



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.*

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**Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Kansas Celebrates 20 Years
*Open House Scheduled for June 14 in Topeka***

Topeka, KS – Truly a house that love built, the Ronald McDonald House serves as a home-away-from-home for Northeast Kansas families of children and young adults receiving medical care in Topeka. In celebration of the house's 20th anniversary, **Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 14, at the Topeka Ronald McDonald House (825 SW Buchanan).** Tours of the house and refreshments will be provided.

Supported by community donations and volunteers, the Topeka House was the 115th House to come into existence. There are 161 local RMHC chapters in the United States and 277 houses worldwide. All chapters share the same mission of lifting children and their families to a better tomorrow.

“In the mid-1980s, the Junior League of Topeka heard about the mission of the Ronald McDonald House and felt this type of facility would be of great benefit to families from communities surrounding Topeka who had children being treated at the Stormont-Vail, St. Francis and Menninger hospitals,” said Karen Telian-Tyler, president of RMHC of Northeast Kansas. “Twenty years later our house has become a home to thousands of families whose children were being cared for in Topeka hospitals.”

Over 400 individuals stay at the Topeka Ronald McDonald House each year. These

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families are from Kansas counties that include but are not limited to: Allen, Atchison, Brown, Clay, Cloud, Coffey, Dickinson, Ellis, Franklin, Geary, Graham, Jackson, Jefferson, Lyon, Marshall, Nemaha, Osage, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Saline, Shawnee (outside the Topeka city limits), Trego, Wabaunsee, Washington and Woodson counties. The Topeka house also serves families from other states and countries.

"We have served thousands of families from Kansas and elsewhere, including many military families," said Martha Hagedorn-Krass, CEO/Executive Director of the RMHC of Northeast Kansas. "The service RMHC provides as a home-away-from-home is evidence enough that compassion and kindness go a long way in relieving a family's a worry."

Once the home of Georgia Neese Gray, appointed by President Harry Truman as the first woman treasure of the United States, the Topeka House is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The three-story home includes eight bedrooms, each with a full bath; a kitchen; a dining room; a living room; a family room; and a laundry room. Television and Internet access are also available to the families, and evening meals are prepared by volunteers from the community.

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