



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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15TH ANNUAL RED SHOE GALA RAISED \$339,000 IN NET PROCEEDS TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

OKLAHOMA CITY (August 28, 2017) – Supporters of Ronald McDonald House Charities Oklahoma City (RMHC-OKC) on Saturday, August 19, 2017, put on their finest red shoes and raised \$339,000 in net proceeds at the 15th annual Red Shoe Gala at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club in support to keep families near to their sick child and the care and facilities needed.

This year the prestigious Red Shoe Award was given to Dell EMC OKC for their continued commitment to support RMHC.

“As role models ‘for community,’ in our community, Dell employees have helped to provide hope to families in medical crisis through activities that are as varied as the diversity of their teams,” said Susan Adams, President and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities. “At Ronald McDonald House Charities, we believe our people make our programs. Our Dell colleagues have helped to make our House a Home to thousands of guest families.”

The 15th annual Red Shoe Gala had many entertaining moments from meeting Ronald McDonald; admiring Zonly Looman paint his most coveted subject, the Bison; discovering which Kendra Scott piece of jewelry was opened; surprising Joseph Smith, a child from a RMHC guest family, with a smash cake for his birthday; being entertained by The Swon Brothers and enjoying a late night snack from McDonald’s.

“The 2017 Red Shoe Gala was a huge success. The event was filled with love, fun and excitement that brought Oklahomans together for a worthy cause,” said John Patrick Lopez, Co-chair of the Red Shoe Gala and COO of Lopez Foods, Inc. “Ronald McDonald House Charities OKC provides a ‘home away from home’ for Oklahomans from almost every county in the state on an annual basis. They provide support for families from surrounding states as well. If it weren’t for RMHC OKC, some of these families would have nowhere else to turn. The services and programs provided keep families together in their time of need.”

This event will help families like the Smith family. From Indianahoma, Okla., Mack and Catherine Smith had a normal healthy pregnancy. Their son Joseph was born on August 18, 2016, in southwestern Oklahoma. Within an hour of being born, Joseph’s lung collapsed. Due to severe weather, the Medi

Flight helicopter could not bring Joseph to The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center. His parents had to wait for an ambulance to take Joseph to Oklahoma City. During the transport, Joseph had gotten worse. Upon arrival at The Children's Hospital, Mack had to make a last resort decision to sign papers to put Joseph on an ECMO machine to oxygenate his blood by pumping it in and out of his body, utilizing blood vessels in his neck.

While the family was at the hospital, the nurse recommended RMHC for Mack, Catherine and their oldest son, Kellen to stay while Joseph was receiving treatment.

"It was so hard to be away from Joseph, but having a place to come and be a family without being in the hospital was great. It's just as normal as it could possibly be at this point in our lives...There's no doubt that the Ronald McDonald House played a huge part in Joseph's recovery. Being taken care of here, helped us take care of him there. I know that helped speed his recovery. I don't know what we would have done without the Ronald McDonald House," said Catherine Smith.

Sponsoring the event was: McDonald's of Oklahoma, Great Plains Coca-Cola, The Chickasaw Nation, Meed, Mid South Baking, Dorada Foods, Lopez Foods, Inc., OU Children's Physicians and The Children's Hospital at OU Medical Center, Dave and Stacy Lopez, John and Jeannie Lopez and Mercy.

For more information, 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.