



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

*Ronald McDonald House Charities lifts children and families to a better tomorrow
by providing a home-away-from-home for families of seriously ill children staying at nearby hospitals.*

NEWSLETTER — FALL 2007

RMHC SILENT AUCTION AND DINNER A SUCCESS

In its 5th year, RMHC's Live and Silent Auction and dinner was a great success with a total of \$82,000 raised for the organization. Attendees enjoyed an evening of cocktails and dinner, followed by live and silent auctions, and dancing with the Bop Daddies on August 24. Funds raised from this event support the mission critical programming of the organization. Thanks go to Wayne Basso who graciously served as our

auctioneer, Amy Lietz, who did a superb job as mistress of ceremonies, to the Capitol Plaza Hotel for hosting the event, to our sponsors, and to all those who attended the event and made it a success. 2007 RMHC Fundraiser Sponsors:

- Gold Sponsors: Best Harvest Bakeries, Tom and Marilyn Dobski, Dr. Pepper, Coca Cola, Earp Distribution, NEKAN Co-op, Westar Energy

- Silver Sponsors: Capital Federal, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Mize Houser & Company, P. A., Security Benefit
- Bronze Sponsors: AASI Insurance, Coffman, DeFries and Nothern, Commerce Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank, Penwell-Gabel, Steve and Karen Tyler
- Friends of RMHC: Laird Noller, McDonald's Corporation, Sharp Honda, Sound Products

AREA EVENTS BENEFIT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Hot air balloons filled the skies over Topeka during the 32nd annual Huff 'n Puff Balloon Rally on September 7-9, 2007.

The Great Plains Balloon Club sponsored the event with proceeds from the rally going to RMHC.

Funds were raised by sponsorships of the individual balloons, as well as T-shirt, souvenir, and concession sales.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Karl Fruendt and the Great Plains Balloon Club for putting on such a great event.

In addition, Total Home Concepts

sponsored its first golf tournament benefiting RMHC on October 15, at the Shawnee Country Club. The event was such a success that plans are to host the tournament annually with next year's date slated for September 29, 2008.

NEW STAFF MAKE A FULL HOUSE IN TOPEKA

Martha Hagedorn-Krass: Martha joined the staff in July as CEO/Executive Director, bringing a background of nonprofit and public sector management to the organization. Previously she served as Vice President for Advancement with YWCA of Topeka. She holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas and a certificate in nonprofit fundraising

from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She currently serves as a board member at large for the Topeka Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is a member of the Stormont-Vail Community Advisory Council.

Stephanie Salisbury: Stephanie accepted the position of House Manager in early November. She brings many years of experience

caring for those in need as an RMHC Relief Manager, a certified nurse's assistant and most recently as a phlebotomist at Stormont-Vail. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work and is currently completing her master's degree in social work at Washburn University. Stephanie and her family will be residing in the Lincoln House, representing the first

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THOUGHTS FROM THE WEST OFFICE

Holiday greetings to the RMHC family! My first four months with RMHC have been very busy. In August I attended the biennial international RMHC Global conference in Chicago, which provided tremendous context for the job I now hold. There are 158 local RMHC chapters in this country and 269 additional chapters around the world. All chapters share the same mission of lifting children and their families to a better tomorrow. Many chapters like the Topeka RMHC House provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill children receiving care at nearby medical facilities. The Topeka chapter extends its mission to include families who are awaiting the birth of a child and also the adoption of a child. Other chapters provide medical care to underserved populations through mobile care units and some chapters offer extended programming through grants that support the overall mission of improving families' lives.

As a nonprofit organization, RMHC places an emphasis on fundraising through events, grants, and annual giving. RMHC's fifth annual dinner and auction raised over \$82,000 for the organization in late August. This is hallmark fundraiser for the organization that will be held next year on Saturday, August 23, 2008, so mark your calendars! In September the Great Plains Balloon Club sponsored the beautiful Huff-n-Puff Balloon Rally at Lake Shawnee to benefit RMHC. Total Home Concepts sponsored its First Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit RMHC at the Shawnee County Club in October. Our small organization

benefits tremendously from the generosity of its donors and supporters, we can not thank you enough.

RMHC is in great need of technology enhancement both for its computers and telephone system. The organization seeks a server, four personal computers, two lap-tops, two laser printers and two software packages. The software will allow us to track our guests, volunteers, and donors more efficiently and offer on-line features on our website that we currently are unable to support. Additionally we seek to upgrade our existing residential telephone system of two lines, one voice mailbox and no call transfer capability. A four-line system that provides individualized voice mailboxes will improve both communication and efficiency in the day-to-day operations of the house. We have filed a number of grant requests to acquire the funds necessary to accomplish these enhancements and hope to report on our success by the new year.

The month of October saw quite a bit of change for staff and volunteers. With Oval West's announced retirement as our longtime volunteer bookkeeper, a new, part-time Administrative Assistant/ Bookkeeper position was established. Michelle Beavers was hired to fill that position in late October and in the first month on the job has proven herself to be a wonderful asset for the organization. October also saw the resignation of Kristin Roth, who had served as the House Manager for three years, and the departure of Bev West, a longtime volunteer. RMHC

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Board of Directors:

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Tony Florez
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Linda Hauschild
Cyndi Mona
Chris Moody
Barb Neddermeyer
Nancy O'Brien
Audrey Quick

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time RMHC has had a resident House Manager.

Michelle Beavers:

Michelle joined in the staff as the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper in late October. She has held similar positions with the Kansas Association of Public Employees and Association of Professional Insurance Agencies. Michelle is a graduate of Washburn University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She recently received her Kansas Realtors license and also works as a real estate agent.

Amanda Feldhausen:

Amanda has worked as a Relief Manager for several years and is completing her bachelor's degree at Washburn University. She plans to continue her studies to become a dental hygienist.

Larry Hardin:

Larry has served as the In-House Night Manger since 2004, providing continuity and security for RMHC. During the day, Larry is the Chaplin at Brewster Place. Larry has a master's degree from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Christian Education with a specialization in Social Work

Robyn Horton:

Robyn joined staff as a Relief Manager in November. She serves as the Public Information Officer at the Kansas Arts Commission, and has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Kansas State University and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Kansas. She will be assisting with the RMHC newsletter and marketing activities.

Patty MacCausland:

Patty joined the RMHC staff in April 2007 as a Relief Manager. She is an Appraiser for the Kansas Department of Revenue. Patty is very close to completing her college degree in Paralegal studies.

Traci McDonald:

Traci joined the staff in November 2007 as a Relief Manager. She is a real estate agent who has a bachelor's degree in English from Washburn University.

Hanna Peterson:

Hanna as been a Relief Manager for several years. A biology major at Washburn University, she plans to pursue a degree in medicine.

Mary Roth:

Mary has been a volunteer and staff member for RMHC for since 1988,

shortly after the house opened.

RMHC has become a "family project" for Mary, with several of her nieces and nephews volunteering and working at the house over the years. Mary's background is in law enforcement. She says her role at RMH keeps her centered, with the families and staff bringing so much to her life.

We say goodbye to...**Kristin Roth:**

Kristin has served as House Manger since 2004. Kristin plans to complete her college education and is currently working at the Center for Nutrition in Topeka.

Oval and Bev West:

Oval and Bev have been RMHC volunteers for two decades and were founding members of the organization. Bev has been involved with the Annual Cookie Walk, pop-tab collection and other many of other House activities over the years. Oval has provided bookkeeping and accounting services over the past 20 years, serving as one of RMHC's first treasurers. Both are actively involved with their church and various choirs and singing groups. Oval and Bev will be honored for their service and inspiration at the RMHC Open House on Dec. 11.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Dec. 7 – Cookie Walk

Please join us on Friday, December 7, for our holiday tradition of selecting delicious cookies and helping support RMH. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. For questions, contact Michelle Beavers at michelle@rmhctopeka.org or (785) 235-6852.

- Dec. 11 – Holiday Open House

The RMH will host its annual Holiday Open House on Tuesday, December 11. Tours of the house will be available from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. A reception recognizing volunteers and donors will follow at 6 p.m.

**HOLIDAY CD
BENEFITS RMH**

Get into the spirit of the holidays with *Christmas Is That Happy Time of Year* by The Ecks. Proceeds from the sale of the CD will benefit RMH. CD's are \$10 and can be purchased at RMHC through the holidays.

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had the good fortune of attracting Stephanie Salisbury to the position of House Manager. Stephanie is completing her Master's of Social Work at Washburn University and has served as an RMHC Relief Manager three years. Her empathy and compassion for others as well as her unique understanding of the House will make her an excellent House Manager. We also enhanced our Relief Manager staff by adding Robyn Horton and Traci McDonald to assist us with weekends, evening and holiday duty. Both women bring highly developed people skills to the job and we are happy to welcome them to the staff.

As I write you this evening I feel a strong sense of ownership and pride in the organization. Our mission is highly relevant and our service is

appreciated beyond our own understanding. We touch the lives of many active-duty military families and if only for a week or two, can truly provide a home away from home while their newborn grows to be healthy enough to go home. We see husbands home from Iraq to meet their week-old babies in the NICU, we see grandparents and siblings gather at the house for a meal. Our staff provides understanding and an ear to those who need it most. We are happy to serve as we touch the lives of those families who walk through our doors each day.

I welcome you to visit the House during the holiday season. Our traditional Cookie Walk will be held on Friday, December 7 from 9 am until 6 pm. This is a sweet way to support RMHC through your purchase of

homemade cookies. We are also hosting a Community Open House Tuesday, December 11 from 9 am until 6 pm. The house will be open for tours both days.

Additionally, I invite you to visit our recently launched website at www.rmhctopeka.org. The site has links to volunteer opportunities, our wish list, donation opportunities, calendar of events, family stories, newsletters and other information that provide a good overview of the organization.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Martha

Martha Hagedorn-Krass is the CEO/Executive Director for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities
of Northeast Kansas**

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www.rmhctopeka.org

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