



Spring/Summer 2017

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

A Note from our Director:



Happy Spring!

It is such a great feeling to be able to look out the window and see our families enjoying our beautiful garden and spending time together outdoors. It just adds that extra little bit of normalcy to their lives. Don't forget, that garden also has some great grills in it. We would love to have your group or family come down to grill a meal for our families. Summer is the toughest time for us to find volunteers, so if you can help please call 313-745-5909.

Our partnership with the Children's Hospital of Michigan continues to grow with our joining of the Patient and Family Advisory Council and the possibility of placing a Ronald McDonald Family Room within the hospital. We cannot wait to see what comes next and how we can continue to work together to best serve our families.

We have lots of great events coming up this summer and we hope to see you out and about in Detroit! I wish you safe and happy season, with lots of time spent with family and friends.

Jennifer J. Litomisky

Jennifer Litomisky
Executive Director

The House that Love Built!

We have some amazing news to share about our expansion campaign... not only did we reach our \$3 Million goal, we exceeded it! And that is all thanks to your generosity over the past two and a half years. Reaching this campaign goal allowed us to celebrate our 2nd birthday on April 1, having provided a home away from home for more than 2,000 families in those two years.

All that hard work did not just build and fund a house, it built and funded a home that provides a good night's sleep, a home-cooked meal, a hot shower, and a chance to build lasting relationships with parents going through similar situations.

Thank you for your support of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Remember, our work never ends and your support means we can keep growing, providing, and continuing to be a "home away from home" for our families.



The Manning Family – Andrew, Vanessa, Carly, Claire, & Camden

On March 20, 2016, Camden Irene entered the world. She was the third daughter born to Andrew and Vanessa and she was beautiful. Big sisters Carly and Claire celebrated her arrival but soon Camden would start to show signs of distress. After days of testing, the hospital would realize she needed to be transferred to a facility that could better care for whatever was wrong with her. So off Camden went, by ambulance, to the Children's Hospital of Michigan as her mom and dad followed behind.

Camden was diagnosed with Total Colonic Hirschsprung Disease. Hirschsprung disease occurs when some of the nerve cells that are normally present in the wall of the intestine do not form properly during fetal development. This abnormality led to immediate surgery for little Camden and whole new world of hospital living for Andrew and Vanessa. As Camden recovered in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, a very kind nurse pointed an

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

The Manning Family

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Vanessa, Camden, Andrew,
and Carly Manning

exhausted and alone Andrew and Vanessa toward the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

After Irma sneaked them through registration right at closing time, Andrew and Vanessa were able to take a hot shower and get a good night's rest for the first time in days. That was the first thing that helped "slow down the runaway train" that they had been on since Camden's birth. The next day they were welcomed into the RMH Family and treated to a home-cooked breakfast and a full House tour. They were no longer alone.

Andrew and Vanessa remained just a short shuttle ride from Camden as she spent two months in the NICU, gaining weight and getting stronger. Finally, on May 19, 2016, Camden was discharged and the Manning family reunited. Andrew and Vanessa continue to be great advocates for the House, making sure everyone knows that sometimes a single night's rest and a home cooked meal is all it takes to start to heal the broken soul of a parent discouraged by their child's health. "We're all connected and we're all a family."

Building a Bridge with our new Family Room

Many Ronald McDonald House Charities chapters have a Family Room at their partner hospital, in addition to their House. It offers a place to rest and regroup, just steps away from their child. We are so excited to announce that Ronald McDonald House



Charities of Southeastern Michigan is in discussions with the Children's Hospital of Michigan to provide this oasis to our families right here in Detroit. As the process continues, we will be sure to share our progress via email and on our social media sites, so keep watching!

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Don't miss these exciting upcoming House events!

June 15

Beach Party in the Garden

We are so excited for this year's Garden Party theme! Our beautiful garden space will be turned into a downtown beach and we'll have food and drinks to match. Wear your flip flops and shades and be ready to party! Tours of the House will be offered.

Tickets are \$65 each.
For more information, please visit www.rmhc-detroit.org/calendar-of-events.

June 2

Vinni's Children's Golf Outing

The 17th annual **Vinni's Children's Golf Outing** is coming up June 2, at the *Fieldstone Golf Club* in Auburn Hills. A goal of \$350,000 has been set, so please come out and help us get there! Even if you are not a golfer you can enjoy the dinner, raffles, and auctions. Registration fees are \$135 per golfer and only \$35 if you just want to join us for dinner. Forms and more info can be found at www.rmhc-detroit.org/calendar-of-events.



July 15

Escape to Belle Isle

Our annual **Escape to Belle Isle Race** will be bigger than ever this year, with the addition of our *GOah! Noah!* racers. With the addition of a 2 mile run/walk, we can now offer options for runners of all experience levels in our 5K, 10K, 2 Mile, and Kids Fun Run day of races. Keep your fingers crossed for great weather and come out to join us for a gorgeous day on the island. Registration is just \$35 for adults and \$25 for kids. More information can be found at www.rmhc-detroit.org/calendar-of-events.



August 10

Dream Cruise, Dream Cars, Dream House (D3)

This will be our 4th summer hosting **D3** at the *Lingenfelter Car Collection* in Brighton and it gets better every year! The Lingenfelter's have some great new cars to showcase this year and we are looking to add some new features to the program. Keep up on what's coming by liking RMHCDetroitMI on Facebook or visiting www.rmhc-detroit.org/calendar-of-events.



D3 hosts Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter

What a Winter!

The winter months flew by as we enjoyed all our annual events and created some new ones.

Spring Tea

The annual **Spring Tea at the Royal Park Hotel**, held just a few weeks ago, gave us a great boost into summer. The prizes, auctions, and entertainment were the perfect complement to the sunny day. More than \$20,000 was raised to help the House thanks to event chairs **Kyla Marcial** and **Teresa Saputo** and new board member **Tami Damiani**.



Dominique Virgiles, (McD owner operator) Linda Porter and Jen Litomisky at the Spring Tea at the Royal Park Hotel.

Jazzy Holiday Tea

Our Jazzy Holiday Tea was a great success, raising nearly \$23,000. The fashion show and jewelry displays were a huge hit. Special thanks to event chair **Charlene Mitchell** and all the fabulous sponsors and volunteers.



Spring Fun Run

Another new event this year was our **Spring Fun Run** sponsored by **Kohl's**. A warm up for this summer's Escape to Belle Isle, the Fun Run had great weather, great turnout, and was a great fundraiser. Thanks to the support of Kohl's, \$20,000 has been raised so far, with more to come!



Kohl's staff at Belle Isle.

Ten Man Jam



The brand new **Ten Man Jam**, a one of a kind, acoustic concert held at the Fillmore Detroit, was amazing. Staff, volunteers, donors, and friends all enjoyed the great music and even better company. \$25,000

was raised, thanks to **Thad Szott** and his partnership with WYCD 99.5. We also had a great partner in one of our newest board members, Evan Perelekos, who works for the Fillmore and could get us insider information!

DONOR FEATURE

Millie Hruska

Mrs. Millie Hruska and her family are long time supporters of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. It all started with Millie's great-granddaughter, Sarah, who began volunteering for the House by making dinner and baking cookies. On visits to see her grandma and great-grandma, Sarah shared the story of the House and how even the tiny little pop tabs make a big difference. Great-grandma Millie answered the call in a HUGE way! Now everyone, residents and visitors alike at her assisted living home in Marinette, Wisconsin, collect tabs to fill her house. Millie turned 100 this year but is still going strong and says she is so happy to be able to help our families and their children in whatever way she can.

If you would like to start a pop tab collection program, please call Chrissy at 313-745-9487 or email ccooper@rmhc-detroit.org.



Expansion Campaign Update

We reached our “Grow the House” campaign goal and continue to find new and better ways to serve our families. If you haven’t been to visit us yet, we invite you to come take a tour of your efforts and learn more about what’s coming next.



BIG HEARTFELT thanks to our major investors:

GOLDEN HEARTS CLUB – (\$10,000 and above)

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*Deceased

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If you believe your name belongs on one of these lists, or you would like to change how your name is listed, please contact Linda Porter at 313-745-5909.

KUDOS CORNER

Quicken Loans and Title Source

We are so thankful to the groups from *Quicken Loans and Title Source* for spending their mornings with us, here at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. At least one morning each week you can find these amazing volunteers whipping up a delicious, nutritious breakfast for our families. And they often get recruited to help with other tasks as well, like taking out the trash or vacuuming the hallways. No matter what they are in the House for, they are always smiling!

If you would like to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, please call Chrissy at 313-745-9487 or email ccooper@rmhc-detroit.org.



Paul Blanchard (Quicken Regional VP and RMHC board member) with RMHC staff members Jennifer Litomisky, Mike McCoy and Irma Hudson.



Support the "House That Love Built"!

Your donation will help to fund the general operations of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. This includes purchasing things like light bulbs, new pillows, and snacks to share with our families. Thank you for continuing to support our House!

\$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:

Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

My Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Name on card: _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Billing address: _____

(Address and zip code MUST match card)

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

I do not wish to receive the RMHD Newsletter.

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

Upcoming **RMHD EVENTS** *at a Glance*

■ **June 2, 2017** (Friday)

VINNI GOLF OUTING

Fieldstone Golf Club
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

■ **June 15, 2017** (Thursday)

BEACH PARTY IN THE GARDEN

Celebration @ The House
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

■ **July 15, 2017** (Saturday)

ESCAPE TO BELLE ISLE

5 and 10 K Run – Belle Isle Casino
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

■ **July, 2017**

McBIKERS – Ride & Rally

Boomers, Waterford
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

■ **August 10, 2017**

LINGENFELTER D-3 EVENT

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

■ **September, 2017**

WHEELIN' FOR RONALD

Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park –
Harrison, 10:00 a.m.

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