



Fall 2015

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

Attention all of our CORPORATE friends! It's time to...

Get your racing stripes on!

We still have a way to go to reach our \$3 million goal! See page 3 to find out how you can help by joining our Matching Corporate Campaign.



A grateful family...

finds comfort, love and healing at the new House

Our tall, athletic, and cheerful eight year old daughter Gabby had just started her first week of third grade, and our small family of four (Mom, Dad, Gabby, and Bruce, our dog) was settling back into the school time routine. By the end of the week, Gabby was not feeling well, so we kept her home from school for a couple days with what we thought was a flu. Our lives changed profoundly on Saturday morning when Gabby had a seizure and was rushed to the hospital. She had a very high fever, was very flush, and was not conscious. The local hospital felt that they could not adequately treat her worsening condition, so she was transported to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, about 40 miles away from our home.

Our daughter was very sick, and over the next several hours the Pediatric Critical Care team worked to stabilize her, medicate her, and insert breathing and feeding tubes. It was a painful, long period of waiting for my wife and I, and when we finally were allowed to see our daughter, we became fully aware of how serious her condition was; she was in a coma, and very close to needing life support.

It took several days to stabilize and diagnose our daughter. She had experienced a rare over-reaction of her auto-immune system through an acquired disease called HLH. This condition caused her immune system to ignore a simple viral infection, and produce an inappropriate response to an unaffected area. In Gabby's case, this was her skin. So besides the HLH, which had caused trauma to her brain and body through inflammation, a secondary condition called Stevens-Johnsons syndrome had blistered a great deal of her skin with most areas equivalent to second and third degree burns. It was heartbreaking and horrific. She was placed on heavy sedation and pain medication for over a week, at which point her skin wounds presented a high risk of infection, and Texas Children's Hospital was not equipped with a pediatric burn unit. A statewide, then nationwide search began for a hospital that could best treat her skin and also expertly treat her other issues, and ten days after her initial seizure, our daughter was transported



The Berger family

Children's Hospital was not equipped with a pediatric burn unit. A statewide,

continued on page 3



Please Note: The enclosed donation slip and return envelope is part of our **Hearts, Hands and Home** fundraising appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit (RMHD) for your tax-deductible donation



We Have Reached the \$2 million Mark!

Thank you to our Major Investors and Campaign Chair, Teresa Saputo!

Our rebuilding project was a true labor of love, from support by the Detroit Medical Center all the way to our room sponsors and everyone in between! We could not have done this without everyone's guidance and financial support.

The DMC gave \$3.45 million of the \$4.3 cost toward the new House and the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit (RMHD) contributed the remaining balance and all costs associated with furniture, fixtures and appliances. Because of the larger House, new and expanded programs and additional operational needs, the RMHD has launched an expansion campaign – *Hearts, Hands and Home, Strengthening our Family Foundation* – to raise \$3 million to offset these costs.

The RMHD Expansion Campaign kicked off in mid-September 2014, chaired by RMHD Board member, **Teresa Saputo**. She and her team, guided by **Gary Dembs** (Founder, Non-profit Personnel Network and RMHD Expansion Campaign Adviser) worked tirelessly through the fall and winter months and have achieved great success a short period of time.

In September 2015, the expansion campaign reached the \$2 million mark! The team is working on the final stages of the campaign through a final corporate push (*see article on page 3*) and a crowd funding campaign to wrap it up by end of 2016.

Special heartfelt thanks to Teresa and Gary for their tireless efforts with the expansion campaign.

We still need YOUR support! Please review the information in this newsletter on how to support the campaign. We still have room and area sponsorships at all levels.

BIG HEARTFELT thanks to our major investors:

<i>Ally Financial</i>	<i>Tom and Julie Haggerty</i>	<i>Paymasters</i>
<i>Art Van Furniture</i>	<i>Hamilton Anderson Associates</i>	<i>Kanu Popat & Family</i>
<i>The Rynne Akins Fund</i>	<i>Teresa & Rick Hernalsteen</i>	<i>Red Wings Alumni Association</i>
<i>Chapatwala Family</i>	<i>Joe Kocur Foundation</i>	<i>Ronald McDonald House Charities, Global</i>
<i>The Carls Foundation</i>	<i>KUKA CARES Foundation</i>	<i>Roncelli Inc.</i>
<i>Children's Hospital of Michigan</i>	<i>Kraemer Design Group</i>	<i>Teresa and Bill Saputo</i>
<i>Aimee Cowher and Gary Cone</i>	<i>Langenberg Family</i>	<i>Schultz Management</i>
<i>Detroit Medical Center</i>	<i>LA-Z-BOY Furniture</i>	<i>SEMMA (Southeast Michigan McDonalds Owner Operators)</i>
<i>Detroit Red Wings</i>	<i>Lingenfelter Family</i>	<i>Thad & Robin Szott</i>
<i>Fraternal Order of Eagles, Mt. Clemens</i>	<i>Jennifer Litomisky & Val Newman</i>	<i>Village Green Apartments</i>
<i>Francisco "Pancho" González</i>	<i>Meijers Corporation</i>	<i>Visions of Paradise</i>
<i>Gary Granader</i>	<i>MJS Packaging</i>	<i>WDIV- Channel 4</i>
<i>Greektown Hotel and Casino</i>	<i>Moroch</i>	<i>Zara Creative</i>
<i>Milt Greenman and Jenna Wright</i>	<i>Narens Foundation</i>	
	<i>Nicholson Family</i>	

The House that LOVE Built!

Get Your Racing Stripes On!

Join our Matching Corporate Campaign

The new Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will expand its services and programs to help guest families relax and re-energize. But we need your help to reach our goal! We are asking you to engage your employees to raise \$12,500 over the next year and Match it with a \$12,500 corporate donation.



- Your company matches the employee program donation.
- A total Matching Corporate Campaign donation of \$25,000 provides for one guestroom sponsorship for five years. A corporate nameplate will be featured at the room entrance.
- Corporate donors will be featured on the new Ronald McDonald Giving Wall in the main reception area.
- Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will publicize the donation and publish donor updates in the monthly House newsletter.
- We will work with you to suggest employee fundraising events to reach the matching goal along with any personal and/or payroll contributions.
- Invite your employee fundraising team leaders for a tour of the House.

A Grateful Family... – continued from page 1

by a Life Flight jet from Houston to Detroit to be cared for at Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM).

My wife and daughter arrived at CMH around 8:00 p.m. and as my daughter was prepped for surgery, my wife was quickly escorted to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit (RMHD), and although it was late in the evening, the staff at the House graciously welcomed and comforted her, and provided a fantastic and convenient room for our stay.

The priority for the burn unit at CHM was to surgically remove the dead skin from her body, and bandage her in similar fashion of a burn victim. Over two weeks of CHM's expert skin care, as well as a collaboration of many specialists to reduce her levels of sedation and pain medication, we slowly got our sweet daughter back. Each day has been a challenge for her, but her progress has been amazing, and now, after only two weeks here at CHM, she is well on her way to a full recovery.

Because of the convenience of RMHD's location, my wife and I were able to take shifts and spend every moment at our daughter's bedside, at both the ICU and at rehabilitation. This was very important to us, since she spent a great deal of her initial recovery drifting in and out of consciousness. We are grateful that we were able to focus our energy on our daughters recovery, and not have to worry about coordinating accommodations for a stay of unknown length. This is the true

beauty of what the House provided: a warm welcome, a friendly environment, a comfortable room and facility, and peace of mind knowing that we were always close to our daughter. We will forever be grateful to RMHD and their fantastic staff.

Our daughter has remarkably progressed to the point where we are planning our transfer back to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston for further rehabilitation. It has been over a month since our journey began, and just over two weeks here in Detroit. We are thankful. We were very close to losing our daughter, and through a collaborative effort of many people, over many miles, we have our beautiful Gabby back. We anxiously await the day when we can return home back to sweet, normal life. Gabby will receive further treatment for HLH, and with close monitoring of her immune system, should be able to lead a completely normal, healthy life.

We consider ourselves fortunate for many things, one of which was our warm welcome and stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Our sincere thanks go to all of the staff and volunteers we have met during our stay.

With Gratitude,

Todd, Becky & Gabby Berger
Spring, TX

Morgan Stanley Challenges UHY!

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit volunteer and Expansion Campaign member, **Jason Geisz**, First Vice President and Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley in West Bloomfield started the “*Rockin’ Ronald’s Red Sock Challenge*” in mid-spring. He and the staff at Morgan Stanley raised funds for the House through Ronald’s red sock sales and other in-house activities and helped to raise close to \$5,000 for the House!

Jason didn’t stop there. He challenged the staff at UHY and together both companies raised funds and awareness for the House.



...and UHY Took the Challenge!

During the weeks of June 15 to June 30, employees from UHY LLP’s Michigan practice in conjunction with UHY Cares, purchased and sported nearly 200 pairs of red and white socks to be a part of the “Ronald Sock Challenge.” The challenge is both an awareness campaign and fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeast Michigan. The certified

public accounting firm raised over \$3,000 in employee donations in just over a week.

The challenge started as a friendly competition between offices for a good cause. However, because it took place at the same time as UHY’s National Leadership Conference (NLC), the firm turned it into a company-wide event and received contributions from colleagues around the country. Employees at all levels enjoyed “socking” co-workers (pay-it-forward concept), dressing up with their families and submitting creative photos to add to the fun of the competition.

Bob Potter, president of the mid-Michigan Chapter of Ronald McDonald House Charities, and **Tom Alongi**, active member of Ronald McDonald House Charities were instrumental to the success of the campaign at UHY. Bob even wore a pair of the socks during his speech at the NLC which resulted in the generous donations from the attendees of the conference. He also personally offered up a cash prize to the winner of the funniest, most creative “Ronald Sock selfie.”



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michigan has come up with a unique and successful campaign with the Ronald Sock Challenge. The challenge allows for all levels of employees, at any company, to get involved and give back to a great organization dedicated to creating a comfortable “home away from home” living environment for families of sick children during such difficult times. UHY LLP was happy to contribute to the campaign, and we want to thank RMHC of Michigan for the opportunity to participate in such a great cause.

Big thanks to Jason Geisz and the staff at Morgan Stanley and UHY!

About UHY LLP

For more than 45 years, UHY LLP, certified public accountants, has been providing comprehensive audit, asset, tax, business advisory and related services to clients in a wide range of industries. We serve companies we refer to as the “dynamic middle market,” not only in the Metro Detroit area, but extending throughout Michigan, across the United States and around the globe. Locally, we are the fifth largest accounting firm in Southeast Michigan with more than 300 employees in three locations. We also have 11 other offices across the US to serve you. As an independent member of UHYI, we have access to international resources in nearly 300 cities and 89 countries.

Our commitment to client service is personable, value-added and cost-effective. Our goal is to exceed our clients’ expectations on every engagement. We share our clients’ vision to improve profitability, enhance growth, avoid financial pitfalls, reduce taxes and preserve wealth. It’s a philosophy we call “The Next Level of Service.”

Celebrating at the NEW House!

Grand Opening Parties Celebrating the New Detroit Ronald McDonald House!

On April 1, 2015, the doors of the new Ronald McDonald House of Detroit opened and the first 15 families were welcomed with open arms and warm greetings. Shortly after the new House opened, the staff and board hosted two incredible grand opening parties. The first party was held on Saturday, May 30th at **Max Fisher Music Center** (Orchestra Hall). Guests took a luxury shuttle from the Music Center to the new House for tours and appetizers. Close to 300 guests enjoyed an evening of live music, delicious food and desserts, auctions and an informative program with inspirational messages by honorary chair, **Isaiah (Ike) McKinnon**, Deputy Mayor of Detroit and **Larry Gold**, President of Children's Hospital of Michigan. Chairpersons (and board members) **Kyla Marcial** and **Aimee Cowher**, along with RMHD Executive Director, **Jennifer Litomisky**, recognized major donors to the Expansion Campaign, with beautiful, engraved crystal hearts. The evening ended with a flare when two donors stood up and gave large financial gifts to the campaign.



Big thanks to Kyla Marcial and Aimee Cowher for helping to secure \$55,000 for the new House through this successful gala!

Community House and Garden Party with International Cuisine

On a gorgeous, June summer day, 140 guests spent the evening at the second grand opening party. Twenty four restaurants and sponsors participated by donating international dishes and auction items. Guests went on tours and spent the evening in the beautiful new garden and patio area. Once again, **T.J. Craven** crooned away the night with his "Frank Sinatra" voice and guests enjoyed drinks and auctions well into the evening. Big thanks to **Mary Okray**, chairperson for this event and the many volunteers and donors that made the garden party a great success. The event raised \$15,000 for the new House!



2016 Food and Auction Sponsors:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Absopure | • Emagine Theatres | • Peabody's |
| • Buddy's Restaurant and Pizzeria | • Farhat Sweets | • Pei Wei |
| • Sanders | • Forte Belanger | • Picano's |
| • Sero's | • Granite City | • Polish Village Café |
| • Astrein's Jewelers | • Kind Snacks | • Potbelly Sandwich Shop |
| • COSI | • Kroger | • Super Car Wash Systems |
| • Crispellie's | • Love and Buttercream | • Uncle Ray's Chips |
| • El Charro | • Maggiano's | |
| | • Melting Pot | |



2016 EVENTS *at a Glance*

April 23, 2016 (Saturday)

SPRING TEA

Royal Park Hotel, Rochester

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

June 3, 2016 (Friday)

VINNI GOLF OUTING

Fieldstone Golf Club

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

June 16, 2016 (Thursday)

MOTOWN AND WINE

IN THE GARDEN Celebration

@ The House

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

July 2016 (Saturday)

ESCAPE TO BELLE ISLE

5 and 10 K Run – Belle Isle

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

July 2016 (Sunday)

McBIKERS – Boomers, Waterford

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

August 18, 2016 (Thursday)

LINGENFELTER D-3 EVENT

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

September 2016 (Saturday)

WHEELIN' FOR RONALD

Rocks and Valleys off road park –

Harrison, 10:00 a.m.

October 1, 2016 (Saturday)

GOab NOAH!

Stoney Creek Park, 9:00 a.m.

December 3, 2016 (Saturday)

SNAZZY & JAZZY HOLIDAY

TEA @ THE TOWNSEND

Townsend Hotel, Birmingham

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A Summer of FUN at RMHD!

The 14th Annual Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing Raises \$35,000!

Over 140 golfers supported the *14th Annual Vinni Golf Outing* this year! The weather was perfect and once again, former RMH Board member and chair, **Cary Adragna** and his family raised \$35,000 at this year's outing. The Adragna family has raised \$250,000 in 14 years through this fundraising event! Big thanks to Cary and his team!

Mark your calendars for next year's Vinni Golf Outing – Friday, June 3, 2016.

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor next year, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details.



Escape to Belle Isle!

Over 800 runners came out to support this year's *Escape to Belle Isle* 5K and 10K run to benefit the House.

Runners from toddlers to seniors converged on Belle Isle on July 16th for this annual event. Every year this event grows bigger and bigger and race organizers, **Jenna Wright** and **Milt Greenman**, hope to grow it every year! The event raised \$12,000 this year!

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor next year, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details.



**Call 313-745-5909
for more details.**

A Summer of FUN and FUNDraising for RMHD!

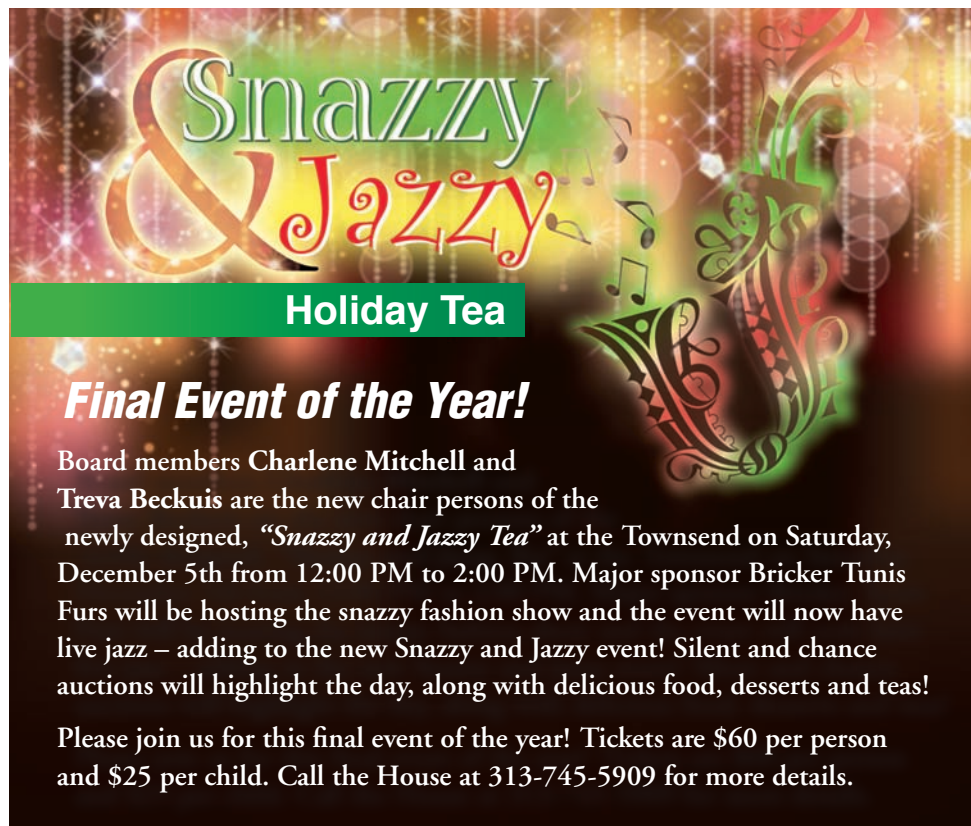
Lingenfelter D-3 Event – Successful Again!

Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter hosted the second D-3 Event again this year. The event, held at the Lingenfelter car museum, netted over \$20,000 for the House this year. Over 200 guests enjoyed the collection that holds a variety of Corvettes, muscle cars, and exotics. Several vehicles in the Collection are among the rarest automobiles in the world, including a Bugatti Veyron, an Enzo Ferrari, and a Lamborghini Reventón. Big thanks to Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter for hosting this event.



Chair Joe Danley and RMHD staff member Mike McCoy at the Lingenfelter D-3 Event.

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor next year, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details.



Snazzy & Jazzy
Holiday Tea

Final Event of the Year!

Board members Charlene Mitchell and Treva Beckuis are the new chair persons of the newly designed, “Snazzy and Jazzy Tea” at the Townsend on Saturday, December 5th from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Major sponsor Bricker Tunis Furs will be hosting the snazzy fashion show and the event will now have live jazz – adding to the new Snazzy and Jazzy event! Silent and chance auctions will highlight the day, along with delicious food, desserts and teas!

Please join us for this final event of the year! Tickets are \$60 per person and \$25 per child. Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details.

Record Number of Runners/Walkers support this year's GOah! NOAH!

Walkers, bikers and 5K runners all came out and braved the chilly, windy day to support the **GOah NOAH** event.

This year the event was highlighted with therapy animals, including horses, dogs and rabbits. Close to 100 runners joined in the fun and helped to raise \$12,000 for the House!

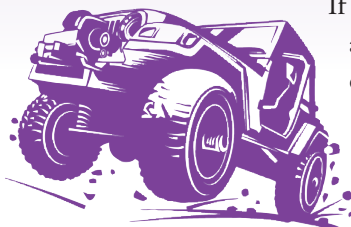
We thank **Renee Sullivan** and **Noah** for their wonderful support of the Detroit Ronald McDonald House!



Wheelin' for Ronald – Jeep Fun Raises Awareness and Funds!

Szott Auto Group (Brian Velkey and team) hosted the annual **Wheelin' For Ronald** on Saturday, September 12th.

The event was held at **Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park** located in Harrison, Michigan and the team raised over \$5,000 this year!



If you or your company would like to be a sponsor next year, there are all kinds of opportunities. Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details.

RMHD Wish List... Make your donation today!

There are many ways you can help us provide a **home away from home** for families in need. You could prepare a meal for the families at the House or supply the House with non-perishable food items. Canned food drives are a wonderful gift to the House! And we always need new toys for children that stay at our House.

Remember, it is cash and gifts-in-kind that will help the families that stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Look over the list below and see if you can help with any of these much needed items.

BIG ITEMS

- Microwave ovens

Bedroom/Bathroom

- Pillow protectors
- Queen and twin size mattress pads
- Clock radios
- Toilet paper, Kleenex®

Food & Kitchen Supplies

- Kuerig K-Cups
- Sugar, flour
- Cooking oil
- Canned soup (any brand or type)
- Paper plates
- Cups and glasses
- Plastic utensils
- Zip Loc® bags (all sizes)
- Plastic wrap
- Silverware
- Take-out containers

Bedroom/Bathroom

- Pillow protectors
- Queen and twin size mattress pads
- Clock radios
- Toilet paper, Kleenex®

Children's Stuff

- Newly released family DVDs
- Disposable diapers
- Portable cribs
- Strollers
- Legos®
- Educational toys

Cleaning & Laundry

- Dow® bathroom cleaner, Windex®
- Laundry and dishwasher detergent
- Fabric softener sheets
- Bleach (Color Safe Clorox®)
- Comet® cleanser, Pine Sol®
- Air freshener spray
- Air fresheners – solids
- Glade Plug-Ins® and sprays
- Carpet Fresh®
- Paper towels

Office Supplies

- Batteries – AA, AAA, C, D and 9 volt
- Light bulbs – sizes 60, 75, and 3 way
- Forever Stamps
- Avery® Labels 5160 or equivalent
- Copy paper
- Pilot Rolling Ball® pens – all colors
- Scissors, Scotch® tape, staples and Wite-Out®
- Permanent markers – Sharpies® all colors
- Colored file folders

Contact Jennifer Litomisky, Executive Director at 313.745.5911 for more information.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

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And don't forget to follow us on **Twitter** at **RMHC Detroit**.

Check out our website!

www.rmhc-detroit.org