chose to fight.

What followed were countless surgeries, procedures, and long hospital stays throughout her childhood. Through it all, RMHD became a constant presence—a comforting place to return to in the midst of fear and uncertainty. She remembers the House as a place where she could play, laugh, and feel like a kid again at a time when so much of her life revolved around doctors and recovery.

As she grew older, those memories stayed with her. She always knew she wanted to reconnect with the House that had meant so much to her family. But life, as it does, filled up quickly. Between focusing on her health, building a busy career, and serving on the PTA board at her son's school, time slipped by.

Then came the moment that brought everything full circle. This year, Roxanna's company, **Experior**, became one of RMHD's newest partners, supporting the House through generous funding, a companywide Wish List campaign drive, and employee engagement. She was one of the first to answer the call to volunteer and tour the House. Given that her prior experience was at RMHD's first location, she was delighted to see the current site. "The House is huge now, but it still has the same warmth and heart," she shared.







> "The House is huge now, but it still has the same warmth and heart"
>
> **- Roxanna Duran**

Duran's return to the place she called a home-away-from-home decades ago, has been sweet. She's inspired by the opportunity to give back, to serve, advocate, and volunteer. Today, Roxanna stands not just as someone who once relied on RMHD, but as someone who now supports and uplifts the children and families walking the very journey she remembers so well.





Experior Stands with RMHD Families

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas is honored to welcome **Experior Financial Group** as a new and impactful partner in our mission to support families with sick or injured children. This year, Experior made an extraordinary commitment with a **$75,000 contribution** to the House, directly strengthening our ability to provide comfort, care, and stability to families during some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

Beyond their generous financial gift, Experior employees across the country came together for a nationwide wish list drive, collecting essential household items—from cleaning supplies to toys —that help keep our House running smoothly each day. Their engagement didn't stop there. Experior team members also volunteered their time, lending hands and hearts to ensure families feel supported and at home the moment they walk through our doors.

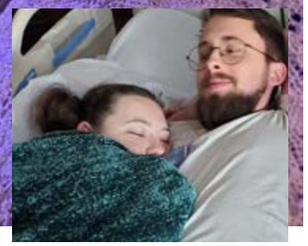
This partnership exemplifies the power of collective action and corporate compassion. Experior Financial Group has shown what it means to not only invest in a mission, but to stand alongside the families we serve.

We are deeply grateful for their generosity, service, and belief in the work of RMHD. Together, we continue to build a community of comfort, hope, and healing.

Maggie Hall

Local Artist Brings Personal Passion and Resilience to RMHD'S Beloved Trains





For Maggie Hall, painting isn't just a hobby—it's been a lifelong passion woven into the fabric of her family. "I've been painting ever since I was a little girl," Maggie shares. "My dad was an artist, so I like to think it's in my genetics. I started professionally sharing my art in 2019."

Her connection to the **Trains at NorthPark** is equally personal. "I've actually been visiting the railcars since I was young. It was a childhood tradition to go see the trains with my parents and brothers," she says. In 2022, while scrolling Facebook, Maggie saw a post from RMHD looking for railcar artists. "It felt like a sign from my dad, who I had just lost that same year," she says. "I knew I needed to apply."

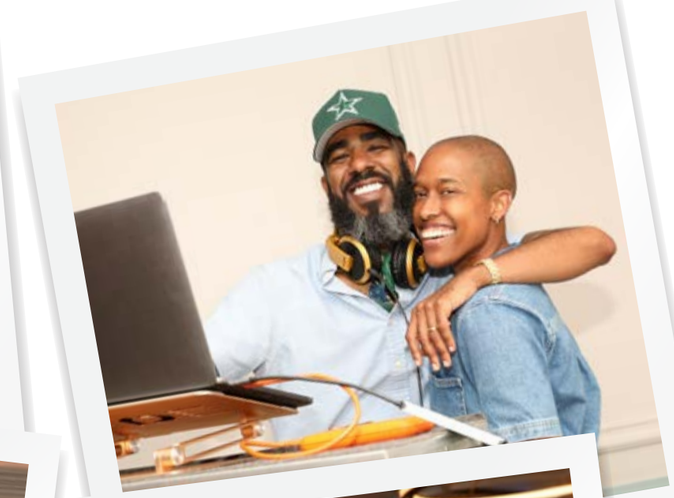
Maggie's journey hasn't been without challenges. Diagnosed in 2019 with **Chiari Malformation**, a condition in which brain tissue extends into the spinal canal, she spent years managing symptoms with medication and frequent visits to her neurologist. Earlier this year, her symptoms worsened—severe dizziness, vomiting, pain, and other debilitating effects made painting nearly impossible.

After discovering her condition had progressed, Maggie underwent **decompression brain surgery on August 21st**. "My surgeon said it was amazing we got the surgery when we did because my skull had become as thin as an eggshell from all the pressure," she recalls. Despite the intense recovery, Maggie's first thought after leaving the hospital was returning to her art. **"I knew the first thing I wanted to do was paint,"** she says, crediting her fiancé, family, and close friends for helping her through the physically and emotionally taxing experience.

Her love for RMHD runs deep. Beyond painting railcars, Maggie's family relied on the organization when her brother was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. "It truly is my favorite non-profit," she says.

Maggie's artistry extends beyond painting railcars. She creates **custom work on banners, footballs, cheer megaphones, and bibles**, cherishing the chance to contribute to meaningful celebrations. She also organizes vendor markets, providing small businesses with a space to showcase their work and foster community—a passion she hopes to resume soon.









FRIENDS OF THE HOUSE
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF DALLAS

When you join the Friends of the House, 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.

Join Now!

Young Professionals – RMHD Needs Your Leadership!

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

ROCK THE HOUSE

FEATURING MUSIC BY SIGNED SEALED DELIVERED

Benefiting Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

WHERE MUSIC AND GENEROSITY GIVE HOPE A BEAT!

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EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Melanie Chesney
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A Special Message from

Girl Scout Troop 6198

Isla, Emma, Alex & Airi

Recently, four members from our Girl Scout Troop 6198 chose to support the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas by volunteering our time and talents as part of our journey to earn the **Girl Scout Bronze Award**—one of the three highest honors a Girl Scout can achieve. To earn this award, we needed to create a project that makes a lasting impact in our community.

After touring the Ronald McDonald House in Dallas, we saw firsthand the love, comfort, and care they provide to families with children receiving long-term medical treatment. That experience truly inspired us to do something meaningful for them.

We wanted our project to bring a little fun and joy to the kids and families staying there, especially since many of them miss out on everyday moments like school, friends, and time at home. When RMHD shared that they needed costumes for their upcoming Halloween celebration, we decided to organize a community donation drive for new, non-scary costumes so every child could dress up and take part in the festivities.

The community response was incredible! We collected dozens of costumes and received extra donations --enough to purchase even more costumes. We donated the rest of the funds for a Remembrance Heart Lock engraved with our troop number to be displayed at RMHD.

Throughout the project, we grew as leaders. We saw how small acts of kindness can make a big difference for families going through difficult times. We're proud that our project brought smiles to the children at the Ronald McDonald House. By completing this project, we truly lived out the Girl Scout Promise and Law—helping others, being considerate and caring, and working together to make the world a better place.



HeartBeats
Celebrating A Decade
of Dedicated Service

Virginia “Ginny” Klimko’s connection to the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas began long before she ever put on a volunteer badge. Years ago, her family found themselves at **Children’s Hospital** facing a terrifying moment: their baby had just been diagnosed with diabetes, and for a time, they weren’t sure he would make it.

In the middle of that fear and uncertainty, Ginny crossed paths with another family who was also going through a tough situation. As she opened up about her worries, they shared something she never forgot: “We would not know what to do if it wasn’t for Ronald McDonald House of Dallas.”

While Klimko’s family never stayed at RMHD, that powerful testimony stayed with her. It was the first time she truly understood the impact the House had on families in crisis. When her son recovered and life slowly steadied, she knew she wanted to give back to the place that had given her hope—just through someone else’s words.

Years later, once her twins were older, Ginny returned to RMHD with a purpose: to serve the families who rely on the House every day. And for the last 10 years, she has done exactly that as a dedicated **Heartbeat volunteer**.

Whether she’s offering a warm greeting, sharing kindness during a family’s hardest day, or simply helping the House feel like home, Ginny brings compassion and steadiness to every shift.

We are honored to celebrate Klimko’s decade of service. Her journey is a reminder that you don’t have to stay at the House to feel its impact—and that sometimes, one heartfelt conversation can spark a lifetime of giving back. Thank you, Ginny, for ten years of dedication, service, and Heartbeat spirit!



Hope On Wheels
RMHD’s Transportation Program

Transportation remains one of the most critical needs of many of our families. In 2025 alone, RMHD provided **over 3,800 rides** to and from Dallas-area hospitals, ensuring parents could attend appointments, bedside visits, and treatments without worry. For families without a car or those traveling hundreds of miles for specialized care, this service is more than a convenience—it is a lifeline.

We are especially grateful to **Lennar Homes**, whose generous partnership helps fund a significant portion of this essential program. Their support directly impacts hundreds of families each year, making safe, reliable, and compassionate transportation possible. As Chief Operating Officer **Dr. Jennifer Pitts** shares, “Transportation may seem simple, but for our families, it removes a major burden. It gives them one less thing to worry about—and one more way to focus fully on their child.”

Beyond financial support, Lennar Homes has shown deep engagement with our mission, demonstrating what true corporate partnership looks like: responsive, caring, and committed to strengthening families during their most challenging moments.

Thanks to Lennar Homes and our community of supporters, RMHD can continue ensuring every family has the access, stability, and peace of mind they deserve.

In Memoriam

Honoring the Legacy of Ginger Hardage — A Cherished Friend of RMHD



The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas is deeply saddened by the passing of Ginger Hardage, a beloved supporter of our mission and an admired leader in the communications and aviation industries. Ginger passed away earlier this year at the age of 70 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Though widely known for her 25-year career with Southwest Airlines—where she retired in 2015 after serving as Senior Vice President of Culture and Communications—Ginger's impact extended far beyond the walls of the company she helped shape. Her heart for service and her belief in the power of community made her a devoted supporter of RMHD.

Ginger understood, in a profound way, the importance of creating environments where people feel cared for, uplifted, and connected. That same passion she poured into building culture at Southwest guided her involvement with our House. Over the years, she championed our mission, celebrated our families' resilience, and lent her voice to help strengthen the work we do each day. Her kindness and advocacy reflected her deep belief in caring for others when they need it most.

Hardage served as the Ronald McDonald House Global Trustee and Board Chair. Deemed "a force of good in the world," by RMHC's Global CEO, Katie Fitzgerald, she was a steadfast advocate for our mission, and she guided RMHC with wisdom, compassion, and optimism. We celebrate her significant impact on our organization globally. Linda Rutherford, Southwest's recently retired Chief Administration Officer remembers Ginger as "the real deal," adding, "Her charm, grace, ever-stylish outfits, and her ability to remain calm in any situation were just a few of her enviable traits.

At RMHD, we will remember Ginger for her warmth, generosity, and the genuine care she showed for the families we serve. Her legacy lives on in the comfort she helped provide and the hope she helped inspire. We are grateful for her friendship, her support, and the lasting imprint she leaves on our House.

Through **Their Eyes**

Thank you for supporting the House that Love Built!

Your contribution translates into IMPACT:

A gift of **$25** provides snacks for one family during their stay

A gift of **$100** provides transportation for families to and from the hospital for one week

A gift of **$500** provides 1 meal for all of our families

A gift of **$2,500** helps RMHD cover utilities and household supplies for one week in our 78,000 sq.ft. facility, with 89 rooms

A gift of **$5,500** covers the cost of one guest room for one month



When you look through the eyes of a family arriving at Ronald McDonald House, you see the world differently. You see the exhaustion behind a mother's smile, the fear a father hides while unpacking bags, the relief of siblings who finally exhale. What they notice first isn't the building, it's kindness. A staff member offering coffee. Another parent nodding with quiet understanding. A room that feels safe after days of hospital alarms.

Through their eyes, this place becomes proof that they are not alone, that compassion still exists, and that even in crisis, someone is ready to steady their world.

Through their eyes, your generosity is not silent, it is felt. It's the warm dinner waiting after a day of hard news, the transportation that saves a family from impossible costs, the supportive services that helps them breathe again, and the simple peace of being close to their child's bedside.

Families know they could never afford these comforts on their own, and they see each one as a gift from someone who cared enough to help. As our needs grow, your support protects the promise that no family faces a medical crisis alone.

Through their eyes, your donation becomes hope made real.

Ronald McDonald House® Dallas

Keeping families close™

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Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (RMHD) provides essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare.

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