

# EDUCATOR'S

*tab pack*



A resource guide to use in collaboration with  
your classroom curriculum.



# *History of Ronald McDonald House Charities®*

## **The First Ronald McDonald House®**

The first Ronald McDonald House opened in Philadelphia in 1974. Kim Hill, the daughter of Fred and Fran Hill, was undergoing treatment for leukemia. During Kim's three years of treatment, the Hills experienced the difficulty of not having a place to sleep or eat, except in waiting rooms and out of vending machines. Fred, who played football for the Philadelphia Eagles, rallied the support of his teammates and the General Manager of the Eagles, Jim Murray. Mr. Murray enlisted the help of Dr. Audrey Evans of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the local McDonald's franchises to create the first Ronald McDonald House. The founders selected the name "Ronald McDonald House" because Ronald McDonald was a symbol of happiness to children around the world.

Since the opening of the first Ronald McDonald House, the name has become synonymous worldwide with a "home-away-from-home" for families with ill or injured children.

## **History of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri**

It began with a group called "Neo-Fight" which was a non-profit community service organization that raised money to purchase lifesaving equipment for critically ill newborns. In September of 1980, Dasi Pape, a social worker from the University of Missouri's Children's Hospital attended a Neo-Fight meeting to seek financial assistance for short-term lodging for parents of infants receiving care in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit. In October 1980, Suzanne McDavid called together representatives of Neo-Fight, Candlelighters and McDonald's owner/operators to discuss the possibility of opening a Ronald McDonald House in Columbia.

From December of 1980 to May 1983, the committee charged with starting the Ronald McDonald House worked diligently. On May 21, 1983 the Mid-Missouri Ronald McDonald House was opened with 10 bedrooms, a family room, kitchen, lounge area and three laundry rooms. An additional four bedrooms were added in 1988. The Mid-Missouri Ronald McDonald House became known as Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri (RMHC-MM) in 1997. The most recent historical note was the addition of the Ronald McDonald Family Room at University Hospital's Children's Hospital. The Ronald McDonald Family Room allows RMHC-MM to extend its home-like environment into the hospital to serve all families who have children in the hospital.

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri is to provide a home-away-from-home for families of children receiving treatment at area health-care facilities and to support other local programs that help children and their families.

## **How the Pop tab Program Helps Families**

Pop tabs that are donated to the Ronald McDonald House are exchanged at a local recycling company for money used to help run our House. Pop tabs are easier to save than whole cans and eliminate all the stickiness cans leave behind.



## *Suggested K-6 Activities*

- Make containers for tab collecting.
- Make get well cards for children who are in the hospital.
- Have someone from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri visit the class.
- Talk about what a hospital is for and what happens when people go to the hospital.
- Talk about different reasons why people go to the hospital. (Could be tied in with a health and safety unit.)
- Talk about recycling and volunteering and why both are important.
- Create art projects using tabs.
- Solve math problems relating to tabs.
- Organize a fundraiser or drive to raise funds or collect wish list items for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri.
- Use some of the other activities in this packet to get your students excited about collecting pop tabs!



## History

1. When was the first Ronald McDonald House built? **(1974)** What other major events in history occurred that year?
2. When did the Ronald McDonald House in Columbia, MO open? **(1983)**
3. Who invented the pop tab and when?

## Science

1. Pop tabs are made from which metal?
2. What is the elemental symbol for Aluminum?
3. Why does Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri collect only pop tabs and not the whole can? **(Pop tabs take up less space than the whole can. Pop tabs are cleaner and less sticky than the whole can.)**
4. What other types of things can be recycled?

## Language Arts

1. Write a one page essay on the importance of helping other people.
2. Write a fictional story about "The Ronald McDonald House and the Pop Tabs Caper."
3. Write letters of encouragement or make greeting cards for the children and families of ill children staying at the Ronald McDonald House.
4. Create Acrostic Poems

Example:      **R**ecycle pop tabs  
                  **O**ne person can make a difference  
                  **N**ow is the time to help  
                  **A**n act of kindness goes a long way  
                  **L**et's do it for the families at Ronald McDonald House  
                  **D**o the right thing and help families

5. Write a story about the "Day in the Life of a Tab."
6. Complete the word search and word scramble activities.



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri  
Word Search

I S E R V I C E C V S R D I E G T J  
E R S M P P W O S H T E Y R D E R K  
M S L E E I L O A S X C C F P N O E  
M T U X N U P R E I X Y G P X E P E  
P K K O M D I R E U H C P I S R P M  
M P C B H N N M N B X L D N W O U O  
K Z I A G I O I L O V E F K Q U S H  
C A I V Y C I Q K L Z X B S O S A K  
R O V Z L I S R N O I T A N O D C N  
H O M E A W A Y F R O M H O M E A K  
C D W M J Y T C Q U C J P X G V X E  
Z J K P U H T A G N I R A C I Q Y Q  
L I Z R G N O O B E H Z A X Z P H Y  
O C J B E F I F H T N H U N K G J Q  
S S F T Q I H T T E O P L Z S L P J  
C T M Q V K J T Y K C P E V D H S A  
B E N X D C H V S L I W S G D R S E  
C T Z G M C T W I P F V O S W J Y A

**Word Bank**

CARING	HOME	LOVE	SHARING
COMMUNITY	HOME AWAY FROM HOME	RECYCLE	SUPPORT
DONATION	HOUSE	REST	POP TABS
GENEROUS	KINDNESS	SERVICE	WELCOME

\* Be sure to look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonal!

# Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri Word Scramble

*Unscramble the following letters to make words associated with  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri.*

GNRCIA

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TIMNUCMOY

---

GUENESOR

---

MEOH YAWA MFRO HEOM

---

EHT HEUSO TTHA LEVO TLIUB

---

KSSNIDEN

---

CYRLECE

---

VISEECR

---

TUOPSPR

---

TOINONDA

---

HOEM

---

SUEHO

---

VLEO

---

SRTE

---

RAGNISH

---

ABT TSOP

---

*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri*  
*Word Scramble*

SOLUTIONS

GNRCIA... CARING

TIMNUCMOY... COMMUNITY

GUENESOR... GENEROUS

MEOH YAWA MFRO HEOM... HOME AWAY FROM HOME

EHT HEUSO TTHA LEVO TLIUB... THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT

KSSNIDEN... KINDNESS

CYRLECE... RECYCLE

VISEECR... SERVICE

TUOPSPR... SUPPORT

TOINONDA... DONATION

HOEM... HOME

SUEHO... HOUSE

VLEO... LOVE

SRTE... REST

RAGNISH... SHARING

OPTBPAS... POP TABS

# Mathematics

## Project One

Fill a jar with pop tabs.

1. Have the students guess how many tabs are in the jar.
2. Have the students compare several small containers such as a box, cylinder, bottle, etc.
3. Which one contains the most pop tabs? Why do they think so?

## Project Two

Separate the students into learning groups, teams, or partners. Give each a quantity of pop tabs.

1. How many pop tabs measure one inch, one foot, one meter?
2. How many pop tabs does it take to cover a piece of paper?
3. Using a scale, how many tabs equal one ounce? One pound?



## Some Common Measurement Equivalents (if tabs are laid end-to-end)

- 1 tab top = 1 inch = 2.5 centimeters
- 12 pop tabs = 1 foot
- 40 pop tabs = 1 meter
- 80 pop tabs = 1 ounce
- approximately 1,400 pop tabs = 1 pound
- approximately 40,000 pop tabs = 1 kilometer
- approximately 64,000 pop tabs = 1 mile

## Word Problems

1. Keith and Jeff visited all of their neighbors and asked for the pop tabs off of their cans to be recycled. If Keith collected 512 pop tabs and Jeff collected 463 pop tabs, how many pop tabs will they have when their collections are combined? How many more does Keith Have than Jeff?  
**Together they have 975 tabs, Keith has 49 more tabs than Jeff.**
2. Truman the Tiger has collected 950 pop tabs in his container. He knows that it takes 2,995 pop tabs to fill the container. How many more pop tabs will Truman have to collect in Columbia to fill his container?  
**Truman needs to collect 2,045 more tabs.**
3. Sally has 300 pop tabs. The recycler will giver her fifty cents for every 100 pop tabs she brings him. How much will she get for this delivery?  
**The recycler will give Sally \$1.50.**

# Crafts

*\*\* Before beginning tab crafts, please make sure all rough and sharp edges have been filed down or removed to prevent injury.\*\**

## Bad Hair Day



### Materials:

- 1 pop tab
- thick, brightly colored yarn
- a small circle of felt (any color)
- 2 goggle eyes
- glue or paste
- scissors

### Directions:

- Cut six pieces of thick yarn about 6 cm in length (3 pieces of each color)
- Half hitch the yarn through the round hole of the pop tab and unravel the yarn to make the “bad hair”
- Glue the felt circle to the bottom of the pop tab and attach the eyes

## The Friendly Lion



### Materials:

- 1 pop tab
- small piece of yellow felt
- yellow yarn
- 2 goggle eyes
- piece of ribbon
- glue or paste
- scissors

### Directions:

- Cut pieces of yarn approximately 6-7 cm long
- Half hitch the yarn through the round hole of the pop tab. Repeat until the hole is full – (approximately 20 pieces)
- Glue a small circle of yellow felt for the face, add the eyes and use a marker for the smile
- Into the smaller pop tab hole put 6 strands of yarn about 30 cm in length
- Half hitch into place, then braid to make the lion’s tale
- Tie with a bow at the bottom
- Fray the yarn open to make the mane of the lion and the bottom of the tail

## Sly the Snake



### Materials:

- 6 pop tabs
- Felt (any color), approximately 20 cm long and 1 cm wide
- small piece of yellow felt
- small piece of red felt
- 2 goggle eyes
- glue or paste
- scissors

### Directions:

- The snake's body is cut from any color felt. The body is about 15 cm long by 1 cm wide. Cut the head in a pear shape that is 4 cm at its widest point
- Make a cardboard pattern and cut all of the snake in one piece
- Cut a forked tongue out of red felt and attach with glue
- Attach the googly eyes
- Thread/weave the felt through 6 pop tabs to create an undulating body. If you begin with "over and under" through the first tab, the next one should be "under and over," etc. This gives the snake an undulating effect.



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HOUSE CHARITIES  
MID-MISSOURI

**Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission to  
lift children and families to a better tomorrow!**

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