

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

When Meghan went into labor at 29 weeks with triplets, the Jones family's world was upended.

But with the support of the Ronald McDonald House during their babies' extended hospital stays, they found strength, hope, and a lasting commitment to give back to the place that became their home in crisis.

Your support helped give them a place to stay, a sense of peace, and the ability to stay close to their children when it mattered most.



**THEIR JOURNEY
WOULD NOT HAVE
BEEN POSSIBLE
WITHOUT YOUR
GENEROSITY.**



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana

LETTER FROM THE CEO



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire team at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana, I am proud to share our 2024 Annual Report, a reflection of a powerful year of mission impact made possible by the deep generosity and steadfast partnership of our community.

Inside, you'll read stories like that of the Jones family—stories that remind us why our mission matters. You'll also find a snapshot of our program impact, milestones reached, and the financial strength that underpins our ability to serve more families, more effectively.

This year, we remained focused on removing barriers and easing the burdens families face when a child is hospitalized. Alongside our dedicated staff, thousands of volunteers gave the gift of time every single day—helping us extend our reach while reducing personnel costs.

We're often asked how McDonald's supports our charity. As our founding and forever partner, McDonald's continues to play a vital role in our mission—especially through the commitment of our local McDonald's Owner/Operators. These independent business leaders are deeply invested in our success, supporting us through generous financial contributions, in-restaurant giving opportunities, hands-on volunteerism, and community-based promotions. Their impact is reflected throughout the foundation, individual, and corporate giving in this report.

As responsible stewards of your generosity, we're proud to share that 73% of all funds raised through individuals, corporations, foundation/grant-making entities, etc. go directly to program services to strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. The remainder sustains fundraising efforts and essential administrative operations that keep our mission moving forward.

To every donor, volunteer, partner, and advocate—thank you. Your support powers every overnight stay, every meal, and every moment of relief. Together, we are building a community rooted in care, hope, and healing.

HOLLY BUCKENDAHL
Chief Executive Officer

ON THE COVER: After Meghan gave birth to triplets at just 29 weeks, the Jones family spent months in and out of hospitals, including a stay two hours from home at Loyola University Medical Center. During this challenging time, the Ronald McDonald House became their refuge—offering a place to sleep, eat, and stay just steps from their babies' bedsides. The comfort and support they received during those critical weeks allowed them to focus on their boys' recovery and inspired them to give back to the place that once felt like home.

2024 FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUES

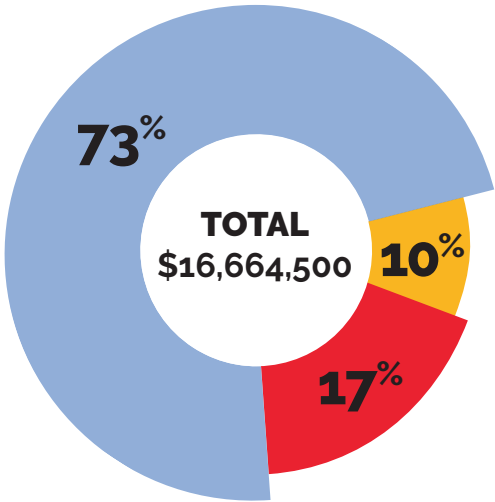
Individual	\$7,781,033	49%
Corporate	\$1,380,385	9%
Foundations/Grants	\$1,638,616	10%
Donated Products and Services (net)	\$1,559,608	10%
Special Events (net)	\$3,078,722	19%
Rental Income	\$554,405	3%
TOTAL	\$15,992,769	100%
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,010,368	

(TOTAL INCOME includes investment gains and losses)

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR

Without Donor Restriction	\$59,506,340
With Donor Restriction	\$5,599,730
TOTAL	\$65,106,070

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK



PROGRAM SERVICES	ADMINISTRATIVE	DEVELOPMENT
\$12,222,231	\$2,831,093	\$1,611,176



2024 IMPACT



17,341
Children served



12,068
Families served



\$12.1 million
Saved by families



55,883
Volunteer hours



114
Average distance
traveled for
medical care

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE® PROGRAM



4,814
Children
served



51,231 Nights
Provided to families
in need



16 Nights
Average length
of a family stay



128,630 Meals
served to families
in need

RONALD MCDONALD FAMILY ROOM® PROGRAM




5,923
Children served
An additional 2,500 children were served
through other in-hospital programs



6,784 Nights
Provided to families
in need



4.5 Nights
Average length
of a family stay




24,435
Family Room
visitors



12,947 Meals
served to families
in need

RONALD MCDONALD CARE MOBILE® PROGRAM



3,160
Children who received
health care treatment



7,004
Vaccinations
provided



1,581
Backpacks distributed
with food and supplies



288
Days of
service

PROGRAMS

Ronald McDonald Houses®

Each night, we keep families with hospitalized children close to the care and resources they need at six area Ronald McDonald Houses. Our Houses, which provide families with comfortable, private rooms, freshly-made meals, activities, and all the comforts of home, are located a short distance from Advocate Children's Hospital, Loyola University Medical Center, Lurie Children's, Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, and UChicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital, and inside Northwestern Medicine Prentice Women's Hospital. Ronald McDonald House allows families to focus on the health of their child by providing access to the best medical care possible.

Ronald McDonald Family Rooms®

Our four Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, located just steps away from pediatric intensive care units in Edward Hospital, Lurie Children's, UChicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital, and Advocate Children's Hospital, provide a haven of respite and hospitality for families of the most medically fragile children. Family Rooms offer many of the comforts of home including private bedrooms, living spaces, meals, and hospitality for families whose children are receiving treatment.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles®

In partnership with Advocate Children's Hospital, we operate two mobile medical units that bring health care directly to underserved children in Chicagoland. This program provides health care and education services to children in neighborhoods where access to primary and preventative care such as immunizations, school physicals, and vision screenings are limited or unavailable. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provides an entry point into a regular pattern of health care for vulnerable children, with the goal of connecting the child to a medical home.

2024 YEAR in REVIEW



1. RONALD MCDONALD FAMILY ROOM INSIDE ADVOCATE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – CELEBRATING 1 YEAR

In its inaugural year, the 4,000-square-foot Ronald McDonald Family Room, located next to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, welcomed over 6,300 visits and provided comfort and support to nearly 150 families.

2. 47TH ANNUAL GALA

Ronald McDonald House friends and supporters gathered to celebrate 47 years of impact, raising an impressive \$1.7 million to support vital programs that help families heal together.

3. NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

During National Volunteer Week, we honored Joe Hobein, who has lovingly cared for the Ronald McDonald House garden near Lurie Children's for over 45 years. His story was featured on Chicago outlets like WGN, ABC, and WBBM-AM.

4. NEW PLAYGROUND

A big thanks to the Wilch family for donating a new, fully accessible playground at the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center. The vibrant space brings joy and a sense of normalcy to children and families during their stay.

5. ONE DAD'S MISSION

Jeff Bekos, founder of One Dad's Mission, stopped at our House near Lurie Children's during his 4,600-mile bike trek supporting 26 Ronald McDonald Houses. His journey ended in Philadelphia, where his family once stayed 254 nights while daughter Hailey recovered from encephalitis.

6. 20TH ANNUAL RECYCLE WITH RONALD

Hundreds of pop tab collectors gathered at United Scrap Metal in Cicero to celebrate the 20th Recycle with Ronald event. The family-friendly festival marked \$86,000 raised in 2024 to support our mission of keeping families close.

7. ROUND-UP FOR RMHC

The Round-Up for RMHC program had another outstanding year, reaching an incredible milestone of \$3.4 million raised. This simple yet powerful act of rounding up at checkout continues to make a meaningful impact—helping provide vital resources and a comforting home away from home for families when they need it most.

8. CORPORATE CHAMPIONS PROGRAM LAUNCH

In 2024, we launched our Corporate Champions program - a powerful new platform for companies to create purpose-driven impact at both the local and global levels. In its first year, the program's dedicated partners collectively contributed nearly \$1 million, helping us provide critical support to the families we serve.

9. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY DANCE MARATHON (NUDM)

For its 50th anniversary, NUDM named our local Ronald McDonald House chapter as its primary beneficiary, raising \$342,138 to support the families we serve.

10. SOUTH SIDE IRISH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

We were honored to serve as Grand Marshal of the South Side Irish Parade, joining with team members, volunteers, and families for a memorable celebration and meaningful connection with the Oak Lawn community.