



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DAY OF CHANGE CAN CHANGE A LIFE

Ronald McDonald House Charities Celebrates Day of Change at McDonald's

OKLAHOMA CITY (October 6, 2017) – Ronald McDonald House Charities Oklahoma City (RMHC-OKC) invites everyone to drop off their spare change to participate in the Day of Change Event from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 15 at the McDonald's located at 1300 East 2nd Street in Edmond.

The Day of Change Event will feature fun children's activities like face painting and a coloring contest by age group with prizes. From noon – 2 p.m., Dave McKay from Magic 104.1 FM, KMGL will be at the event to support RMHC-OKC. There will also be a drawing for gift baskets for everyone who brought a full RMHC Change Box to the Day of Change Event. To get your RMHC Change Box, please call 405-424-6871.

The Day of Change Event is only happening at one McDonald's, but RMHC-OKC encourages everyone to donate their spare change at their local participating McDonald's on Sunday, October 15.

"A little change can quickly add up to make a large impact for families. This small act of kindness is a powerful gift for local RMHC-OKC families," said Susan Adams, President and CEO of RMHC-OKC. "Children whose families stay at RMHC-OKC tend to be the sickest, have traveled the furthest distances for care and spend the longest time in the hospital. RMHC-OKC provides a compassionate place for families to stay close to their child and the medical care needed."

Last year, RMHC-OKC helped keep over 1,000 sick children and their families together for more than 7,000 nights, thanks in part to the change donated by McDonald's customers. To accommodate a family for one night costs an average of \$75, and all families at RMHC-OKC stay free of charge.

Day of Change will help families like the Essary family, who were ready to meet their new baby boy, Ezraziel "Ezra" Grayson Lee Essary on September 2, 2017. While going through the birth canal, Ezra contracted a respiratory infection. His lungs could not transition from the womb to breathing air. He was sent to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to be put on a respiratory machine for 10 hours for breathing assistance. Doctors caught the infection early before it became severe and possibly shut down his lungs. After two weeks of antibiotics, Ezra and his family were able to go home on September 16.

"Without the Ronald McDonald House I don't know what we would have done," said Daniel Essary, a guest of RMHC-OKC. "We live an hour and a half away from the hospital. We weren't going to go home and leave our child. RMHC-OKC provided us a place to stay, rest and relax while being close to our child. This helped us wake up and start another day at the hospital with our son."

For more information about Day of Change, please contact Susan Adams, President and CEO at 405-424-6873 x104 or 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.