



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri®



BUILDING A HOUSE
TO CALL HOME



Ronald McDonald Houses...

Serving Families Since 1974

The parents of a child with leukemia prompted the efforts of an NFL team, a children's hospital, a restaurant chain and the citizens of Philadelphia to build the first Ronald McDonald House. Fred Hill, a former Philadelphia Eagles football player, and his wife Fran camped out on hospital chairs and ate from vending machines during their daughter's fight with leukemia. They did all they could to keep their daughter, Kim, from seeing their exhaustion and frustration. They saw parents enduring the same hardships and knew something had to be done.

The concept was simple: provide a comfortable place to stay, a "home away from home," and support it with compassionate volunteers and staff. Since the first House opened in Philadelphia in 1974, more than 300 Houses have opened in more than 30 countries. Each day, more than 6,000 rooms are opened to families with ill and injured children.

Closer to Home

Inspired by the Hills and other families, a group of volunteers teamed with local McDonald's owners to open mid-Missouri's Ronald McDonald House in 1983. Architects, construction workers, the University of Missouri, and community members came together to provide the land, services and money to pay for the House in full.

RMHC of Mid-Missouri has since expanded the House, completed numerous renovations, and expanded the mission to include serving families inside local hospitals through the Ronald McDonald Family Room program.



Columbia - A Medical Hotspot in Mid-Missouri

Columbia's extensive medical network provides mid-Missouri and beyond with some of the country's highest quality health care.

- University of Missouri's Children's Hospital is consolidating all of their pediatric services under one roof to include a trauma center, neonatal transport, child life therapy and pediatric intensive care unit.
- Boone Hospital Center's nursery, a level III neonatal intensive care unit, serves babies born with specialized medical needs.
- Touchpoint Autism Services and the Thompson Center are two of Missouri's premier autism treatment centers, treating patients from all over the state.
- Other medical facilities such as Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, Columbia Orthopaedic Group, and Rusk Rehabilitation Center, offer state-of-the-art care not readily found in other locations.



Illustration provided by Greg Geffert Graphics

“Ronald McDonald House has been such a huge blessing to us. I will remember that every time I look at my little girl for the rest of my life.”

Parent of
Hospitalized
Child

The Need

With the projected increase in the use of nearby medical facilities, the demands on our House will only increase.

Limitations of the existing House mean we will be unable to serve many of the families who need help. Built before the Americans with Disabilities Act, the House lacks an elevator and appropriately sized corridors necessary to serve the many families who need wheelchair access, gurney transport and other medical equipment. Small bedrooms and shared bathroom facilities make it difficult for families who need to stay for more than just a few days. Despite the limitations, our House has served thousands of children and families since opening our doors. It is now time for our Ronald McDonald House to serve even more children and families and we need your help.

The need for an updated facility in a new location to be near the new Children’s Hospital has provided an opportune time to build a House that will better accommodate all of our guest families.

The new House will feature:

- 18 bedrooms with private bathrooms, including one extended-stay apartment
- An elevator and wider corridors
- Larger common spaces
- Ample parking and a covered entry
- Commercial equipment
- A neighborhood/park-like setting
- Room for expansion

As with other Ronald McDonald Houses around the world, our House is known as the “House that Love Built” because of the tremendous outpouring of community support that allows us to help so many. Our new House will be no different - it will take the support of hundreds, even thousands, of individuals and businesses and we invite you to take part. Thousands of families who desperately need the Ronald McDonald House are counting on you to **Build a House to Call Home**.



It takes hands to build a house, but only hearts can build a home.

Author Unknown

The illness of a child is one of the most emotionally and financially devastating crises a family can endure.

Traveling to a distant hospital for vital medical care only compounds the difficulties.

Every year, hundreds of families travel to Columbia, Mo., to provide their seriously ill or injured children with state-of-the-art health care. For these families, accommodations are often limited to costly hotels or unforgiving hospital chairs.

The Ronald McDonald House® provides a much-needed alternative for these families. The cornerstone program of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Mid-Missouri, the Ronald McDonald House provides a comfortable and supportive

environment where parents can stay with or within close proximity of their children who are receiving medical care - and this can make a remarkable difference to a child bravely battling an illness. Our House, caring staff and dedicated volunteers are here 365 days a year to provide a welcoming living space, cook hot meals and wipe away tears. We have cared for more than 20,000 families since 1983 and no one is ever turned away due to an inability to pay the small, nightly donation.

As a private charity, RMHC is supported entirely by the generosity of hundreds of individuals, businesses, organizations, foundations and grants. One hundred percent of donations made directly to RMHC of Mid-Missouri remain in our community. Building the new House is our most ambitious effort yet, going far beyond our normal operating budget and far above the annual funding we receive from the generous communities of people who support our Charity.



How You Can Help

An estimated \$2.6 million is needed to build the new House. A gift of \$250,000 from RMHC of Mid-Missouri's endowment fund will cover administrative costs so that all funds raised will go toward construction of the new House.

Will you join us in helping to *"lift children and families to a better tomorrow"*? There are many ways to be involved with this exciting project!



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Ronald McDonald House
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- Arrange a speaking opportunity for our staff
- Organize a fundraiser
- Ask your employer about matching gifts
- Tell a friend about our project
- Volunteer to serve on one of our committees
- Schedule a personal meeting
- Join us at one of our upcoming events
- Make a donation

To explore other possibilities, please contact us.