



Fall 2016

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

A Note from our Director:



As I write this, I just can't believe we're coming to the end of the first full year in our new House. It has been a whirlwind year, full of ups and

downs, but mostly a whole lot of love. I am deeply saddened to share that we lost our beloved former board president, Deborah Virgiles this summer, as well as a few long time volunteers. Our thoughts remain with their families. In the spirit of Deb's ever present positive attitude, we've continued to push on with our Hearts, Hands, and Home Campaign and are so, so close to reaching our final goal! Thank you to everyone who has contributed. There is still time to get your gift in before the end of the year, just use the enclosed envelope.

There are so many new, exciting things coming in the next year, so please watch our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for announcements about new projects and partnerships with Children's Hospital of Michigan and more!

I wish you safe and happy holidays, with lots of time spent with family and friends.

Jennifer J. Litomisky

Jennifer Litomisky
Executive Director

An update on the House that Love Built!

Some very exciting news out of our expansion campaign... an anonymous donor has just granted us a \$100,000 match! This means we're only \$200,000 away from crossing that finish line! It may seem like a lot, but think of how far we've come. Nearly \$3 Million has been raised, in just over 2 years.

Our campaign doesn't just build and fund a house, it builds and funds a home. It funds a good night's sleep after a bedside vigil, a home-cooked meal and hot shower, a chance to compare notes with parents going through similar situations. Most of all it funds a chance for our families to feel at home, gaining strength through sharing experiences.

Please consider making your tax-deductible, year-end gift to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Help us reach our \$3 Million goal.



The Hudacek Family – Anna and Jessiqua

Jessi was diagnosed with brain cancer in the spring of 2015. We were referred to Children's Hospital of Michigan for her treatment. Jessi and I live in Saginaw, which is a two-hour drive from Detroit, in the best of conditions. When we found out she was going to have to be at the hospital every day, Monday through Friday, all day long, for more than six weeks, I wasn't sure how we were going to make that work. There's no way we could drive that far everyday, especially with Jessi sick from the radiation. We couldn't afford to stay in a hotel all week, not on our budget. That's when we found out about the Ronald



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Please Note: The enclosed donation slip and return envelope are part of our **Expansion Campaign/Holiday Fundraising** appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit for your tax-deductible donation this holiday season.

The Hudacek Family

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McDonald House. Talk about a life saver. For only \$10 a night, Jessi and I could get a good night's sleep and a healthy, home cooked meal; two things we definitely both needed after long days of radiation treatments and doctor's appointments. So there we were, every Monday morning through Friday night, comforted and encouraged by the amazing staff of the Ronald McDonald House and only a short walk or van ride away from the medical care Jessi needed.

Jessi is officially cancer free now and looking forward to all the typical activities of a 16 year old. But every time there is a follow up appointment, Jessi reminds me that we have to stop by the house to say hello and get her hugs from Jackie and Irma. Thank you to the staff, donors and volunteers of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. You are all my heroes.

– Anna Hudacek

DONOR FEATURE

Granader Family McDonald's Restaurants

Gary Granader and his McDonald's Restaurant crew members have truly gone above and beyond for the House this year! Gary, a McDonald's Restaurant owner and operator, has long been a supporter of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, serving as a board member for many years and taking a lead role in our expansion efforts. Gary also knows the importance of spreading the word about the House, and getting others involved. That's why, beginning this year, he instituted a matching gift program in all his restaurants and the results have been outstanding! Crew members from Granader Family restaurants have raised money through garage sales, car washes, coin drives, trivia nights and more. So many unique ideas have come from these inspired employees and their gifts have totaled more than \$13,000! With the match program, they've given more than \$26,000 to the House this year with a goal to give at least \$25,000 each year in the future!

If your business or organization would like to set up a program like this, please call Chrissy at 313-745-9487.



Granader Family Restaurants has sponsored many fundraising events including car washes.

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Linda Porter, *Executive Assistant*
Chrissy Cooper, *Marketing Director*
Irma Hudson, *Resident House Manager*
Jackie Kennedy, *House Manager*
Mike McCoy, *Special Events and House Maintenance Director*

WEEKEND STAFF

Helen Adams
Jane Dumas
Jacqueline Griffie
Rose Nix
Tom Sherrill-Nix
Judy Poplawski

Don't miss these exciting upcoming House events!

December 3



The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host its **10th Annual Holiday Tea** on Saturday, December 3, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the **Townsend Hotel in Birmingham**. Tickets are \$65 per adult and \$25 per child.

The Jazzy Holiday Tea features live music, a small auction, and beautiful party gifts for each guest. There will also be appetizers, desserts, a cash mimosa bar, and plenty of yuletide fun!

This popular holiday event sells out each year, so be sure to reserve your spot by calling the House at 313-745-5911 or visiting www.rmhc-detroit.org/calendar-of-events.

If you or your company would like to sponsor this, or any event, there are plenty of opportunities! Call Jennifer @ 313-745-5911 for more details.

December 19

Golden Hearts Club Breakfast

Honoring our expansion campaign donors who have given \$10,000 or more, this special breakfast is hosted by the staff of the Ronald McDonald House with help from the **DoubleTree Hilton of Dearborn**. These fabulous donors have helped to fill the hearts of everyone involved in our campaign with hope and love. We look forward to celebrating them.



February 15

The Ten Man Jam at the Fillmore

Hosted by 99.5 WYCD, Detroit's Country, the **Ten Man Jam** is a unique, acoustic concert that features ten different country superstars, all together on one stage at the **Fillmore Detroit**. The 2017 Jam will feature a brand new VIP experience for friends of the Ronald McDonald House so be sure to Save The Date! There will be food, drinks, and special prizes! Watch the web and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tenmanjam) for more details about how you can get tickets to this exclusive event.



'Tis the Season...

The enclosed donation slip and return envelope are part of our **Expansion Campaign/Holiday Fundraising** appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit for your tax-deductible donation this holiday season.

What a Great Summer!

We had an AMAZING spring and summer full of fun events.

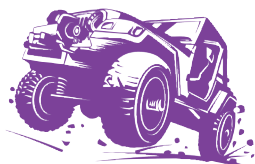
Motown in the Garden

Our **Garden Party** had a Motown theme this year, raising a record high \$22,800! The music and food were absolutely amazing and we can't wait for next summer's Beach Party!



Wheelin' for Ronald

Szott Auto Group hosted the annual **Wheelin' for Ronald** event at **Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park** and raised just over \$5,000! Heartfelt thanks to Brian Velkey and everyone at Szott Auto Group!



Escape to Belle Isle!

Our **Escape to Belle Isle** 5K, 10K, & Kids Fun Run had more than 300 runners and walkers this year, from toddlers to seniors, and even some four legged friends! Nearly \$9,000 was raised. A special thanks to event organizers Jenna and Milt Greenman. Jenna shared this inspiring story after the race, "This year we had a very special 55 year old gentleman register.



He has run our race before, but this year he had a stroke three months prior to the race. He had told his family 'I will be at Belle Isle in July.' He walked, with a cane, the entire 5K course with his four sons." Isn't it amazing what we can do when we put our minds to it!

Dream Cruise

The **2016 Saputo Family Dream Cruise** event was a huge success, bringing in more than \$2,300! Special thanks to Dave and Ryan Perry, John Perras, and Bob Sivori for making it all happen and to Bill, Teresa, and Jessica Saputo for their continued support.

GOah NOAH

GOah Noah celebrated it's 8th year of walking, running, and biking the trails of **Stoney Creek Metro Park**, raising nearly \$8,000 for the House in honor of Noah, who is officially 8 years cancer free! Thanks to Renee and Noah for their support!



Noah, left, and his friends get ready for the race!

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

Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing had perfect weather, with event chair Cary Adragna and his family bringing in a record turnout of golfers and \$40,000. Be sure to join the fun next year!

Cary Adragna (left) hosted this year's successful Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing.



Lingenfelter D-3 Event

The **Lingenfelter Dream Cars, Dream Cruise, Dream House** event was another great evening this summer. Despite the high temps, there was quite a crowd checking out the unique cars and fun prizes. Big thanks to Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter for hosting and raising \$20,000 this year. Everybody knows a car guy or gal who would LOVE this event so we'll keep you posted on next year's festivities!



Ken and Kristen Lingenfelter

Expansion Campaign Update

We are just inches away from the finish line of this expansion campaign and it is truly thanks to you, our amazing, dedicated, supportive friends and donors. With your help, we've been able to build this beautiful new house, full of all the things parents need to survive, while their child is undergoing treatment at one of our partner hospitals. If you haven't been to visit us yet, we invite you to come take a tour of your efforts.



BIG HEARTFELT thanks to our major investors:

GOLDEN HEARTS CLUB – (\$10,000 and above)

Mr. Cary Adragna	Greater Grace Temple	Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Ann V. Nicholson
Ally Financial Services	Greektown Casino-Hotel	Quicken Loans
Alpha Delta Pi Foundation, Inc.	Mr. Milt Greenman and Ms. Jenna Wright	Ronald McDonald House Charities – Global
Art Van	Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Guirey	Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Teresa Saputo
CAP Community Foundation, Inc.	JAMJOMAR, Inc. – James and Marla Thrower	Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Nancy Seavitt
Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation	Mr. Melvin Jones	Schulz Management
Ms. Aimee Cowher and Mr. Gary Cone	KukaCares Foundation	Systems Technology Group
David W. Elliot Memorial Foundation	La-Z-Boy	Mr. and Mrs. Thad and Robin E. Szott
Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Kristen Lingenfelter	The Carls Foundation
Employees of Granader Family Restaurants	Jennifer Litomisky and Val Newman	The Grainger Foundation
Mr. Aaron Engel	Lynn D. Morrow Estate	The Joe Kocur Foundation for Children
Fraternal Order of Eagles – Mt. Clemens Aerie No. 1269	Meijer Corporate Office	The Langenburg Family
Dr. Michael Fugle, D.O.	MJS Packaging	Village Green Management
GPG Enterprises, Inc. – The Granader Family	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Narens	Ms. Deborah Virgiles*
	National Hockey League – Detroit Red Wings	
	NAV Inc. McDonald's – Neil Chapatwala	

*Deceased

MAJOR INVESTORS – (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Arts, Beats, & Eats Foundation	Ms. Teresa Mullins-Hernalsteen
Bloomfield Hills Financial	Jon Fenlon Foundation
Causecast Foundation	K. Setter, Inc.
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	K.D.E., Inc.
Daughters of Isabella Michigan State Circle	Lucille J. Jennings Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Jan Dembs	Mann Foundation
Elliot Charitable Fund	McDonald's
Employees of the Martin Brower Company	Paymasters, Inc.
Mr. Francisco Gonzales	Mr. and Mrs. John and Laura Percival
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Julie Haggerty	Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Sara Pfau
	The Ryanne Akins Fund
	Szott Automotive

If you believe your name belongs on one of these lists, or you would like to change how your name is listed, please contact Linda Porter at 313-745-5909.

KUDOS CORNER



Valerie Hood

Valerie Hood recently retired from her role as "Chief Volunteer" at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, after 25 years of dedicated, loving service. That's longer than any current staff member has served the house! Everyone at the house loves Ms. Valerie. She was always ready to lend a hand no matter what project needed to be done and she made sure it was done right. She still stops in every now and then, to make sure we're all behaving ourselves, and never minds when we put her to work.

Ms. Valerie served as a friendly face and warm smile to hundreds of families who came through our doors and we are so thankful for her support. If you would like to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, please call Chrissy at 313-745-9487.



YES!

I want to donate to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit Holiday Fundraising/Expansion Campaign.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 Other (less than \$25) \$ _____

(make check payable to Ronald McDonald House of Detroit or see charge information below)

My Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

YES. I want to volunteer or learn more about helping with fundraising for the House.

I do not wish to receive the RMHD Newsletter.

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD:

Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Name on card: _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Billing address: _____

(Address and zip code MUST match card)

...or visit www.rmhc-detroit.org
to donate online!

Upcoming **RMHD EVENTS** *at a Glance*

■ **December 3, 2016** (Saturday)
HOLIDAY TEA

Townsend Hotel, Birmingham
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

■ **December 19, 2016** (Monday)
**GOLDEN HEARTS CLUB
BREAKFAST**

Ronald McDonald House of Detroit
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

■ **February 15, 2017** (Wednesday)
TEN MAN JAM

at the Fillmore, Detroit
Time TBA

■ **April 22, 2017** (Saturday)
SPRING TEA

Royal Park Hotel, Rochester
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

■ **June 2, 2017** (Friday)
VINNI GOLF OUTING

Fieldstone Golf Club
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

■ **June 15, 2017** (Thursday)
**BEACH PARTY
IN THE GARDEN**

Celebration @ The House
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

■ **July 15, 2017** (Saturday)
ESCAPE TO BELLE ISLE

5 and 10 K Run – Belle Isle
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

■ **July, 2017**
McBIKERS –

Boomers, Waterford
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

■ **August, 2017**
LINGENFELTER D-3 EVENT

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

■ **September, 2017**
WHEELIN' FOR RONALD

Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park –
Harrison, 10:00 a.m.

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

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And don't forget to follow us on Twitter at [RMHC_Detroit](https://twitter.com/RMHC_Detroit).