

GratitudeReport2024

Keeping families close™



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Southern Arizona



WITH GRATITUDE

For all our volunteers who know that love and compassion help families heal.

For all our donors and friends who support the work of RMHC® in countless ways.

And for all the families who place their trust in us while their children are receiving medical care.

Thank you so very much. We share these highlights of our past year with heartfelt gratitude.

All photography by Audria Abney, Meredith Amadee or Diana Smith except where noted.

Home is more than a place to me.

It's a feeling of being valued and being surrounded by those who share your values. Where you can make a meaningful contribution every day (or at least most days). That's how I have felt about working for the Ronald McDonald House®.

For the past eight years, I have had the honor and privilege to lead this lovely organization that is making such a difference in the lives of children and their families. I have worked alongside some of the best people I've ever known – my staff, my board, our volunteers and friends.

It's been a dream job, for sure.

With no small amount of angst, I have decided that my next chapter is calling me – to care for children in my own family, as I now have six grandchildren! My grandmother had a huge impact on my life, and I want more time to be that person for my grandchildren.

With the support of the community, we've done so much these past few years to enhance the warm welcome families feel at the Ronald McDonald House. And we are supporting their journeys in new and creative ways. We've added Ronald McDonald Family Room® programs to provide respite for all families with children in the hospital. We've launched two Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® programs to bring dental care to children who otherwise may not be able to see a dentist.

Together we've built a very strong organization. I am confident that the next lucky person to lead RMHC of Southern Arizona will continue our commitment to kindness and develop creative new ways to serve more children and families.

This House, this organization, the families who count on us, the wonderful people who work or volunteer here and the wonderful people who support this work, will be in my heart always.

With gratitude,

Kate Maguire Jensen
President & CEO

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southern Arizona

A HOME IN TUCSON

A Home in Tucson

College interns, volunteers, community leaders and of course, families, find a home at the Ronald McDonald House. Their connections to the Ronald McDonald House and reasons for landing here span the country. We hope you enjoy their stories.

For the Love of Jose Nogales, AZ

In early 2021, Paola Rendon was visiting her family in Hermosillo, Mexico with her two-year-old son, Jose. He loves playing and watching sports, but baseball is his favorite.

When he started acting out of sorts, Paola became worried. She was working as a nurse and knew something was wrong, so she took him to a pediatrician's office for a checkup. They gave him some medicine, but he kept getting sicker. The doctor was puzzled. After a particularly bad day, he sent them to a hospital back home in Nogales, Arizona.

They arrived at the hospital in the middle of the night. The doctors in Nogales knew they didn't have the equipment needed to diagnose Jose, so he was transferred again. This time to Banner Children's Medical Center in Tucson. Three days later, he was diagnosed with leukemia.

"The first thing I thought about was whether he would survive this," said Paola through a translator. Jose would need to stay in Tucson for his first round of treatment.

When a social worker learned about their situation, she suggested Paola stay nearby at the Ronald McDonald House. Paola checked in that very same day.

"It was as if we were at home. I felt good knowing that we had a roof over our heads and meals to eat. It was all a big help. All of my focus was on Jose."

At the House, they found everything they could possibly need. A comfortable bedroom with a private bathroom, kid spaces that were cleaned daily and a kitchen that Paola loved.

But what really made the place feel like home were the people she met.

"I met someone here who also spoke Spanish. It was comforting to talk to them. They were pregnant and we became friends. We still talk about everything and how big their baby has gotten."

And there was another mom who had a ten-year-old son who also loved baseball. Her son had outgrown his collection of baseball caps, so when Jose started to lose his hair as a side effect of

chemotherapy, she offered him a few. Jose wore them every day.

Today, Jose is five years old and doing great! He's in the surveillance phase, which means he has monthly checkups to monitor his blood counts. The appointments will keep getting further apart as he continues to get better. They expect to enter the next stage of remission in April.

And thanks to everyone who supports our Ronald McDonald House, Paola and Jose know that they always have a place to call home when they travel to Tucson for his care.



Family First

Laredo, TX

If you've ever met Dr. Alexis Ruiz, then it would come as no surprise that family is the most important thing in her life. It's why she became a pediatrician.

"Since I can remember, my family always told me I was going to be a doctor, and I believed it," said Alexis. "My grandparents migrated from Mexico, and it was their dream to have their children succeed in this country. I was honored to have become a doctor as a gift to them for their sacrifice."

She was assigned to clinical rotation in Tucson, Arizona as a second-year medical student. The first time she saw the city was while moving into her apartment.

The specialists she was learning from suggested she tour the Ronald McDonald House to see what it was like, but she didn't need to. She volunteered at the House in Galveston, Texas while interning with University of Texas Medical Branch and knew how important it was for the families of her patients.

"The Ronald McDonald House is such a magical place. These families have everything they need for their stay, which allowed their focus to be only on their children."

She soon started volunteering at the House in Tucson and then joined the Red Shoe Society, RMHC's volunteer group for young professionals.

"I connected with so many fantastic people that I would have otherwise never met. They remind me so much of my family and it was those experiences with them on their worst days that I will treasure the most. They are the best family I could have asked for away from home."



A Midnight Helicopter Ride

Hereford, AZ

Crystal Church is a mom to five wonderful kids. So when seven-year-old Charles Jr. woke up feeling a little under the weather, she knew the drill: rest and fluids.

With her husband, Charles, away on a job in Colorado, she was managing the household solo in Hereford, Arizona.

Running low on Gatorade, which Charles Jr. had requested, Crystal dashed to the store. On her way home, she got a call from her eleven-year-old daughter, Mikayla.

"She was saying that she thinks he's having a seizure. I booked it home. I think I made a five-minute trip in a minute and a half. When I got to the house, he was barely breathing. It was the saddest, scariest feeling ever."

Paramedics rushed Charles Jr. to a local hospital in Sierra Vista, but his condition was serious, requiring specialized care. So, off he went in a helicopter to Banner Children's Hospital.

After getting her kids settled with their grandfather, Crystal started the two-hour drive to Tucson. "I was just trying to stay positive on the entire drive. It was absolutely terrifying."

She arrived around 3:00 a.m. and learned that Charles Jr. was diagnosed with viral encephalitis. A doctor recommended that Crystal stay at the Ronald McDonald House down the road.

"The bed was a blessing after sleeping on a couch for two nights," said Crystal. Then she learned that her other kids could join her at the House. "That afternoon I went down to Hereford and brought them up."

Charles Sr., back from Colorado, was able to join them, too.

"It was really nice to be able to have everybody close by. I could do my best to be at the hospital with Charles Jr. and also be with everyone else."

Soon Charles Jr. started feeling better. He was able to leave his room and walk down the hall to the hospital cafeteria. There, his family would join him with board games and sweets from the Ronald McDonald House. It was the best medicine.

After three weeks in the hospital, they received amazing news.

"The doctor told me that he made a statistically miraculous recovery. Eighty-percent of kids who survive encephalitis have severe permanent brain damage. He has no signs of any at all."

Once Charles Jr. was back home, the hospital stay was forgotten, but he couldn't wait to tell all his friends about his midnight helicopter ride.



Confidence in our Community

Gillette, WY

Moving can be stressful, right?
Especially cross country. Especially with a major career change. And especially when you're moving from the climate of Wyoming to Southern Arizona!

But for LeAnn and Pat Richards, who made that move in the late 1980s to take over as owners of two McDonald's restaurants, they were reassured by the opportunity, not only for themselves and their three children, but for the people they would serve in their new hometown.

In the 30 years since, LeAnn and Pat have built a business comprised of thirteen restaurants in Southern Arizona. And because their stores are in Douglas, Nogales, Benson, Tucson, Sierra Vista and Willcox, they meet families who have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House.

"We see them in the restaurants," says LeAnn. "We hear their stories. And because our home base is 90 miles away from the Ronald McDonald House, we can support those families here every day."



Carmelita Sanchez, Manager of a McDonald's owned by the Richards family.

Core to the mission of the Richards family's business was building leaders in the community and providing opportunity for their team members. Through educational scholarships and the McDonald's "English Under the Arches" program, they have seen their team members forge successful careers.

And their daughter, Tashina Freeman, is now carrying that torch forward. "I remember growing up here and playing in the basement after school. I always wanted to follow my parents in this career so I could serve our people and our community the best we can." Tashina serves on the advisory council for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Cochise County.

Now heading into their third generation of ownership in this unique family business, the Richards and Freeman family are looking forward to the next 30 years of supporting the community. We're proud to call them our friends.

Banner Surgeon with the Smallest Patients

Philadelphia, PA • Camden, NJ • Jackson, MS • Denver, CO

Dr. Ken Liechty has a specialty that few surgeons have. He does surgery on babies before they are born – treating congenital conditions such as spina bifida, twin-twin transfusion syndrome and correcting conditions that could result in breathing problems at birth.

In many cases, treating these conditions in utero results in better outcomes than if the surgery is done after the baby is born. Dr. Liechty takes it all in stride.

"I am just grateful that families trust me with their fetus or baby," Dr. Liechty says. "In my position I have the unique opportunity to not just save a life, but a lifetime."

Dr. Liechty moved to Tucson to lead Pediatric Surgery at the University of Arizona and to start a fetal medicine program at Banner-University Medicine.

When Dr. Liechty chose a surgical residence at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, he worked with Dr. Scott Adzick, who is the second surgeon in the world to specialize in fetal surgery.

And it was in Philadelphia that he learned about the Ronald McDonald House. Some families of his little surgical patients stayed at the House in Philadelphia; others stayed across the river in Camden, New Jersey.

"We know what you guys do and it's an incredible service for our families," Dr. Liechty said.

Now, Dr. Liechty and his wife, Kirstin, have supported Ronald McDonald Houses everywhere they've lived.

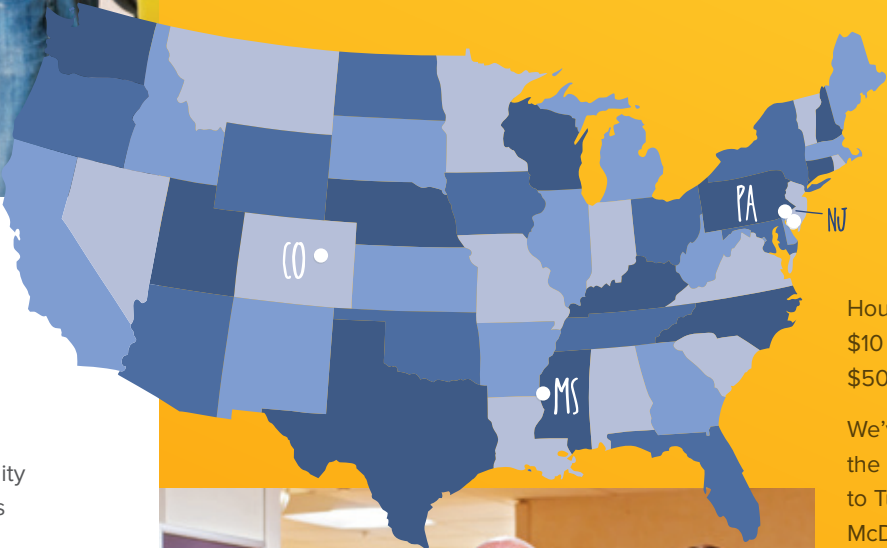
In Jackson, Mississippi, they held fundraisers in the hospital lobby for the House. In Denver, they sold homemade salsa for \$10 a bottle and with a matching grant, raised \$50,000.

We've yet to taste the salsa but we have felt the Liechty's generosity. As he was acclimating to Tucson, he made a point to visit the Ronald McDonald House.

"I know that the doctors whose patients' families stay at the Ronald McDonald House appreciate what we do," said Kate Jensen, RMHC-SA President and CEO. "But Dr. Liechty is the first one who called me to ask to tour the House."

Dr. Liechty also brought his entire clinical team to our Ronald McDonald House Party. He and Kirstin sponsored our Good News Bell for 2024 – the bell that kids or families ring when good news happens – like the end of chemo, a birthday or going home.

His team is even planning to come to the Ronald McDonald House and cook dinner for our families.



From left, Clarissa Romero, Dr. Kenneth Liechty, Angelina Price, NPP

About Our Families

Children Who Needed Medical Care
330

All Together, They Stayed
4,719 Nights

Average Family Stayed
15.5 Nights

Benefit to Families
\$1,235,361

Estimated family savings in combined hotel, meal & other costs

Why They Stay

35%
NICU/High Risk Pregnancy

8%
Respiratory

7%
Cancer

50%
All other diagnoses



Jessica and Eduardo Uribe with their son, Adrian.

Where They're From

ARIZONA	86%
Cochise	39%
Graham	10%
Pima	8%
Maricopa	8%

OUT OF STATE 9%

OUT OF COUNTRY 5%

Ronald McDonald Family Room Programs

18,675 Total Visits

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

710 patients = 14,200 teeth cared for

“Ronald McDonald House helped us a lot... supporting my family the 6 months that we were there. We felt like we were in our own home. We felt safe. They helped us be strong.”

SERGIO HIDALGO, FATHER OF TWINS DEREK & MATTEO
203 NIGHTS AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE IN 2023



HOUSE PARTY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

An upscale block party at the Ronald McDonald House.



Photo by Kathleen Dreier

More Than Just Cookies

Girls and young women learn all kinds of things as Girl Scouts – computer coding, camping skills, money management, songwriting, first aid and more. And now they have the opportunity to learn about giving to others and about the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities. We've just launched our own local RMHC badge with Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona.

"Everyone here is so excited about this program," says Mikay Wright, RMHC Volunteer Coordinator. "One of the goals of Girl Scouts is to teach girls and young women to lead in their community, so we think it's incredible for them to learn about the role of nonprofits. Plus, it's a blast having these girls visit the Ronald McDonald House!"

We worked with the local chapter of Girl Scouts to develop guidelines for earning the badge. The Daisies, who are in kindergarten and first grade, can visit the House, learn about what we do and create craft projects to earn the RMHC badge. The Brownies, who are second and third graders, will also read a book about how to use their talents for the greater good and do some service projects.

The older Girl Scouts, who are in 4th to 12th grade will do so much more. They will learn about philanthropy, how nonprofit organizations work and about the life of Dr. Audrey Evans, who co-founded the Ronald McDonald House in 1974 in Philadelphia. They may also volunteer to cook dinner for our families or help at a special event.

"We want them to really understand what it means to give to others and what it's like to work for a nonprofit," Mikay says.

A group of Daisies from Manzanita Elementary School was the first troop to earn the RMHC badge. The girls (and their parents) were very excited to tour the Ronald McDonald House. The five-year-olds asked great questions and brought joy to our house.

"From their time at the House, the girls were able to go home and tell family and friends at school about what they learned about what RMHC does," said troop co-leader Nicole Romero. "That has a ripple effect."

"My two girls continued to ask questions about the Ronald McDonald House in the days after and expressed an interest in wanting to do more," added troop co-leader Melissa Johnson. "Now we are collecting pop tabs at our house!"

If you know a Girl Scout troop leader who might be interested in the RMHC badge, please contact **Mikay Wright** – mwright@rmhctucson.org



NOVEMBER 23, 2024

Join Team RMHC for the 10-mile, the 100-mile and every distance in-between.



Photo from FinisherPix



Photo by Rachel Quinn



DECEMBER 8, 2024

Family fun and fitness at the University of Arizona Mall.

Inspired to Serve

We know that life is busier than ever, and that it sometimes feels like we can’t possibly fit one more activity into our day. That’s why we’re so thankful for the volunteers who make Ronald McDonald House Charities a priority. If you are motivated by these three young, dedicated people’s stories, give us a call so we can make RMHC a part of your week too.



Sarah Cada

Sarah found her way to the House in 2007. She was taking a high school government class and one of the requirements was to serve 15 hours at a local organization. She immediately thought of the Ronald McDonald House.

Sarah was born without a hip socket and suffered from migraines caused by Chiari malformation. Most of her childhood was spent with doctors for checkups, MRIs and surgeries to fix her bones and nerves.

“I never got to use a Ronald McDonald House, but I understood how much of a difference they can make for families like mine.”

Sarah couldn’t bring herself to leave after finishing the hours required by her class. She continued volunteering throughout college and while student teaching. Today, she’s a third-grade teacher in Marana and still makes time to volunteer at the House for one shift every week.

She shines at making connections with the kids who stay at the House, perhaps because she can sympathize with how they’re feeling.

“A lot of it is scary,” said Sarah about childhood illness.

“You’re not in control. Even though the decisions being made on your behalf are in your best interest, it’s scary. You need to have a support system to get through that. As a volunteer, I get to build those relationships which is my favorite thing about being here.”



Jullisa Sanchez

“My mom stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in 2013 when my baby sister was born. She was a micro preemie,” said Jullisa. “I was in college at the time and would come visit her at the House. After that, I knew that I wanted to volunteer here.”

Her volunteer schedule would change each semester depending on when her classes were, but she made sure to be here for at least one shift every week. She took a break from volunteering after graduating with her degree in public health but found her way back after six years.

“I really missed it. I knew how impactful it was for my mom and that I could give back in simple ways. Like cleaning up after dinner or translating for Spanish speakers. They’re small things but make a big difference.”



Liam Savir-Baruch

For high school senior Liam, creating a “home-away-from-home” for others was something that resonated with him. He moved around a lot while his mom worked towards her medical degree and remembers what it’s like to be in a new city. They moved to Tucson two years ago when his mom became Section Chief of Nuclear Medicine at Banner-University Medical Center.

“I’m proud of what she did – to succeed when odds were tough – just so she could help people who were hurting. It made me who I am.”

Inspired by his mom, Liam plans to study biomedical engineering in college so that he can also help others access the medical care they need.

“It’s about the mission and making an impact. If I can, I’ll keep volunteering at a House wherever I am.”



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (which MHC staff has nicknamed Big Mac) will be parked next to some of their existing clinics such as Dove Mountain Health Center. The new Dental Program Administrator, Martin Jaquez, is making this program his highest priority.

“We are going to be all over Pima County, getting to patients who need us, improving our community.”

Already, Martin has arranged for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to be at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, to offer dental care to kids who come with their parents to pick up food supplies. And it will be at More than a Bed, a local nonprofit that serves foster families. Martin is also working on partnerships with schools and McDonald’s restaurants.

“With a mobile dental clinic, we are breaking down some of the barriers people have to getting quality dental care for their kids,” Martin said.

He expects that MHC dentists will care for at least 800 children on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in its first year.

The Care Mobile has been a hit with families. Irasema Plaza brought her three children to the Care Mobile in February.

“What sealed the deal for me was being able to get all three of my kids scheduled at the same time,” Irasema said. She also shared that it looks just like a “regular” dental office and all the staff are very attentive.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles are a core program of RMHC. There are 40 Care Mobiles operating in 10 countries and regions, bringing primary care and dental care to children in underserved areas. This Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is the second one in Arizona.

“Our mission is to nurture the health and well-being of children and their families. We are thrilled with this important new program and our partnership with the exceptional people at MHC Healthcare.”

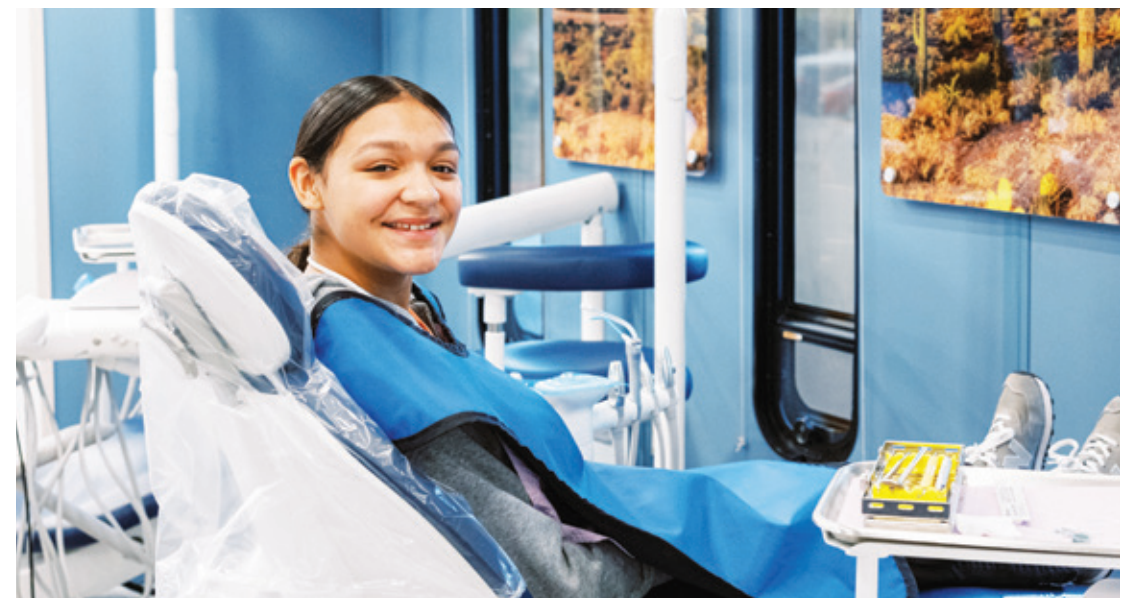
- Kate Jensen, RMHC President & CEO

Dental Care for Kids Rolling Around Tucson

MHC Healthcare was looking for a way to make dental care more accessible for their pediatric patients. We were looking for an opportunity to bring a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to Pima County. And so, a beautiful partnership was formed.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile arrived in Marana in late November and MHC dentists began seeing patients in December. MHC is a Federally Qualified Health Center, which means it provides care regardless of one’s ability to pay. It’s Arizona’s oldest health center with 17 clinics throughout Pima County – only four of them offer dental care. MHC knew that the majority of their pediatric patients were not receiving the dental care they need.

“Too many children start school with a chronic dental disease (tooth decay) that is largely preventable,” says Vijay Patel, DDS, MHC Dental Director. “Dental disease can result in speech impairment, decreased school performance, low self-esteem and impacts a child’s overall health. With the new Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, we look forward to making a significant and sustained impact on dental health in our neighborhoods.”





Sisterhood and Service

At Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona, we relish every chance we get to celebrate the success of young people. Usually that means positive health outcomes and birthdays of kids at the House. But last November we received a different kind of news that also had us literally jumping for joy.

The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi (ADPi) at the University of Arizona were awarded the “Youth in Philanthropy Award” for all of Southern Arizona. Comprised annually of about 350 bright young women, ADPi has supported our mission for more than 40 years, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the children and families we serve. The group was honored at the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ National Philanthropy Day, with president Allison Kocina delivering a speech that left us confident in the future this generation is paving.

“No act of philanthropy is accomplished alone. Our work is not only important but essential. We must continue to reach out, lend a hand and stand up for those who need us most. I stand before you today with a sense of hope, gratitude and responsibility.”

And the impact of ADPi also goes beyond financial contributions. These passionate women actively volunteer their time, bringing joy and laughter to our families. They routinely cook dinners and organize activities for family holiday parties, offering kids and parents alike a much needed respite from worry and stress.

We are proud to tell Allison and her sisters that they fill us with that same sense of hope, gratitude and responsibility.

Footwear and Friendship

And another group of committed volunteers makes their presence known with both their ear-to-ear smiles and their unmistakable footwear.

Members of the Red Shoe Society are united by their love of families and commitment to giving back to their community. At a Red Shoe event, you might find members of Alpha Delta Pi, young professionals and parents who have been personally impacted by Ronald McDonald House Charities. New members join every month.

“I’m continually amazed by the group’s dedication,” said member Megan Davis. “Despite the flexibility allowed and minimal commitment required, members consistently prioritize attending our monthly meetings, events and volunteer opportunities. They juggle work, family commitments and other obligations yet remain steadfast in their contributions to support the families and the organization.”

Last summer, the group raised money to put together a scavenger hunt that took kids all over the Ronald McDonald House collecting stickers. Once their sticker card was full, they could turn it in at the front desk for a backpack full of school supplies and other fun items. This year’s schedule includes helping at the first ever Family Reunion picnic and defending their title as the #1 fundraising team at the Walk for Kids.

“RMHC holds a special place in my heart as a mother of two. While my passion for giving back is unwavering, joining Red Shoe Society provides a unique opportunity to channel that compassion directly towards supporting other families, making a meaningful impact during their most difficult times.”

– Tabatha Schneider, 2024 Red Shoe Society President



Scan the QR code below to join the Red Shoe Society at an upcoming event. Visit www.rmhc Tucson.org/RedShoe for more information.





Putting Their Money Where Their Hearts Are

Several years ago, we learned that Ron and Christy Caldwell set up an endowment at the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona (now named Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona) and named us as a beneficiary. And now we know why.

Christy told us “When we did our wills, we talked to our lawyer about setting up an endowment, and he told us the Jewish Community Foundation could handle our money and wishes the way we wanted it. Although we aren’t Jewish, with the recommendation from our lawyer we set up our endowments and we have been very happy.”

Most importantly, Christy and Ron wanted to help people who really need it and they both have a tender heart for children. “We can’t imagine what it would be like to have a sick child, so we have chosen to leave money to several charities that take care of children, including the Ronald McDonald House.”

Ron and Christy met square dancing 30+ years ago. They are active members of the Green Valley

community and have many interests that keep them busy. Christy loves glass art and shares her artistry by teaching classes and creating original pieces. She has donated several pieces for our silent auctions.

Ron is also an accomplished artist. His talent as a painter puts him in high demand in Green Valley, Tucson, and beyond. He has taken more than 60 classes at the Desert Museum, always looking for inspiration. He can usually be found in their casita working on his art.

Christy has advice for those thinking about leaving a bequest to a nonprofit.

“Think about what your passion is, whether it’s feeding the hungry, preserving the environment, rescuing animals or helping children. Then research the charities and learn exactly how they would allocate your money. You’ll feel so good about leaving your money where your passion is.”



If you would like more information about all the ways to make a planned gift, please contact **Nancy Kirk** at **(520) 326.0060** or **nkirk@rmhctucson.org**.

Leave a Legacy of Love

Our Legacy of Love Society recognizes individuals who have included Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona (RMHC-SA) in their estate plans by naming RMHC-SA as a beneficiary in a will, trust, insurance policy or retirement plan.

Thank you to the following donors who have included RMHC-SA in their estate plans to help provide for families in the future:

Ron and Christy Caldwell Endowment Fund

Sharon Crowder

Michael Cyrino

Paul and Nelie Dias

Cindy and Jim Evers

Kyle A. Gannon

Don and Catherine Hatcher

Thomas P. Kresler and Anne C. Kresler Trust

Linda McNeel

Tara Radke, MPH

Anonymous (7)

What Connects Us to a Cause

Chris Baker works with donors for a living, so he knows how important philanthropy is. He understands the bond that's created when a donor feels connected to a cause. And he knows how to evaluate a well-run organization.

That's why he was happy to share his story of making tax credit donations to Ronald McDonald House Charities, which he has done for many years. As the Deputy Senior Director of Development for the University of Arizona Eller College of Management, Chris works to match donors with their philanthropic interests.

Chris got interested in RMHC for a couple of reasons. First, he knows someone who works here and that gave him a level of confidence in our organization. Then, he and a team of colleagues volunteered to cook dinner at the Ronald McDonald House, which he said was a great team-building activity.

"We all got a tour of the House so we could see the direct impact on families."

And finally, Chris knows what it's like when your child is ill. His daughter had some health issues when she was a toddler. She's now 15.

"As a parent, it's so frustrating when your child is sick, and you don't know how to fix it."

When his daughter had doctor appointments, Chris would walk by the Pediatric Oncology clinic and give thanks that he wasn't going to bed every night wondering if his child was going to make it.

"It's heart-wrenching for parents when their child is not well – even when it's a small thing. When it's a big problem, it consumes their life."

Chris knows that the Ronald McDonald House helps families going through these stressful times.

Why does he use the State tax credit to support RMHC?

"Because the State offers this program, it's a great opportunity for me to direct my money to a nonprofit that's doing good things."

"It's important for organizations to illustrate the impact a gift can make. And it's important for donors to share their stories."



Support Your Favorite Charity AND Reduce Your Tax Liability

Yes, it's true! When you give to your favorite charity in Arizona, you may be eligible for a dollar-for-dollar credit on your State of Arizona taxes. You can choose to direct your tax dollars to the causes you care about, such as Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona. This is not a deduction but a full one-to-one return. Every dollar you donate, up to the maximum allowed (see below), could come right back to you in the form of a reduced tax bill or an increased refund.

So how does this work?

You can find our comprehensive Charitable Tax Credits Guide by visiting rmhctucson.org/tax-credit-info or by scanning the QR code below. There you'll find detailed answers to common questions, such as:

- How do I know if my gift is eligible?
- I don't usually have to pay the State each April. Could I still benefit? (YES!)
- I already donate to my child's school. Can I claim this credit too? (YES!)

We always recommend that you consult with your tax professional before making any financial decisions.



Learn more and make your gift at rmhctucson.org/donate.

For tax year 2024,
the maximums have
increased!

Single Taxpayer or Head of Household
\$470 Maximum

Married Filing Jointly
\$938 Maximum

Donate all at once or spread your donations out monthly. Gifts through tax day in April can count toward the previous year's return.



We're Always Glad You Came

Tucson is a community of friendly faces where (as the saying goes) “everyone knows your name.” And in an area with more than 1 million people, that’s quite remarkable. A big reason for that involves the efforts of companies like Tucson Electric Power (TEP).

TEP is one of our strong corporate partners who not only supports the Ronald McDonald House and many other nonprofits financially, but makes their faces known by getting into the community to help their neighbors. At the Ronald McDonald House, that might involve cooking a meal for families (they are Sunday brunch regulars!), organizing a big team at the Walk for Kids (where they also put on a demonstration about renewable energy), or bringing projects into the House (such as creating Ben’s Bells for the families).

We are so thankful for the corporate partners that power our mission in so many ways. And we’re even more grateful that we know people like Shea-Lynn, Tara, Wendy Erica, Adam, Thomas and Kathleen... to name just a few.

If your company, no matter its size, is interested in partnering with Ronald McDonald House Charities, just reach out to another friendly face: **Scott Matlick, Director of Business Development**, at **520.326.0060** or **smatlick@rmhctucson.org**.

Adopt-a-Room Partners

Adopt-a-Room Partners make an annual gift of \$5,000 or more to be the exclusive sponsor of one of the guest rooms at the Ronald McDonald House. We are so thankful to these donors for the wonderful way in which they support our families. Our Adopt-a-Room Partners are...

Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation
Kenneth and Elaine Baarson
Lindsey Baker and Josh Baker
Frank and Laurel Brown
Alma Caffall
John and Phyllis Capp
Cardinals Charities
In Memory of Nancy Causbie
Herb and JoAnn Cowgill
Paul and Nelia Dias
The Dittmann Family Trust
Allen and Sheryl Freed
Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross Foundation
The Harden, Clements, Simpson
and Paschall Families

Becky and Sid Johnson
The Johnston Family
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Schmidt and Barton Family Fund
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Lynn and Mark Thomas
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In Memory of Harold and Nancy Willingham

Community Champions

Community Champions help Ronald McDonald House Charities in a big way. We are grateful to these wonderful donors who are incredibly committed to the children and families we serve. The following Champions make an annual contribution of \$10,000 or more...

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Service from the Start

People come to board service and board leadership positions for a variety of reasons.

Board President Stephanie Smith shared two.

“When I was growing up, my parents put a high priority on education and learning to be grateful. My father was in the military and there were five kids. My mom didn’t work outside the home and we all went to Catholic school, so we didn’t have a lot of extra money. But we had so much love and were taught to give to others. That’s why I love working with the Ronald McDonald House. Our founder, Dr. Audrey Evans said that the most important thing is to care for others. That’s how I was brought up.”

Stephanie also wanted to get out of her comfort zone.

“I’ve run my own HR consulting business for 29 years. It’s satisfying but it can be isolating. As an HR professional, I’m accustomed to being behind the scenes – being in the lead doesn’t come easily for me.”

She’s enjoying leading a group of like-minded professionals who share her values and support the mission of the House.

“On our board we all make decisions in the best interest of the organization. There are no big egos.”

Stephanie has served on our board of directors off and on for 13 years, providing all important behind-the-scenes HR consulting. She’s attended every House Party and every Walk for Kids – even the one in the pouring rain. She was part of the early exploration committee to look at adding a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Cochise County. She’s a quiet force for good in all that we do and we’re grateful for her strong, unwavering support.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Southern Arizona

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