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“LABOR OF LOVE” CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES TO EXPAND, RENOVATE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
Fundraiser challenges the community to help provide a “home away from home” for families with sick children

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (March 7, 2014)---Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois (RMHCCI) announced today its first-ever total remodel of the 28-year-old Ronald McDonald House located at 610 N. 7th Street in Springfield. The project, “Labor of Love: Give from the heart to keep families together,” is slated to begin early June.

“We will undergo a complete renovation of our House in Springfield - expanding from 12 bedrooms to 14 bedrooms in order to serve more families each year,” said Kelly Thompson, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois. “This is a very exciting time for our charity, and we hope the community will support our hard work for the more than 400 families with sick children who stay with us each year.”

As part of the “Labor of Love” campaign, RMHCCI will also launch the “Adopt-the-House” program as part of its planned renovation. “The ‘Adopt-the-House’ program is a new opportunity for individuals, groups and businesses to ‘adopt’ one or more rooms of the House by making a donation to help refurbish a particular area. There are various levels of giving opportunities, including cash and in-kind donations,” said Karen Jeffers, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois board president.

“Because of space constraints, we’ve had to find alternative accommodations for families two out of every three nights on average over the last three years,” said Thompson. “This \$1.2 million project to expand our House will help more families in need and provide them a home away from home when receiving medical care at an area facility.”

RMHCCI is working with FWAI Architects as the design and architectural firm for the project. In addition, since 1986 St. John’s Hospital has leased the property to RMHCCI for the Ronald McDonald House through a generous in-kind donation and is thus overseeing the charity’s plans for the property. A 17-member Renovation Committee - comprised of staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, local community leaders and led by Board President Karen Jeffers - has been meeting monthly since last summer on the renovation plans. The Committee has also been assisting in the review of the remodel plans for the Ronald McDonald House, which first opened in 1986.

“Although the Ronald McDonald House will be closed during our ‘Labor of Love’ project due to concerns over the health and safety of families living in a construction zone, our charity has worked out an

arrangement with Carpenter Street Hotel in Springfield to provide rooms for families during construction. As a result, we will be able to assist up to six families each night throughout construction and continue our mission while the House is closed,” said Jeffers.

For more information on the expansion and renovation plans, including the “Adopt-the-House” program, please visit www.rmhc-centralillinois.org.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois is to provide a supportive home away from home for families with children receiving medical care in Springfield. RMHCCI serves approximately 400 families per year who travel to Springfield from throughout central Illinois. For more information, visit www.rmhc-centralillinois.org, follow RMHC on Twitter ([@RMHCCI](https://twitter.com/RMHCCI)) or like RMHC on Facebook ([Facebook.com/rmhcci](https://www.facebook.com/rmhcci)).

About Ronald McDonald House Charities

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), an independent non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. Through its global network of local Chapters in 58 countries and regions, its three core programs, the [Ronald McDonald House](#)[®], [Ronald McDonald Family Room](#)[®] and [Ronald McDonald Care Mobile](#)[®], and millions of dollars in grants to support children's programs worldwide, RMHC provides stability and resources to families so they can get and keep their children healthy and happy. All RMHC-operated and supported programs provide access to quality health care and give children and families the time they need together to heal faster and cope better.

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