



Spring 2016

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

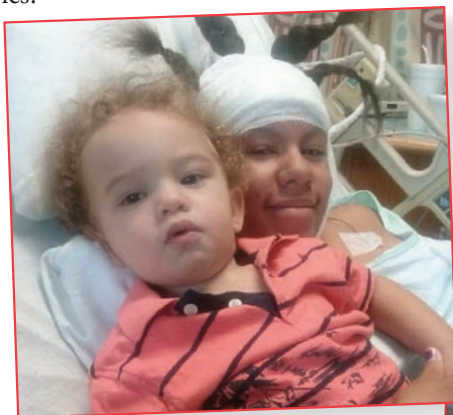
Shaw-Ayers Family – Forever Grateful

Our daughter Sasha-Janae was born at 25-week gestation (11lb 12oz, 13" length), due to my incompetent cervix. She suffered a level 3 brain bleed, hydrocephalus and bilateral retinopathy at birth. Sasha spent 3 months in the hospital and had countless brain surgeries.

She was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus (VP Shunt Placement), developmentally delayed and epilepsy.

It is because of her bouts with epilepsy since the age of 3, that we returned to Michigan, where we are originally from. Sasha became a candidate for the epilepsy surgery by the physicians at Children's Hospital of Michigan. With all the uncertainties and fears amongst the whole family, we knew in order for Sasha to have a happy, normal and productive life, she needed a chance... she needed this surgery!

During months of preparations, we encountered tremendous stress, financial struggles, and at times questioned our faith. We had no idea how we were going to fund the trip from Florida to Michigan, where we were going to stay for the next 3-weeks, or how we were going to eat and provide for the whole family (18-month old included).



Sasha and Janae Shaw-Ayers

*Shaw-Ayers
and Family*



During a Q & A session with Sasha's nurse, she listened to our concerns and suggested that we stay at the new Ronald McDonald House. She explained

the whole process and informed us of all the services offered to families who stay there. Let's just say, it was the best decision we ever made.

The Shaw-Ayers Family would like to give a huge thank you to the Ronald McDonald House Organization and the entire staff at the Detroit House. Their hospitality was truly outstanding – from the staff to the volunteers –

they all expressed such genuine care and compassion for me and my family. We are forever grateful for the warm smiles and courteous manner that greeted us each morning, the comfortable clean room and living spaces, the availability of personal supplies and food, the shuttle bus taking us to and from the hospital and the volunteers who came to cook meals for everyone during the week.

Staying at the Ronald McDonald House was very affordable, convenient, safe and pleasant. The sincere empathy from the staff gave us comfort during our family's time of need. This organization is truly a blessing!

Thank you for such a memorable time.
Janae Shaw-Ayers & Family



Please Note: The enclosed donation slip and return envelope is part of our **Hearts, Hands and Home** fundraising appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit (RMHD) for your tax-deductible donation.

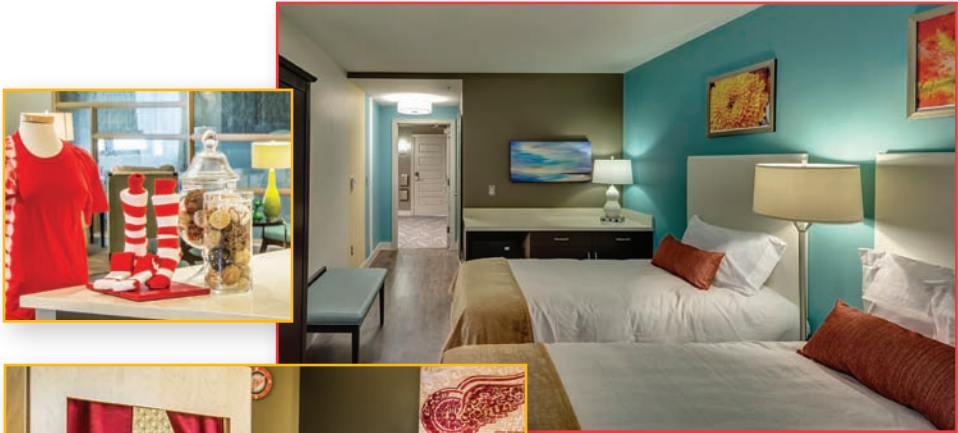
Ronald McDonald House of Detroit – The House that LOVE Built!

Happy Anniversary!



We are celebrating our 1st anniversary of the new Ronald McDonald House of Detroit on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. In the first nine months, we served 1,533 families.

In 2015, all House events highlighted the grand-opening with all proceeds going towards the \$3 million expansion campaign. The year kicked off with a grand opening, black tie gala that raised a significant amount of funds for the campaign and also highlighted the new House with tours and several media stories. The 2015 events raised nearly \$180,000 for the expansion campaign, with record setting net revenues for all.



Thanks to our Major Investors and Campaign Chair, Teresa Saputo!

The Expansion Campaign Team, lead by RMHD board member, Teresa Saputo, worked tirelessly in 2015. As of March, the campaign is at \$2.4 million of the \$3 million goal. The final stage will be the toughest, but Teresa and her team have a solid plan for the “Race to the Finish” and hope to reach the goal by the end of 2016.

The team could not have built the House and invest in the future without the incredible support of the donors.



BIG HEARTFELT thanks to our major investors:

Ryanne Akins	Kelly Donaldson	Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce	Nina McLemore	Santa's Cupboard
Ally Financial	Downriver Cleaning Services	John Thomas & Associates	McManus Foundation	Saputo Family
Art Van	Dryden Family	Melvin Jones	Meijer Corporation	Jay Sawmiller
Arts, Beats & Eats	Joel and Marian Ehlert	Kathy Setter	Merit Energy Association	Moonzer Sayed
James Barr	Elliott Charitable Fund	Kahle Family	Richard Meyer Family	Schulz Management
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Carls Foundation	Ford Purchasing Group	Leonard's Syrup	Network For Good	Thad and Robin Szott
Causecast	Alan and Ann Frank	David Lick	Valerie Newman	T Square Construction
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Compuware	Milt and Jenna Greenman	Frank and Marilyn Martin	Mark Pfau	Deb Virgiles and Melvin Jones
Aimee Cowher & Gary Cone	Andrew Gromacki	Joel and Kim McCormick	Progressive Data Services	Rebecca and Ron Walsh
Keith Davis	Group II Communication	McDonald's Corporate Offices	Quicken Loans	Waterford Mott High School
Gary and Jan Dembs	Yvonne Haddix	McDonald's MCCOPCO	Red Wings Foundation	Way to Be Designs
Peter Demski	Tom and Julie Haggerty	McDonald's Region	Elmira Rhein Foundation	WDIV-TV
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Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association	Hotel Baronette	McDonald's Global Office	RMHC Global	Christine Wilson
	Morgan Jiexi Huang	McDonald's Semmoa	RMHC of Southeast Michigan	
		McDonalds-Donaghue	Roslund Prestage	
			Rudy Family Foundation	

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

Young Adults on the Junior Board Shine Social Media Spotlight on the House’s Mission



House staff member Jackie Kennedy with Junior Board members Sarah Rollins and Paxton Mueller.

Seven Junior Board members of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit are energizing an already energetic Board of Directors through activities and ideas to help the House reach its \$3 million goal for the “Hearts, Hands and Home” capital campaign. These new “kids on board” have been members for one to 2-1/2 years and want to be part of Detroit’s comeback.

“The House is a leading nonprofit in the city’s rebirth. We moved into a newly remodeled building in spring 2015 and now provide a first-class home away from home for families of children who need specialized medical care,” said Jennifer Litomisky, executive director of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

The Junior Board is comprised of millennials – people born from the 1980s to the early 2000s. It’s a natural stepping stone to sitting on the Board of Directors. Junior Board President Shane Barry attends both board meetings. He notes, “It’s great to see a board and so many of the business leaders and philanthropic leaders from Detroit give guidance and provide a structure to the House’s operations. Their engagement is a good example for me.”

Several Junior Board members donned furs and modeled them at the *Snazzy & Jazzy Holiday Tea* at the Townsend Hotel in December and they registered runners at the *Escape to Belle Isle* run on a sweltering hot day in July. Now, they are planning their own event in this summer, which will be a rooftop fundraiser in Detroit geared toward millennials. They are also eyeing a crowd-sourcing campaign – the first ever for the House’s capital campaign.

With a broad brush, the young board members have launched a social media thrust on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #roamwithronald. To brand the House and event photos on social media, the Junior Board created a logo sticker for cell phone cameras so it appears in the picture. It is an innovative way to promote what the House does best for families whose children are in the hospital. Tsiporah Davis, the board’s social media guru, led this effort.

“Many people don’t know what the House is and what it does,” said Junior Board VP Paxton Mueller. “Our posts show how they can volunteer and get people to comment.”

“These younger board members are bringing more awareness to the Ronald McDonald House through social media,” said Kyla Marcial, a board member who helped interview and select its members. “We are seeing more millennials volunteer at the House and attend events. It’s bringing new life to the House.”

“The commonality for all during their interviews wasn’t about building their resumes but was about giving back to the community and being a part of the whole evolution of Detroit,” said Marcial.

“My most rewarding experience at the House,” said Mueller, “was wandering into the kitchen one evening after a meeting. I saw a woman in there and we started talking. She told me her daughter had been in the hospital for several weeks. She said she was grateful for what the House provided. When I told her I was a volunteer, she thanked me. I really care and want to help the families that have to deal with these situations.”

RMHD JUNIOR BOARD

Shane Barry
President

Casey Bufford

Austin Darket

Tsiporah Davis

Rhonda Fields

Paxton Mueller

Sarah Rollins

KUDOS

CORNER

Shane Barry

President, Junior Board

Shane is a lobbyist for the Michigan Association of CPAs. He earned an economics degree from MSU in 2011 and lives in Royal Oak. He likes working with the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit because it’s a well-known, respected organization that makes a difference in the lives of families who are taking care of sick children. He got involved with the Junior Board through Eric Lynn, who now serves on the main board.

“My most rewarding experience is meeting the families. You can see who is benefitting from your contribution. You can’t put a price tag on that.”

Being on the Junior Board also allows Shane to make a mark on the city’s revival. “Everyone is in love with Detroit’s comeback,” he notes.



Paxton Mueller

Vice President, Junior Board

Paxton graduated from Albion College with a degree in Mathematics and Economics in 2015, and lives in Monroe. She is a member of the professional staff at Ernst and Young in Detroit.

Serving on the Junior Board has enabled Paxton to learn how to market the House to her peers – those who will become the new donors. Another positive experience was handing out trophies to kids who finished the *Escape to Belle Isle* run last July.

“My family has been really blessed. We never had anyone who was really sick. When you don’t experience it, you don’t think about it. After seeing families with sick children at the House, I have a new gratitude for good health,” she said.



2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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Jenna Wright, *Vice President*
Tom Haggerty, *Treasurer*
Joe Danley, *Secretary*
Deb Virgiles, *Immediate Past President*

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Paul Blanchard
Aimee Cowher
Gary Granader, *Emeritus, New House Chairman*
Tom Haggerty
Theresa Hendricksen
Steven Lick
Eric Lynn
Kyla Marcial
Frank Martin *Emeritus*
Kathryn Miller
Charlene Mitchell
Teresa Saputo
Thad Szott
Roger Tertocha
Lenny Williams

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Harry Granader *IN MEMORIAM*
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Jack Hertzler
Dr. Jimmie Leleszi
Dan Levitsky
Mary Pat McDougall
Mary Renkiewicz
Barbara Wachler
Jerry Young

EMERITUS

Alan Frank
John G. Levy
Frank Martin
Paul Pellerito

JUNIOR BOARD

Shane Barry *President*
Paxton Mueller *Vice President*
Casey Bufford
Austin Darket
Tsiporah Davis
Rhonda Fields
Sarah Rollins

RMHD STAFF

Jennifer Litomisky, *Executive Director*
Linda Porter, *Executive Assistant*
Jackie Kennedy, *House Manager*
Irma Hudson, *Resident House Manager*
Mike McCoy, *Special Events and House Maintenance Director*
Jeannine Monkowski, *Data Entry Manager*

CONSULTANTS

Liz Cezat, *Public Relations*
Gary Dembs, *Expansion Campaign Adviser*
Tim Cowley, *Accountant*
Greg Evans, *Marketing*

WEEKEND STAFF

Jane Dumas
Jacqueline Griffie
Tracy Thompson
Judy Poplawski

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit – SUMMER EVENTS in a Nutshell!

JUNE
3rd

15th Annual Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing

Over 140 golfers supported the **14th Annual Vinni Golf Outing** last year. Once again, the weather was perfect. Former RMH Board member and chair, **Cary Adragna and his family** have raised a total



Golf Chair, Cary Adragna (2nd from left) with his team

of \$260,000 since the inception of this golf outing. The first year, Cary raised \$3,000 for the House and the last few years, he and his team net \$30,000 to \$45,000 yearly.

This event always sells out so mark your calendars for the Vinni Golf Outing –

Friday, June 3, 2016.

Motown in the Garden

Last year, Garden Party Chair **Mary Okray** celebrated the grand opening of the new House with **Wine in the Garden – International Cuisine.**

JUNE
16th

Over 40 donors (restaurants and other food/drink vendors) created a world of incredible international flavors with food highlighting cuisine from all over the world. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed Italian, Mexican, Chinese, American, Polish and

Arabic food, while touring the new House. After the tours, everyone went into the new, beautiful garden for drinks and entertainment. Special recognition for the RMHD Expansion Campaign was given to major donors, to end the night on a celebratory note.

This year, Mary and her team will offering guests a “**Taste of Motown**” with Motown in the Garden. Detroit restaurants will donate food, desserts and drinks and everyone can sing some good-ole Motown tunes in the garden.

Don't miss this exciting community grand opening event! Tickets are \$60 per person. Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details – OR check out our website: www.rmhc-detroit.org and register, donate food or be a sponsor!

Thanks to all of the restaurants (through the many years) and other sponsors whose in-kind donations enable the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit to raise funds to help children and their families.

Escape to Belle Isle!

Over 800 runners came out to support last year's **Escape to Belle Isle**, 5K and 10K run to benefit the House!

JULY
16th

Runners from toddlers to seniors converged on Belle Isle on July 18th for this 7th annual event.

Every year this event grows bigger and bigger and race organizers, **Jenna Wright and Milt Greenman**,

hope to hit 1,000 runners for the next race. Yearly, this event nets \$10,000. We thank Milt and Jenna for their commitment to this event and to our charity.



Children raced to the finish line at the 2015 Escape to Belle Isle!



Executive Director, Jennifer Litomisky, second from the left, presents a thank you gift to MJS leaders for the generous donation to the new garden.

Special Thanks to our Past Donors!

Buddy's Pizza	Granite City	Picano's
COSI	Maggiano's	Polish Village Café
Crispelli's	Melting Pot	Pot Belly
Forte Belanger	Pei Wei	Sero's

Other sponsors:

Absopure	Kind Bars	Super Car Wash Systems
Astrein's Jewelers	Peabody's Restaurant	Uncle Ray's Chips
Emagine Theater	Sanders	

Ligenfelter D-3 Event – Dream Cars, Dream Cruise, Dream House Event

We will be hosting the **D-3 Event** again this year. Last year's event at the Ligenfelter car museum,

TBD

netted over \$25,000 for the House. Over 150 guests enjoyed the collection that holds a variety of Corvettes, muscle cars, and exotics. Several vehicles in the Collection are among the rarest automobiles in the world, including a Bugatti Veyron, an Enzo Ferrari, and a Lamborghini Reventón. Big thanks to **Ken and Kristen Ligenfelter** for hosting this event. Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details – OR check out our website: www.rmhc-detroit.org and register or be a sponsor!



Chair Joe Danley and RMHD staff member Mike McCoy at the Ligenfelter D-3 Event.

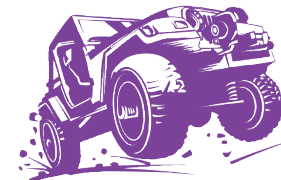
Wheelin' for Ronald

Szott Auto Group will be hosting its annual **Wheelin' For Ronald** on Saturday, September 3rd.

SEPT.
3rd

If you have a Jeep, you won't want to miss this adventurous event. Have fun while raising money for the House!

Brian Velkey and his team have raised \$3,000 to nearly \$7,000 yearly. Big heartfelt thanks to Brian and everyone at Szott Auto Group!



The event will be held at **Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park** located at 3407 E. Mannsiding Road Harrison, MI 48625. For details about Rocks and Valleys refer to their website rocksandvalleys.com.

Registrations, donations and raffle items are still being accepted. Gates open at 10:00 am. Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details – OR visit our website at www.rmhc-detroit.org and register or be a sponsor!

GOah NOAH

OCT.
1st

Walkers, bikers and 5K runners please join us for a great cause – **GOah NOAH!**

Last year's GOah NOAH had close to 100 runners, walkers and bikers and we hope to have 200 participants this year!

We thank **Renee Sullivan** and **Noah** for their wonderful support of the Detroit Ronald McDonald House! Call the House at 313-745-5909 for more details – OR check out our website at www.rmhc-detroit.org to register or be a sponsor!



Noah, pictured center in the red hat, and his friends get ready for the race!

New Faces and New Leadership at RMHD

A big, heartfelt welcome to our new board members: **Roger Tertocha**, Director of Corporate Communications, Village Green; and **Paul Blanchard**, Regional VP, Mortgage Banking.

Congratulations to **Joel McCormick**, President; **Jenna Greenman**, Vice President; **Joe Danley**, Secretary; and **Tom Haggerty**, Treasurer, for your unanimous vote by the board to be the House's leadership team for 2016-2018.

Of Financial Interest

2016 Changes – Qualified Charitable Distributions

Since 2006, IRA owners who are at least 70½ years old could make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA to a charity without having to include the distribution in taxable income. New legislation now makes the QCD rules permanent.

Donating IRA funds directly to qualified charities allows the IRA holder or beneficiary to avoid taking possession of the funds and the tax bill that comes with them. It also allows the extra income to be excluded from tax formulas for Medicare premiums or for the Pease limitation on itemized deductions.

In brief, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an IRA can be made only by an IRA owner or beneficiary age 70½ or older, and can total up to \$100,000. A spouse age 70½ with an IRA could give up to \$100,000 as well. A QCD can be used to meet your required minimum distribution. The funds, which cannot come from active SEP or SIMPLE IRAs, must be sent directly to the qualified (IRS approved) charitable organization.



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MICHIGAN

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

Do you **Like** us?



Follow us on our **Facebook 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.

2016 **RMHD EVENTS** *at a Glance*

- **April 23, 2016** (Saturday)
MOTHER'S DAY TEA
Royal Park Hotel, Rochester
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **June 3, 2016** (Friday)
VINNI GOLF OUTING
Fieldstone Golf Club
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **June 16, 2016** (Thursday)
**MOTOWN AND WINE
IN THE GARDEN**
Celebration @ The House
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **July 16, 2016** (Saturday)
ESCAPE TO BELLE ISLE
5 and 10 K Run – Belle Isle
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **July 17, 2016** (Sunday)
McBIKERS –
Boomers, Waterford
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **TBD** (Thursday)
LINGENFELTER D-3 EVENT
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- **September 3, 2016** (Saturday)
WHEELIN' FOR RONALD
Rocks and Valleys off road park –
Harrison, 10:00 a.m.
- **October 1, 2016** (Saturday)
GOab NOAH!
Stoney Creek Park, 9:00 a.m.
- **December 3, 2016** (Saturday)
SNAZZY & JAZZY TEA
@ THE TOWNSEND
Townsend Hotel, Birmingham
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

See pages 6 & 7 for more details on these exciting events!