





HOME NEWS

A House of Comfort, Healing and Love....



Our experience at the RMHC in San Antonio, Texas has been a true blessing. In April of 2018, our family endured a tremendous tragedy when our niece fell into a coma from a hypoxic brain injury while carrying her unborn child. Over two months later her health declined and despite that, delivered a healthy baby girl. Unfortunately, ten days later our niece succumbed to her injuries and passed away before getting the chance to see her daughter's face. Our family's precious bundle was born at an early, 28 weeks gestation weighing 2lbs. and 10.5 ounces and was fighting to be our saving grace in a time of tragedy.

Upon her early arrival, Methodist Hospital referred our family to the RMHC in San Antonio. They welcomed us with open arms. RMHC has been a well-known nation wide charity but far more than we ever knew. The warm, loving staff, beautiful accommodations and the comfort of the house made our stay feel like home. The RMHC of San Antonio calmed many of our anxieties during this time. They provided prepared meals and meals cooked by volunteers. Food was donated as well as all the supplies you would need and have in your own home. During my stay at the house, I had the chance to meet many families from different places. I shared and received comfort, support and even friendships. Our family was blessed with the greatest opportunity to stay at the RMHC of San Antonio until our precious baby girl was strong

enough to make the journey home to her adopted family in the arms of her adopted mother.

The few months at the house has given us a firsthand look at how this charity is managed. RMHC of San Antonio has left me with such gratitude and life-long friendships. Without the RMHC of San Antonio, staying in Texas to be with our baby would have been nearly impossible. We would like to give thanks to the RMHC of San Antonio and all those who oversee the facility, donate and volunteer. Our family's loss will forever remain tender however, we have been shown such kindness and we have faith that our future will be bright.

The Flores Family



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all our families, staff, volunteers, Board Members and donors,

As we welcome 2019, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible year that we have had.

Our year started with an incredible challenge to raise funds for the completion of our 4th Ronald McDonald House. I have been involved with the Ronald McDonald Charities for a very long time and, certainly, I considered this one of our most ambitious undertakings. We have been blessed with long time partners that have made our Charity part of their missions, but we still needed help to achieve our goal of raising over \$6 million for the new Home. Along with a highly talented group of Board Members, we started this task with significant faith in God and our partners. Our prayers were answered sometime in May when we were notified that we would be receiving a donation in excess of the \$4 million that we needed to complete our house. We expect to open our new facility early in 2019. With this act, we will continue to fulfill our mission of providing a home away from home for those families of critically ill children.

Also, I want to take a moment to discuss our unsung heroes. I have witnessed the endless commitment that our staff has for our families and all of the guests that we host at our homes. It is their daily efforts what make our Houses truly a "HOME AWAY FROM HOME". Time and time again, I walk into our properties and I'm frequently stopped by families that have kind words for our Staff. To our Pat Bivin and our STAFF, I want to say THANK YOU! We are truly blessed to have you and you have a special place in the hearts of all the families.

To our Board Members, I want to also extend my gratitude. Your voluntary time and efforts go a long way into keeping our Charity functioning so that we can continue to serve our Community. I couldn't ask for a more professional and more dedicated group. I encourage you to keep getting involved and continue to be great Ambassadors of our great Charity.

Finally, I want to say thank you for trusting me to continue to lead this life changing Charity. Throughout the years, I have seen how a little love and faith can go a long way when families are dealing with a sick child. We are constantly reminded about the blessings that God bestows upon us and sometimes we take for granted just how precious a simple act of kindness can go. I am honored to be involved in an organization that always considers the feelings and emotions of those going through difficult times with a child. Our work will never be measured in words or dollars but on the lives that we touch along the way.

Cheers to a new and blessed New Year 2019!

Carlos Rodriguez RMHCSA Board President

Thomas Unruh





OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

By Heather Bivin

In October 11, 2018 we held our annual fundraising luncheon. We were so happy to have a new venue this year, the beautiful Jewish Community Center! Our keynote speaker was former NFL Cincinnati Bengals' defensive tackle, Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year, and Penn State University All-American, author and People Magazine's 2016 Dad of the Year, DEVON STILL. His heartwarming presentation on overcoming adversity was a truly eye-opening experience. It proved that we have no idea how incredibly strong we are until we find ourselves in a situation which demands our strength. We would like to thank Devon for sharing his story of overcoming adversity with us! Also, thank you to all of our sponsors and attendees!









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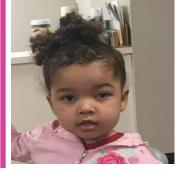
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9

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4th House Grand Opening Celebration Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:00 PM

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Confirm details and RSVP http://evite.me/4sVVZNCsrD





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The happiest people are those who do the most for others.

Booker T. Washington



KIDS IN LAREDO, TEXAS HELP KIDS

AT RMHC OF SANANTONIO

by Kristy Walston



In 2009, two Ronald McDonald House Family Rooms opened in Laredo, Texas in Doctors Hospital and Laredo Medical Center Hospital. Since that time over 3,500 families have been able to rest, take a shower, watch television, make private calls, or seek out other families in similar circumstances. Additionally out of all of the guests who stay at one of our three, soon to be four, houses in San Antonio, the largest percentage are from the Laredo area. We are available to offer our support to them during one of the most stressful situations of their lives. We know from experience how grateful families are and how we have eased some of their worries

and financial problems by providing a place of respite. Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio has successfully been keeping families close for almost 35 years which would not have been possible without the generous support from the communities we serve.

For several years, united Independent School District (UISD) of Laredo Texas, has been doing an annual fundraiser to support us. We were invited to a ceremony on November 6th and were thrilled to be presented a check for over \$22,000! Amazingly, the district more than doubled their number of schools participating and almost doubled their contribution from last year! Thank you to all of the students, parents, teachers and principals who made this such a success. The participating schools include:

Arndt Elementary
Borchers Elementary
Centeno Elementary
Clark Elementary
Colonel Santos Benavides Elementary
Cuellar Elementary
Fasken Elementary
Freedom Elementary
Killam Elementary
Malakoff Elementary

Matis de Llano Elementary
Muller Elementary
Newman Elementary
Prada Elementary
Ruíz Elementary
San Isídro Elementary
Trautmann Elementary
Trautmann Middle School Cheer & Lasso Teams
Veterans Memorial Elementary

We are extremely grateful to Elsa Trejo with UISD for devoting so much passion and energy to this incredible success. We would also like to thank Mike Marasco, Laredo McDonalds owner, Roberto J. Santos, UISD Superintendent, and Gloria S. Rendon, UISD Associate Superintendent for Administration for making this possible. We are filled with gratitude and look forward to many more years of supporting and partnering with such an amazing and generous community.

Kitchen face-lift for Sid Katz House

Fresh updates were made to the kitchen at the Sid Katz House in 2017. Improvements include much needed brighter lighting, refinished cabinets, quartz counter tops, new sinks and faucets and up to date wall covering. Wow... what a new look!

We would like to thank Joyce Bryant, Peggy Zettner and the following who participated in this remodel:



Lighting Inc. Trevino Painting Universal Marble Ferguson Plumbing Trikes Wallcovering Vien Dinh Wallcovering installation

Angel of Hope By Barbara Neisendorf, RMH Friends President

Wear Your Support for Ronald McDonald House Charities

The Angel of Hope has been made exclusively for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Your Valentine will LOVE this beautiful, custom-made jewelry that symbolizes the love and hope that the Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio provide each year to over 1,700 families whose children face life-threating ill-

nesses. As your Guardian Angel watches over you, "The House That Love Built" provides a warm embrace of love, hope, comfort, and safety to families in their time of need.

Red Tree Jewelry donates 20% of the total sale price of these pieces, which goes directly to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, TX. To purchase, go to http://redtreejewelry.com/rhmc or call (210) 837-0034.



Welcome To The Family

by Heather Bivin

The staff of RMHC of San Antonio is happy to introduce you to our 3 newest family members!

We feel very lucky and blessed that our newest family members chose us with whom to share their talents! Welcome to the family!

Susan Halsell, House Manager, House #4 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward."

Colossians 3: 23.24

Susan began her journey with us as a Weekend Manager. Prior to that, she was her childrens' at home educator, as well as a "Mother's Day Out" caretaker for her church. Her experience with and love of children make her the perfect fit for House Manager!



Carlos Tapia, Facilities Manager "What a wonderful workplace!"

Before he joined us at RMHC of San Antonio, Carlos worked as the Chief Engineer for Days Inn and several other companies. His years of experience with every aspect of facilities management makes him a wonderful fit!



Kristy Walston, Chief Development
Officer "I am thrilled about joining the
Ronald McDonald House family and
cannot wait to further expand the amazing network of support for "The House
That Love Built"."

Kristy has decades of experience in the non-profit arena. She has worked for the USO, Inman Christian Center, JDRF, and Family Service Association. She has also received awards for her work in non-profit services. Her passion for igniting the community to support families in need make her a great asset to our team!









We are shining a spotlight on Ronald McDonald House Charities by celebrating with an extended weekend of fun starting with the Grand Opening of our 4th House on Saturday March 23rd followed by our 14th Annual Golf Fore a Cause Classic Monday morning. Gather your foursomes, check out our sponsorship opportunities and join the excitement while #keepingfamiliesclose. Go to www.rmhcsanantonio.org to sign up to play or become a sponsor!

Contact Kristy Walston at (210) 614-2554 for more information.



FRIENDS OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Support, Friends & Love

Please be A FRIEND of Ronald McDonald House! The mission of the FRIENDS is to provide support, friendship, and love to the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald Houses of San Antonio. The Friends support the mission of Ronald McDonald House by promoting community awareness, participating in special fund-raising activities, and volunteering their time, talent, and resources. For an annual membership fee of \$40, you can join our team of SUPER volunteers. Go to https://www.rmhcsanantonio.org/our-mission/friends-membership-application and sign up today!



8th Times The Charm By Heather Bivin

On Saturday, November 10, 2018, we held our 8th Annual Chair-ity Gala! The stars were twinkling in the big Texas sky as our gala guests arrived at the enchanted Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch. As they entered, music from the very talented Nick Lawrence Band filled the air, along with the mouth-watering smells coming from the delicious food! Adding to the evening were the dazzling, unique works of art crafted by very talented local artists for our silent auction! We would like to thank all of our donors, sponsors, and artists for sharing their generosity, time, and talents with us! Also, thank you to Deborah Knapp for being our emcee and finally, a big thank you to everyone who attended our gala. We appreciate your support!



















Ronald McDonald House Charities Staff

Executive Director Pat Bivin Assistant Executive Director Elizabeth Medina Chief Development Officer Kristy Walston Director of Development Denise Bennett Marketing Communications/ **Development Associate** Kimberly Grill Community/Guest Relations Heather Bivin Volunteer Coordinator Natalie Vallejo **Operations Manager** Ryan Bivin **Information Specialist** Sharon Hensley Facilities Manager

House Manager - Lewis Juanita Bivin

Carlos Tapia

Assistant House Manager - Lewis
Misti Villarreal

House Manager - Medical Center Sandra Hernandez

House Manager - 4th House Susan Halsell

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

Herminia Maldonado

Raauel Luevano

Night Managers - Medical Center April Quintanilla Matt Viteo

Night Managers Children's Hospital of San Antonio Maria De la Cruz Linda Paul Jesilyn Risheg Jason Satterwhite

Friends of Ronald McDonald House Administrative Assistant Cindy Timmins



Happy 20th Birthday House #2

By Heather Bivin

May 5, 2018 was definitely a day of celebration here in San Antonio as it marked the 20th birthday of our Medical Center Ronald McDonald House! For the past 2 decades, our House has been welcoming families from all over Texas, the United States, and beyond with open doors and open hearts. The festivities included fun, food, music, games and special visitors! Children and adults alike delighted in spending the afternoon with super heroes, furry friends, members of the Fire Department, and the S.W.A.T. Team and even got to go for a spin in a Ferrari! We would like to thank our kind and generous volunteers, donors, and party-goers for helping us celebrate this joyous occasion! Happy 20th Birthday, House#2!

Here's to 20 more!















Interested in supporting our charity? Make a pledge of one cent or more, for every birdie made during the Valero Texas Open. Or you can make a one-time donation to support our charity thru April 11, 2019

100% of your contribution will directly benefit Ronald McDonald House and the Valero Texas Open will increase it with an additional 7% match.

Vísít: https://events.r2ít.com/bírdíes/r.aspx?síte=ValeroTexasOpengcharíty=RonaldMcDonaldHouse



Keeping Current
By Pat Bivin
Executive Director

As of January 16th of this year, I am grateful to say I have had the privilege and honor to serve as the Executive Director of this wonderful organization for 33 years. On that day 33 years ago I could have never imagined the rewarding journey that lay ahead. Each year has brought new challenges as we have grown and expanded our reach. Families from all over the world have found comfort and caring in our homes. Permanent friendships have been fostered. Bonds have been formed that can never be broken.

Our Ronald McDonald Houses have seen a great deal of heartbreak, little ones taken too soon. We all mourn. It is also a very joyous home. Victories small and large are celebrated, Samantha gained an ounce, Roberto regained consciousness, Miguel is cancer free and heading home. The courage, the never ending optimism and LOVE is inspirational.

2018 reminded us again that the cycle of life continues. In this newsletter you will see the names of some of the children we continue mourn. Additionally, we were saddened to lose two of our Ronald McDonald House staff members. Karen served as Evening Manager at our Sid Katz location. She began with us in the 80's, left for other opportunities then returned to us a couple of years ago. She passed away unexpectedly and is greatly missed. She had a way of connecting with the families and was a true asset to our home. Doris, affectionately known as "grandma", also worked for us in the 80's, retired and then decided to come back to work for us. She did retire again but would still reconnect with staff and families at special events. She truly was the surrogate "grandma" for hundreds of our special families. Karen and Doris are no longer with us but will not be forgotten.

2019 will be an exciting year as we open our 4th Ronald McDonald House. Your support has made this possible as we welcome families who would have previously been turned away due to lack of space. We thank and honor you for your support. As we comfort a family of a critically ill child we will be reminded that you cared enough to help us give the gift of keeping families close during their time of need.

Seasons change and faces change. Our mission and the needs of our families are steadfast. Our need for your support continues. We thank you for your generosity and trust as well as your care and concern for the families we serve.

My wish for each of you is a healthy and happy 2019 surrounded by and shared with those who bring meaning to your life.

With gratitude,

Pat

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

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Wish List

Softener Sheets
Cleaning Products
Swiffer Sweeper Dry & Wet Cloths (small size)
Trash Can Liners
Zip Lock Bags
Aluminum Foil
Cooking Oil
Towels
Hand Towels
Washcloths
Blankets

Plastic & Quilted Pillow Covers Queen & Twin Size Mattress Covers (fitted) 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.

Alyssa Renee Austin Melody Cruz Olivia Heffinger Precious Hernandez Walter Calvin Herrera Judah Johnson Kattya Llamas, Katherine Lopez Tristan Lopez Melanie Martinez Melany Mendoza John Morgan Noah James Ortiz Evangelina Pena-Pasqualone Derrick Rosas Janelle Serrano Alexander Villarreal Amaray Zarate Jorge Luis Zerrweck