Aiden – Superhero in the House
Story Page 17
**IMPA C T 2 0 1 8 by the numbers**

- **9 Nights**
  - The average length of a stay.

- **17**
  - International countries served

- **41 states served**

- **1,151**
  - Families that have come through our doors in the past year.

- **36**
  - Families share our home. We can provide care 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.

- **35 years**
  - Our doors have been open

- **365**
  - Days a year

- **15,000+**
  - Volunteer hours donated

- **100%**
  - Of our annual operating budget is raised locally.

- **38,000 families**
  - Since our opening in 1982.

**Hospitals we partner with to provide compassionate care:**

- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Hopkins-Bayview
- University of Maryland Medical Center
- Maryland Proton Treatment Center
- Kennedy Krieger Institute
- The Rubin Institute at Sinai
- R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center
- Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital
- Sheppard Pratt
- Union Memorial
- Mercy Medical Center

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- **Exec. Member at Large**
  - Women’s Committee Chair
- **Exec. Member at Large**
  - Beth Bounds
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  - Johns Hopkins Children’s Center
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  - McDonald’s Owner Operator
- **Exec. Member at Large**
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  - UMMC-Dept. of Pediatrics
- **Exec. Member at Large**
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- **Exec. Member at Large**
  - Legg Mason
- **Exec. Member at Large**
  - Megan Ford
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- **Exec. Member at Large**
  - Niles R. Ford, PhD
- **Exec. Member at Large**
  - Chief of the Fire Department

**RMHC Board of Directors**
Recently, I was about to share remarks at an event benefitting RMH. A gentleman came up to me before I spoke and asked, “Are you going to make me cry again?” And I thought about that. Do I really want to be known as the lady who makes people cry?

But the reality is that there ARE a lot of tears at the Ronald McDonald House. No one comes to us because all is well. So yes, we do cry because our hearts are heavy. Sometimes so tragic and painful that it brings us to our knees.

But it’s more important to know that there are tears of joy...when the last treatment is done, when the preemie goes home, when the Good News Bell is rung for any reason.

Sometimes, there are miracles that make us weep. And many times, our staff and our families cry because we are simply overwhelmed at the goodness and generosity of people who care for us, who donate to us, and who share their hearts with us.

Some days, we shed tears for all of the reasons above - and sometimes all before lunchtime. This is the richness and beauty of the Ronald McDonald House.

Our emotions are running high these days. The reality of our new House is sinking in and we could not be more excited or more proud. Check out this photo of Ryder and I jumping for joy at our progress and flip this magazine over to read all about our New House updates.

I hope something in this Annual Magazine moves you to happy tears, and that you feel joy and purpose through your connection to our House. We’re looking forward to sharing a transformative 2019 with you!

With much love and appreciation,
Sandy & Team RMH

Sandy and Ryder jumping for joy at our New House Beam Lifting.
RMH Kids Win Big at the Golf Classic

On August 20th, 132 golfers hit the greens to support the “House that Love Built.” When all was said and swung, they raised $480k for sick children and their families. Impressive to say the least! We’d also like to thank the golf committee, dedicated volunteers, and the many sponsors that helped make the two-day event such a tremendous success. Led by Bill Paterakis and Chantelle Keating (Northeast Foods), they proved yet again that they have hosting a great tournament down to a tee!

Thank you to the lovely Kira Paterakis for being our fabulous emcee for the day! You’re a natural!

It may have been the toughest shot of the day, but Ron & Jennifer Howard prevailed as winners of the 5th annual Helicopter Golf Ball Drop, sponsored by Tito’s Handmade Vodka. Anita Nucci, RMH board member and “Golf Ball Queen” also amazed us by selling 60 golf balls. When it comes to golf ball raffle sales, she has all the makings of a true champion.

Congratulations to Our Winners!

1st place Team Champions: Eric Upchurch, Kevin Flanagan, Seth Kaas, Gavin Vetrano
2nd place: Kevin Malloy, Skip Dunkelberger, Dave Georgiana, Tom Scollard
3rd place: Tom Tzomides, George Tzomides, Ivan Rosengarden, Patrick Kuhns
Many thanks to this year’s Sponsors!

PRESENTING SPONSORS

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To our Gold, Meal, Golf Ball Drop,
Hole, Ad & Supporting sponsors not
listed in this publication, please receive
our thanks for your ongoing support,
friendship and partnership.

Visit rmhcbaltimore.org/golf to view
a full list of 2018 golf sponsors.

Hats off to the 2018
Golf Committee!
Adam Paterakis, Anita Nucci,
Bill Paterakis, Brenda Brown,
Buzz Hiken, Chantelle Keating,
Debbie Hood, Lauren Olean,
Sandy Pagnotti, Skip Tendall and
Vanessa Paterakis Smith

rmhcbaltimore.org · @RMHCBaltimore
Thousands of shufflers turned up for the 7th Annual Red Shoe Shuffle and helped us top our fundraising goal of $400,000. It was an incredible celebration of love, laughter and support from start to finish line. On behalf of the families and children of RMHCB, we’d like to thank everyone who volunteered, shuffled, and cheered!

Congratulations to our Winning Runners!

**Tyler Muse – 1st place Male Shuffle Winner**
Our top finisher in 6 of the last 7 Red Shoe Shuffles.
You can’t beat that!

**Lily Robertson – 1st place Female Shuffle Winner**

Congratulations to our 2018 Fundraising Challenge Winners!

**Biggest Team**
1) Shocks Rocks  
2) The Continental Realty Shufflers  
3) Mighty Mick and the Superheroes

**Most Money Raised by a Team**
1) Team Northwest  
2) Kara Cares  
3) Team Dolan

**Most Money Raised by an Individual**
1) Nicole Groff  
2) Jim Roark  
3) Kathleen Bands

Join us for the last lap at Lexington!
**8th Annual Red Shoe Shuffle Sunday • April 7, 2019 • 9 am**

Join us for our last year on the current course!
For more information visit: redshoeshuffle.org
Thanks to our Shuffle Sponsors!

**RONALD’S SHOE SPONSORS**
- McDonald’s
- Northeast Foods
- The Jerry and Brenda Rush Family Foundation
- Under Armour

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- BGE
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- Giant Food
- Holiday Inn Express
- Maryland Lottery
- Migue’s Magnificent Minis
- RCM&D
- The Lingenfelter Team

To our Flip Flop & supporting sponsors not listed in this publication, please receive our thanks for your ongoing support, friendship and partnership.

Visit redshoeshuffle.org to view a full list of 2018 Red Shoe Shuffle Sponsors.
November 9, 2018 • Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore

Celebrating the House that Love Built

A special thank you to all of our sponsors!

**Presenting Sponsor**
The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company

**Courage Sponsors**
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**Strength Sponsors**
- Harbor East/H&S Properties • Joan Hood Jones
- McDonald’s Greater Baltimore Owner Operators
- McDonald’s Restaurants of the Eastern Shore
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- Atlas Restaurant Group • BGE Home • CareFirst • Comprehensive Spine & Sports Center
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- Ron Howard & Associates of Re/Max Preferred • The Poole & Kent Corporation
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Constantine Wines
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- Flowers & Fancies • Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore • Livingston Productions
- The Martin-Brower Company • Q Drinks • VPC, Inc.
We would like to send a special shout out to our amazing and hardworking HamburGala Committee and Chairs who put their hearts into this event all year long to make it such a success! And of course a special shout-out to our auctioneer-extraordinaire – Gerry Sandusky!

**HAMBURGALA CHAIRS**

Tina Baxter  
**WOMEN’S COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Jennifer Mann and Vanessa Palterakis Smith  
**EVENT CO-CHAIRS**

Kim Meagher and Fran Acle  
**DECOR CO-CHAIRS**

Amy Goldberg & Robin Smith  
**AUCTION CO-CHAIRS**

**HAMBURGALA COMMITTEE**

Amanda Gister  
Bennett Cummings  
Cathy James  
Debbie Hood  
Emily Zikorus  
Heather Hartley  
Ilene Pyser  
Jennifer Howard  
Jennifer Litchman  
Jodi Clary  
Joyce Lynagh  
Judy Cohen  
Kathleen Bands  
Lauren Olean  
Lee Ann Sandusky  
Leslie Landsman  
Lynn Dimeo  
Mari Verrecchia DeLonde  
Marlene Schiech  
Mary Lingenfelter  
Melinda Spedden  
Melissa Nigro  
Mia Breheny  
Nancy Priest  
Rebecca Taylor  
Sam Miller  
Sandy Pagnotti  
Shirley Harden  
Stacey Irrgang  
Sue Schaefer
This one’s for the ladies in the House: our Women’s Committee!

Our fabulous Women’s Committee outdid themselves again this year. They made it a Santa’s Workshop to remember with arts and crafts, a photo booth and even haircuts from Floyd’s Barbershop. They threw a delicious Pasta Party for 30 families the night before the Shuffle. And their hard work on the décor, auction, sponsorships and more for HamburGala 2018 helped make it our best yet. We can’t thank you enough for your time, energy and creativity.
“Being part of the Red Shoe Crew has brought me so much joy over the last few years! Hearing first hand from the families that stay at the house how appreciative they are of our work and how much we make a difference is such a rewarding feeling. However, it’s them who truly make a difference for us and the Crew. Where else can you be fortunate enough to meet incredible people and make life-long friends while serving others? I always look forward to every event we put on including making each Red Shoe Shuffle better than the year before! The Crew has changed my life in so many ways and I’m so honored to be a part of it!” – A Red Shoe Crew Member
Volunteers

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
– Winston Churchill

At RMHCB, every meal, every activity and so many smiles are made possible by our dedicated volunteers. They are the first friendly faces our families see when they walk through the door and they make a lasting impression with everything they do. Whether they’re baking something delicious, making a repair or hosting an activity hour, they fill RMHCB with fun, love and compassion. Check our Facebook page for photos and highlights of their extraordinary efforts.

The Hunt Valley Wegmans has done it again! For the 9th year in a row, they have catered our Volunteer Appreciation Party. Their generosity allows us to show our love for our amazing volunteers. And we totally appreciate it!

Wegmans
From the moment we opened our doors in 1982, the entire McDonald’s family of owner operators, suppliers, employees, and customers has helped RMHC Baltimore keep families together, enabling access to the care and vital resources they need when they have a sick child.

We are grateful to our McDonald’s family for their generous support through donations, fundraising and volunteering. Together, we are enriching the lives of so many children and families. Thank you for your 36 years of support for our Home at 635 W. Lexington. We look forward to continuing our partnership at the New RMH, opening in spring 2019!

**You Can Make a Difference...**

Whether you’re driving through or dining in, please remember to drop your spare change in RMHC Donation Boxes at participating McDonald’s restaurants. Every nickel, dime, and dollar adds up and makes a BIG IMPACT in the lives of the children and families at RMHC.

**ROD MANN, McDonald’s Owner Operator for 40 Years, Retires**

We congratulate Rod Mann on his retirement after many years as a McDonald’s franchisee. Rod is a strong advocate for and a dedicated supporter and good friend of RMHC Baltimore. He is one of the founding fathers of “The House that Love Built,” which opened its doors in June of 1982. Throughout the years, Rod’s love and support for RMHC Baltimore grew stronger. His kindness, generosity and determination has made a difference and impacted thousands of children and families of RMH. We applaud Rod’s professional and personal achievements that have made a difference in the lives of so many, and we wish him the best in retirement.
Tribute to Rick Smith

For over 18 years, Rick Smith gave his time, talent and treasure to the families and children of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore. Sadly, Rick passed away this year, but his impact is felt every day and his legacy will remain with us forever. We will never forget his dedication, his passion for serving others, his sense of humor, and most importantly his love of children – ours and his own. Thank you, Rick. We miss you.

Support RMHC Baltimore with a Tribute Gift

Whether it’s a Birthday, Wedding, Anniversary, Graduation, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or “Just because,” tribute gifts are a great way to let people know that you are thinking of them. This is a wonderful way to add meaning to a special occasion and honor or remember a friend or loved one while, at the same time, helping families at RMHC Baltimore. When you make a tribute gift to RMHC Baltimore, we will send a personalized message on your behalf recognizing your generosity and support.

Please support RMHC Baltimore by making a tribute gift online at rmhcbaltimore.org or by phone (410) 528-1010 x105. Tribute gifts are 100% tax-deductible.

Our Hearts Remember...

Each year families come to us in search of hope and healing for their sick child. For most, miracles are found at our world class Baltimore hospitals. For some, the journey ends here. We remember them all and they remain a part of our history and our hearts forever.

Jacob Silver
2 months old

Liam Nilsson
4 days old

Ah’Moni Johnson
2 years old

Leilani Gutierrez
7 months old

David Leary
12 years old
Our New House... Opening Spring 2019

Follow our progress! rmhcbaltimore.org/ournewhouse/
SAVE THE DATE for the RED SHOE SHUFFLE

SUNDAY APRIL 7, 2019 9 AM

Register now at redshoeshuffle.org!
At the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Baltimore (RMHCB), we see our fair share of real-life superheroes. Steve, Tina, and Aiden Brown are three of them. When Steve and Tina Brown got married, they both had two boys from previous marriages and soon became foster parents. One day, they received a call that would change their lives - and the life of one very special boy - forever.

On February 26, 2010 the Department of Child Services called the Browns to see if they would be interested in taking a medically fragile child into their home. The child’s name was Aiden. Just 13 months old at the time, he had sustained a rare cervical spine injury called Atlanto-occipital dislocation in a car accident. This injury is also known as internal decapitation because of the ligamentous separation of the spinal column from the skull base. It’s usually fatal, but Aiden survived.

The Browns didn’t hesitate to say yes and fell in love with Aiden the moment they met him. While the nurse practitioner advised them to hold off on making a decision until they fully understood Aiden’s injuries and care requirements, they never wavered. After a month of training and preparing their house, they brought Aiden home and proceeded to fall more in love with him every day. On July 29, 2012, they made Aiden their forever son and gave him the name Levi Aiden Michael Brown. Tina Brown explains, “His initials L.A.M.B. symbolize gentleness, innocence, and purity in the Bible. Aiden is our baby lamb.” Seven months after adopting Aiden, the Browns adopted
their daughter Alyssa, now 21, who is a quadriplegic. They are also foster parents to a 10-year old boy.

Tina began bringing Aiden to Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore for therapy in 2012. The Browns would not have been able to afford the trip without RMHCB. Every six months, they drive 12-14 hours from Indiana to Baltimore with a vanload of medical equipment. According to Tina, “Ronald McDonald House and all of the staff are our family and our home-away-from-home. They always welcome us with open arms and take care of everything. When it is time to head home, we end up standing in the doorway hugging and crying because we will miss our family.”

Now nine years old, Aiden is enrolled in school and splits his day between a mainstream and a special needs classroom. He communicates with an eye gaze computer and his family hopes he’ll graduate with his classmates. Some of the RMHCB staff have even promised to visit Indiana to watch Aiden graduate. His parents describe him as a hardworking kid who never gives up and does it all with a huge heart-melting smile. Tina adds, “I always thought parents were supposed to be strong for and teach our children. Well, Aiden is the strong one. He has taught me so much.”

A year ago, Aiden almost died from a bad reaction to a medication. When Tina finally broke down in tears by his hospital bed, he opened his eyes as if to tell her not to give up. She put her face to his and he puckered his lips for a kiss. At that moment, Tina knew he was going to survive. According to Tina, “Aiden is a true superhero.” He’s obviously learned from the best of them - proving time and time again that love is the greatest superpower of all.
Follow us on social media for updates all year round including New House progress! We’ll be sure to put a smile on your face.
@RMHCBaltimore
Thank you to our friends at Giant for providing a big helping of holiday cheer at our Annual Holiday Open House. Their delicious spread never disappoints!

In addition to lots of toys, firefighters from the Baltimore City Fire Department brought countless smiles to the faces of our families! Their visit included an important fire safety lesson, gifts for our families and a chance to step into the boots of a firefighter. The children sat in the fire engine, blew the horn and even squirted the hose—leaving everyone feeling showered with love.

The Paterakis Family hosted their annual dinner in honor of their beloved wife, mother and sister, Deborah Paterakis. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this mouthwatering display of generosity. The evening was capped off by the Mirmiran and Paterakis families handing out gift cards to our RMH families!

Sending Smiles lived up to their name time and time again this past year. These incredible folks filled Thirty-One bags with fun cards, special treats and lots of love. We can’t thank them enough!

The ladies at Kendra Scott are true gems! They brightened our moms’ days with stylish jewelry several times this year.

Thank you to our friends at Sweet Minerals for giving mini makeovers to all the moms in the house. It was a beautiful thing!

Thank you to the Baltimore Ravens for spoiling our families again this year at Training Camp and with tickets to the game. We had a blast cheering on our home team.

Big thanks for the folks under the big top at UniverSoul Circus. While in Baltimore, these talented entertainers hosted a performance in honor of RMHCB families. As guest ringmaster, our very own Cheryl Wainwright kicked off what’s been called “the coolest show on earth.”
Thanks to an amazing group of volunteers, the dust definitely flew on this year’s McBlitz Days! From kitchen cleanout to playroom scrubbing to cubby stuffing, these folks help keep RMH clean and comfortable for our families. Let’s hear it for these cleaning, giving machines!

While our families couldn’t trick or treat at home, they didn’t miss out on any of the Halloween fun. Thanks to the people who donated all the yummy treats. It doesn’t get sweeter than that!

Thanks to our friend Denise Naylor, it was Christmas in July for our families. Santa handed out presents to the children and posed for photos. And a jolly good time was had by all!

The Mossers, a RMHCB family, remembered their son Dolan with a “Team Dolan” table at their local farm fair. The creative display highlighted all of the amazing things their community has done for RMHCB over the years, including raising over $70,000 in Shuffle donations! Their table won first place at the fair. And a place in our hearts forever!

Countless needs were met by the many wonderful families, schools, organization and community groups who hosted wish list drives for RMH. Because of them, wishes do come true. Thanks so much!

Our “Good News Bell” is always music to our ears. It rang a lot this year, including when former RMHCB guest Timmy stopped by for a visit. He’s looking, feeling great and best of all - CANCER FREE!

Our friends at Guintos Helping Hands make every bingo night a winner with great prizes and endless fun. We can’t thank them enough!

Ariella is battling cancer and has created her own foundation called Ari’s Bears, where she gives stuffed animals to children at hospitals throughout Baltimore. Big bear hugs to her for hosting an activity hour and handing out stuffed animals to our families!

Our friends at Guintos Helping Hands make every bingo night a winner with great prizes and endless fun. We can’t thank them enough!

Congrats to our RMHCB Board Member and McDonald’s Owner Operator Jim Bower for climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro this summer. Wearing his red and white striped socks, he was representing RMHCB all the way to the peak. You can’t top that!
Hosting an external fundraiser for RMHC Baltimore is a wonderful way to support us. It allows you to be creative and part of a rewarding experience that gives back to children and families that need our support at a crucial time in their lives. The proceeds raised help provide services for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

For more information, contact Lauren Olean, at lolean@rmhcbaltimore.org or 410.528.1010 x114 or visit http://www.rmhcbaltimore.org/events/host-an-event/

Thank you to everyone who collected tabs for RMH this year! A special shout out to Kara Cares for being the number one advocate for our tab program. She has ‘pulled off’ an incredible feat once again. Kara collects thousands of tabs from people all over the world every year, bringing in big hauls during the summer and the holidays. This year, she also started promoting the program in local schools.

The Boxwood Collection in Glyndon sold beautiful Chavez bracelets to benefit RMH. We received 25% of the profits from Chavez for Charity and another 25% from TBC. It all added up to a dazzling display of generosity!

Let’s raise a glass to Harryman House! Their Guest Bartender Night featured our very own President and CEO, Sandy Pagnotti and two amazing volunteers Jim Roark and Alyssa Woods!

The Ridgely Lions Club hosted the 39th Annual Strawberry Festival at Martin Sutton Memorial Park in Ridgely, MD. To kick off the festival, the Club hosted the Strawberry Chase 5k Fun Run and Walk to benefit RMH. Berry impressive!

RMH was in very good hands at the delicious breakfast hosted by these Allstate Agents. They even presented us with a $9,000 grant while they were here!

Our friends at Shear Genius Salon demonstrated their sheer goodness by raffling off a basket full of great hair products at the salon to raise money for RMH. Thank you!

Thank you to our friends at PHILANTHROPIK for hosting another successful fundraiser and toy drive for RMH! With the help of their network of friends and business partners, they gave the folks in the North Pole a real run for their money!

Spirit of Community
Our friends Stefanie and John at Jurassic Golf in Bel Air hosted a spirit night, where 10% of sales from the evening were donated to RMH. That’s on par with our most generous supporters!

Thank you to the amazing folks at Harbor East for hosting not one, but two fundraisers for us during the 2017 holiday season! Even as temperatures dropped, our hearts were warmed all the donations at the Black Friday event and the Cookies and Carol’s cookie tour!

We can always count on our sweet friend Sid to bring it home for RMH. He set up a cookie and lemonade stand at his neighborhood yard sale to raise money on our behalf!

Thank you to the students and teachers at Seven Oaks Elementary School for hosting a fundraiser for RMH at the Perry Hall McDonalds! With face painting, raffles, prizes and lots of yummy food, a fun night was had by all.

Cheers to our friends at Sylvester’s Saloon for hosting another successful holiday fundraiser and toy drive for RMH!

The Woodlawn Chapter of the National Contract Management Association hosted a happy hour to benefit us. Proceeds from registration sales and donations were donated to RMH—making us very happy indeed!

Thank you to the Lyons Mill Elementary School’s National Elementary Honor Society for hosting a talent show to benefit our families. All proceeds from ticket sales and concessions went to RMH. We were honored to say the least!

The folks who dedicated their birthdays to RMH gave new meaning to the gift that keeps on giving. Check out all of the cool toys little Ruby brought to our families this year!

Thank you to the residents of Brightview Westminster Ridge, who collected donations and gifts through a “Kindness Program” in their community. Our families loved the cookies, gift bags, toys and not-so-random acts of kindness!

Thank you to the Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce for hosting a “Frederick Road Fridays” concert to benefit RMHCB! The crew from the Frederick Road McDonald’s served up drinks and sold cozies to help their favorite cause.

Thank you to our friends in the Beach Harbor Community on Kent Island for organizing a one-mile fun walk to benefit RMH on Labor Day weekend! The event was such a success that they’ve decided to make it an annual event! Now that’s what you call a Labor Day of love!
Support the Annual Fund – We’re getting bigger and we need your help...

Supporting the Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore Annual Fund provides a sustainable gift and provides vital revenue to pay the day-to-day expenses to operate our House. Our need is great, and continues to grow as we prepare to move into the New RMH which will accommodate 2,200 families annually, more than doubling the size of our existing House. Every gift to the Annual Fund Today is a gift to help keep families together.

MAKE A GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND

You can donate online at rmhcbaltimore.org. For more information and ways to support the Annual Fund, please contact Debbie Hood, Vice President, at 410.528.1010 x105 or dhood@rmhcbaltimore.org.

Your Gift to the RMHC Baltimore Annual Fund is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please give as generously as you can. Thank you!

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation continues to be a lead Caring Partner in a momentous demonstration of support for our mission. We are grateful for the tremendous impact the Foundation gift makes every year.

Each of the primary hospitals we serve supports the RMHCB Annual Giving Society. As a direct recipient of our resources, the hospitals acknowledge the circle we share and our need for their sustainable support. Together we support the health and well-being of thousands of children.

The Leimenstoll Family has supported the Annual Fund since 2012 and is a member of our Annual Giving Society.

“The we began volunteering at the House prior to having kids of our own. We fell in love with the mission, the staff and the families we met. Once we had our first son (and 3 years later our second), the appreciation for having healthy children made our commitment to the House even stronger. Every parent should be able to say "yes" to the best possible care for their child. We witness love in action time and time again at the RMH, and we are humbled to play a small role in this beautiful place with all of you.”

~ A.J. Meghan, Drew and Matt

Gifts to RMHC Baltimore, of $1,000 or more, are recognized in the Annual Giving Society. Your generous support will help RMHC Baltimore to continue to fulfill its mission of giving hope, strength, joy and courage to thousands of families. We are grateful for all of the support received from foundations, corporations, community groups and individual donors.
2018 ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETY

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Gifts of $1000 and above received between 11/1/17 to 10/31/18

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RMH Hard Hat Tours
For the most updated list of donors, visit rmhcbaltimore.org/ournewhouse
When we broke ground on May 2, 2017, the corner of Baltimore and Aisquith Street was a dirt covered lot in disrepair. But there was a big, bold vision for what this land could be. Today, just 17 months later, the new Ronald McDonald House has risen up and is a towering symbol of hope, compassion and love. It’s a powerful reminder of what our RMH Community is all about... a kinship of kindness, a gathering of grace & goodness, an oasis of optimism, a village of love that has united to make a difference now and for generations to come.

To date, over $32 million dollars have been raised, and tens of thousands of hours of manpower and heart power have gone into building this dream. We are almost there. The finish line is in sight and in April, we will welcome our first families home to Aisquith Street. More importantly, we will be able to say goodbye to our longstanding waitlist, and help every family in crisis who needs us.

The past few months have been filled with hard hat tours for our donors, staff and volunteers. Our favorite tours have been the ones we have given to our current RMH families. Their excitement, appreciation and understanding of what this all really means is humbling. They know what a difference this house is going to make for them, and for those that follow. And I hope you do too... because we could not do this without you.

Keep checking rmhcbaltimore.org/ournewhouse/ to see our construction progress. Our Grand Opening will be here before you know it!

With gratitude,
Sandy Pagnotti, Bill Paterakis & Chuck Langmead
Tell us a bit about your history with Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore? How did you get involved with the House and why?

RMH is part of our family’s DNA. Chris’s dad was among the McDonald’s Owner/Operators who helped found the House in 1982. Jen got involved when we got married in 2006. We’ve been bringing our kids to the House to read and play with guests since they were toddlers, and now they’re at the age where they are meaningfully engaged and helpful. We love the idea that our family is part of a team providing sustenance, joy, comfort, and support to fellow parents and children.

In your opinion, what does building a new RMH mean to the State of Maryland?

We are all tremendously lucky to help build the next generation House for the families who come from all over Maryland, the US, and the world to get the very best medical care in Baltimore. That there will be a cozy place with so many accommodations and modern design features, suites, and even places to tuck away for peace – or to join the action – is a dream! Because the House is SO much more than a building, our family feels fortunate to help offer this gift to Maryland and be in the swirl of magic around the organization right now.

What kind of involvement has your family had in the Baltimore House over the past few years?

We can’t say no to anything related to the RMH. Starting with the “in the strollers and on the shoulders” days, our family has done all seven Red Shoe Shuffles, serves dinner one night a month, and our business supports the RMH. Chris plays in the golf tournament each year, I serve on the women’s committee and chair the HamburGala, and Chris has recently joined the board. We give our time and financial support to both annual giving and the capital campaign, in addition to attending individual events. Our children show their love for the House by asking for donations from the Wish List in lieu of birthday gifts from their friends each year (yes, their friends bring laundry detergent and paper towels in gift bags to our parties!). Also, about 3 years ago, we started making donations in honor of our children’s friends when they have a birthday or milestone. We love introducing friends to RMH and are grateful that so many have chosen to become directly connected as volunteers, event participants, and donors as a result.

What do you wish other people knew about the cause?

How easy it is to be involved – whether it’s once a year or once a month. That bringing your children and grandchildren to be around RMH families helps them become compassionate through action and personal experience. You can read or color or play the piano or even help with a cleaning project. Support doesn’t have to involve anything material. Being a good listener or offering open arms to a parent who needs a celebratory or empathetic hug or cry is sometimes all that’s needed. You may never meet the guest who will eat the leftovers in the fridge after a long day at the hospital, but hopefully that plate provides a little extra energy for the journey. Giving your love away feels meaningful even in abstract ways.

AbbVie, a global, research and development-based biopharmaceutical company committed to creating a world where all children have access to medical care, and where their families are supported and can be actively involved in every step of their health journey has made a donation of $1.5 Million to Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore to help finish out our New House campaign and support our program. Thank you AbbVie!