

Fall 2010



Home Front

A publication of
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

Dear Friends of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit:

***“It takes hands to build a house,
but only hearts can build a home.”***

– Author Unknown

As we think back to our childhood home, most of us have fond memories. It was a place where we could find comfort in our parents’ loving arms, a home-cooked meal where everyone gathered around the table to eat and share the day’s activities and a place to lay our weary heads after a long day of playing. It was a safe haven. It was the heart and soul of our family.

For the past 31 years, the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit has been a safe haven for 34,732 families. Our “home away from home” has been there for the families of sick children since 1979. Each family that comes together under the same roof at the Ronald McDonald House becomes part of a larger nurturing family unit, made up of other guests, volunteers and staff.

Our 25 bedroom house is “home” to approximately 1,200 families a year. Our home has a kitchen available so families can cook meals, a playroom for children to play, two living rooms, a fully stocked pantry, two laundry facilities, a workout facility and Wi-Fi throughout the House so that families can stay connected and keep friends and other family members informed their child’s medical progress.

Hearts built this House 31 years ago and hearts have maintained it. We have over 220 volunteers, 25 committed board members and a staff that works tirelessly to make sure the families and their children have a safe, comfortable stay.



Michigan is currently experiencing tough economic times. But we continue to see the giving spirit from the thousands of donors who continue to make an investment in our charity. We receive funds, non-perishable food, paper products, office supplies, pop tabs, furniture and bedding. All donations, no

matter the size, are accepted and are used to make a comfortable setting for the families and children.

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NOTE: A special ‘Incentive’ tax credit law has been enacted by the State of Michigan. If you are a Michigan resident, your gift to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of SE Michigan is eligible for 50% tax credit limited to a gift of \$200 (\$100 credit) per year for individuals and \$400 (\$200 credit) to those filing joint returns. Consult your tax advisor for details.

Please Note: The enclosed donation slip and return envelope is part of our Holiday Fundraising Appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit for your year-end, tax-deductible donation.





Great Events Raise BIG BUCKS

International Academy of Design & Technology Sponsors *Imagine Fashion Show* and Cooks Meals at the House!

Students and faculty organized the *Imagine Fashion Show* at the Fox Theater to benefit the House this past spring and it was an incredible success! Over 2,000 attendees enjoyed the 'fash' and splash of the evening with the program and fashions designed by the students of IADT. The event raised \$2,000 for the House and IADT plans on hosting another fundraiser in the spring of 2011.

The faculty has cooked meals almost monthly for the residents of the House. This past summer they organized a big cook out with summertime foods and drinks. IADT President, **Cynthia Bechill** and **Barb Bubnikovich**, Director of Regulatory Operations, Culinary and Art & Design SBU, Career Education Corporation of IADT were newly appointed to the RMHC Board of Directors and have brought a wealth of new funds and friends to the House!



IADT Faculty at the 2010 summer cookout.

Wine in the Garden

The *Wine in the Garden, Country Style*, held on June 17, was a wonderful success, raising \$7,000 for the House! The weather was perfect, with over 90 guests touring the House, enjoying country music, a good old fashion BBQ and wine. There was live music and entertainment provided by **Julianne**.



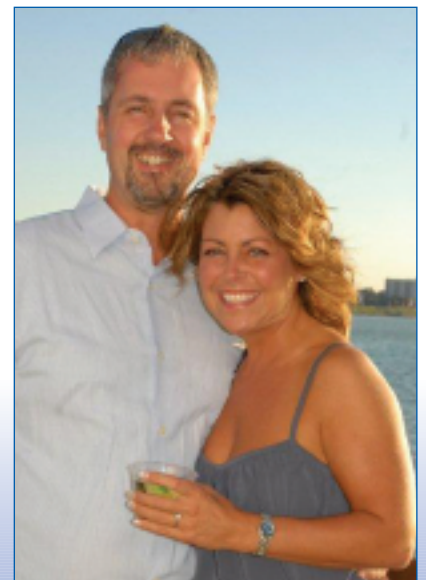
Guests enjoy a gorgeous day in the RMH Gardens

Cruisin' on the River Gala 2010

On August 27, we decided to do another event on the Detroit Princess Riverboat. Over 100 guests joined us on the cruise and enjoyed live music, a caricature artist, silent auction, 50-50 raffle, delicious food and a perfect sunset!

Quicken Loans and **Art Van Furniture** were the sponsors of this year's cruise!

Mark your schedules for next year's cruise – **Friday, August 26, 2011. See you there!**



Board member, **Tim Turczyn** & Fiancé **Stacey Reynolds**

for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing

On Friday, June 4, 2010 the 8th Annual Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, *Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing* took place at Fieldstone Golf Course in Auburn Hills. Each year, family and friends volunteer to host this event to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, and this year we raised about \$15,000.

During this event, there was a number of door prizes and contest that people could participate in. Some of the contests that were held were the *Par Three, Hole in One, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin* and a *50/50 Drawing*. The contests and door prizes not only added excitement to the fun, but all of the donations that were made went to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit's operation costs. Throughout the eight years that this event has taken place, a grand total of over \$90,000 has been raised to benefit the House!



Past Board President, John Kostecki and Event Chair, Cary Adragna

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

In the English tradition, afternoon tea is served as a social, relaxing and unique experience. Fine, loose rolled teas are enhanced with satisfying fare, including delicious finger sandwiches, hot spinach pie and vegetarian quiche, orange cranberry scones with lemon curd and pastries that will make your mouth water.

Holiday Tea @ the Townsend **December 4th**



Classical music, Waterford chandeliers and mahogany wood provide a charming backdrop for this traditional, refined celebration of friends and family. Afternoon Tea is offered for all – mothers and daughters, fathers and daughters, birthdays, anniversaries, bridal and baby showers, charity events, office parties and holidays.

Join us for our **5th Annual Holiday Tea @ the Townsend** on Saturday, December 4, 2010, from Noon to 2:00 p.m. A small, silent auction, a live auction, raffles and wonderful holiday spirits will be on order!

This is a sell-out event, so make your reservations today! Tickets are \$55 each and can be purchased at 313-745-5911 or by PayPal.

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call Jennifer at 313-745-5911 for details, or check out our website, www.rmhc-detroit.org, to register or to become a sponsor via PayPal.

This Year!

Partnership:



Ronald McDonald House of Detroit is pleased to announce a fundraising partnership with **Artful Vision**.

Over the course of a year, everyone needs thoughtful, clever gifts for birthdays, holidays, and special occasions. Why not shop where 20% of every sale is donated to Ronald McDonald House of Detroit plus the merchandise is clever and special, and everything is made in the U.S.A.

Organized as an online art fair, Artful Vision includes jewelry, accessories, greeting cards, photography, paintings, prints, and home décor, as well as music, books, and dress up clothes for children. And, when you want to let them choose the gift themselves – gift certificates are available.

With each and every gift you purchase, Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will benefit. Visit often, and make **artfulvision.com** your first choice for unique, treasured gifts.

Help Ronald McDonald House of Detroit spread the word to your friends, family and co-workers by forwarding this link: **artfulvision.com**. The more people who participate, the greater the difference we can all make.

Artful Vision – where art and community equal change for the greater good.

“Artful Vision is one more premier opportunity for our supporters to buy a thoughtful gift for a friend or loved one and gives an investment to our charity. We are pleased and proud to be one of Artful Visions’ charities of choice!” – Jen Litomisky

Children’s Day Rally and McBiker Events!

Children’s Day Rally

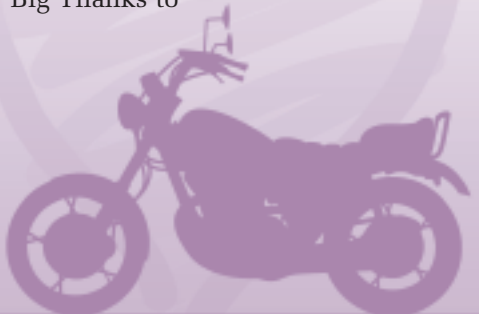
Bill Saputo Jr. and his committee organized the **Third Annual Children’s Day Rally** which was held on August 29 and was a great success again this year. Bill raised over \$7,000 this year for the House in Detroit. It was a beautiful day, sunny and around 90 degrees.

“There were about fifty-five bikers that gathered for this event” said organizer, Bill Saputo. “The routes that were chosen were scenic routes and traffic free. The bonds between the riders from the year before were strengthened as we enjoyed another great day on the bikes in support of such a great cause. We ended the day with cold beverages, great food and \$10, 000 in prizes given away.”

McBiker Event

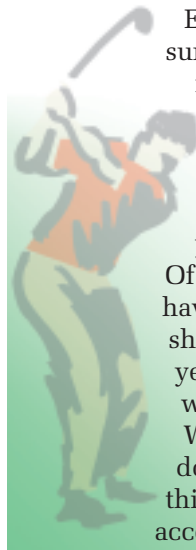
Peter Donaghue and his committee organized the **12th Annual McBiker Event** at the Harley Davison, ABC Store in Waterford, Michigan on Sunday, July 11. Over 300 bikers supported the event his year and Peter and his committee hope to raise over \$10,000 for both the Detroit and Ann Arbor Houses!

Big Thanks to



Guirey Golf Outing

This event on Saturday, August 21, produced a grand total of \$4,897.88. This is 25% and almost \$1,000 higher than last year, with 14 fewer golfers. This was an awesome result that would not have been possible without all of the volunteers help!



Each year we have surpassed the previous in the total donation raised for the Ronald McDonald House. Two years ago \$2,500 and last year over \$3,900! Of course, you have to have a goal so why not shoot for the stars. This year’s target for 2010 was reaching \$5,000. We fell just a few dollars short, but still this was an amazing accomplishment!

Dear Friends...

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John McCleod’s poem reminds us of what home means and our Ronald McDonald House of Detroit matches his sentiment.

*If Home is where the heart is
Then may your Home be blessed
A shelter from the storms of Life
A place of rest,
And when each day is over
And toil put in its place
Your Home’s dear warmth
Will bring its smile
To light the saddest face!*

Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Your investment of time, funds or volunteerism is always welcomed and always appreciated.

Jennifer J. Litomisky
Executive Director

A Big
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
- International Association of Home Stagers
- JC Plumbing
- Johnson Controls Inc.
- La-Z-Boy
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- McCann Foods
- ME Consultants
- Pepsi Bottling Co.
- Quicken Loans
- Radisson
- Ronald McDonald House
- Board Members
- Sander's
- Southeast Michigan McDonald's Owners Association (SEMMAA)
- The English Touch – Heather Roberts
- USA Today
- Walmart
- We Stage Greater Detroit – Carolyn Stieger
- Wisner Electric

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

Wish List – for The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit!

Make your holiday donation today!

Urgent Needs

- WHITE Queen Sheet Sets
- Hand-held Games: PSP + Games, Nintendo DS + Games.
- Wii or PS 3 with games
- Used but in working condition Laptops for the families to use while at the House

Food & Kitchen Supplies

- Sugar, flour
- Cooking oil
- Spices
- Microwave popcorn
- Salt and pepper
- Frozen dinners (any brand)
- Canned soup (any brand or type)
- Paper plates
- Cups and glasses
- Plastic utensils
- Silverware
- Aluminum foil
- Waxed paper
- Plastic wrap
- Sandwich baggies
- Zip Loc bags (all sizes)

Also, you can supply the House with non-perishable foods or prepare a meal for the families at the House. Canned food drives are a wonderful gift to the House!

Office Supplies

- Batteries – AA, AAA, C, D and 9 volt
- Light bulbs – 60, 75, 100 watts and 3-way
- 37 cent 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, White Out
- Permanent markers – all colors
- Advantix film 400 ASA
- Colored file folders
- Printer ink – please call if you wish to purchase for one of our three printers

Cleaning and Laundry Supplies

- Dow bathroom cleaner – Windex
- Laundry detergent
- Dishwasher and dish soap
- Fabric softener sheets (any brand)
- Bleach (Color Safe Clorox)
- Comet cleanser
- Pine Sol
- Air fresheners spray
- Air fresheners solids
- Glade Plug-Ins and sprays
- Carpet Fresh

Bedroom & Bathroom

- White sheets – flat or fitted – twin and queen size

- Standard pillows
- Towels, hand, bath and wash cloths
- Mattress pads – queen and twin size
- Clock radios
- Shower curtains and liners
- Toilet paper, Kleenex,

Children

- Video games for Nintendo Game Cube
- Games for Play Station
- Newly released videos
- Disposable diapers
- Portable cribs
- Strollers

Big items

- Twin and queen size mattress sets
- White appliances:
- Washers, dryers and refrigerators

Toys! Toys! Toys!

- Legos
- CD players / musical toys
- Remote control toys
- Educational toys
- Braille Books / toys for two blind Girls (ages 7 & 13)
- Arts and Crafts kits

We accept toys for children of all ages. Please help by donating toys for the children that stay at our House.

Remember, its cash and gifts-in-kind that will help the families that stay at the Ronald McDonald of Detroit. **Please make your donation today!**
Contact Jennifer Litomisky, Executive Director at 313-745-5911 for more information.

Board of Directors and Staff -2010

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Emeritus

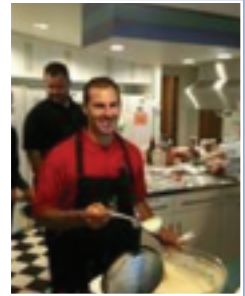
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Irma Hudson
Resident House Manager
Mike McCoy
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Jeannine Monkowski
Data Entry Manager
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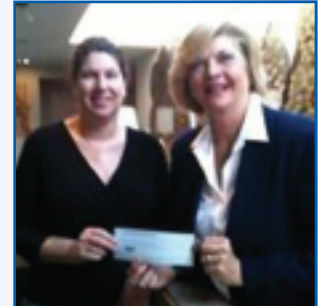
Donors Corner!

Kudos to **Szott Automotive Group**, Chrysler Jeep and Dodge Ram for their room renovation and monthly meal preparation!



*Thad Szott Prepares
a Breakfast Buffet*

Big thanks to the **Michigan State Circle Daughters of Isabella** for their \$3,400 donation and meal preparations several times a year!



*Daughters of Isabella
donate \$3,400 Check!*

Check Out our NEW Website
www.rmhc-detroit.org

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