



Fall 2017

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

A Note from our Director:



As the weather (finally!) gets cooler and we quickly approach the holidays, I like to take a moment to reflect on all the things that I have to be thankful for. First, of course, is our gorgeous new House and

all the cozy nights we've been able to provide for our families this year. We recently had an international family stay with us for about 6 months and we were quite literally able to be their "home away from home".

I'm also thankful for our board, who has so much confidence in us that they have agreed to expand our programs! I can officially announce that we are renovating a space in the Children's Hospital of Michigan that will become the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Children's Hospital. We will be able to provide quiet spaces, family spaces, showers, and laundry to families who need to remain close to their children.

And I'm thankful for our amazing staff, volunteers, donors, and friends, without whom none of our programs would be possible. Your hard work, kind words, and generous gifts make our House a home and will make our Family Room feel just as comforting.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season,

Jennifer J. Litomisky

Jennifer J. Litomisky
Executive Director

The Berlin Family – Lisa and Hailey

Hailey was born in Bad Axe Hospital in 2009 with several, severe medical issues. She was immediately sent by Flight-Care to Saginaw where, after a few scary days of touch and go health, it was determined that she would be best cared for at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. Hailey was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit and received wonderful care from the doctors and nurses. The Children's Hospital staff sent me across the street to the Ronald McDonald House, where I received wonderful care as well!

We have been in and out of the House for almost 9 years now, as Hailey requires lots of follow up visits. The House is our second home and the staff has become family. We are truly blessed to have had such an amazing experience and we can't wait to watch as you all continue to grow and expand your programs. Thank you for all that you do and provide for the families!

Love, Lisa and Hailey Berlin



Hailey and friends

Our Ronald McDonald Family Room at the Children's Hospital of Michigan

With the expansions nearly completed at CHM, and NICU and PICU families getting brand new family spaces in their new tower, we are so excited to be able to bring new life to the family

center at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. A Ronald McDonald Family Room offers inpatient families a place to rest and regroup right at the hospital.

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Check out our website! www.rmhc-detroit.org

Don't miss these exciting upcoming House events!

December 2

A JAZZY HOLIDAY TEA



NEW LOCATION! The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host their Annual **Holiday Tea** on Saturday, December 2, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the beautiful **Marriott Hotel** in downtown Detroit. We are so excited to bring this event to our home city! Tickets are \$65 per adult and \$25 per child.

This year's Holiday Tea will feature live music by Detroit legend **Kimmie Horne**, a small auction, a fashion show by Elite Couture and party gifts for each guest. There will also be appetizers, desserts, a cash mimosa bar, and plenty of yuletide fun!

This popular holiday event sells out each year, so be sure to reserve your spot by calling the House at **313-745-5911** or visiting www.rmhc-detroit.org/calendar-of-events.

If you or your company would like to sponsor this, or any event, there are plenty of opportunities! Call Chrissy @ 313-745-5909 for more details.

December 28

The Big Show

Join us for an **iHeartRadio** concert at the brand new Little Caesar's Arena! One dollar from every ticket sold will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan. (That's us!!) Follow us on [Facebook](#) for ticket details.

February 21

Ten Man Jam

A one of a kind, acoustic concert hosted by WYCD, this concert is the first can't miss event of 2018! We'll have VIP tickets available

soon, watch your email for details. If you'd like to be added to our email list, please let us know at info@rmhc-detroit.org.



WHAT A GREAT SUMMER! *We had a blast this summer.*

Garden Party

Our Garden Party had a **Beach Party** theme this year, raising more than \$21,000. The music and food were absolutely amazing and we can't wait for next summer. Cross your fingers for no rain!



Party guests enjoyed having their caricature drawn by artist Darryl Swift.

Escape to Belle Isle



RMHC Executive Director, Jennifer Litomisky, and ETBI Race Director, Jenna Greenman, on race day!

Our **Escape to Belle Isle 5K, 10K, & Kids Fun Run** had more than 300 runners and walkers this year, from toddlers to seniors, and even some four legged friends! Nearly \$50,000 was raised. Yup, you read that right, \$50,000! We made a record high this year by keeping costs low, welcoming our **GOah Noah** runners and donors, and adding our **Spring Fun Run** to the mix. As always, a very special thanks to event organizers **Jenna and Milt Greenman**.

Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing

Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing had perfect weather, with event chair **Cary Adragna** and his family bringing in a great turnout of golfers and donations. Nearly \$40,000 was raised this year, be sure to join the fun next year!



RMHC Executive Director, Jennifer Litomisky, and Vinni Golf Chair, Cary Adragna, tee-off with Ronald McDonald.

Dream Cruise, Dream Cars, Dream House (D3)

The **Lingenfelter Dream Cars, Dream Cruise, Dream House** event was another great evening this summer. Despite the high temps, more than 200 guests came to check out the unique cars and fun prizes. Big thanks to **Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter** for hosting and helping to raise more than \$38,000 this year!



Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter having fun with Ronald McDonald at the D-3 event.



Wheelin' for Ronald

Szott Auto Group hosted the annual **Wheelin' for Ronald** event at Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park and raised nearly \$7,300! Heartfelt thanks to **Brian Velkey** and his family, and everyone at Szott Auto Group!

Be sure to join us as we do it all again next year!

Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival



Kimmie Horne visited the House to present a check from the Kimmie Horne Foundation to our Executive Director, Jennifer Litomisky.

The **Kimmie Horne Jazz Festival**, held in August, in Lathrup Village, was a fun filled two-day event, with live music, eclectic art, and fine cuisine from area vendors. It was a great weekend, that raised \$5,000 for the Ronald McDonald Family Room's new music and entertainment center, which is sponsored by the **Kimmie Horne Foundation**.

ACN Weekend

ACN, a direct sales company, brought their regional conference to Detroit this year and invited the House to participate as their charity partner. We rallied the troops and spent a long weekend fundraising and spreading awareness about our awesome families to raise nearly \$50,000!

The Miller family took a moment for a photo with Ronald McDonald, Executive Director, Jennifer Litomisky, and Marketing Director, Chrissy Cooper, before taking the stage to share their story at the ACN general session.



Saputo Family Dream Cruise

The **2017 Saputo Family Dream Cruise** event was a huge success, bringing in a record high \$5,000! Special thanks to the **Saputo Family, Dave and Ryan Perry, John Perras, and Bob Sivori** for making it all happen.

DONOR FEATURE

Peter and Nancy Donaghue and the McBiker Ride and Rally

Peter and Nancy have been hosting the **McBiker** event for 19 years now and have raised more than \$220,000 for the Detroit and Ann Arbor Ronald McDonald Houses. The event started in 1999, as a fun way to reveal the grand re-opening of the Donaghue's Waterford McDonald's restaurant, and grew into a yearly event that has outgrown two locations already! In 2017, 275 bikers raised more than \$10,000 and Peter has big plans for next year's 20th anniversary. We are so thankful for the **Donaghue's, ABC Harley Davidson, and the Shark Club** for their support.



**Ronald McDonald
Family Room®**
Detroit

Keeping families close

Family Room

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With full-time staff and a host of volunteers, we will be able to ensure that families have a comfortable place to rest in the hospital and can be referred to the House if necessary.

Construction starts in November and we expect to open our Family Room in early January 2018. Stay connected to our [Facebook](#) page for details and photo updates!

Patty and Georgia

Patty and Georgia are our Monday Front Desk volunteers and they really are a great duo to start the work week off with. These ladies have huge hearts and sweet smiles, greeting everyone who walks into our lobby with warmth and kindness. Patty has volunteered with us since her retirement, which is more than three years now! Georgia has been with us for just over a year and a half. Both ladies wanted to do something meaningful with their spare time after retiring and we are so thankful they chose us to bless with their presence! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact info@rmhc-detroit.org



Patty and Georgia hard at work on a Monday afternoon!

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Support the "House That Love Built"!

Please remember Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan for your tax-deductible donation this holiday season.

Please complete the **fillable form**, save the file, and email to Chrissy at ccooper@rmhc-detroit.org or print it and mail to: Ronald McDonald House of Detroit; 4707 St. Antoine, Suite 200; Detroit, Michigan 48201

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 Other (less than \$25) \$_____

(make check payable to Ronald McDonald House of Detroit or see charge information below)

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD:

My Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

YES. I want to volunteer or learn more about helping with fundraising for the House.

I do not wish to receive the RMHD Newsletter.

Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Name on card: _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Billing address: _____

(Address and zip code MUST match card)

...or visit www.rmhc-detroit.org to donate online!

Upcoming **RMHD EVENTS** at a Glance

■ December 2, 2017

HOLIDAY TEA
at the Detroit Marriot

■ December 28, 2017

THE BIG SHOW
at Little Caesar's Arena

■ February 21, 2018

TEN MAN JAM
at the Fillmore Detroit

■ April 8, 2018

RACE INTO SPRING
at Belle Isle Park

■ May 5, 2018

SPRING TEA
at the Royal Park Hotel.
Come ready for a Derby Party!

■ June 1, 2018

VINNI GOLF OUTING
at the Fieldstone Golf Club

■ June 14, 2018

GREECE IN THE GARDEN
at the Ronald McDonald House

■ July 14, 2018

ESCAPE TO BELLE ISLE
at Belle Isle Park

■ July 2018

MCBIKERS RIDE & RALLY
in Waterford, MI

■ August 2018

LINGENFELTER D-3 EVENT
at the Lingenfelter Collection,
Brighton, MI

■ September 2018

WHEELIN' FOR RONALD
at Rocks & Valleys Park

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And don't forget to follow us on Twitter at [RMHC_Detroit](https://twitter.com/RMHC_Detroit).