



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RED SHOE GALA RAISED \$325,000 IN NET PROCEEDS TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (August 21, 2018)** – Supporters of Ronald McDonald House Charities Oklahoma City (RMHC-OKC) on Saturday, August 11, 2018, put on their finest red shoes and raised \$325,000 in net proceeds at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Red Shoe Gala at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club in support of RMHC-OKC's mission to keep families together in a medical crisis.

This year the prestigious Red Shoe Award was given to Jodi Sanchez for her continued commitment to support RMHC for over 15 years.

"At Ronald McDonald House Charities, we believe just one person can truly make a huge difference in the lives of others," said Susan Adams, RMHC-OKC President and CEO. "Our community is very fortunate to have Jodi Sanchez call Oklahoma City home. Jodi has walked the RMHC mile in so many ways, has touched the lives of so many people, and seen so many things. She knows how important it is to lead by example."

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Red Shoe Gala had many entertaining moments from admiring Ray Tennyson paint Russel Westbrook on canvas; discovering which Kendra Scott piece of jewelry was opened; listening to the amazing vocals of Miss Northwestern's Outstanding Teen, Carli Seabolt; hearing from two RMHC-OKC Guest Families about their experience; being entertained by Weekend All Stars and enjoying a late night snack from McDonald's.

"This year's Red Shoe Gala was an incredible evening" said Dave Lopez, Co-Chair of the Red Shoe Gala and VP of Operations for Lopez Foods. "The Davis and Siewe families' story about their time at the Ronald McDonald House was extremely touching and truly brings to life the reason why we raise money for the mission to keep families together in their time of need. We are able to help families from all over our state and give them a "home-away-from-home" at no cost to guest families when their child is in the hospital."

This event will help families like the Siewe family. From Stillwater, Okla., Uliyemi and Siewe weren't expecting to welcome their youngest son quite so soon. Uliyemi was having complications and was sent to The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center. After just one day, David was born 15 weeks premature weighing 1 lb and 6 oz, on November 20, 2017.

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The Siewe family stayed 83 days at the Ronald McDonald House to be near David while he received treatment before going home.

“The Ronald McDonald House gave me the ability to take care of both of my boys, Daniel and David,” said Uliyemi. “I didn’t have to choose to leave Daniel with a family member in Stillwater where I would barely get to see him while I was with David in the hospital. I was able to keep my whole family together. It was the best thing during that stressful time.”

Sponsoring the event was: Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages, The Chickasaw Nation, Dorada Foods, Lopez Foods, Inc., and John and Jeannie Lopez.

For more information, please contact Susan Adams, President and CEO at 405-424-6873 x104 or [sadams@rmhc-okc.org](mailto:sadams@rmhc-okc.org).

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**ABOUT RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OKLAHOMA CITY**

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation that keeps families with sick children close to each other and the medical care their child needs when they need it most. With two Ronald McDonald Houses and a Ronald McDonald Family Room in Oklahoma City, RMHC-OKC programs not only provide access to quality health care, they enable family-centered care ensuring families are fully supported and actively involved in their children’s care. For more information, visit [rmhc-okc.org](http://rmhc-okc.org).