



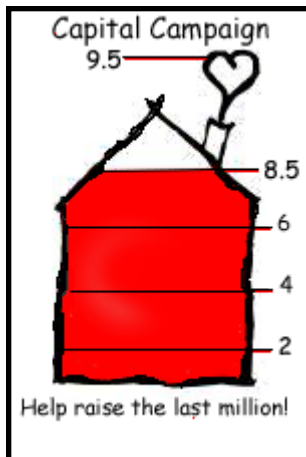
RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
AUSTIN & CENTRAL TEXAS

HOUSECalls

New House Brings New Hope for Families in Medical Crisis

The planning for our new House began over four years ago. All the fundraising, all the designing, all the sawing, hammering and painting have constructed a beautiful building. But it is just another collection of brick and mortar until we give the first key to the first family – that’s when it becomes a Ronald McDonald House.

Our new 30 room House positions us to care for the influx of families seeking treatment at Austin-area medical centers. Located 100 yards from the Dell Children’s Medical Center and immediately across the street from the University of Texas Pediatric Research Institute, our new Ronald McDonald House gives children and their families’ simple access to each other any time of the day or night.



The medical care available in the Austin area is expanding dramatically to include new oncology services, intensive rehabilitation services, and in the near future major organ transplants. Given the importance of guarding the health of children and families who will

stay at our new House, we incorporated extensive environmentally responsible components into the design and construction of our new House. This attention to the materials and techniques used to construct our new House enables us to provide the safest and healthiest environment for the families and children that stay with us. This focus on environmental health has also put us on track to attain the highest sustainable building certification established by the United States Green Building Council, LEED Platinum.



Numbers and years and accolades aside, the real achievement is that every day this House opens its doors to provide a safe and nurturing home-like environment for families who have children being cared for in Austin area medical centers. Thanks to supporters like you, ten, twenty or even fifty years from now we will still be opening the doors of the Ronald McDonald House to families who need our care.

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Foster Family Finds the House is a Home Away From Home

“This is where I’ve found my comfort.” These are the words of Erma, a mom who has been living at the Ronald McDonald House for almost two months. Erma and her husband, Fernando, have two grown daughters, Bernadette and Beatrice, two younger adopted daughters, Daniella and Bianca, and a foster son, Juju. They were surprised to receive a phone call in June asking them if they would take a second foster child, Luke.

Luke was born three months premature, weighing 1 lb, 11 oz. When the family made their first three-hour trip to Austin to meet Luke in the hospital, their world changed. Erma said, “I didn’t give birth to this child. I gave birth to him from my heart when I saw him.”

Then came the questions. How could Erma be with Luke in the hospital and also take care of the girls and Juju while Fernando continued working in their hometown? In one weekend they spent over \$200 staying in an Austin motel and eating at restaurants. That’s when the Ronald McDonald House became one of their answers.

“We did not know what the Ronald McDonald House could do for us,” Erma explained. She has been surprised and touched by all the volunteers who bring food and give their time in other ways to help take care of the families living here.

Erma now says, “This is my Ronald McDonald House. This is my home away from home.”



Daniella, Bianca, Erma, and Luke

Erma is a friend to everyone in the House: parents, children, staff, and volunteers. She invites new families to join her at the table for meals. She says, “We all stick together. We cry. We laugh. We all pray for each other.”

Juju celebrated his first birthday here. Fernando comes every weekend, and Daniella and Bianca started this school year in Austin. The school bus picks them up at the House every morning, and Daniella told her mom last week, “If we need to stay here and finish out the school year, we’re okay with that!”

Telling her story through periodic tears, Erma speaks passionately about the Ronald McDonald House and what it means to her family. They are all attached to the other families at the House. Erma knows it will be hard on her and the girls when they leave the House because as she said, “We’ve built another life here.”

Erma and her family hope to take Luke home in late September. She drives past the new House every day on her way to the Dell Children’s Medical Center to see Luke.

“Every day I pass the Ronald McDonald House, I pray because I know that families are going to need that House. I hope everyone goes home with a healthy baby.”



Baby Luke

We are happy to report that Erma and all her children, including Luke, are back at home and doing well.

Volunteer Spotlight



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” - Gandhi

Many individuals and organizations consistently give their time and effort to support the families of the Ronald McDonald House. Jack & Jill of America’s Austin chapter is one organization that worked hard in 2006 on behalf of our families.

Jack & Jill of America, Inc. was founded in 1938 in Philadelphia. Under the leadership of Marion Stubbs Thomas, 20 mothers came together with the idea of bringing children together in a social and cultural environment. The organization continues to flourish, dedicating its resources to improving the quality of life and preserving culture, particularly for African-American children.

In 2006, our local Jack & Jill volunteers contributed over 70 hours in activities ranging from creating decorations for Bandana Ball and collecting wish list items for Lights of Love to washing windows at the House.

Our House volunteers give of themselves to ensure that we meet our mission of providing comfortable lodging and supportive services to the families of children receiving treatment in Austin area medical centers. To learn more about how to become a Ronald McDonald House Volunteer, please visit our website at www.rmhc-austin.org or contact Derrick Lesnau at dlesnau@rmhc-austin.org.



Dell Volunteers



Jack & Jill Volunteers



Villagio Apartment Volunteers

Save Your Pull Tabs for the House

Save your pull tabs from aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House. Bring your pull tabs to the House for recycling. Each year your pull tabs are recycled and generate funds needed to support our families.

Buy Your Statesman at McDonald’s

Stop by all Austin area McDonald’s for your morning coffee and an Austin American-Statesman. Proceeds from the sale of these newspapers benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Click for the House

What if you were able to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House whenever you use a search engine on the internet? Well, now you can! Visit GoodSearch.com and enter “Ronald McDonald House – Austin and Central Texas” as your charity. Just 500 RMHC supporters searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 for our families in one year.





New House Grand Opening at *Lights of Love* 2007

December 13

After years of planning and hard work and through the dedication and generosity of hundreds of volunteers and donors, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas is opening the doors of its new 30 room House on December 13, 2007. Thank you Central Texas for making this a reality!

This year's *Lights of Love* Open House celebration will coincide with the new House grand opening. Please make plans to join us.

You can help turn on the lights in the new House by giving a charitable donation to the 2007 *Lights*

of Love Celebration. A gift of \$10 can be made in memory or honor of someone you cherish. This year's celebration will be complete with many holiday treats including food by local restaurants, music, pictures with Santa Claus and Ronald McDonald and most importantly, tours of Austin's new House.

Give the gift of light – and help brighten the lives of the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House. For more information visit www.rmhc-austin.org.

Grand Opening!
December 13, 2007
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Austin's new Ronald McDonald House
1315 Barbara Jordan Boulevard



Raffle Supports Construction

Bailey Banks & Biddle Jewelers of the Domain is partnering with Ronald McDonald House to raffle a Journey Diamond Ice Flowers™ Curve pendant valued at \$2,250. All proceeds from the raffle, sponsored by the RMH Leadership Council, go toward construction costs of Austin's new Ronald McDonald House.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online at www.rmhc-austin.org. Tickets may also be purchased via cash or check at the Ronald McDonald House at 403 E. 15th Street. The drawing will be held October 17. For more information, visit our website at www.rmhc-austin.org, or call Anne at 512-472-9844.

New Leadership Council Created

One of the newest ways of supporting the families we serve is through the RMHC Leadership Council. Open to anyone ages 25 -35 in the Austin area, the Leadership Council was established to provide opportunities for service and giving.

"The Council is committed to volunteer services which better the lives of families and children in the Austin and Central Texas area," explained Anne Nash, founding member of the Council and House development officer. Members gathered at the Headliners Club on August 2, where the

highlight of the evening was the Council's donation of \$10,000 for the construction of the new House.

The Ronald McDonald House Leadership Council will provide four annual volunteer service opportunities for Council members to support the House. For more information visit our website at www.rmhc-austin.org.



Anne Nash and capital campaign co-chair Carol Crowley

Lights of Love 2006



Over 400 people attended the 17th Annual *Lights of Love* Open House on December 7, 2006. *Lights of Love* is our way of saying thank you to the Central Texas community for their consistent support of our mission and the families we serve. Likewise, hundreds of Central Texans mark this special holiday celebration by giving a gift in honor or memory of someone they love. This year we were honored to have a special cake created for our Open House by Becky Nichols from A Trip to Bountiful. Becky started her delicious bakery in memory of her daughter Libby and her battle with cancer. We are honored that Becky and her team at A Trip to Bountiful chose the Ronald McDonald House to join them in their celebration of Libby's far too short life.

Special thanks to 103.5 Bob FM, Westlake Madrigals, Ronald McDonald, Santa Claus, Leni Storms and David Weekly Homes for making this a night to remember.

Lights of Love 2006 Underwriters:

- Central Texas Chevy Dealers
- Freescale Semiconductor
- KTBC Fox 7
- Austin Energy
- Longhorn Lighting
- 103.5 Bob FM
- Latin at Heart

Thank you to the 2006 *Lights of Love* Committee, underwriters and volunteers who made this event possible.

Lights of Love 2006 Committee:

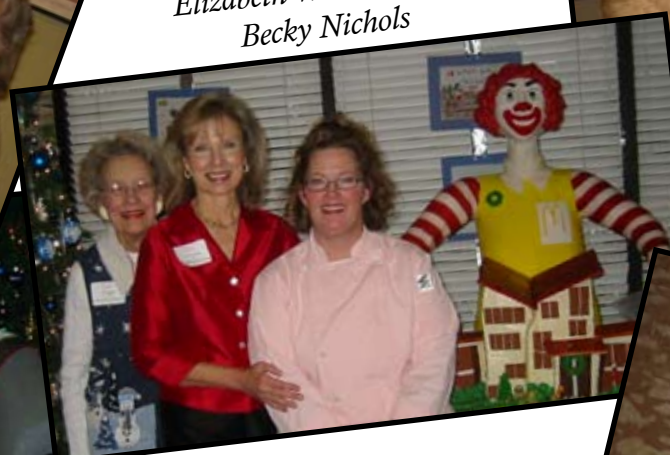
- Elizabeth Williams (chair)
- Courtney Williams (chair)
- Mary Pendleton (chair)
- Jessica Kizer
- Beverly Anderson
- Michelle Bonilla
- Becky Dickson
- Anne Dilworth
- Kacy Dolce
- Stacy Ehrlich
- Jennifer Frankovsky
- Mary Hart
- Diana Horton
- Kathy Huffaker
- Diane Hutchinson
- Mary MacKenzie
- Patricia Mitchell
- Carol Lineback Nelson
- Ben Ornelas
- Laurie Painter
- Linda Piefer
- Donna Pigg
- Jennie Pitts
- Mary Pitts
- Wanda Reetz
- Nicholas Seach
- Nicolette Seach
- Nancy Snyder
- Carol Springer

Special thanks to all our refreshment donors:

- Primizi Special Events Catering, Maudies Tex-Mex, McDonald's, Austin Catering, The Catering Company, Texas Culinary Academy, Doubletree Guest Quarters, Kurant Events, Starbucks, Z Tejas, Gourmet Gals and Guys



Linda Piefer stirs the punch



Mary Pendleton, Elizabeth Williams, and Becky Nichols



Denny Meyer and his granddaughter



A child poses with Santa



Courtney Williams and friend



Bandana Ball 2007

On Saturday, April 14, Bandana Ball 2007 kicked off at the TDS Exotic Game Ranch and Pavilion. Over 800 Central Texans came out to support the Ronald McDonald House. Organized by committee chairs Susan Whitworth and Stacy Garcia and sponsored by the Central Texas Chevy Dealers and the McDonald's Operators of Central Texas, Bandana Ball 2007 was our most successful ever, raising almost one third of our annual operating costs. Guests enjoyed a live and silent auction, catering by Kurant Events, and entertainment by Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes. For more information about Bandana Ball, a complete listing of our auction donors or to see more pictures visit www.rmhc-austin.org.



Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes

Ronald McDonald, Susan Whitworth, Stacy Garcia, Mike Garcia, Bill Whitworth



Thanks to our sponsors!

Lone Star Legend



Central Texas Chevy Dealers

Silver Spur



McDonald's

Trail Blazers



Texas Disposal Systems

Bruce and Becky Dickson

- Judy and John Avery
- The Beck Group
- BRATH, Inc.
- Brown McCarroll, LLP
- Brown Distributing
- Capitol Anesthesiology Association
- Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons
- Friends of Stacy Garcia
- Carino's Italian Grill
- Mike and Maggie Castleman
- Children's Cardiology Associates
- Cypress Advisors
- Jan and Doug Dwyer
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- Tom Green & Co. Engineers, Inc.
- GSD&M
- Alan and Renee Higgerson
- Don and Gina Reese
- Univision Radio and Television

- Guaranty Insurance Services, Inc.
- Humana Central Texas Region
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- KGB Partners
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- Larry and Gwen Melody
- Dr. Cindy and Jim Lynn
- Mary and James Kozlowski
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- Ken and Carol Lineback Nelson
- Nordstrom
- MFI Foundation
- Pediatric Critical Care Association
- Pediatric Cardiology of Austin
- PlainsCapital Bank
- PMB Helin Donovan, LLP
- Holtzman, Moellenberg, Panozzo & Perkins, LLP
- Seton Family of Hospitals
- 'Specially for Children
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Rangers

- Central Texas Pediatric Orthopedics
- Austin Pathology Associates
- Austin Pediatric Surgery Association
- Bank of America
- Maxwell Locke & Ritter
- Friends of the Ronald McDonald House
- Guaranty Bank
- KCL Foundation
- Southwest Airlines
- United Heritage Credit Union
- Wachovia

Mavericks

- Austin Radiological Association
- Austin Energy
- Austin Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- Austin Regional Clinic
- Lou and Marge Bifano

Bandana Ball 2007



1



2



3



4



6



5



7



1 - Jan Sprayberry, 2 - Dancing Boots, 3 - Melissa and Mac Spellman, 4 - Sheryl and Jeff Reeh and Cindy and Luis Saenz, 5 - Mike and Dianne Benton with Ronald McDonald, 6 - Stacy Paulson, Kent Burrell, and Susan Whitworth, 7 - Stacy Garcia and friends

2007 Bandana Ball Committee

Co-Chairs: Susan and Bill Whitworth

Co-Chairs: Stacy and Mike Garcia

Auction Chair - Stacy Bockholt

Silent Auction Co-Chair - Teresa Jones

Live & Big Board Auction Co-Chair - Tiffany Clerc

Entertainment Chair - Melissa Bluntzer

Logistics Chair - Becky Bray

PR Chair - Kelly Burrus

Hospitality Co-Chairs - Kelly Geary Davis, Robin Walton and Jena Moorman

Print Co-Chairs - Kelly Dunning and Laura Gibson

Decoration Co-Chairs - Stacy Paulson, Jonathan Hiebert

Additional Committee Members: Adriana Almand, Lolis Garcia-Baab, Tracy Broyles, Jill and John Conant, Pati Cumby, Robin Dalheim, Cathy Hammock, LaNeigh Hudson, Phyllis Loflin, Trina Mandola, Karri Milam, Amylyn Neil, Carmen Oliden, Margaret Rigby, Monica Rosenberg

A special thank you to all our event volunteers. We could not have done it without you!

Putting and Pedaling for the House

The 2007 KASE Country Classic and Amateur hosted at ShadowGlen, April 21-23, raised the bar for Texas golfing. Raising over \$50,000 toward construction of the new House, the golf tournament included live country music on the course, country music trivia games, Ronald McDonald, delicious food by Fuddruckers and Matt's El Rancho, and ice cream treats by Texas favorite Blue Bell. A special thanks to the entire ShadowGlen and KASE 101 teams. Your support helps us reach beyond Austin into the communities we serve.



Golfers get ready!

Thank you to our sponsors!

KASE 101
 Central Texas Chevy Dealers
 ShadowGlen
 MHI ShadowGlen Residential
 Ewing Irrigation
 Terry McDaniel & Company
 ABC Bank
 Children's Hospital of Austin
 Durbin Bennett Peterson Tax Advisors
 Seattle's Best Coffee
 Rudy's Country Store & BBQ



Rob Mason and Frank Hutchinson

Thank you to our riders!

Richard Agnew
 Arnie Burttschell
 Heather Burttschell
 Richard Holt, MD
 Todd Reed
 Sean Ahmadi
 Kurt Joseph
 Jim Alsup
 Rob Cunningham
 Joel Lange
 Bill Streusand, MD
 Sam Archer
 Karen Frost
 George Lindenberg
 Charlie Tames
 Farzad Azimpour, MD
 Larry Graham
 Martha Medlock
 Ben Bash
 David Grundy
 Alicia Post
 Jose Cortez, MD



Cyclists take to the road.

Thank you to our sponsors!

KTBC Fox 7
 Pro Cycle Works
 Texas Gas Service
 Red Holdings
 Carino's Italian Grill



Cyclists lunch at Manda

The Second Annual RMH Cycling Invitational was held on Saturday, May 19. This year's invitational featured 22 cyclists riding 100 miles for the Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to the efforts of our riders and our numerous event supporters, we were able to raise over \$49,000. The ride concluded with 100 friends and family joining the riders for an after-party with music by the Austin Collins Band. The Cycling Invitational is a unique, almost exclusively on-line giving campaign where gifts of \$25-\$50 go to support programs like the Ronald McDonald House Healing Hearts bereavement fund. Thanks to all the riders and everyone who made this event such a success.

Letter from the President



Dear Friends of RMHC,

This has been a very exciting summer. It has been fascinating to watch the changes at the new Ronald McDonald House from week to week. The enthusiasm and dedication of the crew working on this project are truly inspiring. Now summer is over, and everyone is gearing up for a busy fall.



I feel especially blessed this fall. My only child has left home for college. While I will miss him very much, I am incredibly grateful that he is strong and healthy enough to leave Austin. Two years ago, we didn't know if that would be possible. For most of his life, my son had chronic health issues. We were fortunate that he never had extended hospital stays or treatments far from home. For too many families, that isn't the case. Dealing with the illness of a child is incredibly stressful. The medical and financial stress is compounded by lack of basic necessities - a place to sleep, shower or get a decent meal. Fortunately, in Austin, we have our Ronald McDonald House where families get not only these basics, but a warm environment for rest and emotional support.

The new House will be ready for occupancy in December which will coincide with our annual Lights of Love campaign and Open House. Building this House has been a true community effort involving many years of planning and hard work from our local House staff and the generous contributions of time, talent, and finances from you, our supporters. While we have made tremendous progress, there is still much to be done before this project is complete.

We are working diligently on the final portion of our capital campaign and are within one million dollars of our goal. If you have been waiting to give, now is the perfect time!

On behalf of the RMHC Board, thank all of you for your support and dedication to the House. Your new Ronald McDonald House is an important addition to Austin and will provide lodging and support services for families in our entire Central Texas community. We are grateful for all you have done and continue to do to make this endeavor a reality for Central Texas families in need.

- Chela Abdallah, Board President

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Wish List

- Queen sized sheets – white – 60 sets
- White Towels – bath towels, wash cloths, hand towels – 90 sets
- Kitchen hand towels – white or red - 20
- Copy paper, 8.5 x 11, white
- Laundry detergent, powdered
- 33-gallon heavy-duty trash can liners
- Clear, anti-bacterial shower curtain liners – 32
- Small AM/FM clock radios with alarm – 31
- Paper towels
- Ziploc bags - gallon and quart size

Items may be dropped off at 403 E. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

For a complete Wish List, visit www.rmhc-austin.org.

*Providing a safe and nurturing
home-like environment for
families in medical crisis.*



Southwest Airlines celebrates 30 years of service to the Austin area by donating six round trip passes to be used for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

Representatives from Southwest and the Ronald McDonald House of Austin and Central Texas pose for a picture in front of the new House.

RMHC Austin Staff

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Development Officer
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Programs Specialist
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Night and Weekend Manager
Danny Reyna, LCSW

House Managers (part-time)
Stephanie Eaton, LBSW, Nellie Smith, LBSW,
Rosario Rodriguez, Mary Alice Castillo, Abraham Wall,
LMSW, Gina Brazzle, LCSW