

FROM THE HEART



Samudra's Story

Learn more about Samudra on page 4.



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House®
Dallas

2023

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STAY CONNECTED!

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



WELCOME, PAT!



Dear RMHD friends and family,

On January 1, 2023, I assumed the role of Board Chair for the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas.

First, I want to say what an honor and privilege this is for me. I want to extend my gratitude to the RMHD organization for placing their trust and confidence in my abilities to assume this position and lead our Board of Directors.

Secondly, I want to acknowledge the steadfast leadership provided by my predecessor, Cecilie Holman. Her unwavering support of our mission and active guidance successfully led the House through a challenging time. I thank her for dedicating and contributing hundreds of hours of her time to support the families and mission of the House.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize and thank our staff and volunteers for their passion and hardwork, our Board members for their continued enthusiasm and participation, and our sponsors and donors for their incredibly generous support over the years.

Through my professional career at Bank of Texas and our participation with the notable Trains at Northpark, I became involved with the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. Upon learning the wonderful ways the House serves families and their children during their time of need, I knew I had to be a part of it. As a father myself, this organization holds a special place in my heart. In 2017, I joined the Board of Directors and have actively remained involved with the House ever since.

Looking ahead, we're focused on serving even more families in the Dallas-area and continuing to grow our programs. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to serving the RMHD mission in my role as Board Chair for the next two years!

- Pat Staudt
Board Chair

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE HOUSE

Holiday Festivities

We had a great holiday season last year! In December, we held our annual tree lighting at the House. We had a festive meal and even a visit from Santa! We also opened our holiday shop for the month, where families could choose several gifts for their children.



NTX Giving Day

Mark your calendars for our largest online fundraiser of the year, North Texas Giving Day! On Thursday, September 21, we need your help to meet our goal of \$100,000.



Young Friends

Know a young professional looking to give back? Send them our way! The Young Friends organization is a great way to network with other mission-minded individuals in Dallas!

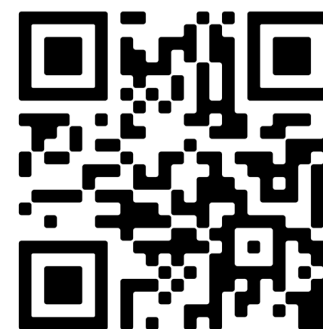
Hospitality Bags and Carts

We recently unveiled our brand-new Hospitality Cart at Cook Children's Medical Center - Prosper! This cart will be regularly stocked with complimentary items for families at the hospital. We're in the process of creating another cart, coming soon to Medical City Frisco. We also began distributing Hospitality Bags at Texas Health in Frisco for parents with a baby in the NICU.



All Aboard

Sponsorships for the Trains at NorthPark are now available! Scan the QR code to purchase yours. Railcar sales will open on August 1, 2023. See back page for exhibit hours.



Chef Program

We are launching a Chef Program! Our new Chef, Zach Price, will help create menus that offer variety and nutritional value, create fun interactive cooking activities, and prepare meals.





Samudra's Story

"It was more than I ever expected it to be," is how Dominique described walking into the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas for the very first time. She, her husband Vladimir, and their seven-month-old baby Samudra, had just arrived on a 29-hour flight from their home in Bali.

Last September, the family traveled from Indonesia to Dallas to receive specialized care at the Hypospadias Speciality Center, headquartered in The Colony, TX. At birth, Samudra was diagnosed with severe hypospadias, a relatively rare congenital condition where the opening of the urinary channel is on the underside of the organ. Dominique learned about the potential of Samudra's condition when she was about seven months along in her pregnancy, but was under the assumption that it wouldn't be a huge cause for concern.

"We were told it didn't necessarily mean he would need surgery," she explains. "So once he was born, we just kept monitoring it. But soon, he was getting bad infections, he wouldn't eat and wasn't gaining weight, and his bacteria levels were really high. We tried various solutions - changing the kind of diapers we used, keeping the area really clean - but the issues kept coming up."

Samudra's case was so severe and rare that the doctors in Asia were unsure how to treat it. After perusing the internet searching for answers, she came across an old YouTube video. In this video, a Dallas-area doctor specializing in hypospadias surgeries was sharing information in an effort to educate people around the world on this condition. The doctor's contact information was listed at the end of the video, so Dominique opened her email and started typing.

"I was worried because the video was five years old, but I still sent an email. And I kept sending them - until one day, he replied," Dominique says.

It was that interaction that spearheaded their first journey to Texas. They arrived at RMHD in September of 2022, and Samudra had his first surgery later that month. A couple of weeks later, the family traveled back to Indonesia, with plans to return in 2023 for his two remaining surgeries.

This March, Dominique and Vladimir returned to Dallas, but soon learned that Samudra's first surgery would need to be redone. That reoperative surgery happened on April 4th, but he will still need the remaining two surgeries in Texas,

one in October 2023 and the final in April 2024 - all of which are being paid out of pocket.

"In Indonesia, you are not allowed to have any health insurance if your child has a medical condition he was born with, for example, hypospadias," Dominique explains. "Therefore, anything surgery-related to this condition, insurance doesn't cover."

"My schedule is really busy since I'm still working remotely as a school teacher back in Indonesia. [Indonesia] is 13 hours ahead, so I typically teach from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day," she says. "It's a full day, but it's what I need to do for our son."

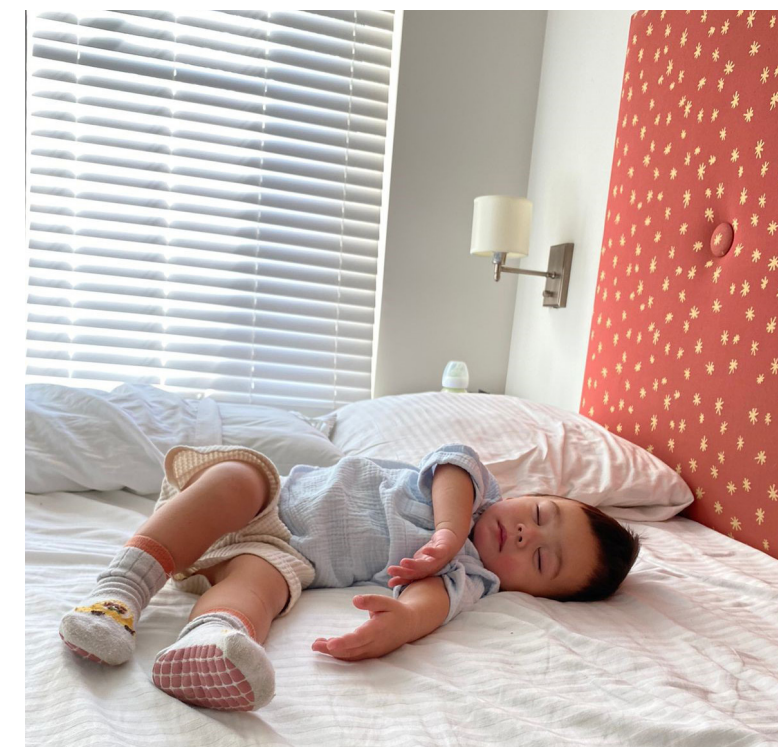
When she isn't working, she loves to play with Vladimir and Samudra in the courtyard and interact with other families. The House truly feels like a home for them - Samudra even had his first crawl and took his first steps here. The other families staying here have started to feel like an extension of their own family.

"We weren't expecting the support we've found here. The kind of connection we have here is going to last for a lifetime," Dominique begins. "It's nice to stay here and be with other families, because we're all basically on the same boat. We're all learning new things and supporting one another, it's really beautiful. It is even more wonderful to be surrounded by such amazing moms. We are all so supportive of each other, it's very powerful."

Although they're truly thankful for the House and the friends they've met, they do miss their family and friends back in Indonesia. Tickets skyrocketed once COVID-19 regulations relaxed, so now it's too expensive for the family to travel back and forth, or for their family to come here.

The family will be staying at the House until Samudra has fully recovered from his final surgery next April, with a tentative departure date of May 2024. He has therapies and visits with his medical team in between surgeries, but Dominique is thankful they have a calm and relaxing place to stay.

"In the beginning, I didn't think it would be possible to stay for that long and we were worried about finding a place to stay in between each surgery," says Dominique. "Now that we're here, we wouldn't want to stay anywhere else. The staff really makes us feel at home."





Under the Moonlight and Into the Garden

We want to thank everyone who supported our "Under the Moonlight and Into the Garden" gala on Friday, April 14. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise over \$500,000 (gross revenue) to benefit our RMHD mission and families. Our sincerest gratitude to co-chairs Laura Petka and Lauren Pond for their hard work putting together this beautiful event. We hope everyone had a blast honoring April & Chad Cook and supporting the RMHD mission.

Janice and Tim Go using the Say Cheeze! 360 Photo booth

Live Auction



Performer: Goga Denisov



Alexi Martin, Megan Mantas, Ashley Redgrave, Alexis Pearl, Stephanie Nicholson, Rachel Grim & Jennifer Hoehne

We also want to thank our event sponsors, live surprise and auction donors, gala committee, development committee, and all other event partners for your contributions to "Under the Moonlight and Into the Garden." This event wouldn't have been possible without your generosity!



Co-Chairs Lauren Pond and Laura Petka



Honorary Chairs April and Chad Cook, Pam Catalani, and Diane Falkenberg



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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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2023 RMHD Upcoming Events



CALLING ALL GOLFERS



ADDISON ROTARY OPEN

Monday, September 11, 2023
Gleneagles Country Club
addisonrotaryopen.org

THE TRAINS ARE COMING



THE TRAINS AT NORTHPARK

November 11, 2023 - January 5, 2024
NorthPark Center
thetrainsatnorthpark.com

Wishlist

- Ziploc Bags
- Paper Towels
- Individually-Packaged Snacks
- Bottled Water
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Detergent Pods

Questions? Contact Johnathan Elder at felder@rhdallas.org or 214-624-5355.