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CONTACT US

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Charities of Central Illinois**
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Springfield, IL 62702
217-528-3314

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016
LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS SOON!

FREE United States Police
Canine Association
**PUBLIC
DEMONSTRATION**
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
7:00 P.M.

**ROBIN ROBERTS STADIUM
IN SPRINGFIELD**

No admission charge, but event proceeds will benefit RMHCCI

Visit us on the web to learn more!

www.rmhc-centralillinois.org

Follow Us on Social Media & Share with Your Friends!



Facebook: www.facebook.com/rmhcci

Twitter: @RMHCCI

YouTube: search for RMHCCI channel

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/rmhcci

Love Notes

Summer 2015
Newsletter

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois

A note from our Board President & Executive Director...

Dear Friends,

What an exciting start to 2015 for our charity! Since re-opening to families in October 2014 after our renovation, we have been overjoyed to hear so many positive comments from our families and visitors! The entire renovation team did a fantastic job and the project would not have been possible without the help and support of so many. We truly appreciate your investment in Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois!



The renovation has allowed our charity to ensure sustainability of the physical structure of the Ronald McDonald House for years to come and provided for much needed updates. After almost 30 years of serving 400-plus families per year, the House had shown its wear. We are excited to move forward refreshed with modern amenities for our families thanks to your generous support!

Inside you will find a report on the 2014 renovation as well as other happenings within our organization. We look forward to giving you a tour of the new House soon! Stop by any time!

With Gratitude,

Evan Westlake

Evan Westlake
Board President

Kelly Thompson

Kelly Thompson
Executive Director



Inside This Edition

Labor of Love... p.2

Grand Re-Opening... p. 3

Adopt-the-House
Spotlight... p. 3

Family Story: The Frankovich
Family... p. 4

Wish List... p. 4

Artwork Sponsorships... p. 5

Spotlight on Volunteers...p. 6

Adopt-the-House
Sponsorship & Generous
Contributors... p. 7

Save the Date... p. 8

Board of Directors... p. 8

Contact Information &
Website/Social Media... p. 8



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Labor of Love Renovation

Community gives from the heart to complete \$1.2 million renovation of nearly 30-year old House

After four months of construction, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois (RMHCCI) re-opened to a completely renovated house on October 17, 2014.

RMHCCI hosted a Grand Re-Opening Celebration on Thursday, October 16 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. It was open to the public and guests had the opportunity to tour the newly renovated house.

RMHCCI launched the “Labor of Love” renovation and expansion campaign based on a growing need for more room in the Ronald McDonald House. The renovation included much needed updates to the kitchen and living areas as well as the addition of two bedrooms. The additional rooms will allow the House to provide a home away from home for up to 14 families at one time.

RMHCCI began the renovation and expansion project over two years ago with a 17-member Renovation Committee comprised of staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and local community leaders and led by Board President Karen Jeffers. The Committee worked with fwai architects as the design and architectural firm for the project.

“We were thrilled to open the newly renovated Ronald McDonald House and share it with the community,” Kelly Thompson, Executive Director of RMHCCI, said. “We couldn’t have completed this renovation without the immense outpouring of support from the central Illinois community. Many businesses, groups and individuals are responsible for making this project possible, and we cannot say thank you enough to them. We are truly grateful!”



Pictured far left: New dining area
Pictured left: New kitchen
Pictured above, top: New family room
Pictured above, middle: New guest bedroom
Pictured above, bottom: Children's Healing Corner Donor Wall



Adopt-the-House
Sponsorships Still
Available!

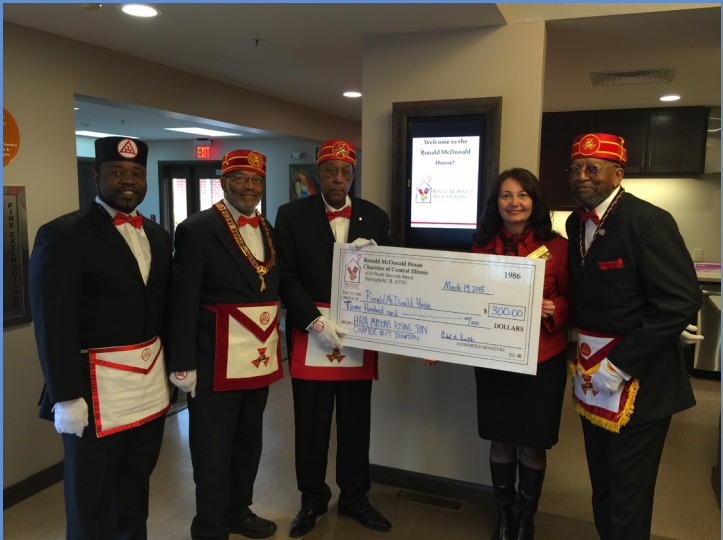
Several businesses and organizations adopted a room or area of our House during the Labor of Love renovation, but we still have guest bedrooms available for sponsorship!

If you're interested in learning more, please contact Executive Director, Kelly Thompson, at 217-528-3314 ext. 145 or kthompson@rmhc-centralillinois.org.

Spotlight on Generous Contributors



The Asian Indian Women's Organization hosted their 9th India Night benefiting our House and presented a check for \$55,000! We truly appreciate their partnership and all of their hard work for an amazing event!



The HRA Mason Rising Sun Chapter #17 generously donated to our families this year! We are grateful for their support and had a great time showing them around our new House!

Did you know?

more than **345**
Ronald McDonald Houses
worldwide help
8,000 FAMILIES
a night

stay close to their children when they are receiving treatment at a hospital.



RMHC® helps families
save more than
\$649
MILLION
each year
in accommodation costs
when they must travel
long distances for
their child's medical care.

Spotlight on Our Families

The Frankovich Family

The Frankovich Family came to RMHCCI last year when baby Allison was born with a prolapsed cord, which cut off all the blood supply and oxygen to her body. While at St. John's Children's Hospital, she had a stroke which caused further damage. Doctors thought Allison might not be able to swallow food and they suspected she might have cerebral palsy, but Allison made a full recovery and just celebrated her first birthday.

After their stay at our House, the Frankovich Family decided that if Allison could live to see her first birthday in good health, they would have a birthday party where guests would bring gifts to donate to our Ronald McDonald House! Needless to say, the results were amazing (as shown above)!

Party attendees and several other members of the Decatur community pitched in to give toys, cleaning supplies, food, bed linens, hangers, personal care items and much more to our House for our families to use, as well as \$1,800! The Frankovich's caught the attention of local news station, WAND TV, too! Their story was featured on the news that evening, and because of that, even more donations were brought by our House!

Allison and her mom, Janice, are pictured above on the day they dropped off all of the items. **We are truly grateful to them for their support, and we are so happy that "Big Al" is doing so well!**



Every month, we update our wish list with our greatest needs for the House. They range from office supplies to cleaning supplies to personal care items. Ongoing needs include:

- Paper towels
- All sizes of trash bags
- Stamps
- 7.5 oz hand soap

Items can be dropped off at the House daily from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Visit www.rmhc-centralillinois.org every month to view our wish list!



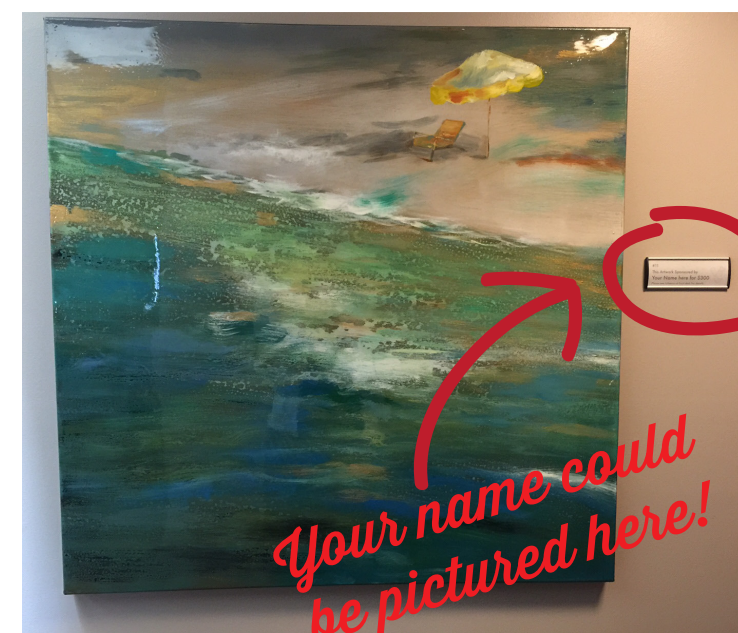
House Artwork Sponsorships

As a part of our renovation, we acquired some beautiful, colorful artwork for the House. We have made several of these pieces available for sponsorship. There have already been a handful of people sponsor pieces, but there are still many left! Artwork sponsorships range from \$160 to \$1000.

The generous support of our artwork sponsors is recognized by a plaque next to the artwork pieces.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring these pieces of art throughout our House, please contact our Development and Communications Coordinator, Johanna Moll, at 217-528-3314 ext. 148.

Some of the available pieces of art are sampled here on this page.



Spotlight on Volunteers



Natalie and Roman's family stayed with us while they were in the NICU, and now they come back every year on their birthday to cook a meal for our families.



The women of Alpha Delta Pi at UIUC put together an awesome "ADPicnic" for our benefit this spring. They had a great turnout and "Pi an ADPi" was quite a hit!

Meet Our New Board President

Evan Westlake began his term as our Board President in January, after having previously served as Board Vice President. Evan has been on the Board since September 2012. He has shown great leadership and dedication as a member of our Board. For example, he turned the Big 3-0 in April and had guests to his party bring wish list items for the House instead of gifts for him! He is pictured here dropping off the birthday donations to the House.

Evan is a proud graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he met his wife, Courtney. Courtney and Evan have two children, Connor and Brenna, and they reside in Sherman. He is a Vice President of Commercial Lending at Illinois National Bank.

We are thrilled to have Evan as our new Board President. Thank you, Evan, for your commitment and leadership!



Labor of Love Grand Re-Opening



Pictures from the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the renovated House on October 16, 2014!



Spotlight On Adopt-the-House Sponsors

Without the generous support of these businesses, organizations and individuals, our Labor of Love project would not have been possible.

- McDonald's Owner/Operators of Central Illinois & Peoria/Bloomington** - Family Room
- Asian Indian Women's Organization** - Welcome Area, Artwork and two Guest Bedrooms
- Ullrich Foundation** - Two Guest Bedrooms
- SCHEELS** - Atrium
- Alpha Delta Pi Foundation** - Play Area
- First Responders Community of Springfield** - Great Room
- Brinkerhoff Home Foundation** - Great Room
- CEFCU** - Kitchen
- Irene Kreher** - Kitchen
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Schmidt** - Laundry Room
- Anonymous** - Two Guest Bedrooms

Also a huge THANKS to all of the Children's Healing Corner* members!

*Note: Those donors at \$1,000 or above contributing to our Children's Healing Corner will now be featured on our donor wall

Thank you to our sponsors for "adopting" a room and/or area in our House to showcase your support!