



**RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES®**
CHICAGOLAND & NORTHWEST INDIANA

Keeping families close



A newsletter for friends of the Charity

Spring 2016

Forever Grateful for Ronald McDonald House

Tom and Marjorie Reichard will never forget the day they adopted and welcomed 1-year-old Maddy into their lives. While celebrating this milestone day, Tom and Marjorie knew they wanted to get Maddy the best medical care.

Traveling from Houston, Texas, they brought Maddy to Chicago to receive treatment for congenital melanocytic nevus, a large birthmark covering half of her face. Specialists often advise parents to have the cells that form the birthmark removed; otherwise, they can have a high-risk of turning cancerous as the child grows older.

Knowing Maddy's treatment would involve a series of surgical procedures over time, Tom and Marjorie were grateful to learn about Ronald McDonald House®.

Maddy and her family have called our Ronald McDonald House® near Lurie Children's their 'home away from home' since September of 2012 where they stayed with us for the first time, just months after the House celebrated its grand opening.

"For Maddy, RMH near Lurie Children's is her second home. We have celebrated birthdays, holidays, and other milestones here. Last Christmas, Maddy eagerly awaited Santa's arrival while enjoying all of the holiday activities. There truly has never been a better Christmas for our family."

"People come to the House to take a break, enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal prepared by wonderful volunteers, and get some sleep. But you come away with so much more. The families who stay here build each other up, volunteers offer loving support, and the staff always goes out of their way to help," shared Marjorie.

Maddy's personality and spirit have truly blossomed during her time at the House. She has made close friendships with other kids at the House and has become very close to several staff members.

She loves visiting the fifth floor to say "Hi" to the team and she'll often ask if "the spa is open" where she'll get her nails painted with a bright, new color. She loves reading books and tries to sneak in a quick afternoon story.



"We're so grateful to Ronald McDonald House for rallying around us, every step of the way."
– Marjorie Reichard

Maddy also loves movie nights at the House where she gets to gather with friends from all over the world, snuggle into a bean bag chair and enjoy some freshly popped popcorn.

Over the past four years, Maddy has undergone a total of fourteen surgeries, eleven of those taking place here in Chicago. Thankfully today, she's almost finished with treatment and only has a few more surgeries left. Due to the support of many, the House will be here for all of her remaining appointments and procedures.



Celebrating Our Volunteers

Here at Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI), we value our community of volunteers comprised of individuals, associations and businesses who generously give their time, talents and gifts to support our mission. Every morning and night, 365 days a year, volunteers from all over the state come together at our five Chicagoland Ronald McDonald Houses and three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms to prepare homemade meals, bake sweet treats and cookies, and host fun activities for our families to enjoy.

If it wasn't for the dedication of these volunteers, who also support us at several fundraising events, we truly couldn't make a difference for so many families. It's because of our volunteers, that our families feel such care and comfort during their stay with us.



Lu and Paul have been volunteering at RMH near Advocate Children's Hospital since the House opened in 2008. They volunteer every other Wednesday night together. On top of volunteering, they help manage the Teen Advisory Board and train future RMHC volunteers.



Erma and Elston Greene and their close friend, Joyce Dawkins are always ready to lend a hand at our events. For the past four years, they've volunteered the at our annual dinner gala and at the McDonald's All American Player Awards Banquet.



As a past RMHC family, the Freedlund's provide a home-cooked meal every month at our RMH near University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. In memory of their daughter, they started a nonprofit, Mattea's Joy, where they continue to celebrate her spirit.



Sarah McGee has been a volunteer at our Ronald McDonald Family Room in Edward Hospital since it opened in 2012. She's been a wonderful contributor to Uncork Your Support and her daughter, Ellie, is on the Family Room Teen Advisory Board.

"RMHC helped my family cope through my son's heart transplant surgery. The House was so accommodating. Now, I proudly volunteer at the House. I believe it's important to give back and I hope to help more families!"

– Roxanne Bejarano

"I want to thank you for all of the delicious meals, for your respect, kind words and most of all... the love you showed me. From the time I walked through your doors, until I checked out, I appreciated the peacefulness and amazing community of support."

– Delores Underwood

Join us in celebrating National Volunteer Week: April 10-17 by sharing your RMHC story and volunteer pride on social media. Be sure to tag the Charity @RMHCCNI and join the conversation by including #RMHCvolunteer. Visit RonaldHouseChicago.org/volunteer to learn more and get involved today.



Thank You For Your Continued Support

Spring has sprung! For most of us, it's a time of renewal and new beginnings. But for many of the children and families at Ronald McDonald House Charities, their long battle with illness and need for medical care is still taking its toll. I hope you know what a difference you're making for the families who are depending on us.

In this newsletter, you'll see several exciting updates about our Charity. You'll meet Maddy, a little girl from Texas who has grown up at RMHC. Your gifts make it possible for her family to get her the care she needs. Your support allows them to stay together as a family where we can then provide them all of the comforts of home. It's stories like Maddy's that remind us how important our mission is and how we're making an impact for so many families.

As we look ahead, we look forward to celebrating many more milestones together including the 30th birthday of our Ronald McDonald House near University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital this September. We look forward to sharing all of the highlights in our next newsletter! As a partner in our mission, not only are you providing families care and comfort, but you're giving them something priceless - the courage to hope for a brighter day. Thank you for your continued support and compassion!

Gratefully,

Holly Buckendahl

CEO, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Medical Care on the Go: Keeping Kids Healthy & In School

While we have seen exceptional advancement in medical care for children, thousands of children in our community do not have access to facilities. Fortunately, RMHC-CNI helps address this need through our Care Mobile, a fully equipped medical office on wheels.

Since 2008, Advocate Children's Hospital's Care Mobile partnership with RMHC-CNI has been widely successful in addressing the needs of high-risk pediatric populations throughout southern Chicago and parts of northern Illinois. The vehicle is 40-foot long, 8-foot wide and incorporates two patient exam rooms, a waiting room and a medical records area. The Care Mobile serves as a state-of-the-art medical clinic. The program's focus is to provide initial health screening, immunizations, primary care treatment, and referral/follow up appointments for everyday and serious medical needs. To date, RMHC-CNI has served over 14,000 children in the Chicagoland area who would have otherwise gone untreated.

"Advocate Children's Hospital has been fortunate to have a great relationship with RMHC-CNI. Over the past two years, we have expanded our services to the Northern and Northwest suburbs and have provided care for over 4,600 children."

"These children are now able to stay in school, receive necessary immunizations and get connected with a primary care provider to establish a medical home. These lives could not have been touched without our current partnership, and the children, their families and their schools are so grateful!"

- Joanna Lewis, MD, FAAP, Associate Program Director



Scholarship Program

Supporting Exceptional Students in Pursuing Their Dreams

Our scholarship program is a key component of our mission to provide for the higher education of students in our community. Each year, RMHC-CNI awards \$4,000/year, renewable scholarships to extraordinary area high school seniors who are committed to community service and academic excellence. Once awarded, our scholarships are renewable for four years of college, contingent upon the student maintaining a specified GPA and performing hours of community service each year.

Many of the scholars have volunteered at one of our Ronald McDonald Houses or have experienced the benefits of the Houses through a personal family experience. Matt O'Neill (pictured right) is a past recipient who has accomplished great things as a student and young professional. Matt interned with the Charity for two summers where he focused on finances and database management. During his study abroad program in college, Matt also volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House in Vienna, Austria! After graduating from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2012 from the College of Business, Matt joined Lincoln International as an Investment Banking Analyst. Matt greatly valued his experience at Lincoln International and after two years, he moved to work in operations for a small business as the New Projects Manager at Parker Plastics. As part of that role, Matt moved to Las Vegas in July 2015 to open up a new manufacturing plant for the company. Matt remains involved with RMHC as a member of our Red Shoe Society Chicago, and he has begun to get involved with the Ronald McDonald House in Las Vegas. Matt is also an active member of RMHC-CNI's Education Committee, where he has served for two years.



Leaving a Lasting Legacy



The Keyzers: A Family Tradition of Giving

As a leader and longtime donor of the Charity, Bill Keyser says, “Even before the phenomenal success of the family business, my parents - Bee and the late Donald Keyser - chose to give back to their community.”

Bill and Marlo have followed this family tradition, making generous investments in a range of worthy projects over the years. With both their home and business located in Evergreen Park near our Ronald

McDonald House® near Advocate Children’s Hospital in Oak Lawn, the couple can attest to the Charity’s impact firsthand.

Bill served on our Board of Directors for six years where he chaired the governance committee and helped to lead the development efforts behind our Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn. Bill and his daughter, Kim Keyser Clisham, also sit on the House Community Council working tirelessly to produce the House’s annual Vegas Night fundraiser. Bill also tends to the two raised-bed vegetable gardens and often can be found picking fresh vegetables for the families to enjoy within the House. Marlo generously served on several event committees and also enjoys volunteering at the Oak Lawn House with her family.

Bill and Marlo made a legacy gift of a life insurance policy to the Charity. This gift is recognized as a significant investment in our mission to care for families for future generations. The Keyzers’ financial planner, Jim Longo, explained how he helped the couple coordinate the purchase of a new life insurance policy for the purpose of making charitable contributions. Specifically, the Keyzers made a tax-deductible cash donation to RMHC-CNI in the amount of the policy’s single premium and RMHC-CNI used the donation to pay for the policy as its new owner.

The policy insures the lives of both Bill and Marlo so after their deaths, RMHC-CNI will receive a benefit substantially more than the cost of the premium. According to Mr. Longo, this is the chief advantage of this type of gift for both the donor and a charity. “A much smaller initial gift can be leveraged to result in a truly significant legacy gift,” he says. “Most importantly, the Keyzers have served as an example to others through their generosity.”

Three Easy Ways to Leave a Lasting Legacy

- **Will/Living Trust:** To offer support without giving up assets today, you may include RMHC-CNI in a will or living trust and leave a specific asset, dollar amount or percentage of your estate to the Charity.
- **Retirement Account:** Name RMHC-CNI as the beneficiary of your retirement account and receive an estate tax charitable deduction.
- **Life Insurance Policy:** Name RMHC-CNI as the beneficiary of a percentage of an existing life insurance policy’s death benefit.

Please contact Jim De Maria at 630.623.5551 or jdemaria@rmhccni.org to learn more. You can also visit our planned giving website at RonaldHouseChicago.org/PlannedGiving.

Our Hearts Remember

Each year, families come to us in search of hope and healing for their sick child. For many, miracles are found at our world class Chicagoland pediatric hospitals, but for some, the journey must end. We remember them all as they remain a part of our history and forever in our hearts.

Zachry Aldridge
Kassandra Aquilar
Alejandro (Bernal) Benites
Rosie Blades
Jeremy Borlin
Mason Boyd
Lamarion Brown
JaVontee Burks
Azaria Crowe
Hector Delgado
Kate Didianna
Vincent Edmonds
Nathaniel Fletter
Aaliyha Flory
Aarohi Gandhi
Audree Garcia
Omar Zealous Gonzalez (Jimenez)
Will Goodale
Abigail Gross
Brent Michon Hayes
Harper Heitz
Cillian Jacoby
Bryan Jardinico
Destiny Jenkins
Nicole Kopfmann
Oliver Krutsinger Lester
Aliza Lanser
Braelyn Lemmel
Isabella Madrigal
Natalie Manzanaras
Julian Martel
Frances Martinez
Alexis Mendez
Germel McGee
Keanu McGhee
Erin Murray
Gabriel Nair
Olivia Nelson
Elenajane Pooler
Destiny Rodriguez
Aubrey Rogers
Iliana Salinas
Jacob Sandoval
Mariyah Sartin
Heather Serafin
Aidan Shea
Santino Sinner-Mastache
Benjamin Srdanovich
Harper Grey Stockton
Raphael Sullivan
Luke Ungerer
Matthias Valdez
Sebastian Vazquez
Journey Weiberg
Noah Willis
Yaminah Yasir

Partnering Together to Keep Families Close

Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Host Skate With the Greats

RMHC-CNI partnered with MB Financial Park in Rosemont, Dr Pepper and the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association to present the 4th Annual 'Skate with the Greats.' Hockey fans were given the opportunity to meet current Chicago Blackhawks players Trevor Van Riemsdyk and Andrew Desjardins as well as legendary Chicago Blackhawks Hall of Famer, the great, Denis Savard, who were on-site and signing autographs. Attendees also met and skated with other Chicago Blackhawks alumni including Cliff Koroll, Eric Daze, Troy Murray, Murray Bannerman, Phil Russell, Brian Noonan, Grant Mulvey, Reggie Kerr, Peter Marsh, Jack O'Callahan, and Steve Konroyd.



"We are grateful to the Blackhawks Alumni Association for their continued support and dedication to Ronald McDonald House Charities and thrilled to partner with them again on this year's 'Skate with the Greats' event," said Holly Buckendahl, CEO of RMHC-CNI.

This was a record year, raising over \$92,000 for the families staying at our eight Chicagoland locations. It was a beautiful day on the ice rink and a wonderful time was had by all.

The Chicago Brushmasters - World of Wheels

This year marked the 9th Annual Charity Auction Presented by the Chicago Brushmasters and World of Wheels at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. Over 100 artists from all over North America came together to hand paint several unique pieces to support families at Ronald McDonald House. The live auction raised over \$53,000 for the Charity! Some of the one-of-a-kind items included a race car, body panels, bike tanks, a vast array of motorsports and other Chicago-themed projects.



The Chicago Brushmasters presented sign artist, Jeff Williams, with the "Frank H. Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award" for his innovation, mentoring and inspiration to the pinstriping community. RMHC-CNI is thankful for our partnership with the Chicago Brushmasters and for the time and effort they put into the event each year in support of our mission to keep families close.



Making an Impact for Children and Families

- RMHC-CNI provided care and comfort to 4,079 families in 2015.
- RMHC-CNI saved families approximately \$10 million in housing and food costs last year alone.
- Parents who have stayed at a Ronald McDonald House believe that the House significantly helped their family's psychological well-being and their child's recovery and quality of life.
- Our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provided basic medical care to 2,129 children in 2015.
- Since 2006, RMHC-CNI has awarded more than \$1 million dollars to 123 students and assisted 60 students in achieving their college degrees through our Scholarship Program.

What's Happening Around the Charity

Bob's Discount Furniture

Our friends at Bob's Discount Furniture celebrated the opening of their newest stores in the Chicagoland area in a big way! They donated more than \$100,000 to local children's organizations, including \$50,000 in furniture to all five of our Ronald McDonald Houses. The deliveries kicked off at our Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's with special appearances from Staley Da Bear and Chicago Bears alumni player, Jerry Azumah. Other fun activities included a special "Green Eggs and Ham" themed breakfast and Chicago Bears and Bob's Discount Furniture bingo for the families.



Food Checkout Day

RMHC-CNI celebrated its 16th Annual Food Checkout Day where leaders from Cook County Farm Bureau presented over two tons of food, monetary donations, and several pounds of pop tabs.

The morning started with a 'supermarket sweep' style competition hosted by our good friends at Jewel-Osco. Lou Canellis from FOX 32 Chicago teamed up with Chicago White Sox, Southpaw. Dionne Miller from ABC 7 partnered with Chicago Bulls, Benny The Bull, and our very own CEO, Holly Buckendahl, teamed up with Chicago Blackhawks, Tommy Hawk, to collect items for all five of our Chicagoland Ronald McDonald Houses.

After the shopping spree, members from Cook County Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial hosted a delicious lunch for families staying at Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's. Cook County Farm Bureau then headed down to the Jewel-Osco in Oak Lawn where the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Departments competed in a second supermarket competition to collect even more items for our families.

Give a Little Love

RMHC-CNI was feeling the love this February as the 2nd Annual 'Give a Little Love' campaign took place at our 500+ local McDonald's restaurants and raised nearly \$200,000 over a two-week period. A tremendous amount of awareness was generated for the Charity and our mission via traditional and social media channels, as well as in-restaurant displays. We wish to acknowledge and express our sincere gratitude to McDonald's customers, the McDonald's Owner/Operators of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana (MOCNI), supporting agencies, the McDonald's Greater Chicago Region office, McOpco stores and the dedicated restaurant managers and crew members who helped to make the campaign such a success. Thank you for showing so much love to RMHC-CNI.



Events Calendar

April 17
Burger Day
McDonald's Plaza Del Prado, Glenview

May 14
Pop It & Drop It
Edward Hospital, Naperville

June 5
Running for Hope 5K
Keeler Park, Oak Lawn

July 20
Golf Classic
Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, Lemont

September 10-11
Sporting Clays Tournament
Northbrook Sports Club, Grayslake

September 17
Celebrating 30 Years: RMH near UCCCH
Hyde Park, Chicago

September 24
Recycle with Ronald
United Scrap Metal, Cicero

September 24-25
Hittin' for the House
Oak Brook Park District, Oak Brook

October 9
Bank of America Chicago Marathon
Grant Park, Chicago

October 15
RMHC's Day of Change
Donate at Your Local McDonald's

November 5
Mac & Cheese Fest
UIC Forum, Chicago

November 11
Rock the House
Park West, Chicago

Red Shoe Society of Chicago

Our friends in the Red Shoe Society of Chicago (RSSC), a group of philanthropic professionals who serve as ambassadors for the Charity, have been hard at work. Last month, they hosted 400 guests at their 16th annual wine social which took place in the beautiful Preston Bradley Room of the Chicago Cultural Center. This year's event included an impromptu performance by The Voice, Season 7 finalist, Ethan Butler! The event raised over \$25,000 net in support of our mission. There's never been a better time to be part of our Red Shoe Society. To learn more about becoming a member, please visit RonaldHouseChicago.org/RedShoeSociety.



Dinner Gala

Nearly 650 guests gathered together at 'Mission: Possible' presented by Wintrust on Saturday, March 5th at the UIC Forum. Val Warner and Ryan Chiaverini, best known as co-hosts of ABC 7 Chicago's Windy City LIVE, were the official Mission Ambassadors for the evening, adding their fun and vibrant personalities to the celebration. The event raised more than half a million dollars net for the Charity. Great Clips and The Coldwell Banker Charitable Foundation were recognized as the 2016 Outstanding Community Partners for their continued commitment and service to the organization.

"Change Agents" roamed the cocktail hour selling raffle tickets containing secret codes to the briefcase holding the grand prize of taking one of the five live auction packages off the table. The lucky winner, Andrea Weingart, had the correct code securing her a one-week stay for two in Waikiki Beach, Hawaii.

The highlight of the night took place when Samantha Roberson, a 12-year-old patient who has been hospitalized many times over the past several years due to a rare form of cancer, was greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd. When she shared her emotional and inspiring story about staying and healing with her family at Ronald McDonald House, guests could not contain their support.

Guests also participated in a silent auction featuring over 100 items, enjoyed live entertainment by Park Avenue Orchestra, and took interactive photos with ActionBooth at the end of the evening.

Hit the Links With Us At Our 30th Annual Golf Classic

Now in its 30th year, we are excited to take over Cog Hill Golf & Country Club once again for the RMHC-CNI Annual Golf Classic. Occupying all four golf courses, including award-winning Dubsdread, we are planning to host over 450 golfers on this memorable day. Golfers will enjoy exclusive Titleist gifts, breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages, on-course contests and other special surprises, all leading up to an elaborate silent auction and evening cocktail reception hosted by local celebrities.

Join us on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at the 30th Annual Golf Classic for your opportunity to play on the local course that has hosted several PGA Tour and USGA tournaments! Gather your foursome and visit RonaldHouseChicago.org/GolfClassic for more information.



Run the Bank of America Chicago Marathon

We're ready to roll out the red carpet for you! Join our Chicagoland team and be treated to the ultimate VIP experience at the 2016 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 9. By joining the team, you'll secure your complimentary race entry and help support our families. To join our team today, visit RonaldHouseChicago.org/TeamRMHCChicagoland.



RMHC-CNI
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RonaldHouseChicago.org

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#KeepingFamiliesClose



Consider Wish List Items for Our Houses

Contact any of our locations (listed below) for more information.

- Facial tissue
- Napkins
- Heavy duty paper plates
- Paper towels
- Individual snacks and cereals
- 7/13/33 gallon garbage bags
- Gift cards to Costco, Jewel, Walmart, Walgreens, Menards, Target, and Office Max

Help Us Save Trees! To receive the newsletter electronically, please visit RonaldHouseChicago.org/StayintheLoop.

Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
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| Joe Endress, Vice President | Greg Koerner |
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| Tara Kamradt | Jon Zindel |
| Nicholas Karavites | |
| Jodi Keller | |

Our Chicagoland Locations

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>RMHC-CNI Chapter Office
Holly Buckendahl, Chief Executive Officer
1301 W. 22nd Street, Suite 905
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523
630.623.5300 office
630.623.0808 fax</p> | <p>*RMH near Lurie Children's Hospital
Mark Shouger, Managing Director
211 E. Grand Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
312.888.2500</p> |
| <p>RMH near Advocate Children's Hospital
Anne Czarnecki, Senior House Director
4410 W. 93rd Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708.423.5285
708.423.5658 fax</p> | <p>*RMH near University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital
Kelly Evans, Senior Director of Community Relations
Mardelle Gundlach, House Director
5444 S. Drexel Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615
773.324.5437</p> |
| <p>RMH near Central DuPage Hospital
Katie Allabough, House Director
0N150 Winfield Road
Winfield, IL 60190
630.517.8678</p> | <p>Ronald McDonald Family Room in Edward Hospital
Brittany Rhyne, Senior Family Room Manager
801 S. Washington St.
Naperville, IL 60540
630.527.3800</p> |
| <p>RMH near Loyola University Medical Center
Lisa Mitchell, VP of Programs & Services
Tripp Avenue at Air Mail Road
P. O. Box 7002
Hines, IL 60141
708.327.2273
708.327.6000 fax</p> | <p>*We have Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at these locations</p> |