



Ronald McDonald House Charities
of Northeast Kansas, Inc.
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Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Kansas Celebrates 21 Years with Denim to Diamonds Event

The Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Kansas, Inc. is celebrating 21 years of helping children and their families. Denim to Diamonds is the 7th Annual Dinner and Auction for RMHC. The event will be held Saturday, August 15, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, beginning at 5:30 pm. The evening will feature cocktails, dinner, music and dancing with the Bop Daddies, and live and silent auction items. Tickets are \$50 per person. Please call RMHC at 785-235-6852 for reservation information.

“The Denim to Diamonds theme is new this year. Attendees are invited to wear business casual to black tie attire. We just want everyone to feel comfortable and join us for a good time and help raise funds so we can continue our mission of providing a home away from home for families of seriously ill children staying at nearby hospitals in Topeka,” said Martha Hagedorn-Krass, CEO/Executive Director.

The Gramkow family learned first-hand the importance of the local Ronald McDonald House when their daughter Ellie was born at 28 weeks in 2008. Ellie was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Stormont-Vail HealthCare for 71 days. At the time, Ellie’s parents Ben and Mandy were both in graduate school at Kansas State University. “The facilities they have are too good to be true. After I had my c-section and arrived at the house, I cried because we had a place to stay with everything we needed. Breakfast, laundry facilities, comfortable beds...We were able to focus on Ellie because all of our other needs were met,” said Mandy Gramkow. “It was also really neat to meet the other parents who were in similar situations and be able to support each other.”

The local RMH has served more than 21,000 individuals since it was established in 1988. The home features eight rooms with full baths for a donation of \$15 per night. However, no family is ever turned away due to inability to pay. The facility includes a large dining room, double kitchen, comfortable living area, family room, laundry facilities, play yard, and off-street parking. All rooms are disability accessible and an elevator connects all three floors of the house.

“The actual cost to operate the House per family per night is \$45. The Denim to Diamonds fundraiser will help defray our operational costs. We are raising funds this year through ticket sales, items donated for the live and silent auctions, and corporate sponsorships. We are grateful for the community’s generous support of our House,” said Hagedorn-Krass.

The live auction conducted by Kansas City radio personality Tanna Guthrie will feature a variety of items in the following categories, including:

Sports items:

- A KU basketball signed by Coach Bill Self and the 2008-2009 team and a KU basketball jersey signed by Mario Chalmers
- Round of golf for three with Gary Woodland, PGA professional golfer, at Topeka Country Club

Vacation items:

- A one-week stay at a vacation home in Ashland, Oregon
- Golfing trip to St. Augustine, Florida, at Renaissance Hotel and Royal Golf Village
- Passes to Disney Parks in Orlando, Florida, and airline tickets to anywhere

Entertainment items:

- Wine tasting party for 30 guests at Boulevard Brewing Company in Kansas City
- Dinner party for six prepared by Chef Alli Winter
- Hot air balloon ride and photo flight above Topeka and Shawnee County
- Four tickets to the Ellen DeGeneres Show

Other items:

- Razor Bistro Electric Scooter and Garmin nuiv 855
- \$1500 advertising package on WIBW, behind the scenes tour
- “Firefighter for a Day” children’s party at local fire station

Denim to Diamond Gold sponsors include: Best Harvest Bakeries; CoreFirst Bank & Trust; Westar Energy; Cumulus; McDonald’s NeKan Mac Advertising Co-op, Dobski & Associates Tom and Marilyn Dobski, and T and T Management Company Inc. Steve and Karen Tyler

Silver sponsors include: Capitol Federal; EARP Distribution; Hill’s, Southwest Airlines; Stormont-Vail HealthCare; The Topeka Capital Journal

Bronze sponsors include: AASI Insurance, American Family Insurance, BNSF, Bartlett and West, BlueCross BlueShield Kansas, Dr. Pepper, Lincoln Center Obstetrics and Gynecology PA, Mize Houser; St. Francis Health Center

Partners: Capitol Plaza Hotel; Glazer’s of Kansas; Lakeside Wine & Spirits