

House Matters

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Illinois

Special Edition! Our Ronald McDonald House is undergoing its first-ever total & complete remodel of our 28-year-old home away from home!

Labor of Love: Give from the heart to keep families together!

The project, '**Labor of Love: Give from the heart to keep families together**' began in June 2014. "This is a very exciting time for our charity, as we embark on a complete renovation of our House. We are 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 (RMHCCI).

"Because of space constraints, we've had to find alternative accommodations for families 2 out of every 3 nights on average over the last 3 years," said Thompson. "This \$1.2 million project to expand our House will help more families in need & provide them a home away from home when receiving medical care at an area facility."

As part of the **Labor of Love** campaign, RMHCCI also launched the 'Adopt-the-House' program. "The 'Adopt-the-House' program is a new opportunity for individuals, groups & 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 & in-kind donations," said Karen Jeffers, RMHCCI Board President & Renovation Committee Chair.

RMHCCI opened in 1986 & relies on both monetary & in-kind support from the central IL community to serve families. "We hope the community will continue to support the more than 400 families with sick children who stay with us each year," said Kelly Thompson.

RMHCCI is working with FWAI Architects as the design & architectural firm for the project. In addition, since 1986 St. John's Hospital has leased the property to RMHCCI



RMHCCI Kitchen, tables & chairs original from opening in 1986.

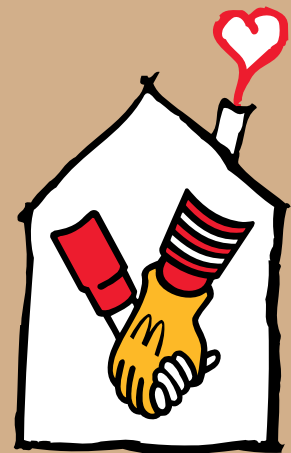
for the House through a generous in-kind donation and is thus overseeing the charity's plans for the property. Jones-Blythe Construction Company was awarded the contract, & Northstar Management Company will oversee the project.

A 17-member Renovation Committee, comprised of staff, volunteers, Board of Directors members, & local community leaders has been meeting monthly since last summer on the plans.

"Although the Ronald McDonald House will be closed during the **Labor of Love** project due to concerns over the health & safety of families living in a construction zone, we worked out an arrangement with area hotels to provide rooms for families during construction. As a result, we will be able to assist up to 6 families each night throughout construction & continue our mission while the House is closed," said Jeffers.

2014 Labor of Love

- \$1.2 million renovation & expansion project of RMHCCI
 - RMHCCI expanding from 12 bedrooms to 14 to serve more families
 - Adopt-the-House Program \$500K fundraising goal, \$327,500 raised to date
 - Many opportunities to help including cash & in-kind gifts!
- Call 217-528-3314 for information & a renovation wish list will be posted at:
- roominyourheart.org



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

The Jones Family, Stayed at RMHCCI for 267 Nights

Story told by Lyndie's mom, Katie.

We found out we were going to have a baby in February 2013, which was a miracle in itself. And then I had a procedure done which was to prevent pre-term labor, & it actually caused me to go into pre-term labor. We had Lyndie 17 weeks early and live approximately an hour away. We got introduced to the Ronald McDonald House to keep us near her.



Lyndie was born 17 weeks early

We didn't want to leave Lyndie's bedside and there was so much uncertainty about so many things—it was completely overwhelming. Ronald McDonald House gave us the peace of mind we needed in wanting to stay near Lyndie. They were a wonderful resource in providing housing, meals, & friendly faces.

What has been a very stressful situation for our family has been bettered by the generosity of the House. I don't know what we would have done in a situation if we would have needed to be here quickly and we were an hour away. So just to know the House is right across the street from the hospital—we're thankful for that.

The peace of mind in letting us stay near her has truly been a blessing and we are very thankful and appreciative of such a wonderful organization. It is wonderful to know we have had a home away from home during our time at House—about 9 months. We will forever be grateful.



Justin, Katie, and Lyndie



Lyndie in June 2014

**Editor's note: Lyndie went home after about nine months in the NICU & her parents say now she's growing like a weed!*

The Jones Family is also featured in the Labor of Love video—watch at roominyourheart.org

Thank you to the RMHCCI Families in the Labor of Love Videos!

Thank you to the Jones, Holder, Drainer, & Armentrout families for sharing your stories in the Labor of Love Videos!



Holder Family



Drainer Family



Armentrout Family

Do you have room in your heart? We need more room in our home.

Learn more about how you can help at roominyourheart.org



RMHCCI has been well-maintained but used by thousands of families since we opened in 1986 — some furnishings are over 25 years old.



Interior rendering of the proposed kitchen.

Thank you to all supporters of Labor of Love!

Adopt-the-House Program!

The 'Adopt-the-House' program is a new opportunity for individuals, groups & 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!

Thank you to all Adopt-the-House Sponsors!

As of press time:

Atrium—\$2,500, sponsored by SCHEELS

* **Laundry Area—\$5,000**, 1 opportunity available

Children's Play Area—\$10,000, sponsored by Alpha Delta Pi Foundation

* **Great Room—\$20,000**, 5 opportunities available

* **Kitchen—\$20,000**, 3 of 5 opportunities available
1 opportunity sponsored by CEFCU
1 opportunity sponsored by an anonymous donor

* **Guest Rooms—\$25,000**, 2 of 14 room opportunities available
1 opportunity sponsored by the Asian Indian Women's Organization
1 opportunity sponsored by an anonymous donor

Family Room—\$35,000, sponsored by McDonald's® of Central IL & Peoria/Bloomington

*Indicates opportunity type is still available

For current opportunities, please visit: roominyourheart.org



Carpenter Street Hotel

Thank you to the McGraw Family & the Carpenter Street Hotel for your partnership with RMHCCI! Thank you for allowing us to reserve six rooms as well as a concierge suite to continue our mission to serve families during the summer construction at Ronald McDonald House!

Special Thanks to:



St. John's Children's Hospital

Thank you for sponsoring production of the Labor of Love video, for donating office space for our staff on the 4th Floor behind the NICU, and for the printing of this newsletter!
Watch the videos online on our YouTube channel by searching 'RMHCCI' or roominyourheart.org!



Aaron's of Springfield & the Reddy Family

Thank you for supporting the project through in-kind donations of appliances including TVs, washers & dryers, and refrigerators!



La-Z-Boy

Thank you to La-Z-Boy and the Hilst Family for your support through a cash donation and in-kind donations of furniture for our Labor of Love project!



BUNN

Thank you to BUNN for donating coffee & tea machines for families to enjoy in the renovated House!

RMHCCI Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Karen Jeffers, President
McDonald's Owner/Operator

Evan Westlake, Vice President
Illinois National Bank

Peggy Curtin, Secretary
St. John's Children's Hospital

Megan Mitchell, Treasurer
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IL Crisis Prevention Network

Rick Roth
Southwest Airlines

Jeremy Ruppel
Niemann foods

Pat Young
Bank of Springfield

RMHCCI Staff

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**Editor's note: After 3 years, this editor is signing off as of 6/25/14. Thank you for reading & for supporting the House!!
~ Megan Mueller, Development & Communications Coordinator*

Part-Time Staff

Tina Troutman, Housekeeper

Relief Managers:

Menelle Pickett
Martha Goodwin
Nell Collins
Charlotte Gallagher
Donna Treadwell

Night Managers:

Esther Smith
Trasi Hutchens



Labor of Love: Give from the Heart to Keep Families Together!



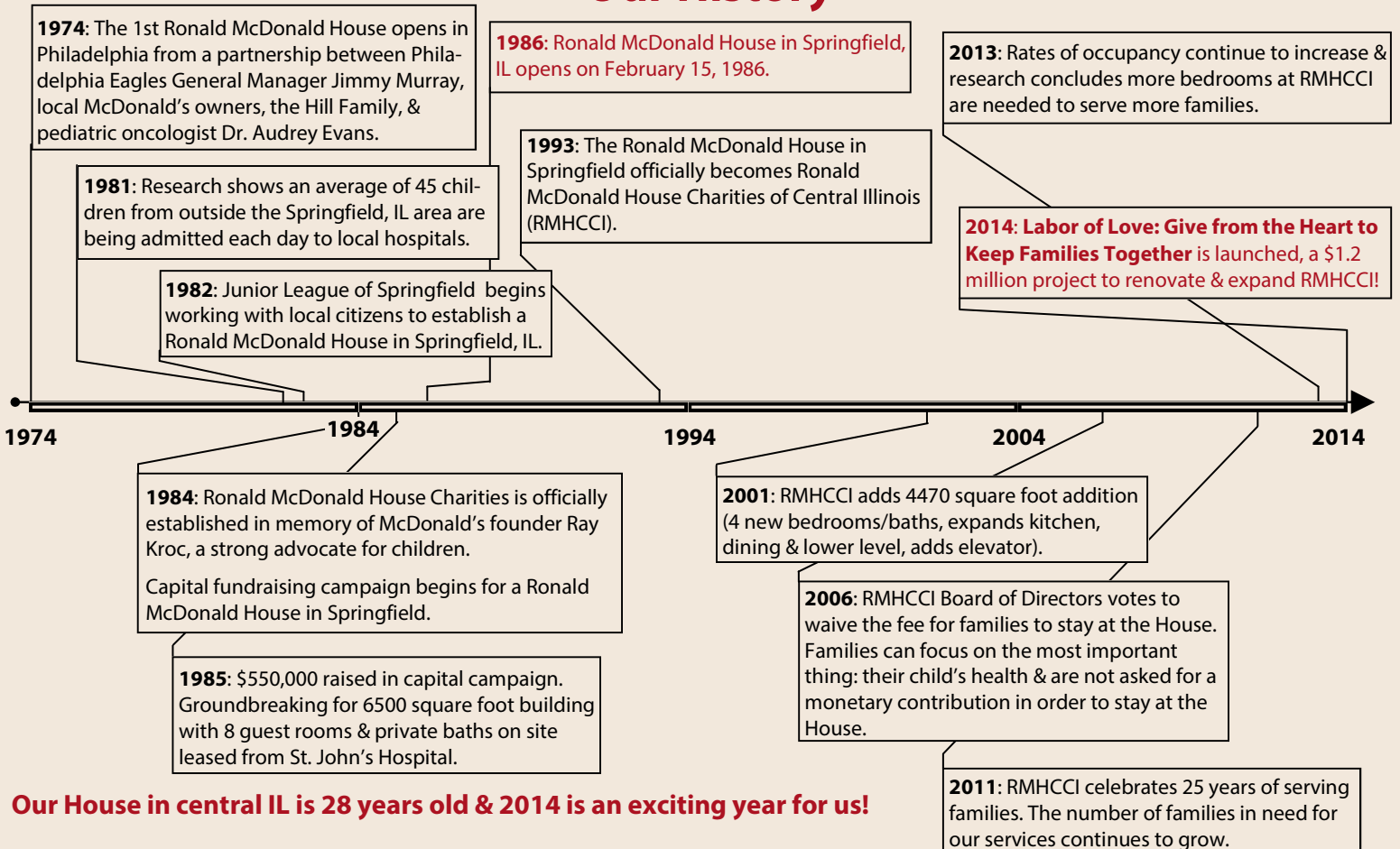
RMHCCI Board Members, Renovation Committee Members, Adopt-the-House Sponsors, volunteers, staff, & attendees at the Groundbreaking Ceremony on 6/12/14.



Exterior rendering of the remodeled Ronald McDonald House.

Please visit roominyourheart.org to learn more!

Our History



Our House in central IL is 28 years old & 2014 is an exciting year for us!