



Fall 2012

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

The Szott Family Hope, Love and Commitment

Since 2004 the Szott family has been a staunch supporter of the RMD House and Children's Hospital of Michigan. When the Szott's son Shane became extremely ill due to an e coli infection, the Szott family stayed at the RMH for 28 days. Within the first 48 hours at Children's Hospital, Shane's kidney function failed completely. His diagnosis evolved into Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) and he was placed on dialysis. Shane's condition worsened as his blood pressure, heart function, and respiratory system all started failing. A team of wonderful doctors at Children's Hospital released them from their nightmare – Shane recovered. As far as the Szott family is concerned, the doctors performed a miracle.

Owning three Chrysler dealerships gives the Szott family an additional opportunity to use social media and to post information at their dealerships to get other people involved with both Children's Hospital and the RMH. Thad, who sits on the board of directors at the RMHC of SE MI, organized 'Wheelin' for Ronald' an off-road Jeep fundraiser this past September for the House. This first time event raised close to \$2,000!

"We knew the day Shane was released that we would be involved in giving back to both Children's Hospital and the RMH. We had the opportunity to get in front of our local Chrysler dealers with the hopes of getting a large enough donation to do a room makeover at the House.



We were successful and room 12 is now beautiful. Additionally, we got our management staff involved with the house, and every other month we pay a visit to the house and cook a breakfast. After spending nearly a month at Children's Hospital while sleeping at RMH

continued onpage 4

Special Thanks...



**to the
Children's Hospital
of Michigan
Auxiliary for their
generous \$50,000
unrestricted Grant.**



Please Note: The enclosed donation slip and return envelope is part of our RE-RALLY for RONALD fundraising appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit for your year-end, tax-deductible donation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a Glance:

December 1st

– *Holiday Tea at the
Townsend Hotel,
Birmingham*

March 2013

– *Annual Event*

June 7, 2013

– *Vinni Golf Outing*

June or October, 2013

– *Garden Event*

July 2013 TBD

– *McBiker*

October TBD

– *RMHC Gala*



December 1, 2012

Holiday Tea at the Townsend

The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host the 7th *Tea at the Townsend* scheduled for Saturday, December 1st at the Townsend Hotel, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per adult and \$25 per child.

Every year over 90 guests join the festivities where there is a small auction and beautiful party gifts for each guest. There will also be appetizers, small bite desserts, and plenty of yuletide fun for those who attend the Tea at the Townsend benefit.

This event sells out every year, so those interested in reserving a spot at this holiday extravaganza should contact the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit at 313-745-5911.

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call Jennifer @ 313-745-5911 for more details – OR check out our website: www.rmhc-detroit.org and register or become a sponsor via PayPal!



KUDOS

CORNER!

You Bet! The MGM Grand Detroit Deserves Big Kudows!



In early October, the MGM Grand of Detroit generously rebuilt the deck and decorated the courtyard with fall flowers, pumpkins and cornstalks. Afterwards, the staff cleaned and the chefs prepared a 5-Star meal for the families!

This past spring, the MGM Grand staff spent an entire day cleaning the House and garden areas and presented the House with a \$3,000 check!

*We salute the
MGM Grand Detroit!*

RECAP! Spring and Summer Events bring fun and funds for RMHD!

Denim and Diamonds Garden Jubilee!

Everyone grabbed their best cowboy boots, fancy Stetson Hat and had some delicious food as they enjoyed the jubilee in the garden at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit!

Chair of this new garden event, **Deborah Virgiles**, hosted the event and close to 80 guests enjoyed the beautiful gardens of the Detroit Ronald McDonald House! Guests kicked up their heels to the modern country music of **Julianne Ankle**!

The delicious country meal and desserts were provided by **Levi Restaurants; Cindy Randolph** and **Bob Angelinas** this year!

Watch your spring newsletter for details of the 2013 Garden party! We are thinking about planning a Fall Festival in the Gardens next year!



Volunteer, Bob Angelinas and Resident Manager, Irma Hudson enjoy the Denims and Diamond Event!

McBikers

On Sunday, July 15th, McDonald Owner/Operator, Peter Donaghue and his wife, Nancy, hosted their annual ride in Waterford, Michigan. This event was bigger and better than ever!

Big thanks to **Peter and Nancy Donaghue!**



McBiker Event

10th Annual Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing – Rainy But Successful!

For the first time in 10 years, the **Vinni Golf Outing** was a soaker! It didn't stop over 140 golfers from coming out and enjoying a day of golf to benefit the House! Board member and chair, **Cary Adragna** and his family broke all fundraising records with this year's event!

Big THANKS to our LEAD Vinni Golf Outing Title Sponsor...



Board Member, Joel McCormick and his team.



...and to our other generous 2012 Golf Outing sponsors:

McDonalds – SEMMOA, Coca Cola; USA Today; Dr. Pepper; McCann Foods; Pepsi Bottling; Jaguar; Outback Steakhouse; Group Associates; Take 2 Authentics; Papa Joe's; Nino Salvaggio; Jo Ann MacWilliams Wolf/Raymond James; CK Diggs and many more!

Mark your calendars for next year's Vinni Golf Outing – Friday, June 7th!

More fun Spring and Summer Events!

August 24th RETRO 70's Cruise on the River was a Blast from the PAST!

Last year's ***Detroit Princess Cruise*** was so successful and so much fun, that we decided to do it ONE more time!

This year we danced, danced, danced...like KC and the Sunshine Band – up and down the Detroit River.

Over 100 guests enjoyed an evening of fun, food, music and nostalgia. Watch your mail for the NEW 2013 event.



Staff member, Linda Porter (right) and her guests cruised into the 70's!

Ronald McDonald House GALA at the Joe!

The yearly Ronald McDonald House Gala hosted by the ***Southeast Michigan McDonald's Operators Association*** and ***DTE Energy*** and has raised thousands of dollars for both the Detroit and Ann Arbor Houses for the past several years.

This year's event, ***Red Wine, Red Wings and Red Shoes*** at the Joe Louis, was a great success with over 400 guests, wining and dining to raise big funds for the Houses!

We salute and thank our McDonald Owner/Operators, the vendors, sponsors and guests for organizing, donating and attending this spectacular yearly event!



IADT Fashion Show!

Once again the ***IADT Fashion Show – Imagine Fashion***, raised \$1,200 for the House! This yearly fundraising event was initially spearheaded by the RMHC of SE MI Vice President, **Cynthia Bechill**. Kudos to the students at IADT!

The Szott Family...

continued from page 1

right next door, you quickly learn just how special these places are. All the people, from the employees to the volunteers, to the families sharing their struggles and hopes together, are just amazing. Going through a crisis like we did makes you develop an even greater appreciation for life, family, friends, these two special places, and more than anything, our kids.”

– Thad Szott
(and the Szott Family).

Please make your tax-deductable year-end donations today and help other families, like the Szott Family, have a comfortable, safe and peaceful stay at the Detroit Ronald McDonald House.



If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call Jennifer @ 313-745-5911 for more details – OR check out our website: www.rmhc-detroit.org and register or become a sponsor via PayPal!

Heartfelt Thanks to our Lead Event/House Sponsor for 2012



A BIG Thanks

...to Our Major Donors!

- Art Van Furniture
- Bissell
- CBS
- Children's Hospital of Michigan Auxiliary
- Coca-Cola
- Detroit Yacht Club
- Dr. Pepper
- The English Touch – Heather Roberts
- Ford Motor Company
- Gary Granader
- Georgia-Pacific
- General Motors
- Hansons Window – 1-800-HANSONS
- Home Depot – Lake Orion Store
- IADT – Detroit Campus
- JC Plumbing
- Johnson Controls Inc.
- Kyla Marcial – Mrs. Michigan 2010-11
- La-Z-Boy
- Lachinva and Loverich
- McDonald's SEMMOA
- MGM Grand Detroit
- M and M
- McCann Foods
- McDonald's; McDonald's Staff and SEMMOA (Southeast Michigan McDonald's Owner/Operators Association)
- ME Consultants
- Mike & Lora Mlinarcik
- Pepsi Bottling Co.
- Quicken Loans
- Radisson
- Ronald McDonald House Board Members
- Sander's
- Southwest Airlines
- UAW-Ford
- USA Today
- Deborah Virgiles
- Walmart
- Wisner Electric

...and to all of the donors, sponsors and volunteers who have given their time, energy and love to our charity!

Wish List...

...for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit! Make your holiday 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 toys for children that stay at our House.

Remember, its 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.

Please make your donation today! Contact Jennifer Litomisky, Executive Director at 313-745-5911 for more information.

Urgent Needs:

- Hand-held Games for the Children @ the House: PSP® + Games, Nintendo DS® + Games.
- Wii® or PS 3® with Games
- Target® Gift Card – or any Gift Cards

Food & Kitchen Supplies

- 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
- Styrofoam® take-out container

Bedroom/Bathroom

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

Children's Stuff

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

Cleaning & Laundry

- Dow® bathroom cleaner, Windex®
- Laundry and dishwasher detergent (powder)
- Fabric softener sheets
- Bleach (Color Safe Clorox®)
- Comet® cleanser, Pine Sol®
- Air fresheners 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
- Computer diskettes or Re-writable CD's
- Copy paper
- Pilot Rolling Ball® pens – all colors
- Scissors, Scotch® tape, staples and Wite-Out®
- Permanent markers – Sharpies® all colors
- Colored file folders

BIG ITEMS

- White appliances
- Microwave ovens
- Room Renovations

2012 Board of Directors & Staff

Officers

Deborah Virgiles, *President*
Cynthia Bechill, *Vice President*
John Jackson
Immediate Past President
William Moran, *Treasurer*
Lenny Williams, *Secretary*

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Gail Gotthelf
Gary Granader
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Teresa Saputo
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Honorary Life Members

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Jack Hertzler
Dr. Jimmie Leleszi
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Mary Pat McDougall
Mary Renkiewicz
Barbara Wachler
Jerry Young

Emeritus

Alan Frank
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RMH Staff

Jennifer Litomisky
Executive Director
Jackie Kennedy
House Manager
Irma Hudson
Resident House Manager
Mike McCoy
*Special Events and
House Maintenance Director*
Linda Porter
Event Consultant
Jeannine Monkowski
Data Entry Manager
Tim Cowley
Accountant

Welcome NEW Board MEMBER!

We want to give a warm welcome to our newest board member, **Teresa Saputo**, who was elected in April 2012. We look forward to her service to our chapter.

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

Do you 'LIKE' us?



Follow us on our Face Book Fan Page at **Ronald McDonald House Charities of SE Michigan**. Be sure to press the LIKE button to keep up on events, stories and House updates!



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



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

The mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit is to provide a home away from home and support services to families of hospitalized children.

Please remember the
Ronald McDonald House of Detroit
for your year-end,
tax-deductible donation.

Donating is easy.
Visit **www.rmhdet.org**
and pay by PayPal!