

# FROM THE HEART



## Jude Smerlick

Learn more about Jude's Journey on page 3.



# 2022

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(1929-2016)

### STAY CONNECTED!

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



# REMEMBERING DR. AUDREY EVANS



On September 29, 2022, our inspiring co-founder, Dr. Audrey Evans, passed away peacefully in her home at the age of 97.

In 1974, Dr. Evans' desire to provide lodging and resources to children and families in need prompted her to co-found the Ronald McDonald House Charities. The first House opened later that year in Philadelphia. Since then, the Ronald McDonald House Charities has grown to over 380 Houses in 45 countries and regions, including our House here in Dallas.

Dr. Evans taught us that a family with a sick child is a sick family. She wholeheartedly believed that providing support services to a family in need was vital to their wellness.

There would be no Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, or anywhere in the world, without the hard work and actions of Dr. Audrey Evans. At RMHD, we vow to celebrate her contributions to this world and continue her legacy of keeping families together.

Dr. Evans' actions were so impactful, a feature film entitled "Audrey's Children" is currently being produced about her life and legacy. The film is expected to be released in 2023. To learn more about the film, visit [www.audreyschildren.com/](http://www.audreyschildren.com/).



# Jude's Journey

In March of this year, up-and-coming motocross star, Jude Smerlick, was in Kemp, Texas participating in the Spring A Ding Ding race. However, Jude's race was cut short when he suddenly fell off his bike in mid-air while performing a jump. The then-15-year-old was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a severe brain injury.

Being over 1,400 miles away from their home in Pennsylvania, Jude's parents, Jen and John, stayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas for three weeks while Jude was in the Neuro-ICU. Jen said in those very early days, "we were told he may not interact with his environment, and most certainly would be a different version of Jude."

After their three-week stay in Dallas, Jude was airlifted to an inpatient rehabilitation facility in Atlanta, Georgia where he stayed for seven weeks. Following his discharge, the Smerlicks traveled to Jacksonville, Florida where Jude continued to work hard during outpatient rehab. This past October, he was completely discharged from ALL therapy and his mom said, "he is doing amazing!"

"[Jude] surprised everyone in rehab when he finally emerged into a conscious state and relearned to walk, tie shoes and so much more! He has regained everything physically and only has minimal short term memory issues. This is completely miraculous compared to his original prognosis," Jen said.

She continued, "[RMHD] was a haven in our very tragic storm. We are forever grateful for you all and the beautiful hospitality we received in those very dark days. While we were unsure where this journey would lead us at the time we were in Dallas, we are now announcing that we have made it through this storm with a miraculous outcome!"

# HAPPENINGS AROUND THE HOUSE

## Addison Rotary Open

THANK YOU to the Addison Rotary Club, event sponsors, golfers, RMHD staff & volunteers, and all other event supporters for making the ARO a success this year! This year's tournament raised over \$150,000 for the House.



**\$90,050**  
raised on  
North Texas  
Giving Day!



## North Texas Giving Day

We want to thank everyone who donated or spread the word on North Texas Giving Day in September.

This year, we raised over \$90,000. It's because of generous supporters like YOU who help us continue our mission!



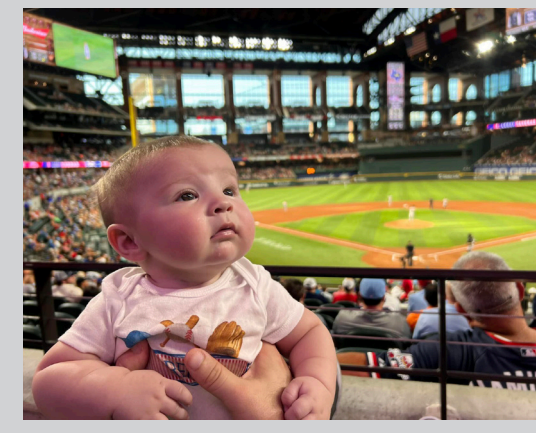
## Brand-New Toy Room

We are beyond excited to share that our brand-new Toy Room is now open! Our Toy Room holds hundreds of presents, and is used year-round when families check in or out, a patient or sibling is celebrating a birthday, a patient reaches a milestone, and more. A heartfelt thank you to the Dekelbourn Family Foundation for making this toy room possible!

## Texas Rangers Game

This summer, some of our RMHD families received a once-in-a-lifetime Texas Rangers experience! They were able to watch the game in a special Founder's Suite right behind home plate!

Thank you to Spring Creek Barbeque, the Webb Family, and Premier Transportation for donating this to our families.



## Halloween Bash

On October 27th, we held our annual Halloween Bash at the House. We were joined by current and past families, and had a blast playing games, decorating cookies, and trick-or-treating. Thank you to the Teen Team, Young Friends, and other supporters who made this event a success.



## HF Sinclair Golf Tournament

We want to sincerely thank HF Sinclair for putting on an amazing golf tournament this past October.

We are blown away by the support we received. This tournament brought in \$137,250 for RMHD, which will go directly towards serving our families!



## Hi I'm Blake

Blake Hyland and his family stayed with us off and on from 2014 - 2017 while he underwent treatment for a traumatic brain injury from a gymnastics accident. His incredible road to recovery has been documented in a recently released film, "Hi I'm Blake." You can watch his inspirational story on Apple Tv, Prime Video, and Altavod. Stay tuned into our Facebook page for an upcoming Dallas screening announcement!





# Annual Fund

**TOGETHER IS THE BEST PLACE TO BE**

For the past 41 years, the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas has served as a home-away-from-home for over 41,000 families whose children receive essential medical care in the Dallas area. Our House offers a community of support, compassion, and the everyday comforts of home to the families staying here. By easing the financial burden and taking care of needs like lodging, meals, and transportation, RMHD allows parents and caregivers to focus solely on caring for their children.

However, we would not be able to provide any of these services without YOU. More than 90% of our funding comes from private donors, and your donation to our Annual Fund will help us continue our mission of keeping families together when they need it most.

## Here's how you can help:



**\$5,500** covers the cost of one guest room for one month



**\$2,500** helps us light and heat or air condition our House for one week



**\$500** provides family activities and programs for one month



**\$350** covers the cost of one lunch or dinner for our guest families



**\$100** covers one month of supplies for our Ronald McDonald Family Room

To make a donation:  
[www.rmhdallas.org/get-involved/donate/](http://www.rmhdallas.org/get-involved/donate/)  
 or contact Diane Fullingim at 214-624-5366  
 or [dfullingim@rmhdallas.org](mailto:dfullingim@rmhdallas.org).

### 2022 Annual Fund Committee

#### CHAIRS

Regina and Kris Moldovan

#### COMMITTEE

Julie and Scott Albright  
 Nicole and John Rafferty

Alisa and Jimmy Perryman  
 Nancy and Jim Skochdopole



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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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# RMHD EVENTS 2022 - 2023



## ALL ABOARD!



### THE TRAINS AT NORTH PARK

Now - January 6, 2023

NorthPark Mall

[thetrainsatnorthpark.com](http://thetrainsatnorthpark.com)

## SPRING GALA



### UNDER THE MOONLIGHT AND INTO THE GARDEN

Friday, April 14, 2023

Northwood Club

# Wishlist

- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Individually-Packaged Snacks
- Bottled Water
- Paper Towels
- Swiffer Wet/Dry Cloths

**Questions?** Contact Johnathan Elder at [jelder@rhdallas.org](mailto:jelder@rhdallas.org) or 214-624-5355.