



Spring 2014

Home Front

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan

Forever Grateful for the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

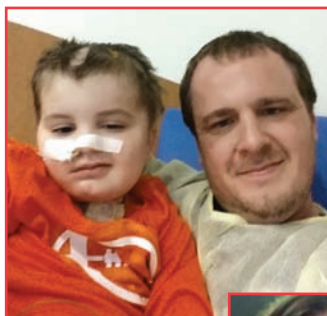
My husband and I have been living at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit since November of 2013. This house is more than just a place to take a shower, get some sleep and grab a bite to eat; a new family is created here.

We took our son, Collin, to the hospital because he was having some unexplainable bruising, but the hospital could not make an immediate diagnosis. Shortly after the visit to the hospital, we got Collin settled into bed one night after a long day of playing and taking prescribed medications for the bruising. The unthinkable happened the next morning. Collin didn't wake up. He started hemorrhaging in his brain overnight. After surgeries and more testing, we found that Collin had a very rare and very severe case of Aplastic Anemia. We had no idea how to handle this or where this road was going to take us.

We came to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit, exhausted, angry, and depressed. But the staff was very friendly and was there for our every need. They provided us with whatever we needed, such as toiletries, books, toys for the other children, a shoulder to cry on and home-cooked meals.

It only costs \$10 a night to stay at the House, but even if a family cannot pay, they will not ever be turned away.

As much as you don't want your child in the hospital, or how badly you would like to sleep in your own bed, the



Ray Gilbert and his son, Collin

Ronald McDonald House is truly a "home away from home". They provide families with comfort and support in a way that gives privacy, but also lets them know that they are not alone in this.

All the families that stay here have a different story to tell. Families compare stories with one another and create bonds and friendships that help them get through the most difficult times. Families share their struggles, cry together and find happiness within each other. There is great support for each other in this home.

We have spent Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Collin's 4th birthday, Valentine's Day, Saint Patrick's Day, and Easter at the House and in the hospital. Every day, not just

the other residents, but the staff as well, asks about how Collin is and all the progress he has made. The staff is genuinely concerned and share the joys and setbacks with you just as much as the other residents.

We have cooked meals at the House for other families while staying here and volunteered in other ways. When it is our turn to go home, we will continue to come back and cook for the families that are here. The Ronald McDonald House has been a blessing for us.

*Thank you Ronald McDonald House
for all that you have done!
We will be forever grateful!*

— Raechel Gilbert



Raechel Gilbert and her son, Collin.



Please Note: The enclosed donation slip and return envelope is part of our Spring fundraising appeal. Please remember the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit for your tax-deductible donation.

2014

UPCOMING EVENTS *at a Glance*

May 17th

THE SPRING TEA
(formerly Mother/Child Tea) at the
Royal Park Hotel – 12:00 p.m.

June 6th

VINNI GOLF OUTING
Fieldstone Golf Club – 9:00 a.m.

June 19th

**WINE IN THE GARDEN –
A TASTE OF ITALY**
Ronald McDonald
House of Detroit – 6:00 p.m.

July 19th

ESCAPE TO BELLE ISLE
5 and 10 K Run
Belle Isle – 8:00 a.m.

July 27th

McBIKERS
Sharks Club, Waterford

August 7th

**DREAM CARS, DREAM HOUSE,
DREAM CRUISE**
(Pre-event) to benefit the New
Ronald McDonald House of Detroit

August 24th

JERRY GUIREY GOLF OUTING
8:00 a.m.

August 25th

**GREEKTOWN CASINO-HOTEL'S
6TH ANNUAL CHARITY
GOLF OUTING**

October 4th

GOab-NOAH
5K and Walk – 8:00 a.m.

October 18th

**FARMER CHARLEY'S CORN
MAZE DAYS**

December 6th

**HOLIDAY TEA @
THE TOWNSEND HOTEL,**
12:00 p.m.

FABULOUS and FUN Events for 2014!

4th Annual Mother Child Tea at the Beautiful Royal Park Hotel



Please join us for our **4th Spring Tea** Saturday, May 17th at the Royal Park Hotel. This year, the triple-crown event chairpersons, Deborah Virgiles, Teresa Mullins and Teresa Saputo will be hosting an elegant tea in one of the beautiful ballrooms where they hope to serve 300 guests!

This is a sell-out event, so please be sure to RSVP early!

Come join us at this gorgeous event and celebrate spring with delicious tea, tasty food and desserts. Buy a special gift for mom at the special silent auction.

Tickets are \$60 per adult and \$30 per child.

Special thanks **Deborah Virgiles, Teresa Mullins** and **Teresa Saputo**, McDonald Owner/Operators, for their lead sponsorship of this event.

12th Annual Vinni Golf Outing

Grab your clubs and tees and join us at the **2014 Vinni Golf Outing** on June 6th. You can register and pay online at: www.rmhc-detroit.org or call the front office at 313-745-5909. We accept Visa, MC, Amex and Discover.

PLEASE NOTE:

Remember, our starting time is 9:00 a.m. Please plan on arriving at 8:00 a.m. for registration!



Vinni Golf Chair, Cary Adragna, (pictured second from the right) celebrates year 12 of his outing!



Special Recognition to the MCDONALD'S OWNER/ OPERATORS – SEMMOA for their PLATINUM PLUS Sponsorship of \$15,000 to the Vinni Golf Outing!

Thanks to our other sponsors this year: **Coca Cola; USA Today; Dr. Pepper; McCain Foods; Pepsi Bottling; Jaguar; Outback Steakhouse; Group Associates; Take 2 Authentics; Papa Joe's; Nino Salvaggio, CK Diggs** and many more!

*This is a sellout event and we will only accept 144 golfers.
Please RSVP as soon as possible!*

Support the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit in 2014!

Italy in the Garden – June 19

Every year for the past several years, the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit has hosted an annual event at the House around the Summer Solstice. This signature event is typically a 'Wine in the Garden' theme party for over 100 guests. Tours of facility and gardens are part of this wonderful evening.



In the past, we've had Hawaiian themes; Polish themes, Summer Solstice themes and Country Western themes. This year we are pleased to announce that we are having **Italy in the Garden!** Delicious Italian food, desserts, wine and other drinks will highlight this year's garden party! A few of the restaurants donating to this wonderful event this year: **Penna's, Giovanni's and Tremonte.**

This is a sell out event, so please RSVP early at: 313.745.5909! Tickets are \$60 per person. Wine, beer and other drinks will be included!

Escape to Belle Isle 5 and 10 K Run – July 19



Join us for our newest event – **Escape to Belle Isle** on July 19th, on Belle Isle at 8:00 a.m.

Flat and fast 5k, 10k, and Kids fun run starting and ending at the beautiful Belle Isle Casino. Shirts will be given to all participants and custom medals to all finishers. Kids run receive, shirts, medals, and a trophy to finishers! Entry fees: Kids Fun Run/Belle Isle Dash – \$20 + \$3 processing fee. 5K Run/Walk – \$25 + \$3 processing fee. 10K Run - \$25 + \$3 processing fee.

August 7th – Join US to see some of the rarest cars in the world!

You, your company, group or civic organization can be a major investor in rebuilding the **NEW Ronald McDonald House of Detroit** with the **Dream Cars, Dream House and Dream Cruise Pre-Event (D-3 Event)** at the private Lingenfelter Collection!



On August 7, 2014, organizers are hosting a private party and tour of the Lingenfelter Car Collection. The Collection 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.

**Sponsorship Opportunities for the D-3 Event –
Help Rebuild the New Detroit Ronald McDonald House of Detroit!
Please call the House for sponsorship opportunities.**

This will sell out and seats are limited! Please call the House at 313.745.5909 for more details. Tickets are \$75 general admission and \$100 VIP. Heavy appetizers, drinks and entertainment will be part of this exciting event!

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

Holiday Tea @ the Townsend



The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit will host the **9th Tea @ the Townsend** scheduled for Saturday, **December 6th** at the Townsend Hotel, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55 each.

A special fashion show and live entertainment will be the feature of the tea this year! 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 more details – OR check out our website: www.rmhc-detroit.org and register or become a sponsor.

More 2014 Events!

McBikers

On Sunday, July 27th McDonald Owner/Operator, **Peter Donaghue**, will once again host his ride in Waterford, Michigan. The ride starts in the morning and ends at The Shark's Club – with great food, drinks and raffles!

Please contact the House for details on the event.

Big thanks to *Peter and Nancy Donaghue* for sponsoring this incredible event that benefits both the Detroit and Ann Arbor Houses!

GOah! Noah!

In 2009, nine year-old Noah was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer. Noah and his family's lives were changed at that moment. Right then, the family decided that they wanted to celebrate their hero, Noah, and heighten awareness for all effected by this disease. They organized the first GoAh! Noah event four years ago and this year, the **4th Annual GOah! Noah** event will be held on Saturday, October 4th at the **Stoney Creek Metro Park!**



Show your support! Help build hope for little Noah. Please join us for the **5th Annual GOah! Noah! Block Party Bicycle Ride & Walk**. Call 313.745.5909 or go to www.rmhc-detroit.org to register or to make a donation.

RMHD is Named as a Finalist for Coveted Best Managed Non-Profit Award

This year's Crain's Best-Managed Nonprofit Contest focused on nonprofits with budgets under \$3 million. The Ronald McDonald House of Detroit was named a **Crain's Best**

Managed Non-Profit Finalist – 2013. The House was evaluated on its fundraising strategies, management goals, business model and marketing initiatives.



The selection of Finalists was based on a variety of criteria. Among them: finding ways to do more with less, collaborative efforts and cost-sharing strategies, and modifications in programming that has resulted in the organization being better-able to meet the needs of its service recipients.

To be named as a top candidate and a finalist by Crain's as a Best-Managed Nonprofit is a very distinguished recognition, as there are over 30,000 non-profit agencies in Michigan.

The other Finalists include: Clinton River Watershed Council, Mariners Inn, 826 Michigan, Winning Futures and the winner, Mercy Education Project.

Everyone associated with the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit – Volunteers, Donors, Advocates and Ronald McDonald House of Detroit Staff Members – played an integral role in attaining this level of success and it is because of their hard work and dedication that we received this important and highly coveted recognition.

CUT OUT AND RAISE FUNDS FOR THE RMH OF DETROIT!

Come out and support the RMHD and have an a-MAZE-ing Adventure

Come out to **Farmer Charley's Corn Maze Adventures**, bring this coupon and receive \$1.00 off and \$1.00 will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit! (Tickets \$10 per person. Additional coupons can be found on our website)

Mazes Open October 12th to November 2nd.

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Featuring the New RMH Logo Maze

Saturday, October 18th !



Farmer Charley's Corn Mazes and Farm

6421 N Stoney Creek Road
Monroe, MI 48162

734.240.0825

Kudos CORNER!

ANG Members Prepare a Meal and Donate Funds!



Members of the 127 Wing of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base have been long-time volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. They prepare meals, donate House items and recently raised over \$3,000 for the chapter. HATS off to everyone at Selfridge!

Thank You... to Our Major Donors!

- Art Van Furniture
- Bissell
- CBS
- Coca-Cola
- Detroit Yacht Club
- Dr. Pepper
- FOA – Mt. Clemens
- Ford Motor Company
- Georgia-Pacific
- General Motors
- Greenman Family
- Hansons Window – 1-800-HANSONS
- Home Depot – Lake Orion Store
- IADT – Detroit Campus
- JC Plumbing
- Johnson Controls Inc.
- La-Z-Boy
- Lachinva and Loverich
- McDonald's SEMMOA
- M and M
- McCann Foods
- ME Consultants
- Quicken Loans
- Radisson
- Ronald McDonald House Board Members
- Southeast Michigan McDonald's Owner Association (SEMMOA)
- Southwest Airlines
- Szott Family
- UAW-Ford
- USA Today
- WellDyne
- Walmart
- Wisner Electric

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

RMHD Wish List...

Make your donation today!

There are many ways you can help us provide a **home away from home** for families in need. You could prepare a meal for the families at the House or supply the House with non-perishable food items. Canned food drives are a wonderful gift to the House! And we always need new toys for children that stay at our House.

Remember, it is cash and gifts-in-kind that will help the families that stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Look over the list below and see if you can help with any of these much needed items.

BIG ITEMS

- Microwave ovens

Food & Kitchen Supplies

- Kuerig K-Cups
- Sugar, flour
- Cooking oil
- Canned soup (any brand or type)
- Paper plates
- Cups and glasses
- Plastic utensils
- Zip Loc® bags (all sizes)
- Plastic wrap
- Silverware
- Take-out containers

Bedroom/Bathroom

- Pillow protectors
- Queen and twin size mattress pads
- Clock radios
- Toilet paper, Kleenex®

Children's Stuff

- Newly released family DVDs
- Disposable diapers
- Portable cribs
- Strollers
- Legos®
- Educational toys

Cleaning & Laundry

- Dow® bathroom cleaner, Windex®
- Laundry and dishwasher detergent
- Fabric softener sheets
- Bleach (Color Safe Clorox®)
- Comet® cleanser, Pine Sol®
- Air freshener spray
- Air fresheners – solids
- Glade Plug-Ins® and sprays
- Carpet Fresh®
- Paper towels

Office Supplies

- Batteries – AA, AAA, C, D and 9 volt
- Light bulbs – sizes 60, 75, and 3 way
- Forever Stamps
- Avery® Labels 5160 or equivalent
- Copy paper
- Pilot Rolling Ball® pens – all colors
- Scissors, Scotch® tape, staples and Wite-Out®
- Permanent markers – Sharpies® all colors
- Colored file folders

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!

Contact Jennifer Litomisky, Executive Director at 313.745.5911 for more information.

2014 Board of Directors & Staff

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Lenny Williams, *Vice President*
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Melvin Jones, *Secretary*

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Jackie Kennedy
House Manager
Irma Hudson
Resident House Manager
Mike McCoy
*Special Events and
House Maintenance Director*
Linda Porter
Event Consultant
Jeannine Monkowski
Data Entry Manager
Tim Cowley
Accountant

A Big Welcome to Our New RMHD Board and Junior Board Members!

We give a warm welcome to our newly elected Detroit RMH Board Members, **Aimee Cowher**, **Kathryn Miller**, **Steven Lick**, **Jenna Wright**!

We are proud to announce our new Detroit RMH Junior Board Members, **Alisha Webbs**, President, **Sarah Rollins**, Secretary, **Eric Lynn**, Treasurer and **Samantha Rogers**.

Our new board/junior board members are bringing new ideas, chairing new events and helping us to launch our new social media campaigns. We are pleased and proud to have these new individuals on our leadership teams!

Like



Do you 'LIKE' us?



Follow us on our Face Book 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!

twitter

And don't forget to follow us on Twitter at **RMHC_Detroit**

Check out our website!

www.rmhc-detroit.org



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

The mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit is to provide a home away from home and support services to families of hospitalized children.

Please remember the
Ronald McDonald House of Detroit
for your tax-deductible donation.

Donating is easy.

Visit www.rmhc-detroit.org/donate/
and pay by PayPal!



YES! *I want to donate to the RMH of Detroit!*
Please put my donation toward the many operational needs of the House.

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____
(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.*

Payment Information

☐ Check enclosed

☐ Charge my credit card:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Name on card: _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Billing address: _____
(must match card)

...or visit www.rmhc-detroit.org and pay by PayPal!



Mail completed form with your donation to:

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southeastern Michigan
3911 Beaubien Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48201