



Love Notes

Our story is best told through the words of our families...

My family and I are so very appreciative of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri. They have been very supportive to us!

In July 2009, my son Keegan was taken by ambulance to the University of Missouri Children's Hospital in Columbia, MO. He was only two months old. Through the summer we were at the hospital often. Keegan was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma Cancer in August. We utilized the Ronald McDonald Family Room very often because we were too worried to leave our son for even a few moments as we had no idea what was going on. This was all so new to us.

In October my son had to have surgery, and in November he began chemotherapy. We had to bring our other two children with us for the chemotherapy so we stayed at the Ronald McDonald House. They were so wonderful! The House was amazing and the staff was so helpful and kind. We were close to the hospital and worked it where I was with Keegan during the day, and my husband was with him in the evening. My 2-year old daughter enjoyed the playground, the playroom downstairs, and the brightly colored murals painted in the dining area! Keegan's twin brother loved being with mommy and not a baby sitter. At the hospital during the day it was great to see the children playing together. Having family around helped Keegan keep his mind off of the tubes and monitors.



They helped us stay together as a family so we could focus on Keegan and help him get through chemotherapy. It relieved so much stress knowing my whole family could be together and not have to be separated at such an emotional time. We are truly grateful to the Ronald McDonald House and for all they do to help so many families!

I was very excited to learn that they would be building a new House closer to the new University of Missouri Women's and Children's Hospital. We wish them great luck! A new building will mean a lot to all the families that use the House.

Keegan is now 11 months old and is doing well. His lab work came back normal last month and we are praying it continues to go well for our little guy! Keegan has shown so much strength throughout this ordeal! I never knew a child so tiny could be so strong and would teach me so much about bravery, strength, courage, and love! I'm so proud he is my son.

Mahala
Moberly, MO

COSMO Pancake & Sausage

Hundreds of guests came out for an all-you-can-eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast hosted by the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club. Homemade sausages, coffee, juice, and an endless supply of pancakes and syrup were on the menu. COSMO members began serving the meal before dawn on January 24th. This year's breakfast was a delicious fundraising success.

Partner with Us

External fundraisers help cover the increasing operational cost of our House. Please consider naming our Charity as the beneficiary of your next club, organization, or business event.

New Faces & Fond Farewells



In August we welcomed Carissa Havens to our team. Carissa has volunteered with the House as part of the gala committee for the past two years while working as the events coordinator for Inside Columbia magazine. She is excited to join our team as the Development Operations Assistant where she will use her background in special events to help coordinate fund raisers and public relations events. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser or helping with a special event, contact her at carissa@rmhcmidmo.org

WELCOME BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Calendar Highlights

THANK YOU for embracing our House and the wellbeing of the families who travel to our community for specialized medical care. Community events such as the ones highlighted below are held by individuals, clubs and organizations in the community to raise funds to benefit Ronald McDonald House programs and services.



A-B-C SPELLING BEE



DILLARD'S HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER



BIG TOP BALL

We are delighted to report that several new events have been organized to provide funding for our *Building a House to Call Home* Campaign.



SUPERIOR GARDEN'S TREE DAYS



SUNSET MIXER ON THE ROOFTOP



GO GO GREEN





Helping Hands

Any given Thursday afternoon you can stop by the House and see numerous volunteers busy at work, with anything from laundry and cleaning to data entry and donation calls. We are fortunate to have so many people willing to give of their time and talents for the betterment of the House. One such volunteer extraordinaire is Ruthmae Sears.

Ruthmae joined our volunteer crew in the spring of 2008 after coming to Columbia to pursue her PhD in Mathematics Education. Originally from Nassau, Bahamas, Ruthmae is a fellow of the Lyford Cay Foundation and the Organization of American States, and has a long history of community service, including starting programs for young women in the Bahamas, and assisting organizations like the PACE Foundation.

She came to the Ronald McDonald House looking for a way to get involved in the community and pursue her passion of helping young people.

Whether in the classroom teaching mathematics, reviewing math curriculum with her colleagues in her PhD program, or being appointed to the Board of the National Science Counsel for the Bahamas, Ruthmae's attention to detail and hard work make her a truly remarkable woman. We are fortunate to have her analytical talents, joyful personality and attention to detail with numerous projects for the House as well as the Big Top Ball where she not only secured donations, but also helped at the event as a wonderful Live Auction attendant.

Ruthmae's favorite story about helping at the House happened while calling for donations for the Big Top Ball where a gentleman on the other end of the phone asked, "Is this a recording?" Ruthmae didn't miss a beat and answered that she was on the other end, but her beautiful voice paired with professional phone skills surprised this donor and was a great asset to the Gala Committee. Ruthmae said her favorite part of volunteering at the House is that it is something different every day. We are truly grateful for Ruthmae and countless others that help us in "lifting children and families to a better tomorrow" by giving so selflessly of themselves.



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| 1. Paper towels | 6. Heat-n-eat meals (ravioli, spaghettios, etc.) |
| 2. Chlorox wipes/disinfectant | 7. 8-gallon trash bags |
| 3. Individual-sized snack items | 8. Kitchen trash bags |
| 4. Single-serve cereal boxes | 9. Gift cards to purchase needed supplies |
| 5. Individual frozen meals/pizzas | 10. Liquid laundry detergent |

Our goal is to make stays seamless for our visiting families with access to comforting meals, snacks and supplies without worrying about shopping. Please note for the safety of our guest families, donated items must be unopened and new. Also, please be mindful of expiration dates on food donations. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

A regularly updated wishlist can be found at www.rmhcmidmo.org.

Brick of the Month Club

Join the Brick of the Month Club and help us "Build a House to Call Home" one brick at a time! Your donation of \$10 a month for one year will help us reach our funding goal of \$2.6 million needed to build a new Ronald McDonald House next to the soon-to-be-open University of Missouri's Children's Hospital.

All donors will be recognized during the grand opening ceremonies.

Send your check today, payable to RMHC of Mid-Missouri with "Brick" in the memo line, or find out more information by visiting our website.



**BUILDING A HOUSE
TO CALL HOME**



**Ronald McDonald House Charities
of Mid-Missouri®**

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Jennifer Miller, Volunteer Coordinator
Beth Courtney, Organization & Operations Assistant

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Shannon de Leon at 573-443-7666 or sdeleon@rmhcmidmo.org.

New Website

We are proud to unveil our brand new RMHC-MM website! Our goal is to provide essential content while making it easier for viewers to navigate throughout the site. Some of our new features include an on-line family meal calendar, the ability to sign up for e-newsletters, a link to our Facebook page and a site dedicated to our Capital Campaign. Visit us at www.rmhcmidmo.org.

Get Involved

As always, we thank you, our donors and the countless individuals, who work tirelessly to provide a safe, peaceful, welcoming environment for families. With your help, our House has grown into a home which thousands have come to depend on.

- ♥ Volunteer
- ♥ Host a fundraiser
- ♥ Organize a donation drive
- ♥ Collect pop tabs
- ♥ Provide a family meal

Save the Date!

MUSTANG & FORD CAR SHOW
June 27

DROWE'S FUNDRAISING TUESDAYS
Tuesdays in August

FLOYD LAHAY GOLF TOURNAMENT
September 11 & 12

A-B-C SPELLING BEE
September 16

For additional information on RMHC of Mid-Missouri events and sponsorship opportunities, visit us at www.rmhcmidmo.org.

