



Fall 2013

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

The Jerry Guirey Invitational

“It’s all about the House”

It all started quite innocently in 1994 as me and three of my High School mates got together one fall afternoon to play golf. We decided then to make it an annual affair with no purpose or cause in mind. By 2006 our group had grown to about 30+ golfers and it was decided to “have a purpose.”

It was an easy choice for me to make the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit the beneficiary of our fun little outing.

In March of 1992, my Family suffered the worst possible tragedy known to man. Our youngest daughter, Lindsey Guirey, died very suddenly at home at the age of seven. We had no connection with the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit but

I was aware of their mission. When asked if we wanted to designate a Charity for donations in Lindsey’s name, for some unknown reason I instinctively identified the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit as that charity. My thought being that if there was any way to ease the fear and anxiety of Families with a very sick child at Children’s Hospital, then that was a very worthy cause indeed.

In our inaugural Jerry Guirey Invitational we had 32 golfers and raised a modest \$605. The number of golfers and funds raised has grown every year since.

This year our 19th Annual Jerry Guirey Invitational had over 70 golfers and raised almost \$8,000. In total, \$33,000 has been raised with a goal of \$10,000 and 100 golfers for our 20th Annual event in August 2014.

Each year the events grows bigger. Thankfully, I have the dedication and strength of my niece, Kathy Renaud. Kathy has become the glue and the grease to bring everything together, from volunteers to sponsors and donors.

“The House” has given me the opportunity to work with and get to know Jen Litomisky, Mike McCoy and the Staff at RMH that make it such a warm and caring operation.

They also provide beautiful gift baskets for our raffle each year. Additionally, I have been able to bring a number of families down to the House for first hand tours and introductions.

Throughout the years this event has been a labor of love with Lindsey smiling down and encouraging us throughout the process.

Without the continued support of my family, volunteers and lifelong friends that have been with me since 1994, this event would have fizzled years ago.

But then, isn’t that what the driving force has always been? Helping those families that are experiencing the most traumatic times of their lives is a purpose that any parent can support.

Our entire team remains focused and committed to growing our support for the Ronald McDonald House.

We all hope that all of you, the readers, will feel the same.



Jerry Guirey, center, will head-up the 20th Annual Jerry Guirey Invitational Golf Outing in August 2014.



Special Note: Jerry’s 20th golf outing is on August 24, 2014. To golf, donate or sponsor this event, please contact the House at 313-745-5911.

2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

at a Glance:

May 17th

– *The Spring Tea (formerly Mother/Child Tea)*
at the Royal Park Hotel
12:00 p.m.

June 6th

– *Vinni Golf Outing,*
Fieldstone Golf Club
9:00 a.m.

June 19th

– *Wine in the Garden –*
A Taste of Italy
Ronald McDonald
House of Detroit
6:00 p.m.

July 19th

– *Escape to Belle Isle*
5 and 10 K Run
Belle Isle
8:00 a.m.

July TBD

– *McBikers*
Time and location
to be announced

August 24th

– *Jerry Guirey Golf Outing*
8:00 a.m.

October 4th

– *GO-Ab-NOAH*
5K and Walk
8:00 a.m.

November TBD

– *RMHD Annual Event*

December 6th

– *Holiday Tea @*
the Townsend Hotel,
12:00 p.m.

Tea Time is FUN TIME at the House!

A Successful 3rd Annual Mother Child Tea at the Beautiful Royal Park Hotel

The 3rd Annual Mother Child Tea on Saturday, May 11th at the Royal Park Hotel was a wonderful success thanks to Chair persons, **Deborah Virgiles, Teresa Mullins and Teresa Saputo**. The *dynamic trio* hosted the elegant tea in the beautiful outdoor setting, in the grand tented area, for 100 guests.

It was a true celebration of mom, with delicious tea, food and desserts. The event raised a record \$12,000!



Mother Child Tea at the Royal Park Hotel.

Next year's event will be known at the **Ronald McDonald House Spring Time Tea**. Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17th. We are hosting the event at the **Royal Park Hotel** in one of the luxurious ballrooms!

Come and celebrate spring 2014 for a great cause!

DECEMBER 7th – *Last Event of the Year – Don't Miss It!*

Holiday Tea @ the Townsend

The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host the 8th Tea at the Townsend scheduled for Saturday, December 7th at the *Townsend Hotel*, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55 each.

Some parts of the Holiday Tea will be in a new area of the hotel this year, while other parts of the event will still be in the lounge/fireplace room and in the foyer by the ballrooms. It is going to be beautifully decorated and the atmosphere will be festive as ever! Come out and enjoy!



We do have more space this year, but 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 at www.rmhc-detroit.org to register or become a sponsor.

We look forward to even *MORE* fun and support in 2014!

11th Annual Vinni Golf Outing

The **2013 Vinni Golf Outing** on June 7th was bigger and better than ever. Close to 144 golfers enjoyed a gorgeous day of golf, auctions, course challenges and friendship. Once again, Cary and his team of volunteers broke another record, raising \$36,000 at this year's outing.



Vinni Golf Chair Cary Adragna, center, pictured with his key volunteers, including board member Kyla Marcial (pictured right of Cary).

Big THANKS to our LEAD Vinni Golf Outing Title Sponsors WellDyneRX!



Thanks to our other sponsors this year: *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, CK Diggs and many more!*

We will start registrations and sponsorships right away in the first quarter of 2014.

Grab your clubs and join us on Friday, June 6th.

Doing Our Part to Promote Health –

Two Running/Walking Events for 2014!

Please join **Milt and Jenna Greenman** for the 6th Annual **Escape To Belle Isle – The Spirit of Detroit Challenge** – 5K and 10K Run! This new Ronald McDonald House of Detroit Event is Saturday, July 19, 2014.

To participate or volunteer, please call the House at 313-745-5909. This will sell out and seats are limited! Please call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details. Tickets and sponsorship information is forthcoming! Watch the mail for details!



Escape to Belle Isle

McBikers

On Sunday, July 21st, McDonald Owner/Operator, **Peter and Nancy Donaghue** hosted their ride in Waterford, Michigan. The ride started in the morning and ended at **Boomers** – with great food, drinks and raffles!

Big thanks to Peter and Nancy Donaghue for sponsoring this incredible event that benefits both the Detroit and Ann Arbor Houses!



“Polka in the Garden” with the Polka Dukes!

Guests grabbed their accordions, kielbasas and best polka shoes and danced the night away at the annual garden event – **Polka in the Garden!** Big thanks to event chair, **Mary Okray**, for her amazing work on this year's event. 100 guests enjoyed the 9th annual event in the garden this year, raising over \$5,000 for the House!



In 2014 we will be celebrating **Italy in the Garden** on June 19th. This is a sell out event every year, so please RSVP early at 313-745-5909! Tickets are \$50 per person and that includes a delicious meal and desserts provided by **Levi Restaurants, Carolyn's Polish Kitchen, Cindy Randolph** and **Bob Angelinas**.

Board members, Gail Gothelf and Yvonne Haddix at the Polka Festival

GOah! NOAH!

In 2009, nine year-old Noah was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer. Noah and his family's lives were changed at that moment. Right then the family decided that they wanted to celebrate their hero, Noah and heighten awareness for all effected by this disease. They organized the first GOah! NOAH event four years ago.

The 5th Annual GOah! NOAH event was held on Saturday, October 5th at the Stoney Creek Metro Park. This year the event added a 5K run and was a huge success raising a record \$12,000!



The 6th Annual GOah! NOAH event is October 4th at Stony Creek!

Show your support next year at both of these athletic events to raise funds and awareness for the House.

Call 313-745-5911 for more details on how to register, volunteer or sponsor the events.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Buddy Shuh – The BIGGEST LOSER and BIGGEST WINNER!

Buddy Shuh is no stranger to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

In 2005, tragedy struck Buddy and his family. His second child, Isabella Harmony Shuh, was born with serious complications. She was missing a spleen and a kidney. She had stomach and heart issues. She also had a serious case of spina bifida. The five and a half months that his daughter lived were filled with a mixture of hope and sorrow.



Buddy Shuh – after and before!

Buddy moved into the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit on September 30, 2005 – the day Isabella was born. They called the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit their home for 6 weeks until Isabella passed away.

When she passed away, Buddy temporarily shut down on some levels. He stopped exercising and food became a source of comfort. He tried to find comfort in food. In a mere five years, he found himself at a weight of over 400 pounds.

Buddy realized his health was out of control. One day he was looking at his two daughters and knew that he needed to make some changes so that he could be around to walk them down the aisle

one day. As part of his healing process, Buddy wrote the book *The Story of Bella* in an attempt to help others who may have lost a child. He also began to actively pursue a healthier lifestyle.

In July of 2011, Buddy made the final cut on the Biggest Loser and

six months later Buddy was a transformed person. He eventually lost 130 pounds and his waist went from 64" to 40".

Buddy believes he has been given a gift and is trying to bless others with what he has learned.

Buddy continues to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. He and his family prepare healthy meals and he talks to the residents about healthy choices. He and his family hope others will donate and volunteer this holiday season.

If you or your company would like to be a House or event sponsor, please call Jennifer at 313.745.5911 for more details – OR visit www.rmhc-detroit.org to register or become a sponsor via PayPal!



Special Donors – Special Thanks!

Special thanks to Larry Kraft, *Serta Restokraft*, for his donation of 25 Serta Mattresses. In addition, Larry helped us to secure new flooring for the bedrooms, two 56-inch flat screen televisions, new furniture for the living rooms, new stoves and laptop computers for our families from *Gardner White*, *Great Lakes Technology* and *Stadium Floor Coverings*. In all, Larry helped us secure close to \$70,000 in gift-in-kind donations!



Wheelin' for Ronald!

Special thanks to everyone at *Szott Automotive Group* for the incredible donation of over \$9,000 for the **Wheelin' for Ronald** event this past fall! This second year event more than doubled the net income from last year's event!



Thank You... to Our Major Donors!

- Art Van Furniture
- Bissell
- CBS
- Coca-Cola
- Detroit Yacht Club
- Dr. Pepper
- Ford Motor Company
- Georgia-Pacific
- General Motors
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- Home Depot – Lake Orion Store
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- JC Plumbing
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- Quicken Loans
- Radisson
- Ronald McDonald House Board Members
- Southeast Michigan McDonald's Owner Association (SEMMOA)
- Southwest Airlines
- Szott Family
- UAW-Ford
- USA Today
- WellDyne
- Walmart
- Wisner Electric

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

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 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

- White appliances
- Microwave ovens
- Room Renovations

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 containers

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
- 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

Please make your donation today! Contact Jennifer Litomisky, Executive Director at 313.745.5911 for more information.

2013 Board of Directors & Staff

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Big Thanks to our Special Donors!

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*Special Thanks to Expeditors –
Sponsors of our New Front Lobby
and Family Video!*



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*Be sure to press the LIKE button to keep
up on events, stories and House updates!*



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*Please consider making a year-end, tax deductible contribution
to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Your generous gift
will help us continue our mission of providing a "home away
from home" and support services for families with sick children.
Call 313.745.5909 to learn how you can help or visit our
website, www.rmhc-detroit.org, to donate via PayPal.*