

We've Moved!

*...but we've brought everything along that makes the **new** Ronald McDonald House an EVEN BETTER "home away from home".*



Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

Farewell to an old friend!



The doors of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit opened in November 1979 adjacent to Children's Hospital of Michigan. It was the 11th Ronald McDonald House in the United States. We remain grateful to the late Harry Granader who led the charge to build a Detroit house from the ground up. It was Harry who brought the Southeastern Michigan McDonald's Operators Association on board and the rest is history.

Since 1979 the House has served thousands of families – each had their own story and experiences with a sick child. We were happy to be there for them all these many years. The House served them well and we appreciate every volunteer, donor and staff member who believed in our mission and vision to serve families who must care for children with threatening medical conditions.

We opened as the House that love built and, today, our new House continues with the same heartfelt foundation of love and hope.



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE OF DETROIT

The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit provides an environment of love and kindness, and a support system to families during their most difficult time in life, when a child is receiving medical treatment at local facilities. It is a house upon entering, a home upon leaving.

Our Vision

By creating, finding and supporting programs that directly serve families who must care for children with threatening medical conditions and improving the health and well being of children, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan is working to better the lives of children and their families in our community.

Dear Children's Hospital of Michigan Partner,

The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit and the Children's Hospital of Michigan share one very important mission and vision – our unrelenting focus on what's best for children and their families.

Since you first opened your doors in 1979, we have enjoyed a close partnership that has deepened over time. Over the years, you have served more than 67,000 families – most of them the parents and family members of the very sickest children in our care.

Your work directly complements ours, as we strive to deliver the very best medical treatment and healing outcomes to our patients and their families. At their time of greatest need, you provide a comforting presence and welcoming home away from home. Every day, we see first-hand how your work gives families the support and respite they need to be their children's best advocates in care. You are there for them throughout the most challenging ordeals, so they can be present – and strong – for their children.

Your new home with its beautifully appointed spaces, amenities, and even more room to serve families further enhances your mission. We are excited about our new home, too – the new Children's Hospital of Michigan addition slated to open in 2017. This multi-million-dollar investment and 6-story addition will greatly advance our critical care capacity in all areas. It will also greatly enhance services and settings for families, such as new PICU and NICU units with all private rooms.

The Children's Hospital of Michigan looks forward to the decade ahead, as we continue to build a stronger relationship between your house and our hospital and celebrate our growing capacity to serve children and families when and where they need us the most.

Sincerely,

Larry Gold, CEO
Children's Hospital of Michigan-DMC



“The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit and the Children's Hospital of Michigan share one very important mission and vision – our unrelenting focus on what's best for children and their families.”

Rolling out a new *Welcome* Mat



“We cherish the memories from our original House. One day at a time we were able to support families with a guestroom, play and quiet areas, plus meals.”



Jennifer Litomisky, Executive Director



Deborah Virgiles, President

In 2012, the Children’s Hospital of Michigan (CHM) let us know that they wanted to build a new patient tower on the land where the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit (RMHD) stood for 36 years. We have enjoyed an extraordinary partnership between the Detroit Medical Center, CHM, our RMHD board of directors and donors, staff and volunteers to build a new home away from home.

With a \$3.5 million contribution from the Detroit Medical Center and \$850,000 from the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit reserve fund, we were able to carve out a beautiful new home. We also launched a \$3 million expansion campaign to support various programs and operations for the future. You can learn more about the campaign in the next few pages of this report.

Heart, Hands and Home Strengthening The Foundation For Our Families



In April 2015 we opened the doors to the new 26,000-square-foot RMHD just a few blocks away from Children’s Hospital on the second floor of Hutzel Hospital. It’s a true work of art created by the Detroit-based Hamilton Anderson Associates and Kraemer Design Group, designers and architects; Roncelli Inc. was the general contractor. The new House is 10,000-square-feet larger than the former location.

We cherish the memories from our original House. One day at a time, we were able to support families with a guestroom, play and quiet areas, plus meals. Families were only a few steps away to visit their kids at Children’s Hospital and other DMC medical facilities. Now our families can use our shuttle van service to take them to where they need to be.

In this year’s annual report we have included many photographs of the new House along with some poignant family stories, profiles of volunteers and information about our grant program and expansion campaign. We hope you will find the stories inspiring and the information worthy of your attention and giving.

On behalf of all the families who make the RMHD their home away from home, we thank you for your support and good thoughts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Litomisky
Jennifer Litomisky
Executive Director

Deborah C. Virgiles
Deborah Virgiles
President

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

Our *New* House

Our new home is both comfortable and colorful for our guest families. We are thrilled with all the amenities we are able to provide to make our House a home away from home.

- 26,000 square feet of bright and soothing space
- 23 guest rooms with in-room baths
- 5 long-term family rooms with baths and TV
- 1 night shift house manager suite
- reception and lounge area
- media center for computers
- teen study room
- family lounge with TV
- kid's playroom with a glass wall so parents can watch children
- communal kitchen to serve families; new walk-in freezer and pantry
- courtyard serenity garden
- state-of-the-art security system
- secure parking lot
- shuttle van



The new Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

Clockwise from top left: The warm and welcoming reception desk and family areas; there are a wide variety of activities available to keep kids occupied, even for a young artist like Abigail Rexford; Norgren Automotive is one of the many companies that volunteer their time and resources to prepare meals for families in our large and well-equipped kitchen; families can relax and enjoy a cup of coffee or milk and cookies in our comfortable dining room.



The Riley family: Grandmother, Joseph, Johnathon and mom, Sarah Riley

Lily's Story



Karaea Tatroe and **Bradley Reid** are the proud parents of Lilliana, affectionately known as Lily. Lily was diagnosed with epilepsy at two months old and has spent a lot of time in hospital beds over the last three years. Prior to transferring to Children's Hospital of Michigan (CHM) from the DeVos Hospital in Grand Rapids, little Lily was experiencing an exhausting average of 160 seizures in 18 hour periods. Treatment at CHM with new medications and procedures reduced her seizures to one seizure every three to four days – a huge relief for Lily and her family.

Lily is "Daddy's Little Girl", and her parents looked forward to taking her home. A family friend had suggested that Bradley and Karaea contact the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit to keep them close to Lily; they stayed at the House for nearly three months. "Everything was here for us," said Karaea. "We both were able to relax after long hours at Lily's side. Jackie and Linda, and everyone else at the House, were just wonderful and took the time to listen and comfort us". Bradley cleared his mind by playing video games in the Teen Room while Karaea watched a little television with other House guests before they headed for bed. Bradley and Karaea loved everything about the House, and were especially appreciative of the meals and a comfortable room to re-energize for another day with Lily. As of July 2015, they have been at Lily's bedside for five months.

Our *New* House

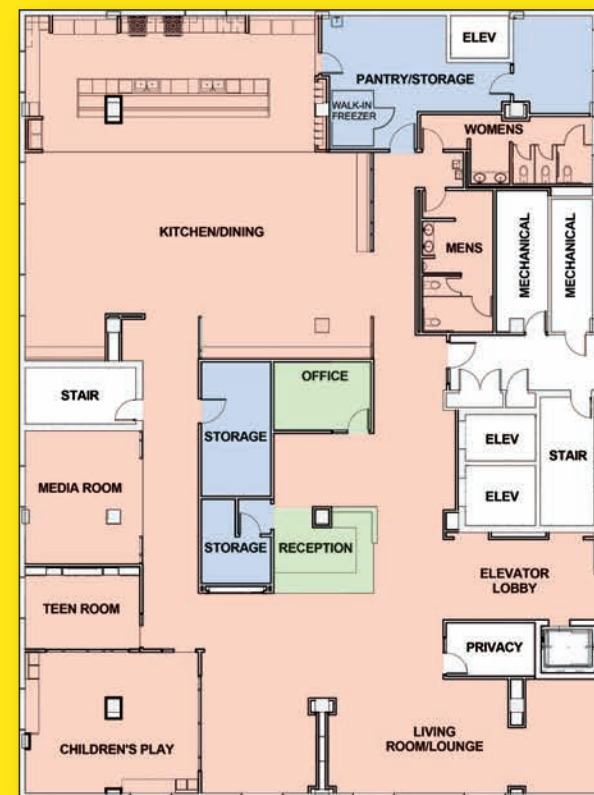
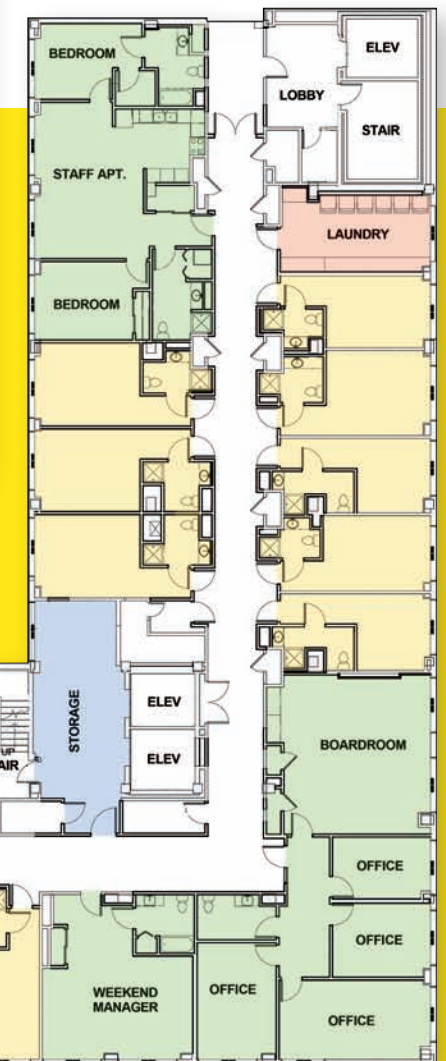
Did you know?

- 67,000 families made our House their home over the last 36 years.
- Some only stay few nights.
- Most recently, one family stayed with us for 388 days.
- Some families return year after year as their sick child requires more treatment.
- One family has been coming to us once a year, for 18 years.
- Guestroom rates remain \$10 a night; no one is turned away for lack of funds.
- On the average more than 3,000 volunteer hours are logged every year.
- Throughout the year businesses, organizations and family groups finance, cook and serve meals to our families.



The new Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

Clockwise from top left: Mike McCoy, Special Events Director, stocks the storage room with donated products; the comfortable and colorful family room/lounge; media room for TV and videos; a sample of food prepared by generous volunteers for our families; the RMHD shuttle van that transports families to hospitals to visit with their children.



- Guestrooms
- Public Areas
- Office/Administration
- Storage



Overnight Visits



Families with sick children are welcome at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit for one or 352 nights, or whatever a family might need.

Four year old **Johnathan** (seated) is a ball of activity, and he had a lot of fun with seven year-old brother **Joe** (left) during a recent stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. The brothers with their mother, Sarah Riley, and their grandmother, stayed in a family room with two double beds. The boys have an older sister, Dianna, who stayed home in Vassar.

Johnathan was born with a cleft palate and made his first visit to Ronald McDonald House when he was six months old. The family has also stayed at other Ronald McDonald Houses in Michigan. They live about 100 miles north in Vassar, Mich., making overnight stays at the Detroit House a great escape from rush hour traffic and a respite for tired little bodies.

The family has been House guests several times over the last four years. During their recent visit Johnathan met with doctors to check his ears and hearing at Children's Hospital of Michigan. A sleep study is also planned for him. The family expects there will be more medical appointments for Johnathan and they plan to request additional overnight visits at the Detroit House in the future. "We love the new House," said mother Sarah. "It's so much larger, easier to get around, and offers a lot more for families. We love the new bedrooms with comfy beds, the kitchen and dining room and of course, the boys love the playroom. We like that we can be in the room next to them and see them play though the wall of glass."

Though we love providing a home away from home for our guest families, we always pray and hope that in time they will be well and grow healthy and happy.

Special Events

Special events help support our budget and raise awareness of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Plus, we have a lot of fun with our sponsors, volunteers and attendees. It takes a lot of energy and funding to organize and plan each event. A heartfelt thanks goes out to every person who has donated their time to make each of our fund raising events a success. Our events raised a combined total of more than \$150,000 toward the Expansion Campaign.



Tea Times

Our annual spring and winter teas are a great source of fun, good food and entertainment.

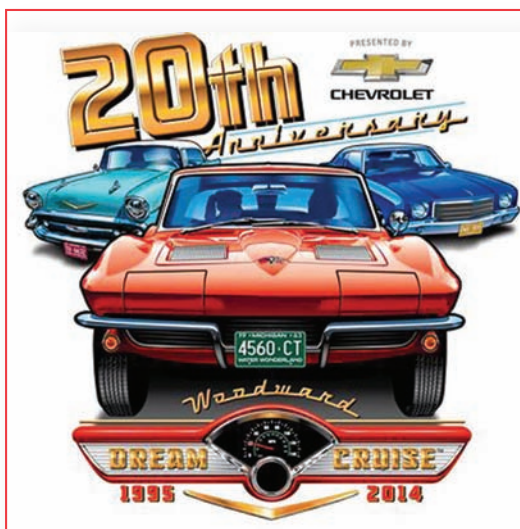
Grand Opening Gala

A Night on the town in Midtown was the theme of our 2015 gala at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. More than 200 guests gathered, and during the evening groups were shuttled to take a tour of the new Ronald McDonald House. It was a wonderful night to thank our donors and friends.



Cruisin' Along

August is time for our annual Dream Cruise, Dream Car and Dream House event. Thanks to the generosity of Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter, this is a highlight of our event schedule. Guests gather at the Lingenfelter Car Museum that showcases a variety of Corvettes, muscle cars and exotics. Some of the rarest automobiles are on display including a Bugatti Veyron, an Enzo Ferrari and a Lamborghini Reventón.



The 14th Annual Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing

Every year we tee off to raise dollars for the Ronald McDonald House. More than 100 golfers attended the event at Fieldstone Golf Course in Auburn Hills, chaired by Cary Adragna, pictured with the 2014 Golf Committee, and sponsored by the Detroit Red Wings Foundation, Coca Cola, Dr. Pepper, McCain Foods, On the Border MexicanGrille.



Community House & Garden Party

On June 18, 2015 we gathered to dedicate the Serenity Garden at our new House. It was a lovely evening with a menu of international cuisine and a variety of wines and beers.

Pictured above is volunteer Mary Okray (center), Chairperson of this annual event.

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

Expansion Campaign

It's not easy being a parent or sibling of a sick child. The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will expand its services and programs to help guest families relax and re-energize. In order to accomplish our goals, we initiated a \$3 million expansion campaign in 2014.

As of August 2015 we are closing in on \$2 million toward our \$3 million goal for the campaign. With your support, families can focus on their sick children... and we can take care of the families.

The Expansion Campaign will provide:

- staffing and maintenance of our new, donated shuttle van to transport families to the hospital and medical appointments
- 24/7 maintenance to meet the needs of our families
- supplemental housekeeping staff to meet the demands of our expanded facilities. We provide all the bedding, linens and towels and our staff washes everything.
- technology upgrades including a new Web site and its maintenance
- new volunteer software to assign and track projects and ongoing needs; additional software to manage our fundraising events and efforts
- serenity garden plantings and year round upkeep
- supplement the Endowment Fund

For more information about the individual and corporate donations please contact Jennifer Litomisky, RMHD, Executive Director – 313-745-5909



Expansion Campaign Donors

Foundations

Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation	Ryanne Akins Foundation
Detroit Red Wings Foundation	The Carls Foundation
	The Joe Kocur Foundation for Children

Major Donors

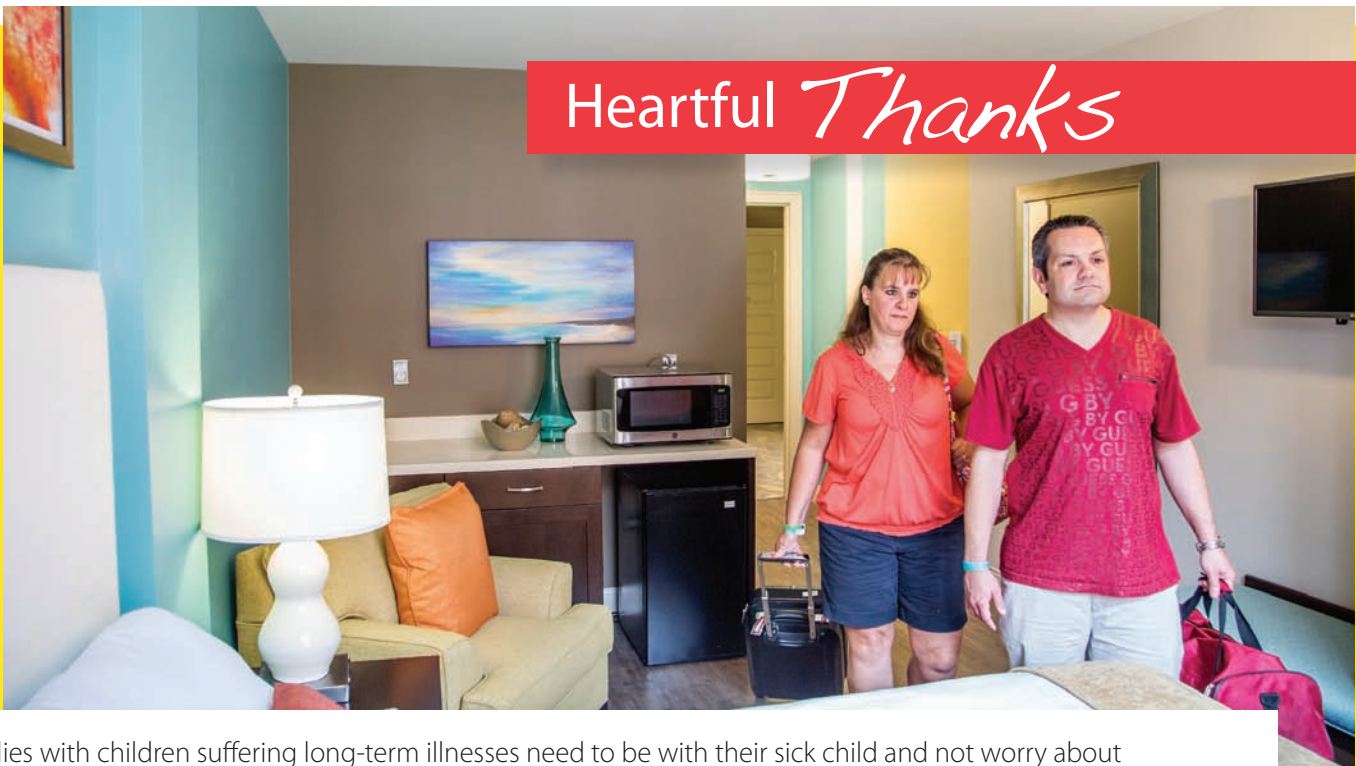
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Kathy Setter	Tom and Julie Haggerty
Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter	Village Green Apartments
Kraemer Design Group	Visions of Paradise Landscape and Design
Langenberg Family	WDIV-TV
	Zara Creative



2014 Functional Expenses

Program	\$ 719,914
Management and General	124,967
Fundraising	321,024
Total Functional Expenses.....	\$ 1,165,905

Heartful Thanks



Families with children suffering long-term illnesses need to be with their sick child and not worry about preparing a meal or where to rest their heads after a stressful day.

Sharon and Patrick Downey were happy that a nurse at Children's Hospital of Michigan suggested that they contact the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Since the family lives some distance away from the hospital, staying at the House turned out to be a great option.

"We were able to spend more time at our daughter's bedside since we stayed at the House," said Sharon Downey.

The Downey's complemented the House staff for being so very welcoming and accommodating to their needs and situation. "Irma and Jackie were so wonderful. We feel fortunate that the House was there for us. It was something to look forward to, and gave us great relief," said Sharon. Husband Patrick commented that they were able to focus on their daughter and not stress out about where to sleep or where to have meals.

We're happy to be here for them.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan



In 1984, the national Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) was established in McDonald’s founder Ray Kroc’s memory. McDonald’s franchise owners and suppliers contribute time and funding for all the RMD houses.

Though funding from McDonald’s is essential to the vitality and future of our Detroit House , it is important to note that we continue to rely on the generous support of our corporate and community partners as well as individual donors.

The RMHC Donation Box can be found at the cashier window at all McDonald’s restaurants; it is the largest ongoing fundraiser for the Charity collecting more than \$200 million every year. The national RMHC creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children.

Here in Detroit, we have our own annual grant program to support non-profit youth-related programs in the metro area. Organizations that received grants:

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit Grants

2012

A Beautiful Me	ConKerr Cancer	Sandcastles
Art Road Nonprofit	First Step	Spaulding for Children
Arts & Scraps	Franklin Wright Settlement	Special Olympics
Coalition on Temporary Shelter	Friends of Royal Oak Library	The Guidance Center
	Jewish Community Center	

2013

ChildSafe Michigan	Helping Operations for People Empowerment	Special Olympics
7th Generation	Hospitality House	Sweet Dreamzzzz Inc
Arts & Scraps	Ja’Noah House	The Children’s Center
Bound Together	North Woodward Community Foundation	Think Detroit PAL
Compassion through Cameras	Oakland Gymnastics Booster Club	Turning Point
Don Bosco Hall	Pewabic Pottery	Variety Club Charity for Children
FAR		Wish Upon a Teen

2014

Detroit 2 Nepal	National Council of Jewish Women	
Bound Together	St. John Macomb	
Boys & Girls Club of Troy	Wish Upon a Teen 2014	
Lebanese American Heritage Club		

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The *Turning* Point

In 1999, House Manager Jackie Kennedy placed a call to her friend **Sharon Render-Johnson** (above), a pastor, to pray for a family and their two year old child who was terribly ill at Children's Hospital of Michigan. It turned out to be the turning point in Sharon's life. She met with the child's parents, anointed the child and prayed with the family. They did not give up hope. The young boy recovered and he is now a healthy teenager.

Since that day in 1999, Sharon devoted herself to be a minister of prayer and she also became a volunteer for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Sharon is the mother of three teenage boys ages 14, 16 and 17, and a daughter age 15. She lives a 'hands full life' devoted to her husband, their children and ministry partners. She is a senior pastor with Family Restoration Ministries Worldwide, Southfield, Mich., and a licensed professional counselor with a Master's degree in counseling from Wayne State University.

Sharon volunteers wherever she is needed two to three days and also works doing RMHD community outreach events. She is training to become a Ronald McDonald House weekend manager. "I just love children and families," said Sharon. "I enjoy being at the House and helping wherever I can."

We love having Sharon at our House, to provide help, love and hope.



After spending 34 years as program director for the City of Detroit Senior Aid Program, **Jane Jones** had a lot more to give in her life. She retired in 2000, and continues to be a very busy lady. Jane volunteers to assist with tax forms for AARP members and works with the Federation of Youth Services.

One day she was scanning a Gardner-White Wish Book and came across a listing to donate CDs to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. It was the House, not the CDs that piqued her interest to learn more. That was in 2012.

Since 2012, Jane has been volunteering two days a week at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. "I am on call wherever Jackie needs help and usually I am the Thursday receptionist," said Jane. "I love meeting everyone at the front desk. I believe you can make someone feel better by just giving them a smile." And for most of the families that stay at the House, large doses of smiles are the best prescription for stress relief. Jane remarked that she loved the intimacy of the former House, but really loves the new House in all its color and glory.

And we love Jane – we are not surprised that her favorite color is bright lime green – a happy hue for someone who spreads happiness.

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Ring in
with Sally Grabowski

She sold printing for 20 years. She retired. She took one year off. Her daughter was a part of a volunteer team from Pandora Radio serving a meal for guests at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Following her daughter's visit, Sally took some toys and blankets to donate to the House. Then she was hooked. She filled out a volunteer application.

Sally Grabowski of Royal Oak has been a volunteer receptionist for the House for more than one year. She greets guests and visitors, registers families and handles check out, answers numerous phone calls and many questions from visitors. She also keeps an eye on the safety monitors and buzzes in guests to the building. A lot of responsibility – and Sally is up for the job.

“The staff here is fantastic. They really help the families feel comfortable,”said Sally. I truly enjoy working at the House. I was at the former House up until the moving date, April 1. I spend every Wednesday as the receptionist.”Sally also donated her time answering phones for the first WDIV-TV telethon event in 2014. We are thrilled to have Sally on our volunteer team and we know Wednesday's are in good hands

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Some of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit staff relax in the New Serenity Garden.

Left to right – standing:
Mike McCoy, Jennifer Litomisky.
Seated: Jackie Kennedy,
Linda Porter, Irma Hudson.



Credits:

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