Keeping families close®

"I figured it was just a normal room for stay. Upon check in, I realized how much more it was. I cried tears of joy and gratefulness. One last thing to worry about and figure out. We would be housed, we would be able to rest and shower, we would have a place to do laundry, to eat and cook food. We wouldn't have to leave our baby in the hospital alone. An entire weight off our shoulders," said T'ata Begay.



Ronald McDonald House Charities[®] Oklahoma City



LETTER FROM THE CEO

What a difference a day makes or in this case, a year makes. In 2021, we started to see some light at the end of the tunnel. We reopened our newly expanded Ronald McDonald House® shortly after the first of the year and I'm pleased to report we navigated the year without a single outbreak of COVID amidst the families in our congregate living spaces. With your help, we were here to walk by their side when families needed us most.

A heartfelt thank you to our cherished donors and volunteers for continuing to advocate for and stand with us in support of families in health crisis.

Healing is more than medicine and keeping families together matters. There is no more stressful event than to have a hospitalized child and it is even more stressful if the family must be separated. It is emotionally draining. Our family centered residential community fosters an environment of hope and is always free of charge.

Still, there is more to achieve – more families need our help. Families with critically ill children receiving care at Mercy Hospital, INTEGRIS Health and Bethany Children's Health Center. Our Opening Doors Finding Hope Capital campaign has raised \$4.1M to build a new 36 bedroom Ronald McDonald House to serve these families. We are \$2.9M away from the funds needed to break ground on the Mercy campus in 2023 and are pursuing our fundraising efforts with vigor – so we can serve more families, sooner rather than later.

We have more hearts to capture, it's more important now than ever to share the stories of our families. To share our mission.

We have come a long way from our humble beginnings of a 10-bedroom House in 1984 to our 40 rooms today - yet there is still a great distance to go. May the celebration of the past year within this report guide us to our next destination, motivate us to keep going and remind us how important we are in the lives of not only our forever families, but to the families we have yet to serve.

With gratitude,

Susar Alams

Susan Adams President/CEO



2021 FINANCIALS



DONOR STORIES

Okie Sleds Car Club



Ryan Sawatski and his wife, Jessica, first learned about Ronald McDonald House® from a case worker at Children's Hospital while discussing the surgical treatment plan for their son, Tristan. Jessica was only 20 weeks pregnant when an ultrasound revealed Tristan had hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS). Because of the referral to RMHC, they did not have to worry about where they were going to sleep, get their next meal or take a shower. The Sawatski's stayed a total of 91 days over the span of three open heart surgeries for Tristan.

As a way to give back to RMHC for all that the organization provided to their family during their time spent at the House, they raffled donated items from their generous vendors and friends at their annual Okie Sleds Car Club free car show called "The Greet with Meat".

One hundred percent of the funds raised from the raffle were donated directly to the RMHC-OKC chapter.

Since 2017, Okie Sleds Car Club has given both monetary and in-kind donations. Collecting and delivering large donations of pantry items in their old school custom cars is the highlight of their annual holiday visit to the House. In 2021, they "adopted" one of the extended-stay suites in the House to help lower operating costs for the organization.

"We are constantly advocating for RMHC-OKC through social media and our events," said Ryan. "Our goal is to raise awareness about RMHC-OKC for families and the community that many may not be familiar with. We want families in need to know that there is a free place to sleep, eat, do laundry, and step away from the hospital. A place where they can get even just a few hours of rest so they can focus on their child."

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Larry Hurd, Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4876 out of Altus, OK and his post have been collecting pull-tabs to donate to Ronald McDonald House Charities® Oklahoma City since 2020. Understanding that the recycling of pull tabs helps RMHC-OKC cover some of the operating costs the charity incurs, the VFW Post 4876 encourages all members to collect and donate when they come by the Post 4876.



Collecting pull tabs is an easy way to introduce young children to philanthropy, makes great classroom or club projects and truly makes an impact to RMHC-OKC. A little more than 15 nights of stay was provided through pull tab donations.

When asked why Post 4876 collects pull tabs for RMHC-OKC, Larry said, **"RMHC-OKC has a long history in helping families that need it."** This includes his own family. His granddaughter is currently staying at our Ronald McDonald House® after delivering her baby prematurely. "RMHC-OKC is providing her a place to stay so she can be close to her daughter daily during her recovery from an early birth."

Larry and his wife make the long drive from Altus to drop off their pull tabs. On their first visit they had a 50-gallon ice chest and several large plastic jars full of pull tabs!

"The post hopes that our donations will continue to help RMHC-OKC to help families that need assistance for medical reasons," said Larry.

DONOR STORIES

The Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic

Each December, employees of The Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic in Oklahoma City (OAAC) make a special delivery to our Ronald McDonald House®. For more than 10 years, employees have collected and donated several pounds of non-perishable items to fill our pantry. Their donation drive has become a friendly competition among teams within the practice.

After a long day at the hospital, families look forward to an evening meal together at the Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to OAAC, our pantry is filled with items our volunteer guest chefs can use to prepare comforting meals.



Scott Dennis, Chief Operating Officer of The Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic, said it was RMHC-OKC's mission that got them involved. He said they give because he knows they make a difference for the families whose children are facing a medical crisis and are staying at the House.

We asked Scott what he wishes others knew about RMHC-OKC:

"The sincerity of appreciation shown by not only the families, but the staff when your donations are received. Each year when we collect non-perishable items readying them to donate to RMHC-OKC, we hope to continue our giving legacy at Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic."

"When talking to someone else about RMHC-OKC we would tell them that the organization truly makes a difference for families that are facing a difficult time, and regardless of whether you give of your time, talent or treasures, you are making an impact for families".



The Harts

Brandon and Lindsey Hart have been a part of Ronald McDonald House Charities® Oklahoma City family for several years. With two young children, Lindsey and Brandon understand the importance of keeping families together. In fact, it's why they give to RMHC-OKC.

"Children undergoing medical treatment, and families being together during this time was the big WHY for us," said Lindsay.

The Hart's are also co-chairs of RMHC-OKC's signature event, the Red Shoe Rendezvous. Brandon and Lindsey have attended the event for the last eight years, served on the

committee for six years, and for the last four years have served as co-chairs. As co-chairs they have made it their mission to broaden the awareness within our community for the needs of families in health crisis and the services RMHC provides. With their energy and enthusiasm, they have helped raise much needed funds each year to support more families.

Lindsey understands the impact of having family close. "To provide the families the opportunity to be together helps provide a positive atmosphere, which statistically improves the healing process."

The Hart's are passionate about the mission of RMHC-OKC and know their generosity has a direct impact on families. **"We** continue to give to RMHC-OKC because of the impact we see on the families from across our state, and even beyond. Being able to give the gift of togetherness for a family will continue to be our why."

EVENT STORIES



Walk for Kids

Our 2021 Walk for Kids was held June 12, 2021. Walkers raised funds and awareness for the needs of families in medical crisis – in their own communities, at a time of their choice. We welcome the return of this fun, family friendly event at a new venue this year - Scissortail Park in downtown Oklahoma City. The walk will take place on Saturday, June 11, 2022. For more information about Walk for Kids, please contact Andrea Moore at amoore@rmhc-okc.org.



Cooking Together

Cooking Together made its debut in 2021. Nashbird owners, Marc and Jenny Dunham taught participants to create New Orleans inspired dishes in a virtual cooking class. This event was

presented by Northrop Grumman Corporate Citizenship Team and Northrop Grumman Women's International Network and spices were donated by Savory Spice. With such a successful format this event will return multiple times throughout 2022.

Funds raised from the event help us provide a home-away-from-home which include a comfortable place to rest, meals, laundry services, and many other resources for families of sick or injured children so they can be close to the long term care they need.

For more information about 2022 Cooking Together events, please contact Andrea Moore at amoore@rmhc-okc.org.





Red Shoe Rendezvous

Red Shoe Rendezvous, our premiere fundraising event of the year, was held Friday, September 24, 2021, at the Omni Hotel. The event was co-chaired by Dave and Stacy Lopez and Brandon and Lindsey Hart. It was a night to remember for our generous guests, many of whom danced the night away to the music of Weekend Allstars wearing their red shoes in support of the families we serve.

Guests heard from one of our forever families; the Dupler/Hayes family. Kayla Dupler, an attorney at Ft. Sill and Everett Hayes, age 2 (at the time) took to the stage where Kayla shared the story of her son's birth. When Everett was born Kayla noticed his breathing was off and so was his color, unfortunately that resulted in an emergency

trip to OU Children's Hospital. Kayla stayed with us which allowed her to focus on her son's progress and health. At the time Kayla was still in law school, so she also found great benefit in being able to use the computers in the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

We are so excited to share that this event raised more than \$475,000-- our best year yet!

The evening's program included the presentation of our Red Shoe Award, and we were pleased to honor Dave and Stacy Lopez. Dave and Stacy have given to RMHC-OKC for many years, and not just monetarily, the Lopez's devote so much of their time serving as Guest Chefs and as co-chairs of the Red Shoe event the last six years. The Red Shoe Award is the Charity's highest honor and is given to an individual or organization that has made a significant impact to RMHC-OKC through gifts of their time, talent or treasure.

On September 23, 2022 we will return to Omni Hotel to celebrate our 20th year of the Red Shoe event. For more information about Red Shoe Rendezvous, please contact Judy Reyes-Henderson at jreyes-henderson@rmhc-okc.org.



2021 DONORS

Thank you!

Ball, Martha and Comire, Ursula Bank of Oklahoma Foundation Blaney, Tweedy, Tipton & Hiersche PLLC Bockus, Bruce and Suzanne Boehm, Pamela Caine, Tracy and Ann Carmichael Foundation Christopher Foris Ranch Account Deardeuff, Dave and Teresa Garrett, Gina Garza's Green Grass Lawncare & Landscaping Goldsby, Shane and Heather Great Plains Trust Co. Hahn Appliance Warehouse Hartzog Conger Cason LLP Hill, Billy and Annice Horrocks , Biff and Sue Hudson, James Hwang, Andrew and Sophia

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McDonald's METRICS

Thank you for your support!

CUSTOMER DONATIONS



Donation Box & Round-Up **\$63,731.31**

OWNER/OPERATOR SUPPORT









"With our entire home life falling to pieces the one comfort we had was at the RMH. We can walk over to the hospital anytime we are worried about our baby. We can spend the days with her and sleep in a comfy bed at night." -The Ivey Family

"Everything was fine...then there were talks of heart surgery. We had two other children at home and nowhere to stay. The first night was spent at a scary motel. We were so grateful to receive a room at the Ronald McDonald House®." - The Weatherly's

"Everyone here has been super nice and treats you like family." - Mrs. Cooper aka Grandma



Ronald McDonald House Charities Oklahoma City

Administrative Offices 13439 Broadway Extension, Suite 130 Oklahoma City, OK 73114 (405) 424-6873

Ronald McDonald House at Oklahoma Children's Hospital Garrison Tower 940 NE 13th Street, Suite 3100 (405) 271-3180

Ronald McDonald Family Room at Oklahoma Children's Hospital Sixth Floor 1200 N. Children's Avenue

1200 N. Children's Avenue (405) 271-2215

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