## FROM THE HEART



40 Years of Keeping Families Together.



## 2021

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### CHAIR

Cecilie Holman

PAST CHAIR

Bert Crouch

**SECRETARY** 

Lauren Swann

TREASURER

Dale C. Johnston

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lindy Berkley Kim S. Besse Meredith Clavenna Tyree Collier James C. Collins April Cook William F. Davis Natalie Dossett Dolly Dribben Cate Ford Keri Johnson Jessica Johnson-Glass Michael Massiatte Blair Mercer Regina Moldovan Jimmy Perryman David A. Podeszwa Jennifer Reynolds Doug Smellage Patrick Staudt Kacy Tolleson Lorry Wallace Greg Wood

#### CEO

Jill Cumnock

Keith Wright

**FOUNDER** 

Jo Ann M. Cornet, M.D. (1929-2016)

#### STAY CONNECTED!

Follow us on social media for RMHD news, family updates & happenings around the House! Simply search for **rmhdallas**.









Gary B. Wood, Ph.D.

#### **ADVISORY BOARD**

John Allums Patrick H. Arthur Vera Bangs William C. Collins Cile Crouch Carol Dalton Gary R. DeLong Chris Durovich Richard Eiseman, Jr. Sandra Estess Dale Fuller, M.D. Linda Golden Nancy Gottsacker Joe M. Graham A. Michael Hainsfurther Nancy Kerr Carol A. Kilman Dan E. Martens Mike C. McWilliams JoAnne Moore Cynthia O'Brien Susan Palma Norma Pearson Robert R. Penn Sandy Phillips Jacob N. Pollack Carol Podolsky M.D. Karl Rathjen, M.D. **Rod Sager** Nancy Skochdopole Mersina Stubbs Melissa W. Utley Robert Walker

## **MEET OUR NEW COO**

Johnathan Elder joined the RMHD team as our Chief Operating Officer in October. Previously, Johnathan worked for Medical City Healthcare in a variety of roles including operations, supply chain operations, financial analyst, patient experience and patient advocacy. Previously, he has served on our RMHD Young Friends Board and was also involved

with the Young Friends group at the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita, Kansas. When asked why he wanted to join the RMHD family, Johnathan shared, "Every day we get to wake up and choose to do something great. My passion is serving others, especially our world's future. The mission of the Ronald McDonald House is my something great! I'm honored that my family has been blessed with this amazing opportunity."



#### THANK YOU TO THE ADDISON ROTARY CLUB

A big thank you to the Addison Rotarians, sponsors and volunteers who made the 2021 ARO golf tournament a success for the families living at RMHD. Since 2008, the Addison Rotary Club has worked tirelessly on this extremely fruitful event for which RMHD is the sole beneficiary, raising well over \$2,000,000 for our mission. This year's tournament was on September 13 and raised nearly \$150,000. The families, volunteers and staff are deeply grateful to presenting sponsor Walker Dunlop and our friends at the Addison Rotary Club.



## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE HOUSE

#### **CFO** of the Year

Congratulations to our very own Whitney Newell! Along with 16 other Dallas area CFOs, Whitney was named CFO of the Year by the Dallas Business Journal. If you know Whitney, you know she is very deserving of this honor.









## **Volunteer Day**

RMHD's young professionals group, Young Friends, spent a Saturday in October organizing our playroom, completing various work projects, and helping make the House a home-away-from-home for our families. Interested in joining Young Friends? Email Kathlyn McGuill at kmcguill@rmhdallas.org.

## **Macy's Shopping Spree**

Our guest families and staff were treated to a shopping spree at the brand new Market by Macy's store in Flower Mound. We were blown away by Macy's generosity. Thank you!





## **Shiloh Turns 7**

In August, we celebrated Shiloh's 7th Birthday! Thank you to everyone who sent cards and gifts to our favorite Chief Cheer Officer.



## **Generous Kids**

A huge thank you to 8 year-old Geet Parikh who set up a lemonade stand in his neighborhood to raise money and collect items for our guest families!



# Meet Izaiah Cantrell 2021 Trains at NorthPark Kid Conductor



On Saturday, November 13, Izaiah Cantrell officially cut the ribbon to kick off the 35th Trains at NorthPark Holiday Season. Izaiah was born with four congenital heart defects and at two-months old underwent his first open heart surgery. Izaiah's family had no idea where they were going to stay during his surgery and recovery. Thankfully, another parent whose child was suffering from heart defects introduced Izaiah's mom, Esther, to the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas.





For the next 8 years, RMHD became a home-away-from-home for Izaiah and his family. Esther shared, "The House has so many memories for us. They have seen us through his first surgery, his first steps and has been a safe space for our family after many trying times in our child's life. It is a place where we could just take a moment to breathe and regain ourselves so that we could take better care of Izaiah."

The Trains at NorthPark is RMHD's biggest fundraiser, bringing in around \$600,000 every year. Due to COVID-19, we saw a 64% decrease in attendance in 2020. We are hopeful that the 2021-2022 Holiday Season will exceed our expectations, but we need your help, so please suggest to your friends and family to visit the exhibit. You can purchase tickets and find more information at www.thetrainsatnorthpark.com.

Thank you to Kate McCoy and Kelley Schadt, our 2021 Trains at NorthPark Co-Chairs, and our Honorary Chairs, Candice and Tony Romo, for helping us bring joy and wonder to the thousands of families who visit the exhibit.

## **RMHD Family Room**

## Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine



Did you know that we have a family room at Scottish Rite For Children in Frisco? Our Ronald McDonald Family Room offers a place of respite and relaxation within the walls of the hospital. It provides a home-like environment for parents as their child undergoes surgery, procedures or participates in therapy.

## Volunteer

Our Family Room depends on volunteers to serve our mission of keeping families together. We need volunteers Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. This is a great volunteer opportunity for our supporters who live north of Dallas. For more information, contact Caitlyn Carter, our Volunteer Services Manager at ccarter@rmhdallas.org.

## **Family Room Wishlist**

We are always in need of items to help our Family Room run smoothly. Below are some of our most needed items.

- Individually packaged snacks
- Small bottled water

- Coffee and tea K-cups (regular, decaf)
- Paper products (plates, napkins, paper towels)

Items can be delivered to 4707 Bengal Street Dallas, TX 75235. Be sure to label them as Family Room Wishlist.



## **Meals That Heal**



In July, we began slowly reinstating our volunteer program per guidelines set by our global organization Ronald McDonald House Charities. We invited back front desk and kitchen volunteers who had a history with us and proof of vaccination. We also began reinstating our Meals that Heal cooking program to include one meal a day prepared by 6 volunteers that have proof of vaccination. That program has been slow to come back and RMHD is still absorbing the costs of preparing the majority of the 3 meals a day that feed our families.

As the pandemic continued into 2021 and now 2022, providing 3 meals a day has come at a high cost. We have had some meal groups return and others support with catering or cash, but the fact remains that we continue to pay for most meals to our families. Please consider donating a catered meal.

Fast Facts:

We are currently serving 35-40 people. Each meal costs approximately \$350. We are in need of lunches and dinners. Lunch is served at 12pm and dinner is served at 5:30pm.

Interested? Send an email to Johnathan Elder at jelder@rmhdallas.org

## 40 Years of Gratitude

It's impossible to know the impact your support has had on the 40,000 families who have stayed at RMHD. Here is just a glimpse into what RMHD has meant for our guest families since we opened our doors in 1981.

"Your House has become our home and you have become our family. Thank you for kindness, opening your hearts, for comfort and smiles."

"Having a medically complex child is not only heartbreaking, but also isolating most of the time. The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas not only helped us with basic needs, but also offered us a loving home with a beautiful community. We will be forever grateful to all of the team, staff and volunteers for promoting such a beautiful place where people come together to help and support each other. We learned a lot about human kindness while we were there and it felt wonderful not to be alone in this journey. Thank you!"

"The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas is truly a blessing! They have given us a place to stay and food so we don't have to constantly spend money on the basic necessities during the times my son is in the hospital or when we have to drive to Dallas for doctor visits. I do not have to worry about things like where to wash clothes, or go eat, I am able to focus more time and attention on my son."

"RMHD has gone above and beyond to make our stay here as comfortable as possible. This means more to us than you could ever know. I truly believe that the positive atmosphere here at RMHD is helping him to heal quicker than the doctors thought he would."

"We think about our time spent there often and can't thank the people there enough. It made a very sad experience a little more bearable and we will forever have changed hearts because of this place. All I want to do now is serve those in need!"

"RMHD has been such a blessing to our family It is a nice place for us to stay and not have to worry about where to stay next week, day, or month It has been a place for emotional support as well It is nice to come to the House after a long day at the hospital and see kids playing and happy."

"When I'm at the Ronald McDonald House I feel like a completely different person, like maybe things aren't so bad after all. My family is completely taken care of down to the smallest detail. I don't have to focus on anything except my child."

"The RMHD staff and volunteers mean a home away from home, it means a peace of mind. My family is forever grateful to the RMHD for giving us a place of comfort while dealing with hard times"

"Our son has had 11 surgeries over his lifetime. For over 18 years, the House was our home away from home. It allowed us to get some rest, to eat, to be close and keep our family together. A place of respite and at times a place to bond with other families. It has been a true blessing."

Thank you for helping us keep families together, inspire strength, and give love and support to families whose children are receiving essential medical care. You make our mission possible.



# FAMILIES ARE STRONGER WHEN THEY ARE TOGETHER

## 2021 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN



2021 Annual Fund
Committee

#### Chairmen:

Haylie & Bert Crouch

#### **Committee:**

Katie & Scott Head Claire & Stephen Raggio Lillian & Adam Richey 40 years ago, the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas was built upon 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. But none of this is possible without you. More than 90% of our funding comes from private donors like you, and every dollar you give helps keep families together.

## Here's how you can help:



\$100 helps cover one month of supplies for our Ronald McDonald Family Room.



\$350 helps cover the cost of one lunch or dinner for our quest families.



\$500 helps us provide family activities and programs for a month.



\$2,500 helps us light and heat or air-condition our House for 1 week.



\$5,500 helps cover the cost of one guest room for nearly 2 months.



To make a donation, use the return envelope or contact Diane Fullingim, Chief Development Officer, at dfullingim@rmhdallas.org or 214-624-5365.



Ronald McDonald House of Dallas 4707 Bengal Street Dallas, TX 75235 214.631.7354

Non-Profit Org US Postage PAID Dallas, TX Permit No. 1770

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.

The trademarks used herein are owned by Ronald McDonald House Charities and its affiliates and are used under license: Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, Ronald McDonald House of Dallas Logo and RMHD.

# 2022 RMHD Upcoming Events

### YOUNG FRIENDS VIRTUAL AUCTION

March 27-April 2, 2022

## SPRING FIESTA: LA LUZ DE LA LUNA

Coming in Late April or Early May 2022

### ADDISON ROTARY OPEN

Monday, September 12, 2022

## THE TRAINS AT NORTHPARK

November 12, 2022-January 1, 2023



## Wishlist

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

**Questions?** Contact Johnathan Elder at jelder@rmhdallas.org or 214-624-5355.