



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF NORTHEAST KANSAS, INC.

*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 — SPRING/SUMMER 2008

CINDERELLA STORYBOOK BALL TO BENEFIT RMHC

RMHC announces plans to host its 6th Annual Dinner and Auction on Saturday, August 23, 2008, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. This year's theme is a Cinderella Storybook Ball. Attendees will enjoy an evening of cocktails and dinner, followed by live and silent auctions, and dancing with the Bop Daddies.

"Ronald McDonald House provides support for families during traumatic times," said Karen Telian-Tyler, RMHC president.

"Join us on Saturday, August 23 to

celebrate 20 years of service to the community."

Funds raised from the event support



Sponsorships

\$2,500 ♦ \$1,500 ♦ \$1,000

Tickets \$50

Available at

[www.rmhc.topeka.org/
calendar.php](http://www.rmhc.topeka.org/calendar.php)

the mission critical programming of the organization.

"In its 6th year, the dinner and auction combined stand as the major fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House," said Martha Hagedorn-Krass, RMHC CEO and Executive Director. "With a \$100,000 goal as our target this year, we are working hard to make that happen."

For tickets, sponsorship or auction donation information, contact: Martha Hagedorn-Krass at (785) 235-6852 or martha@rmhc.topeka.org.

VOLUNTEERS HELP MAKE HOUSE A HOME

Smells of barbecue brisket, enchiladas or casseroles drift through the Ronald McDonald House each evening. Volunteers spend one night a week making preparing meals for guests to ease the stress of current life difficulties and make them feel at home.

Tammi Greeve and Christine Lopez have been volunteering in the RMHC kitchen since fall of 2007. They enjoy cooking smothered pork chops, fried chicken, ham, and this year, took on the role of preparing the Thanksgiving meal for the house families. The women enjoy their job so much, Tammi's parents, Dale and Debbie,

come to help out in the kitchen every other week.

"The best part is when the guests come down and you can interact with them," said Tammi. "They tell us about their kids and it makes it all worthwhile."

Megan Schuette and Becky Kersting also started volunteering with meal preparation this past fall.

"I saw a United Way online announcement seeking volunteers to cook meals and thought it would be a good way to help people going through tough times," said Schuette. While Schuette says she's not much of a cook,

it's fun to find something interesting or different to prepare for the families.

Kersting also saw an online announcement about volunteering with RMHC and thought the opportunity was a good match for her interests.

"Cooking is a hobby of mine and at the same time I know I'm helping people out during difficult times," said Kersting.

Countryside Mom's on a Mission Group has been volunteering with meal preparation at RMHC for three

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ...

THOUGHTS FROM THE WEST OFFICE

20 YEARS OF HELPING OTHERS

January found us running at full capacity and keeping a waiting list. In response we established an overflow plan that involves housing guests at the Woodward House properties. The proprietor, Elizabeth Taylor, generously extended a discounted rate to this special group of families. Stormont-Vail Foundation has also reciprocated by extending their Care Line coverage for this particular population.

April was the first month that the overflow plan was utilized and during the month of May it was used frequently. May represented a high-use month for both the Stormont-Vail NICU and the Ronald McDonald House. At mid-month, our guest families represented 36% of the entire family population using the NICU.

Thinking about how the Ronald McDonald House serves its guests and responds to its mission is particularly timely during this year, the 20th year of operation for the House. The House has helped over 20,000 people during

these years and through it all, strengthened its commitment to the very essence of its mission.

For us, the first half of 2008 marks growing and diversifying our board, expanding our House recycling program, joining the federated Community Health Charities, establishing the overflow plan at the Woodward, exploring additional client service partnerships, and installing a wiring and lighting system to illuminate our flag in time for the Memorial Day Weekend.

For these 20 years, we know that the heart of our organization is based in the caring and generous hearts of the communities we serve. Without the generosity of our faithful volunteers and donors our house would not have the strength to be a home. We thank you all for your compassion.

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

NEW RELIEF MANAGERS JOIN HOUSE

Heather Dittmer and Lori Cole have joined RMHC as Relief Managers. Heather received her MSW from Washburn University in May and also works as the Family Meeting and Assessment Coordinator with KVC Behavioral Health Care.

Lori Cole works full time at the Kansas Rehab Hospital during the week in Admissions, Transportation and Central Supply.

RMHC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Justin Ferrell, KCAMP
Doug Longstaff, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
Erin Neill, UMB Bank
Bryan Phillips, Mize, Houser and Company
Kim Rees, CoreFirst Bank and Trust
Angela Sharp, Bartlett & West

Ronald McDonald House Charities of NE Kansas, Inc.

825 SW Buchanan St.
Topeka, KS 66606-1427

(785) 235-6852 – phone
(785) 235-3170 – fax

info@rmhctopeka.org
www.rmhctopeka.org

Staff:

Martha Hagedorn-Krass
CEO/Executive Director
martha@rmhctopeka.org

Stephanie Salisbury
House Manager
stephanie@rmhctopeka.org

Michelle Beavers
Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
michelle@rmhctopeka.org

Board of Directors:

Karen Telian-Tyler, *President*
Tony Florez, *President-Elect*
Jeanne Slusher, *Past President*
Nancy Epoch, *Secretary*
Leta Collie, *Treasurer*
Bruce Akin
Jennifer Buchman
Gregg Burden
Tony DeJesus
Justin Ferrell
Larry Haas
Linda Hauschild
Doug Longstaff
Chris Moody
Erin Neill
Barb Neddermeyer
Bryan Phillips
Audrey Quick
Kim Rees
Angela Sharp

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT...

RMHC Named Semi-finalist in Extreme Upgrade Competition

January, RMHC was named a semi-finalist in Dynamic Computer Solutions Small Business Extreme Computer Upgrade Contest. Businesses eligible must have five to 50 employees, a minimum of five computers, and be a U.S.-based business. As a semi-finalist, RMHC received a technology assessment and an Okidata Color Printer.

TK Magazine Applauds RMHC Website as a 2008 Best

The RMHC website (www.rmhc.topeka.org) received an honorable mention by TK Magazine for their 2008 Best of Topeka Web competition. Comments from the judges included, "this site is easy to use, easy to look at, and very appealing" and "it gives just enough information for the user without overwhelming them."

RMHC Joins Community Health Charities

Community Health Charities of Kansas and Missouri, Inc. was incorporated in January 2000. CHC raises funds on behalf of CHC member agencies through workplace payroll deduction campaigns. CHC participates in the Heart of America United Way Campaign, the Combined Federal Campaign for government workers in Kansas and Missouri, and the States' of Kansas and Missouri Employee's Campaign.



Above: Volunteers and donors were honored with a recognition ceremony in February for their hard work and dedication to Topeka's RMHC. Attendees enjoyed appetizers and the opportunity to tour the house and meet staff.



Above: In February, Kathleen and Greg Morgan of Topeka, stopped by with "Polka Dot", a one-month old baby Llama. Children enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with the pet therapy animal and learn more about her.

POP TAB COLLECTION WEIGHS IN BIG FOR RMHC

2,050 lbs of tabs collected by area schools, helped to raise over \$1000 for our House. St. George Elementary School in Riley County collected the most of any school, 405 lbs. Wanamaker Elementary School in Topeka came in second, collecting 158.5 lbs.

Winning classrooms include Mrs. Adcock's 3rd and 4th Grade at St. George (135 lbs), Mrs. Nash's 2nd Grade at Amanda Arnold in Manhattan (97.5), Mrs. Figg's 4th Grade at Mater Dei in Topeka (70 lbs).

The Pop Tab Collection program is a great way to recycle and it helps to support a worthy cause. Thank you to all of the area schools that participated this year.

HOUSE WISH LIST

Office Supplies

- New filing cabinets
- New computers
- New printers
- New office furniture
- Postage stamps
- Printer cartridges (HP 53A, HP 12A, HP 56, HP 57) and cartridges for a HP Photosmart 8250
- Office Max gift cards (They really help combined with our corporate discount.)

A LETTER: FROM OUR GUEST

It literally was a dark and stormy night for Nicole Eaves when her son, Cole Daniel, was born prematurely during a Kansas ice storm. With her husband Martin deployed in Iraq, the Ronald McDonald House was a safe refuge for German-native Nicole's stay during December and January.



Nicole Eaves with son Cole at 7 days.

I'm a first time mom, and my husband is in Iraq. To my surprise, my baby was born in the ice storm on December 11, 2007 and he was eight weeks too soon. I was relieved to find out about the Ronald McDonald House, because I live over one hour away, and Kansas has some bad winter weather at times. The house is great and so are the people that work there. Everyone there was extra, extra caring and very nice. In just a few short minutes, I could be with my baby in the NICU, and at the end of the day, the kitchen at the house was always full of food from those wonderful volunteers. I'm very thankful that I was able to stay there...

Nicole Eaves

FOOD CHECK-OUT DAY FILLS RMHC PANTRY

In February, RMHC received \$500 worth of food from the Kansas Farm Bureau. The donation was part of the celebration of National Food Check-Out Week (February 3-9), when the average household has earned enough disposable income to pay for its annual food supply, according to the Shawnee County Farm Bureau. County Farm Bureaus were encouraged to hold events throughout the week, which incorporates Food Check-Out Day (February 6). Through 2007, state and county Farm Bureaus had donated more than \$2.3 million in monetary and food donations to Ronald McDonald Houses and other charities across the country.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ... VOLUNTEERS

years. The mom's rotate each week cooking favorites; spaghetti and meatballs, crock-pot meals and potato bars. "It's the joy of making someone's life a little less stressful when they can enjoy a home-cooked meal," said Kielyn Smith of Countryside Mom's.

For more than six years, the Cervantes family has been a fixture at RMHC volunteering weekly preparing guest meals. Lori Cervantes said she almost missed out on volunteering at the house.

"My former employer was having a team building exercise by volunteering at the house," said Cervantes. "I didn't go to the team building exercise, but a co-worker came back and told me what a great place the house was.

"My family and I went on tour of the house during the Christmas Cookie Walk one year, and decided that we wanted to volunteer," she said. "We make it a point to volunteer in the community to show our daughter that you can make a difference."

The people are what the Cervantes family enjoy most about volunteering. After they prepare their weekly house meal, they sit down and enjoy a communal meal. Over the years, friends and family have joined them in cooking a variety of Mexican dishes and other meals for house guests.



Lori Cervantes stirs a pot of homemade chicken noodle soup in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen.

If you are interested in preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House or volunteering in another way with the organization, please contact Stephanie Salisbury at 785-235-6852 or stephanie@rmhctopeka.org.

LOOKING BACK: TOPEKA'S RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HELPING OTHERS

1909- 1910: Joseph B. Betts builds 825 Buchanan Street. The house was designed by Holland and Squires and cost \$20,000 to construct. Betts was a general contractor and Vice-President of the German American State Bank; he also served as a state senator.

1914: Albert and Ellen (Ella) Neese purchase 825 Buchanan Street from Betts estate. Georgia Neese Gray was 14 when she moved into the house with her parents and sister Helen. She graduated from Topeka High School in 1917 and from Washburn University in 1921 with a degree in Economics. After that, she lived in the house off-and-on until the late 1920s.

1952: House is sold several times after Ella's death, first to Robert Freeman, then John Wagner, and then Maurice Burns.

1959: House purchased by Hon. Alfred Schroeder, State Supreme Court Justice, and his wife Katherine.

1974: First Ronald McDonald House founded in Philadelphia.

1980: First feasibility study for Ronald McDonald House conducted.

1985: Stormont-Vail Neonatal Intensive Care Unit opens.

1985: Junior League of Topeka conducts second feasibility study for Ronald McDonald House.

1986: Articles of incorporation filed for Topeka's Love for Children. First Trustees are James and Bonita Garrett, Michelle Rorabaugh, Judy Megibow, Susan Fry and Nancy Stone.

1987: Topeka's Love for Children establishes 22 member board. Kathleen Ruediger was the organization's first President.

May 1987: Topeka's Love for Children purchases 825 SW Buchanan Street for the Ronald McDonald House.

June 1987: Year-long renovation of 825 SW Buchanan begins. Extensive new interior construction, including of bathrooms for each of the eight guest rooms, new mechanical systems, new roof, and an extended rear addition comprise the project. The subdivision is zoned for 20 guest rooms.

January 1988: \$500,00 raised, goal of \$1.2 million needed to complete the construction and fund house for first year of operation.

June 15, 1988: Ronald McDonald House opens. Carolyn Voth is the first House Manager. The fee is \$8/night. There are 112 Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide.

1990: John Hayes, Chairman of KPL Gas Service, chairs capital campaign to raise \$1.1 million and establish endowment for operational funding.

1990: Bob Hope benefit concert at Landon Arena.

June 1991: 1,500 families served from 100 Kansas communities and foreign countries.

1993: Fee is \$10/night. More than 2,900 families served.

June 1993: Joan Kroc donates 10,000 shares of McDonald's stock for endowment and operational expenses to each Ronald McDonald House in the country.

June 1995: Thirty-year \$1.2 million mortgage paid off 23 years early. Hosted more than 4,000 families and 15,000 people.

1996: Topeka's Love for Children merges with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc. One of 127 houses in US and 168 worldwide. Thirty volunteers assist with house operations.

2000: Stormont-Vail West assumes behavioral treatment for adolescents.

2001- 2003: Menninger Clinic transitions for move to Houston.

2003: Joan Kroc estate leaves \$250,000 for operational expenses to each Ronald McDonald House; larger houses receive \$500,000.

June 2005: Stormont-Vail Neonatal Intensive Care Unit redesign and expansion of 27-bed facility completed.

January 2008: Extend recruitment efforts to other organizations. Serve families from Stormont-Vail West.

February 2008: Establish overflow plan at Woodward Annex.

April 2008: Utilize overflow plan at Woodward Annex for first time. Seventy volunteers help house this month.

May 2008: Occupancy at 93% representing 36% of the Stormont-Vail NICU population.

June 2008: Twentieth year anniversary. Fee per night is \$15/night. Over 20,000 families served from across the state and beyond. There are 161 houses nationally and 277 internationally.

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.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities
of Northeast Kansas, Inc.**

825 SW Buchanan St.
Topeka, KS 66606-1427

**Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 238
Topeka, KS**

Help us keep our mailing information current!

Check one of the following that apply.

- My name is misspelled
- My address is incorrect
- I received more than 1 copy
- I wish to unsubscribe

Clip and return mailing label to us with your request, or e-mail your change to michelle@rmhctopeka.org.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

The Ronald McDonald House of NE Kansas exists because of our generous community. Through financial and in-kind donations we are able to continue serving our mission. Individuals, businesses or community groups may donate in the following ways:

- **Share-A-Night:** Help families in need stay at our house. *1 night (\$15), 1 week (\$105) or 1 month (\$450).*
- **Memorial and Tributes:** Make a donation in memory of a loved one or honor a special person in your life.
- **Planned Giving:** Designate the Ronald McDonald House as a beneficiary in your will. Make a gift of stock, annuities, life insurance, real and personal property.
- **In-Kind:** Dry, canned and perishable goods help reduce our operating costs.

I wish to donate \$ _____ Please contact me about Planned Giving _____

For more information about making a donation, contact Martha Hagedorn-Krass, CEO/Executive Director, at (785) 235-6852 or martha@rmhctopeka.org.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Credit Card #: _____ CVV: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please return this form along with your donation to:

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc., 825 SW Buchanan Street, Topeka, KS 66606-1427

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Kansas, Inc. is a non profit, 501(c)3 organization (Federal ID 48-1022967).

Your financial contributions are tax deductible and directly support the mission-critical programming of the organization.