

Spring 2010



# Home Front

A publication of  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

## **a Place for Sharing, a Place for Friendship, a Place for Healing...**

*A story of two mothers and their families, going through very difficult times, who find healing through conversation and friendship at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.*



**P**am sits at the dining room table looking out the window at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. She's been in that seat many times before; looking at the winter snow, admiring the spring flowers, watching the green summer grass being mowed and seeing October leaves. She's watched many seasons change since 2003. Pam and her family have stayed here ten times and as long as three months at a time.

The first visit, in 2003, Pam was alone, scared and worried. Her son, Caleb, just eight years old, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor that was cancerous. When it was first discovered, the tumor was slow growing and the trips to Children's Hospital of Michigan were not as frequent. But then in 2008, the tumor started to grow rapidly. Late that year, Caleb suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed on the left side.

Pam stayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit often that year and the next. She took her son to rehab so that he could learn to walk and use his hands and arms.

2010 has been the most difficult year yet for Pam and Caleb's his brothers and sisters. In February, he had another stroke and was put on hyperbaric oxygen therapy to help with his brain function. This year, the family has been at the hospital and the Ronald

McDonald House, more than they've been home. Just since April, Pam and her family have been to the hospital six times. Caleb has not regained the use of his arm or hand, but Pam and his six siblings keeps the faith.

Pam is rarely alone when sitting at that dining room table at the Detroit Ronald McDonald House. Right next to her, since 2003, is Sue.

Sue and her husband, along with their children, Samantha and Michael, have stayed at the House 28 times since 1994. Her son, David, was diagnosed with Hydro Salu and has undergone 160 surgeries. David was given a shunt that worked well for 11 years. Then in March 2005, the shunt malfunctioned and their long journey back and forth from home to the Children's Hospital of Michigan began again, along with many days and nights at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

Sue and Pam sit at that dining room table, where they comfort each other through depression, crying spells and despair as each mom struggles to find hope in their darkest hours.

Sue and Pam just don't share the grief of critically ill sons. They share a special bond of friendship that began while staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

*continued on page 4*



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



# Mark Your Calendars for AWES

## Register NOW for the Eighth Annual Vinni's Children's Charity Golf Outing

**Friday, June 4th – Get your clubs ready!**

It's time for our *eighth annual Vinnie's Children's Charity Golf Outing* and we're anticipating a large crowd so get your clubs ready and join us at **The Fieldstone Golf Club**, a beautiful course designed by the award winning Arthur Hills.

- Range Balls and Practice Facility Included!
- 18 Hole Scramble Format
- First, Second and Third Place Teams receive great prizes!
- Par Three Hole in One Contest
- Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin Contest
- Lunch on the Course with Beverage
- Many more prizes!
- 50/50 Drawing
- Silent Auction

**Shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m.**

**Registration Begins at 12:00 noon**

**Dinner will be served between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.**

**The Fieldstone Golf Club,**

1984 Taylor Road, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Phone: (248) 370-9354

Lapeer Road, just south of I-75

**Registration is \$110.00 per Golfer or \$550.00 per foursome** (Please submit entry by June 1, after June 1, \$125 per golfer).

**You may enter 4 Golfers and hole sponsor: \$550.00** (Please submit golf team/hole sponsor entry by June 1, after June 1, \$625).

Or you may just join us for dinner/ program and auction: **\$25 per ticket.**



If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call Jennifer at 313-745-5911 for more details – OR check out our NEW Website to register or become a sponsor via PayPal!

**We would like to thank all our participating Vinni Golf Outing Title 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; Jo Ann MacWilliams Wolf/Raymond James; and CK Diggs.

### **Charity Golf Donations!**

**Donate your new or pre-owned golf clubs to Charity Golf.**

Select the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit to benefit from the proceeds of the sale of your clubs. If requested, the donor is sent an email or letter from Charity Golf listing the equipment donated. The donor determines the estimated value of their donation for tax purposes.

That's all there is to it! Contact Charity Golf at [info@charitygolfmi.org](mailto:info@charitygolfmi.org) or 800-251-9015 for more information.

Check out their website at [charitygolfus.org](http://charitygolfus.org)



# OME Ronald McDonald House of Detroit Events!

## Wine in the Garden – *Country Style* – Featuring Julianne Thursday, June 17th!

This year, we are fortunate to have a true country superstar performing at our **Wine in the Garden** event!

**Julianne** stayed at the House 18 years ago with a critically ill son and recently she came back to visit the House. She gave the staff awesome news that her son is well and graduating from college. Now Julianne wants to give back to our Ronald McDonald House! Julianne will donate her time and love for the House by providing the entertainment at this year's

### *Wine in the Garden – Country Style.*

This year's menu includes BBQ Ribs and Country-Fixin's. Delicious desserts and wine will be provided – **all for just \$50!**



Come out to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit and relax in the

beautiful gardens and enjoy music provided by Julianne!

Julianne was nominated for three 2010 Detroit Music Awards: Outstanding Video/Independent Budget for “No Place For A Lullabye;” Outstanding Country Recording for “It Ain’t Over” and Outstanding Country Vocalist.

*“Julianne is what music is all about... unique, talented, capable of singing with emotion, and delivers a powerful, original message.”*

– Tim Roberts, Program Director, WYCD-FM Detroit.

*“A red hot singer and stage presence to burn down the house”*

– Brian Harper, WSAQ-FM, WYCD-FM, Detroit.

**Register TODAY!**  
*This event sells-out every year!*

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, please call **Jennifer** @ 313-745-5911 for more details – OR check out our website – [www.rmhc-detroit.org](http://www.rmhc-detroit.org) to register or become a sponsor via PayPal!

## McBikers and Children's Day Rally July 18th & August 29th

This year the RMHC is fortunate to have two benefit motorcycle rides for the Detroit House!

On **Sunday, July 18th**, McDonald Owner/Operator, **Peter Donahue** will host his ride in Waterford, Michigan (ABC Harley).

McDonald Owner/Operator, **Bill Saputo, Jr.**, will host the **Third Annual Children's Day Rally** on **Sunday, August 29th**. Register at McDonald's - 2985 Walton Blvd., in Rochester Hills.

These two events raised over \$15,000 for the House in 2009!

Please call the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit @ 313-745-5909 (or [www.rmhc-detroit.org](http://www.rmhc-detroit.org)) for tickets and/or more information. You may also email Bill Saputo Jr. at: <mailto:childrensdayrally@yahoo.com>



## **“Cruising’ on the Detroit River” for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit!**

**August 27th**

Last year’s 30th Anniversary Cruise was so successful and so much fun that we decided to do it again! We’re hoping you join us this year for food, drinks, music and lots of fun, not to mention the great views of Detroit and Windsor on the Detroit River, Princess!



Originally named Players Riverboat Casino II, the Princess was built in Louisiana in 1993 and used as a gambling boat in Illinois for a number of years. After arriving in Toledo in 2004, it underwent a complete re-fit to operate as a restaurant. Now servicing as many as 1800 passengers on party cruises, the Detroit Princess calls the Detroit River home.

Come out and take a ride with us. It will be a memorable night!  
**Friday, August 27, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$100 per person.**

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, please call Jennifer @ **313-745-5911**, or check out our website – [www.rmhc-detroit.org](http://www.rmhc-detroit.org) – to register to become a sponsor via PayPal!

## **a Place for Healing...**

*continued from page 1*

Sue sums up here feelings about her stays at the House and the friendships she’s developed over the years this way:

*“Everybody at the House is so wonderful in so many ways. I can come back from Children’s Hospital feeling depressed and crying and as soon as I walk in the door, there is always someone to talk to.”*

The families that stay at our House often comment that a lot of healing takes place during the long hours of conversations around meals in the dining room. Here, they not only find a home cooked meal and a clean bedroom, but lifelong friendships, a shoulder to cry on and an ear to listen. After all, each family is going through the same things and they all understand.

**Please remember your spring donation. Make an investment in a family at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit today so that we may continue to support the thousands of families that call our House their ‘home-away-from-home’.**

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## **NEW and EXCITING The RMH Charities of SE Michigan (Detroit) Website!**

With the assistance of **SAMSA Web Design**, RMHC Marketing Chair, **Lauri Steeland** and our new IADT Intern, **Donald Maxwell**, the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit has new website which should be live by the time this newsletter is in print!

The new site will have several new areas for people to explore. There’s a new events calendar, a new video, meal preparation sign-up sheet, designated giving area, FAQ page and so much more!

Please check out the new site today! [www.rmhc-detroit.org](http://www.rmhc-detroit.org)

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

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

The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host the 5th **Tea at the Townsend**, scheduled for **Saturday, December 4th** at the Townsend Hotel, from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55 each.

Every year, over 90 guests join the festivities which include a small auction and beautiful party gifts for each guest. There will also be appetizers, small bite desserts and plenty of yuletide fun!

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.

If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, there are all kinds of opportunities! Call Jennifer @ **313-745-5911** for details, or check our website – [www.rmhc-detroit.org](http://www.rmhc-detroit.org) – to register or become a sponsor via PayPal!



A Big  
Thank You  
to our  
Major Donors!

- Bissell
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- Dr. Pepper
- Ford Motor Company
- Georgia-Pacific
- General Motors
- International Association of Home Stagers
- JC Plumbing
- Johnson Controls Inc.
- Lachinva and Loverich
- M and M
- McCann Foods
- ME Consultants
- Pepsi Bottling Co.
- Radisson
- Ronald McDonald House Board Members
- Sam's Club
- Sander's
- Southeast Michigan McDonald's Owners Association (SEMMOA)
- The English Touch - Heather Roberts
- USA Today
- Volkswagen America
- Walmart
- Westin Book Cadillac
- Wisner Electric

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

We need your  
donations!

- ♥ **Money** – Cash/ Check/Charge
- ♥ **White Sheet Sets** – Queen/Twin
- ♥ **Mattress pads**
- ♥ **Laundry Detergent**
- ♥ **Gift Cards** – Meijers, Best Buy, Home Depot, Office Depot, CVS, etc.
- ♥ **Toys** – NEW
- ♥ **Non-perishable Foods**
- ♥ **Cleaning Goods**
- ♥ **Office Supplies**

You can either 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!

**Toys! Toys! Toys!** 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!

Please contact: **Jennifer Litomisky**, Executive Director at 313-745-5911 for more information.

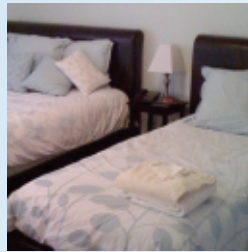
## Kudos Corner!

### **The New Weekend Manager's Room**

Every year there are so many people, donors and companies that give to our Ronald McDonald House Charities of SE Michigan. All of the donations are GREATLY appreciated!

We like to highlight the donations of a new group in every newsletter. This issue, we want to recognize our friends at the **Detroit Hamtramck General Motors (GM) Plant** who recently renovated the Weekend Manager's room!

For over a month, several GM team members worked on the renovation, which included a new hardwood floor, new beds, fresh paint, closet organizer, flat screen television, photos and a newly renovated bathroom. Our Weekend Managers now have a great room to rest and relax while taking care of the House!



Thank you so much GM Hamtramck!

### **Quicken Loans Donates Portable Computer Stations**

A group of Information Technology team members from **Quicken Loans** came out in December to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House. The team, along with their director, **Todd Horner**, saw the need for computer stations for families to use

in all areas of the House. They worked toward putting those new computers on rolling carts. **Nick Pahl**, technician for Quicken put the computers together and the team personally delivered the computers to the House in March. The families are now able to sign-out the computers and use them in the living rooms, dining rooms and all common areas. It was a very useful, thoughtful donation to the families at the House. Big thanks to everyone at Quicken Loans.

### **Walmart Collects Pop Tabs**

Big thanks to **Walmart - Flint/Thumb Stores** for collecting over \$400 in pop tabs for the House! Remember to snap those tabs for a good cause!



### **Future Plans**

**The International Association of Home Stagers (IAHSP) Greater Detroit Chapter**, plans to renovate the upstairs living room of the House in 2010. Kudos to RMHC Board Member, **Carolyn Stieger** and her chapter for this awesome donation!

## Board of Directors and Staff -2010

### Officers

John Jackson, *President*  
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*Resident House Manager*  
Mike McCoy  
*Special Events and House Maintenance Director*  
Jeannine Monkowski  
*Data Entry Manager*  
Tim Cowley  
*Accountant*

## Welcome New Board Member!

We want to welcome our four new board members to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeast Michigan!

### **Cynthia Bechill**

*President*  
*International Academy of Design & Technology*

### **Barb Bubnikovich:**

*Director of Regulatory Operations*  
*Culinary and Art & Design SBU*  
*Career Education Corporation*

### **Joel McCormick**

*Director of National Accounts*  
*Coca Cola Company*

### **Lenny Williams**

*National Sales Manager*  
*Royal Park Hotel*

We are pleased to have our new board members on the RMH Team and look forward to their many years of contributions and service!

Visit our NEW Website

[www.rmhc-detroit.org](http://www.rmhc-detroit.org)

*Address Service Requested*

3911 Beaubien Blvd.  
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