Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, Texas, Inc.

Volume 38, Issue No. 34, 2018

Why We Do What We Do



By, Heather Bivin

February 25, 2005 is probably just another date to most of us. However, for one mother, it is a date she will never forget. On that day, so many years ago, Piedad Macias and her 7 year old daughter, Ashley checked into the Lewis St. Ronald McDonald House for what would be the first of many stays.

Newly diagnosed with Juvenile Pilocytic Astrocytoma and in need of emergency brain surgery, little Ashley and her mother settled into the place they would call home for the

next year. After the successful removal of her tumor, Ashley underwent months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. As those months ticked by, Ashley slowly grew stronger, as did the bond the Macias family forged with their fellow guest families and the staff at the RMH. After a long and stressful year of calling San Antonio home, Ashley and Piedad waved goodbye to their new friends and returned home to Laredo, TX.

Though she has been in remission since 2011, Ashley must return to San Antonio every few months for bloodwork and follow-ups. We have had the honor of getting to know this remarkable family over the last $12 \frac{1}{2}$ years and have witnessed Ashley go from a brave little 7 year old girl to the still brave, self-assured, 20 year old role model she is today. Each family who enters our doors also enters our hearts and inspires us to be brave and stay strong, no matter what challenges we might face. I would like to thank the Macias family for allowing me to share their story. You are why what we do what we do!



Construction has begun!!

We are excited to announce that bulldozers have begun to clear the land for our 4th Ronald McDonald House which will house an additional 21 families. We are thrilled to be able to expand our capacity to serve families seeking our services. Naming opportunities are still available. Call (210) 614-2554 for more information. For updates on the construction visit www.facebook.com/rmhcsanantonio.







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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Penny Viteo

It's December and my favorite time of the year. Whether your holiday celebration is Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Three Kings Day, or you just enjoy sharing the season with family and friends, the December holiday season represents the best of us all – generosity, charity, goodwill, and consideration of others.

At Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, it's our favorite time of the year too. The houses are decorated with extra care, and Santa and Mrs. Claus and Ronald McDonald come to our holiday parties at each house. These are such joy-filled events. The kids are excited, parents are relaxed and so pleased to watch their kids' happiness, and there are touching reunions of families who met at our houses in past years. These friendships last a lifetime.

This is what Ronald McDonald House is all about – giving families a safe and welcoming place, a respite from the hospital, and a place where families make friends with others who are sharing similar experiences.

For the past several years, we have had more families that needed a place at our three houses than we could usually accommodate. We hate to turn away families because we don't have enough rooms.

I've written before about our plan to build a fourth house in San Antonio to help us meet demand. I'm very happy to announce that, by the time you're reading this newsletter, we will have started construction of the fourth house. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has supported our capital campaign to build this house.

There is still much to be done and funds raised to complete construction. Your contribution to our capital campaign (including donations of construction supplies and furnishings) will benefit so many families with seriously ill or injured children, many of whom have nowhere else to stay while their children are receiving medical treatment. Please find it in your hearts to give generously.

In closing out this message and the year 2017, on behalf of the RMHCSA Board of Directors, I would like to thank Pat Bivin, our Executive Director, and all the members of her staff, the members of the Friends of Ronald McDonald House, and the many volunteers who work so hard to help the families at our houses. God bless you!

May you all have a blessed season of joy and goodwill, and please stay safe.

Penny Viteo RMHCSA Board President







COOL CARS FOR REMARKABLE KIDS!

October 19, 2017 was an exciting day. In collaboration with GM Financial our Ronald McDonald Houses received two beautifully wrapped Chevrolet Traverses for use at our homes for the next two years! Additionally, North Park Chevrolet Castroville has agreed to provide service for the two vehicles free of charge. We are so grateful for these relationships and support and are excited by the mobility opportunities this generous partnership affords us. A big "THANK YOU" for your thoughtfulness.



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Big Engines, Bigger Hearts

By, Heather Bivin

Whether you are into luxury, functionality, or raw, unapologetic muscle, there were plenty of sights to delight at The San Antonio Auto and Truck Show! November 9-12 of 2017, the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in downtown San Antonio was transformed into a feast for the senses! From the always stylish Rolls Royce, to the most cutting edge family vehicles, the most monstrous of monster trucks, to immensely iconic muscle cars, there was something for everyone. This year, Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio participated in the fun for the very first time thanks to a very generous donation of booth space by The San Antonio Auto Dealers Association! This incredible gift gave us the opportunity to attend the entire 4 day event and share information about Ronald McDonald House Charities with a large and diverse audience. We would like to send a HUGE "Thank you!" to the awesome folks at The San Antonio Auto Dealers Association! Your big hearts and generosity warm our hearts!







WASSERMAN



USAA



UNITED HEALTHCARE



GAME STOP



We sailed the seas on Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas





Love was in the air aboard The Ronald McDonald House Cruise in November. Spenser popped the question, at the back of the ship, overlooking the ocean during sunset. Good thing she said, "YES" or it would've been a really long cruise! Congratulations Spenser & Brittney on your engagement. On Thursday, November 16, 2017 we set sail to the beautiful island of Cozumel, on the First Annual Ronald McDonald House Charities Cruise. While on board we were treated to live music, and of course, lots of food. There was always something fun to do from pool games, the casino, bingo, ship tours, rock climbing, Vegas style shows, Comedy shows, dancing and enjoying the spa. Once in port, we had many different options to choose from for excursions, from snorkeling to tours of the island, ATV adventures and shopping. There was something for everyone. My family chose snorkeling and the Starfish Sanctuary and it was absolutely amazing. We did not want to get out of the crystal clear ocean water. It was breathtaking.

We had a blast and created wonderful memories while giving back to an amazing cause. We even had an engagement on the cruise from our group. Brittney & Spenser were engaged at sunset on the back of the ship and were congratulated by family, friends and a bottle of champagne. Congrats Brittney & Spenser.

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us! We had guests from all over the state of Texas, as well as, Arizona and Alaska. Special thanks to the lovely ADPI ladies and McDonald's Teams. We had over 120 people in our group and hope to double that next year. Please stay tuned for the dates of the 2018 Second Annual Ronald McDonald House Cruise.



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One Person Can Change The World By, Heather Bivin



We have all seen things, whether on the news or in person, that we wish we could help change. Emotionally charged scenes of devastation and despair that carve out little pieces of our hearts and that our minds travel to from time to time. Most of us have the desire to help, but feel overwhelmed wondering how much of a difference one person can really make and become discouraged.

Well, Dr. Mark Kline is proof that one person really can change the world! Dr. Kline, who is Physician-in-Chief of Texas Children's Hospital and Head of Pediatrics for Baylor College of Medicine, pushed those thoughts aside and began the

journey that has saved the lives of countless children and continues to do so. He has dedicated his professional life not only to helping children, but also to the eradication of pediatric HIV/AIDS globally and insuring future generations of children do not suffer the same fate as their predecessors.

We were fortunate and honored to have had him as our Keynote speaker at our fundraising luncheon May 11. Thank you, Dr. Kline, your passion and ingenuity truly inspired us and prove that one person really can change the world!

Wish List

Laundry Detergent Softener Sheets Cleaning Products Swiffer Sweeper Dry & Wet Cloths (small size) Trash Can Liners Zip Lock Bags

Aluminum Foil Cooking Oil Mr. Clean Magic Erasers Towels Hand Towels Washcloths Blankets Plastic & Quilted Pillow Covers Queen & Twin Size Plastic Mattress Covers (fitted)

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SHARE A NIGHT

Your contribution of \$5.00 will give the gift of togetherness and hope to families staying at one of our three San Antonio Ronald Mc-Donald Houses.

For over 32 years, Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio has provided homes for children and their families to stay while receiving medical treatment at one of our local medical facilities.

> \$80 Covers the cost to operate a guest room for one night





Ronald McDonald House Charity Golf Classic sponsored by Greater San Antonio McDonald Owner/Operator Association

Each year, Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio host a golf tournament fundraiser to help with the daily operating costs of our 3 San Antonio homes and 2 Family Rooms in Laredo, TX. This year, we are excited to announce that we have a brand new venue for this event, The JW Marriott San Antonio! One of only 3 properties in the United States to host 2 Tour events each year and set in the picturesque Texas hill country, playing this course is sure to be an unforgettable experience for any golfer! Please join us Monday, March 5, 2018 at 9 a.m. to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio and enjoy a day you won't soon forget! For more information, please contact Liz Medina at (210) 614-2554. We hope to see you there!

For sponsorships and registration visit www.rmhcsanantonio.org



KINGDOM FOR KIDS XII

By Kimberly Grill

SA AUTO DEALERS PROVIDE PLAYGROUND AT RONALD McDONALD HOUSE (MEDICAL CENTER)

On the morning of October 7, 2017 the San Antonio Auto Dealers, along with Volunteers from Kingdom for Kids and City Year helped Professional Installers, Creative Concepts, install a \$25,000 playground (donated by SA Auto Dealers), which included mulch and landscaping.

We are extremely thankful for the hardwork that was put into this project. It means so much to these families to have an escape from the medical issues they are faced with by having a critically ill or injured child.

Special thank you to Pam Crail, President of SA Auto Dealers and Rick Cavender, Chairman



Ronald McDonald House Staff

Executive Director Pat Bivin

Assistant Executive Director Elizabeth Medina

Marketing Communications/ Development Associate Kimberly Grill

> Community/ Guest Relations Heather Bivin

Volunteer Coordinator Natalie Avalos

Operations Manager *Ryan Bivin*

Information Specialist Sharon Hensley

Facilities Manager Jack Bates

House Manager - Lewis St. Juanita Bivin

Assistant House Manager - Lewis St. Misti Villarreal

House Manager - Medical Center Sandra Garza

House Manager Children's Hospital of San Antonio Sarita Villegas

Assistant House Manager Children's Hospital of San Antonio Bianca Munoz

> Night Managers - Lewis St. Phillip Avila Ashley Grill Herminia Maldonado

Night Managers - Medical Center Karen Bauer Andrew Robinson Destiny Terrazas

Night Managers Children's Hospital of San Antonio Krista Baca Jesilyn Risheg Jason Satterwhite

Friends of Ronald McDonald House Administrative Assistant Cindy Timmins



Keeping Current By Pat Bivin Executive Director

Seasons change, situations change, even people change, but the need for Ronald McDonald House Charities in San Antonio remains. In fact, we are needed now more than ever and in order to meet this growing need, we must grow and build our 4th San Antonio House. This labor of love will require lots of love and support from our community. The power, importance, and unique magic of Ronald McDonald House Charities is shown every day, whether in the eyes of a grateful parent who finally gets to rest after a long and stressful day at the hospital, or in the laughter of children as it echoes throughout the house during a moment of distraction and fun as they play with one another or a group of volunteers. During the holidays, we are reminded of this more than ever. We recently held our annual holiday parties at our 3 San Antonio Ronald McDonald Houses and it was wonderful to see our guest families enjoying themselves and just being present for a few moments. Not consumed with test results, medication schedules, or the unknown, but just "being." During this time we were honored to be visited by many of our previous guest families who chose to attend our parties and share part of their holidays with their Ronald McDonald House family. I cannot tell you how many times I heard "Thank you!" and "I don't know what we would have done without you all!" After many hugs and mini catch-up sessions, my thoughts in response to the kind words of my old friends were this... There is no need to thank us. Seeing you all here tonight, taking time out of your busy lives to spend some time with us, recharges our souls and makes us even more passionate about our mission of keeping families close. As I said, we are needed now more than ever and so are all of you in order to grow and continue our mission. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2018!

Medical Center Ronald MCDonald House Celebrates 20 Years



"Save the Date" Saturday, May 5, 2018 11 am to 2 pm Ronald McDonald House 4803 Sid Katz Food, games and entertainment



These children touched our lives for just a brief time. While they are no longer here with us, they will remain forever in our hearts.

Jonathan Barron Devonne Duhart Gabrielle & Jonathan Hernandez Natalie Soto Maldonado Bella Munoz Jade Resendis Aaron Sanchez, Jr. Kamila Sanchez

Combined Federal Campaign

If you are a federal employee, postal worker or member of the U.S. Military, please remember to give to us through your Combined Federal Campaign our CFC number is 22826



By Heather Bivin

Each year, Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio hosts a "Chair-ity" fundraiser. Local artists refurbish chairs and tables and create one-of-a-kind works of art. These unique creations are paired with other fun items like gift certificates and game tickets, and are auctioned off through silent and live auctions. This fun event also has live music and tons of great food! Stay tuned into our social media sites for the date of our next "Chair-ity"! If you would like to particiapte as a designer or donate to our auction give us a call at (210) 614-2554. We hope to see you there!







Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, Texas, Inc. 4803 Sid Katz, San Antonio, Texas 78229

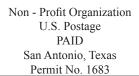
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ROCK STARS & STRIPES A ROCK N ROLL ROAD TRIP ACROSS AMERICA

by Liz Medina

On September 30, we visited the beautiful Tobin Center in San Antonio to listen to DAVID VICTOR formerly of BOSTON. He took us down memory lane as we listened to music from the 60's, 70's and 80's, this was music to our ears and hearts. He also held a live auction during the show as the audience texted their bid for a beautiful autographed guitar. Afterwards he and his band signed autographs for the attendees, but even before the concert he and his wife Tamra came by to visit the children at the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you David, Tamra and Rock Stars & Stripes Team for making a difference!







Newsletter Published annually by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio Home News (Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, Texas, Inc..) Design by: Elizabeth Medina Main Office: 4803 Sid Katz, San Antonio, Texas 78229 Tel: (210) 614-2554 Fax: (210) 614-2905