



Spring 2013

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

A Mother's Story of Courage and Love

Recently, I had the privilege to address the Board of Directors about my experience at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. That meeting began with this question: "What one word describes what 'the house' does for its customers?" For me, that answer came to mind instantly: **HOME**

The Ronald McDonald House is not just a house where we had a bedroom to catch a few Z's, a bathroom to shower and awaken our exhausted senses, and a shelf in a refrigerator to grab a bite to eat on the run. The Ronald McDonald House is a place where we often enjoyed home-cooked dinners sitting together as a family, where my (then) 9-month old daughter had fun playing, where we were always greeted by the staff with kindness and concern and where we could steal just a few minutes to relax and feel just a little bit normal during a time that was anything but.

The Ronald McDonald House was our HOME for seven weeks starting August 21, 2004 when my son, Kyle, suffered cardiac arrest caused by a heart disease, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). The 25 minutes

that it took to resuscitate him caused an anoxic brain injury and a spindle coma. It only took a few days to realize this wasn't like the movies where people just "wake up" and we had no idea how long he would be hospitalized in order to rehabilitate.

The first night that Kyle was in PICU, my husband "slept" in a chair in the waiting room, which back then prior to the renovation was about 10'x10' with maybe 10 chairs. Our 9-month old daughter, Abi, slept in her infant car seat. The next day, someone suggested to Gary that we inquire about a room at the Ronald McDonald House, which he secured for \$10/night. That is still the cost to resident families.

We were committed to being with Kyle around-the-clock as he was rehabilitating. Most nights, following dinner together, Gary would get Abi to sleep at the House, trying to catch a few Z's.

I would stay with Kyle until midnight, or 1 or 2 a.m., depending on when it seemed like he was restful and then call Gary to let him know I was on my way HOME. We learned the short cut thru the ER and after exchanging high-5's and a hug in the bedroom doorway, Gary would be in Kyle's hospital room with no more than 5 minutes having passed. After a few hours of sleep and a shower, Abi and I would head back to the hospital by 7 a.m. for breakfast with Kyle.

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Kyle John
FOUNDATION



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

at a Glance:

May 11th

– Mother Child Tea
@ the Royal Park Hotel

June 7th – 11th

– Annual Vinnie's
Children's Charity
Golf Outing,
Fieldstone Golf Club

June 20th

– Polka in the Garden!

July 21st

– McBikers

August 16th

– Mixed Company Troupe
Lines Incognito!

October 5th

– GO-Ab-NOAH
5th Annual Block Party
Bike and Walk
Stoney Creek Metro Park

December 7th

– Holiday Tea @
the Townsend Hotel,
Birmingham

*If you or your company
would like to be a House
or event sponsor,
there are all kinds
of opportunities!*

*Call Jennifer at 313.745.5911
for more details –
OR check out our website
at www.rmhc-detroit.org
to register or become
a sponsor via PayPal!*

Join us for these exciting Events!

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

Please join us for our **3rd Annual Mother Child Tea** on **Saturday, May 11th** at the **Royal Park Hotel**. This year, the triple-crown event chairpersons, **Deborah Virgiles**, **Teresa Mullins** and **Teresa Saputo** will be hosting an elegant tea, in the beautiful outdoor setting, in the grand tented area, for 75 guests. We encourage you to bring your children to this event.

Come join us at this gorgeous event and celebrate your mom, dad and children with delicious tea, food and desserts. Buy a special gift for mom at the special silent auction.

Tickets are \$55 per adult and \$25 per child.

Special thanks Teresa Mullins and Teresa Saputo, McDonald Owner/Operators, for their lead sponsorship of this event.



11th Annual Vinni Golf Outing

Grab your clubs and tees and join us at the **2013 Vinni Golf Outing** on **June 7th**. You can register and pay online at www.rmhc-detroit.org or call 313.745.5909.

We accept Visa, MC, Amex and Discover.

PLEASE NOTE:

Remember, our starting time has **CHANGED**

– We are now teeing off at 9:00 a.m. Please plan on arriving at 8:00 a.m. for registration!



Vinni Golf Chair, Cary Adragna, (pictured second from the right) celebrates year 11 of his outing!

Big THANKS to our Vinni Golf Outing Title and Lead 2013 House Sponsor...



...and to our other generous 2013 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, CK Diggs and many more!

**This is a sellout event and we will only accept 144 golfers.
Please RSVP as soon as possible!**

Have FUN while helping to support the RMH of Detroit!

Polka in the Garden with the Polka Dukes!

Grab your accordian, kielbasa and best polka shoes and join us for our 9th Annual Garden Event

– **Polka in the Garden** –
at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit on
Thursday, June 20th
– 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Last year, over 90 guests enjoyed our annual event in the gardens – **Country Fiesta!** This year, guests will enjoy festive polka music plus a delicious meal featuring kielbasa, kraut, pieorgies, dumplings, gravies and yummy desserts, all provided by **Levi Restaurants, Caroline's Polish Village Cafe, Cindy Randolph and Bob Angelinas.**

This is a sell out event, so please RSVP early at 313.745.5909 or www.rmhc-detroit.org! Tickets are \$50 per person. Wine, beer and other drinks will be included!



McBikers

On Sunday, July 21st, McDonald Owner/Operator, Peter Donaghue will once again host his ride in Waterford, Michigan. The ride starts in the morning and ends at Boomers – with great food, drinks and raffles! Please contact the House for details on the event.

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



Join us for the **Mixed Company Troupe – Lines Incognito!**

No more rubber chicken dinners! No more cruises on the river! This year's annual event is a one-of-a-kind event, new to this part of the state and you won't want to miss out on the fun!

Join us on **Friday, August 16th** at the International Banquet Center in the Atheneum Hotel for **The Mixed Troupe – Lines Incognito!** The night is filled with three comedy acts; three unsuspecting volunteers and three hilarious stories in one great evening of fundraising for the House.

This affordable, fun night, filled with delicious food, silent auction and raffle will be sure to be memorable night for all!

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!

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, August 16, 2013 at 5:00pm
The International Banquet Center Ballroom
at the Atheneum Suites Hotel
in Greektown
(Dinner served between Acts)

The actors know their lines, but the volunteers discover their roles as the plot thickens!

Lines Incognito is the show where three audience volunteers take the stage and repeat lines heard in an earbud!

Mixed Company Troupe presents
Lines Incognito

A fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit
(All proceeds directly benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit)

Invitation to follow.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

More exciting RMHD Events!

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 and this year, the **5th Annual GOah! NOAH** event will be held on **Saturday, October 5th** at the Stoney Creek Metro Park!

Show your support! Help build hope for little Noah. Please join us for the 5th Annual GOah! NOAH! Block Party Bicycle Ride & Walk. Call 313.745.5909 or go to www.rmhc-detroit.org to register or to make a donation.



A Mother's Story...

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As Kyle's recovery progressed, we were allowed to bring him HOME for dinner. I still remember the first time, sitting around one of the dining room tables as a family, including my parents, enjoying a home cooked meal provided by one of the many volunteer organizations, laughing and smiling, feeling just a little bit normal. Eventually, we were able to spend a few hours each night in the comfort of the rec room watching a movie together.



Kyle's recovery defied all medical expectations. I truly believe that being with him round-the-clock made all the difference. And making the Ronald McDonald House our HOME made that possible. And your donations to this wonderful house make it possible for all the resident families. Thank you to all who have given and continue to donate your time and financial support. Please remember the House this spring by making a generous donation. Families like ours, really appreciate your support.

Aimee Cowher
Past Resident and Supporter

\$2 of the \$10 ticket will go to RMH of Detroit with this coupon.

Come Out and Support Farmer Charley's Corn Maze Adventures!

Come out to *Farmer Charley's Corn Maze Adventures*, bring this coupon and \$2.00 will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit! (Tickets \$10 per person; additional coupons can be found on our website)

MAZES OPEN

September 13th to November 4th

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Featuring the New RMH Logo Maze – **Saturday, September 28th!** Ronald McDonald show will start at 3:00 p.m.

Last Event of the Year – Dec. 7th Don't Miss It!

Holiday Tea @ the Townsend

The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host the **8th Holiday Tea @ 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.

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.



Farmer Charley's Corn Mazes and Farm location: 6421 N Stoney Creek Road; Monroe, MI 48162; 734.240.0825

Quicken Loans Donates Major Gift to House!

Quicken Loans donated \$72,023 this past year to the Ronald McDonald House through a series of employee/vendor campaigns! The House served as a 'home away from home' for a few employees and as part of their deep gratitude, they helped raise significant funds for the House in 2012. Hats off to everyone at Quicken Loans!



Thanks again to the **UAW Ford** members in Detroit for the donation of over \$25,000 to the Detroit Ronald McDonald House! This donation will help with some of our renovation and operational need for the year!

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
- Greenman Family
- Hansons Window – 1-800-HANSONS
- Home Depot – Lake Orion Store
- IADT – Detroit Campus
- JC Plumbing
- Johnson Controls Inc.
- La-Z-Boy
- Lachinva and Loverich
- McDonald's SEMMOA
- M and M
- McCann Foods
- ME Consultants
- Pepsi Bottling Co.
- 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...

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 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

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

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KUDOS ARENA!

Ronald McDonald House GALA at the Joe!

The yearly Ronald McDonald House Gala is 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.

Last year's gala, celebrated at the Joe Louis Arena, was held on Saturday, October 6th.

Over 400 guests came out to support the event! It was a wonderful evening.

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



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 tax-deductible donation.

Donating is easy.
Visit www.rmhc-detroit.org/donate/
and pay by PayPal!