

FROM THE HEART



The Greatest Gift

Read Iver's story on page 6.



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2021

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A Note From Cecilie Holman



It is a true honor and privilege to serve as RMHD's Board Chair and work among the most amazing and dedicated staff, in addition to the most knowledgeable and talented board, advisory board and committee members. Our staff has handled the disruptions of the pandemic, ever changing protocols and thinking outside of the box for fundraising events with proactive determination to keep "the House that Love Built" open, safe and operational.

I fell in love with RMHD and its mission 32 years ago as a member of the Junior League where I planned and prepared meals in the "Soup Kitchen" at the old House. To serve in a hands-on environment where you can see the value of your work, time and efforts is very rewarding. It certainly warms my heart when I am at the House and am able to visit with the precious children and their families.

I am married to my wonderful and supportive husband, Ronnie, and we have a 23-year-old daughter, Abigail, who is living and working in Dallas. Abigail and I have enjoyed volunteering together at the RMHD for many years preparing meals in the kitchen and working with the children in the summer camps.

I have been a board member/advisory board member since 2008. I have also had the privilege to Co-Chair the Trains at NorthPark and the Under the Moonlight Gala and Chair the Annual Fund and Development Committee.

With so many nonprofits in need of financial and volunteer support, I want to make a big push—now more than ever—to ensure our community knows about RMHD's mission of "keeping families together, inspiring strength and giving love and support to families whose children are receiving medical care." I am looking forward to getting everyone back in the house working, volunteering, serving meals and interacting with our precious families....hopefully SOON!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the

Young Friends  Virtual Auction

Because of YOU, we exceeded our goal of \$14,000 and raised nearly \$20,000 for the families at RMHD!

Are you a young professional in the Dallas area? Join the Young Friends. Our new year is about to start and we have a ton of exciting events coming up. Email Kathlyn McGill at kmcguill@rmhdallas.org for more information.

STAY CONNECTED!

Follow us on social media for RMHD news, family updates & happenings around the House! Simply search for [rmhdallas](https://www.rmhdallas.org).



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE HOUSE

Storm Damage

During the February snow and ice storm, the fire sprinkler system in the House froze and burst, causing water to flow from the ceilings. In true form, the RMHD staff and friends jumped into action to find the problem, turn off the water, and begin clean-up. Each family staying at the House was relocated to a warm and dry location, but not before many graciously stepped in to help sweep out the water. We love our guest families!



A Visit From a Star

On April 30, former Dallas Stars' goalie, Marty Turco, and one of our volunteers, Shealyn Biggar, delivered pizza for our guest families on behalf of the Dallas Stars Foundation.

Shiloh Love

As evidenced below, our Chief Cheer Officer, Shiloh, remains the favorite RMHD staff member. For many of the children (and parents) staying at the House, a visit from Shiloh is the best part of their day.



Special Delivery

Michael Williams stopped by during his spring break to deliver one of his amazing handmade wreaths...and a check for \$500! Michael has been making wreaths to sell and raise money for local charities. We love that he chose to support RMHD.



Virtual Volunteer Appreciation

Because of Covid-19, we had to suspend our volunteer and cooking group program, and the House hasn't been the same. April is volunteer appreciation month, and we knew we had to do something to celebrate our amazing volunteers. Volunteers were invited to Zoom chats with RMHD staff and many were recognized on our social media channels. We may be biased, but we believe we have the best volunteers around, and we cannot wait to celebrate them in person soon!



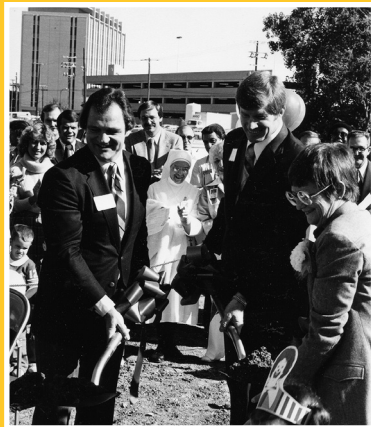
Did You Know We Are Celebrating 40 Years of Keeping Families Together?

BEGINNINGS

The initial Ronald McDonald House of Dallas was the project of Children's Oncology Services of Texas, Inc., a non-profit Texas corporation comprised of parents, doctors, administrators, and Dallas/Ft. Worth McDonald's Owner Operators and headed by **Dr. Jo Ann Cornet** of the Hematology-Oncology Division of the Children's Medical Center. Located on land donated by St. Paul Medical Center through the generosity of the Daughters of St. Vincent de Paul, RMHD opened its doors in 1981 with a capacity to serve 10 families. This was in large part due to the philanthropic endeavors of Sandra Estess, Chairman of the first capital campaign and Peggy S. Hill, who was Chair of the 1980 Crystal Charity Ball when RMHD was named the sole beneficiary.

GRAND OPENING

On January 18, 1981, RMHD opened its doors with 10 family bedrooms.



SECOND EXPANSION

In 1994, the House began serving 30 families in total with 26 rooms and 4 transplant apartments.

YOUNG FRIENDS

RMHD's young professionals group was founded.



1981



BARBARA MCDERMOTT was named RMHD's first Executive Director.



1994



2003



1985

FIRST EXPANSION

RMHD doubled in size with room for 21 families. **Wilma Potter** was hired as Resident Manager and touched hundreds of lives for the next 15 years.



1991



1999

RESIDENT MANAGERS

After nearly 15 years of service, Wilma Potter retired and Norma Harlan became the new Resident Manager—a position she would have for the next 20 years.



1987

FIRST TRAINS EXHIBIT

In 1987, the first Trains Exhibit was staged in the lobby of the Crescent Hotel by Ban Bywaters before moving to the Galleria in 1989 and NorthPark in 1999. The Trains at NorthPark is RMHD's largest fundraiser.



CHIEF CHEER OFFICER

In 2016, our Chief Cheer Officer was added. Shiloh, a Golden Retriever/Labrador Retriever mix was designated a career change dog by Guide Dogs for the Blind and donated to the House.



 2016

FOURTH EXPANSION

On October 10, 2019, we cut the ribbon and began welcoming families into the new wing. The House now had 89 total rooms, a splash pad, new playground equipment, an art installation of handcrafted blown glass butterflies, and various other updates around the House.



 2019


 2021

40 YEARS

The idea of a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill or injured children was embraced fully by the Dallas community from the initial concept. Today, RMHD continues to be the only agency in Dallas that provides this vital service and remains debt-free to this day. Because of the generosity of the Dallas community, RMHD is able to keep families close to the hospital and close to each other.

JILL CUMNOCK

After 20 years of service, Barbara McDermott retired, and Jill Cumnock was selected as the new CEO.

 2010



 2020

COVID-19

Like everyone else, RMHD had to learn how to operate in a global pandemic. We suspended our volunteer program and sent most of the staff to work from home. We all began to find new ways to work together and continue caring for our guest families. The Trains at NorthPark continued with masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing. Our generous donors and cooking groups covered much of the cost for individually packed, catered meals.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

RMHD celebrated 25 years with the first Moonlight Ball.

 2006

 2009

NEW HOUSE

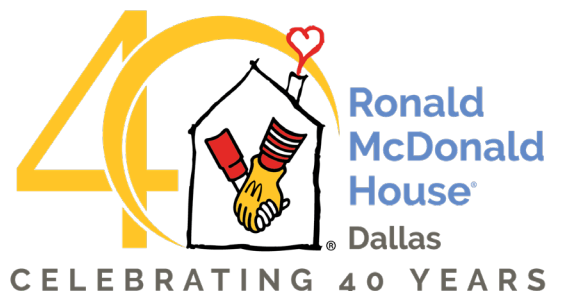
On December 9, 2009, the new, beautiful RMHD was completed and ready to serve up to 58 families. The House now offered 52 regular guest rooms, 6 transplant apartments, a professional kitchen, dining room, multiple play areas for children and teens, a library and lovely outdoor spaces.



 2008

THIRD EXPANSION

In April 2008, RMHD broke ground on the new House. This was also the first year RMHD was the beneficiary of the Addison Rotary Open. 2008 also saw the addition of our Teen Team membership group.





Iver Jude Sturm

Iver Jude Sturm was born on November 11, 2020. On November 18, at just 7 days old, he had his first heart surgery. On February 5, 2021, Iver went into cardiac arrest and had to be revived through CPR. February 16 was the day Iver was placed on the transplant list. There have been many important dates in Iver's life, but for his parents Christy and Leremy, April 7 is one they will never forget. It was the day they got the call that Iver would receive his new heart. Christy remembers, "After waiting 50 days on the UNOS transplant list, our prayers had been answered. Our son was given the greatest gift that he could ever receive, the perfect heart!"

Iver is a fighter, and it is clear that he gets it from his parents. It was during her 20-week ultrasound that Christy and Leremy first learned about Iver's heart condition. Because of Covid-19, Leremy wasn't able to join Christy at her appointments, so she knew something was wrong when her doctor sat her down and told her to get Leremy on the phone. The doctor explained that Iver had a very complex heart condition, as well as heterotaxy syndrome. Iver would ultimately have several additional diagnoses including HLHS, DORV, severe pulmonary stenosis, unbalanced AV canal, and AV valve regurgitation. The doctor was not optimistic about Iver's survival, but Christy and Leremy refused to give up on their son. They relocated from Missoula, Montana, to Dallas so Iver could receive the best care possible as soon as he was born.

While Iver was being cared for by the best doctors at Children's Medical Center Dallas, his parents received their own care at Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. "We have been so blessed to be staying at the Ronald McDonald House. They have been so generous and gave such amazing support through this journey that our family has been on," Christy shared. "We are so glad that we chose Children's Medical

Center for our son! We have had the best care in the cardiac ICU. I knew that our son's condition was extremely rare when one of his transplant surgeons informed us that he hadn't had a situs inversus case in a few years. In Iver's case, not only was his heart full of severe defects, it was also mirror imaged. Therefore, the surgeons had to do some extra work attaching the donor's heart to work for Iver."

All of the surgeon's extra work paid off, and in May, Iver was able to join his parents at RMHD while he recovered from his heart transplant. After a rough first night in his new surroundings, Iver was sleeping through the night, eating like a champ, and thriving! Before his transplant, Iver was small for his age, but "now that he has a new ticker"—as Christy says—he has turned into a little chunk.

Iver and his parents have not had an easy journey. As Christy recalls, "I can't even begin to tell you all of the times that I didn't think Iver was going to make it through this. I knew that trusting God was the only thing that I could do. None of this was in our control, and if the last year has taught us anything, it is exactly that."

When families are going through a medical crisis—especially during a global pandemic—the Ronald McDonald House provides stability during uncertainty. For 40 years, RMHD has been keeping families together, inspiring strength, and giving love and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care. Since the day our doors opened in 1981, it is our community in Dallas and beyond that has allowed us to continue to live out our mission. On behalf of the Sturms and the 40,000 other families who have called RMHD their home-away-from-home, thank you for keeping families close!



come to the

table

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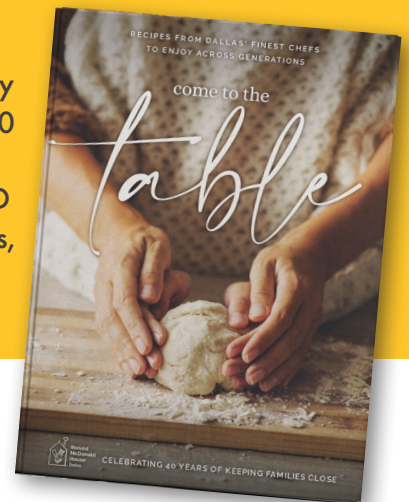
Springtime at the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas is usually synonymous with the *Under the Moonlight Gala*. However, this year we are doing something different. In place of our gala, we've published our very own 40th Anniversary Cookbook, *Come to the Table*.

The pandemic's grip has made each of us look for new ways to entertain our families and friends, yet nourishment has remained at the heart of what we do when we love. Whether feeding your own family or preparing a meal for the families at RMHD, food is at the center of it all.

Honoring all of RMHD's Board Chairs and presented by LiquidAgents Healthcare, *Come to the Table* features 40 family-style and family-inspired recipes from 40 of the finest chefs from Dallas and beyond and tells the RMHD story while recognizing some of the families, supporters, and staff who have made our House a home.

Thank you to the Cookbook Leadership Team:

Carol Dalton, Nancy Gottsacker, Georgia Gottsacker Gandino, JoAnne Moore and Melissa Utley.



(Approximate cover)



Order your Cookbook Today!

rmhdallas.org/events/40th-anniversary

Questions? Email Diane Fullingim at dfullingim@rmhdallas.org or Kathlyn McGill at kmcguill@rmhdallas.org

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Keeping families close™

Ronald McDonald House of Dallas (RMHD) is keeping families together, inspiring strength, and giving love and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care.

In an effort to lessen the burden, reduce stress, keep the family intact, and enhance the quality of life for these families, RMHD provides temporary housing in a caring home-like atmosphere. The Ronald McDonald House program was built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on healing their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal, or where they will lay their head at night to rest.

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Save the Date



ADDISON ROTARY OPEN

THE TRAINS AT NORTHPARK



Monday, September 13, 2021
Gleneagles Country Club
addisonrotary.com

November 13, 2021 - January 2, 2022
NorthPark Mall
thetrainsatnorthpark.com

Wishlist

- Liquid hand soap
- Swiffer wet & dry refills
- Paper towels
- Clorox wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Water bottles
- Tide pods

Questions? Contact Taylor Hardin at thardin@rhdallas.org or 214-624-5358