Ronald McDonald House® of Cleveland











Keeping families close®

Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland 2019 IMPACT REPORT

Ronald McDonald House® of Cleveland, Inc., a nonprofit organization, supports families whose children receive treatment at area medical centers by providing a home-like environment and essential resources and services. We serve thousands of families each year through our 55-family House, Family Rooms in four local hospitals, outpatient facility STAR Centers and family resource link www.redtreehouse.org.



Board President Keith

Strauss has a personal reason Jeanette's family. While there, Jeanette went into premature

labor. Their son Morgan was born and immediately lifeflighted to St. Louis, where he remained in the NICU for the next three weeks.

Alone in an unfamiliar city while their child clung to life, Jeanette and Keith found comfort and support at the Ronald McDonald House. Jeanette recounts, "It was more than a warm bed and a hot shower at the end of a long day—we had a family through the caring volunteers, attentive staff and countless other families who could empathize with us...we imagine if we had gone back to a hotel room and it had been just the two of us." They stayed at the House until Morgan was stable enough to be life-

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Officers

for his involvement with the Ronald McDonald House. When he and wife Jeanette were expecting their first child, they traveled to Illinois to spend the holidays with

flighted home to Cleveland, where he spent another $2\frac{1}{2}$ months in the NICU.

The Strausses were deeply touched by their Ronald McDonald House experience, and became dedicated supporters of RMH in Cleveland. Since 2007, Keith and Jeanette have participated as Committee Members, event attendees, sponsors and goodwill ambassadors. Keith joined the RMH Board of Directors in 2011 and became Board President in December of 2017. Morgan had a normal childhood with two younger brothers and is now a grown man. Each year, the family sponsors a room at RMH in his name.

Parker, Xavier, Keith, Morgan and Jeanette Strauss



Dear Friends.

2019 was a year of looking back and moving forward.

We remembered our rich 40-year history and honored our founders, while celebrating those who keep their legacy alive and thriving today. We revisited the House's transformation through the years and we continued to make significant organization-wide improvements. We are proud of where we began, where we are today and our accomplishments of the past year as we continue to provide crucial comfort and support to families who need us.

AT THE HOUSE

2019 saw a 7.5% increase in occupancy with the largest number of families in our history. We provided more fresh and nutritious meals than ever before through our revamped Family Meal Program. Key common areas were refurnished and the security systems were extensively upgraded.

AT THE HOSPITAL AND OUTPATIENT CENTERS

We celebrated milestones as the Family Room at Cleveland Clinic Fairview marked ten years of service and our outpatient facility STAR Centers completed their first full year of operations. Our respite rooms were used 941 times, providing critical overnight rest to caregivers of the most vulnerable patients.

ONLINE

RedTreehouse.org began reaching more audiences with new contracts in the areas of mental health, addiction services and trauma-informed care as well as a grant-funded geographic expansion into areas of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Just as families depend on RMH, we depend on our volunteers, donors, and corporate and community partners. In 2019, a record number of individuals and groups gave their time, merchandise, services and money to carry on our founders' mission of helping families. And as we looked back, we remembered the families we've helped, welcomed new arrivals each day and laid foundations for a future of serving more people in more ways than ever before.

Sincerely,



Craig Wilson Executive Director

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Keith Strauss President, Board of Trustees

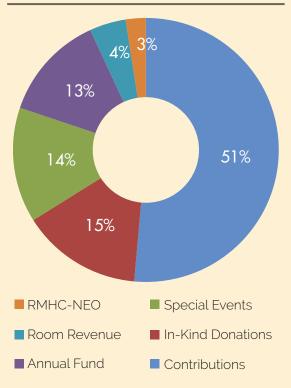
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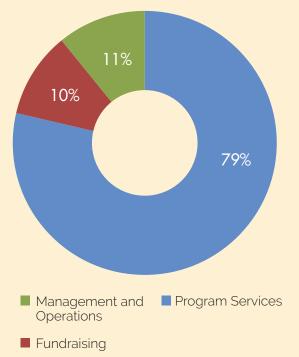
2019 At-a-Glance

40 Years of Serving Families

97% OF OUR FUNDING COMES FROM DONATIONS



79% OF OUR REVENUE GOES DIRECTLY INTO PROGRAMS





AT THE HOUSE

7.5% Occupancy Increase over 2018

Family Visits: 1435

- Families Served: 914 Countries: 14
- States: 43
- Ohio Counties: 64
- Ohio Residents: 50%
- International: 2% Average Stay: 13 nights

We never turn away guests

- for an inability to pay Room Cost: \$100
- Requested Nightly Donation: \$20
- Average Nightly Donation: \$9.54
- Unable to Pay: 52%
- REDTREEHOUSE.ORG

Individual Sessions: 14,277

AT THE HOSPITALS

Family Room Locations:

UH Rainbow Babies &

Children's

Cleveland Clinic Children's MetroHealth Medical Center

Individual Visits: 57,381

7900

Gifts Distributed: 4576

AT OUTPATIENT CENTERS

STAR Center Locations:

UH Rainbow Center for Women & Children

- Cleveland Clinic Children's
- **Outpatient Center** Children Served: 7077

VOLUNTEERS

Individual Volunteers: 355 (NOT INCLUDING EVENTS) Hours: 33,099 Value: **\$862,446**

Volunteer Groups: 808 Meals Served: 588 Chores & Activities: 220

Since opening on September 25, 1979, thousands of families have found comfort and strength at the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland. A passionate group of parents, medical professionals and friends worked tirelessly to create this legacy of love. 2019 was a very special year of paying tribute to our founders and recognizing those who keep their vision going strong.



The 40th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting was held on June 6, 2019 at Judson Manor. Program highlights included:

- Premier of the short film Creating a Legacy of Love: The Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland Founders' Story
- Panel discussion Perspectives on 40 Years of Serving Families
- Pillar of the House Awards presentations

Guests came Home to the House on September 25, 2019 to discover, enjoy, learn, share and be inspired by:

- House and garden tours
- Archive and video viewings
- RMH story sharing and filming
- Program information and updates
- Family Meal Program demonstrations



Joanne and David Berkovitz came Home to the House and shared the endearing and enduring story behind one of our most beloved features, Aaron's House.

www.rmhcleveland.org

Cleveland Clinic Fairview Happy Wheels Servings: Full Meals Served: 169 Overnight Guest Visits: 941

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE FOUNDERS

Michael and Susan Clegg Edward and Eileen Davis Sam Gross, M.D. Ronald and Susan Kahn Albert and Nancy Kirchner Phillip and Mary Jo Py Donald Smith Ronald and Roberta Watson Stephen and Betty Zayac

RMH FILM RECOGNIZED





Our short film Creating a Legacy of Love: The Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland Founders' Story was accepted into the Chagrin Documentary Film Fest, the Short, Sweet.Film.Fest and was a segment topic on WKYC's Live on Lakeside.

At the House

With up to 55 families each night, something is always happening at the **Ronald McDonald House**. Daily meals, spacious common areas, fully equipped kitchens and laundry facilities help guests feel at home. Beautifully landscaped grounds and a playground offer a welcoming retreat. But the thing guests appreciate most is the people. 2019 was no exception as our volunteers, donors and corporate and community partners contributed more than ever to make the House a place of comfort and support.



Happy Returns: Giving with Gratitude Former guests often stay connected to RMH, returning to "give back" to the House.

Kelly Carmack Mata and her son John stayed at the House for three months so he could go through intensive treatment for a condition that was causing him to be malnourished. John is now thriving and Kelly has volunteered at the House, spoken on our behalf and shared their experience for appeals, stories, and on the 3News show, *It's About You*.

Before and After: Activities at the House provide welcome and needed relief after long days at the hospital. John got to meet Spiderman during his stay; Kelly returns to the House as a volunteer Cinderella with Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio.

Wish List Drives help the House get items it needs, right when it needs them.

In 2019, **1285** wish list drives provided **\$324,354.13** worth of food, supplies and other items.



The McGraw/Siko/Sadd family stayed at the House for several nights in 2009. They are grateful for the support they received from RMH and continue to give back, recently delivering wish list items.



220 Activity and Chore Groups kept the House clean and homey

"Our chore group worked hard and got so much done! When we saw one of the kids play with the toys we just disinfected and she had her mask on, it really set in just how much each act we do helps the families."

–Sara Wojtowicz, OEC

House occupancy was up 7% over 2018

There are **no distance or income requirements** to stay at the House

Rooms were occupied a total of **14,958 nights**

Of **730** freshly prepared meals **588** (80%) were provided by **volunteer groups**.



COMPASSIONATE CUISINE

Last year at the Ronald McDonald House, we made a commitment to provide continental breakfast and two hot meals each day. Our Family Meal Program became **Compassionate Cuisine** and new options made it easier than ever for groups to participate:

NEW! Book & Cook by Sysco: Book a date and make a donation to cover food costs; we'll have everything ready when you arrive to cook your meal.

NEW! Sweet Deeds: A small donation and a couple hours of time is all it takes to bake enough goodies for everyone at the House.

Shop & Share: Experienced groups plan their menu, purchase the ingredients and share the meal they create in our kitchen.

RISE & Dine: Prepare and serve a meal alongside a professional chef. A donation and a couple hours are all it takes to provide a gourmet feast for everyone to enjoy.



HOME IMPROVEMENT

Many upgrades, both visible and behind-the-scenes took place in 2019, making our House more comfortable and secure than ever.

The front lobby was completely updated with new furniture and accessories, made possible by the generosity of our donors and substantial discounts from **La-Z-Boy**.

The sunroom was thoughtfully reappointed with beautiful custom furniture and décor thanks to the generosity of **Majestic Steel USA**.

Our security system was extensively upgraded with new state-of-the-art hardware and software, with funding provided by **The Kaplan Foundation**.

Village Green generously added twenty-four mature arborvitae to the pergola garden area.





Pet Therapy Partners visited over 250 times to comfort

times to comfort our guests.

Partners include: 13 humans 12 dogs 2 bunnies 2 mini-horses



47 Room Sponsorships provided **\$276,875** to help keep families together and near the care their children need!

New guest room sponsors: Bill Busy Constant Aviation OEC



Friends and family from new room sponsor Constant Aviation at their ribbon-cutting ceremony

At the Hospital



In their first full year of service. our overnight respite rooms provided critical rest 941 times.

In its first **10 years**, the Fairview Family Room had 84,349 visits.



Volunteers Pat Ormiston, Margie Bejbl, Beryl Viburs, Roberta Meredith, Karen Hardy, Donna Krakora, Charlotte Chippi, Marie Kaminski, Patty Amy, Ann Opett, Emese Blankenship, Rosemary Ogilvy at the 10th Anniversary Celebration.



Marc's and Stancato's have teamed up to serve a full meal at alternating Family Rooms every Monday for over 10 years.

Ronald McDonald Family Rooms[®] offer families of pediatric patients a comfortable space to rest and recharge within the hospital, just steps away from their child's treatment room.

Erin's Journey

Angela Jordan's third child, Erin, was born with a heart defect that would require surgery within her first year. Initially strong enough to go home, the tiny infant soon started having blue spells and was admitted to the hospital, where she has been since early October 2019.

For local families, even a short distance can be too far away from their hospitalized child. Since arriving at the hospital, Erin has had two cardiac arrests and several open-heart procedures, her condition so fragile that her grandmother, Lori, has spent every night by her side. Angela splits her time between the hospital, working and caring for Erin's siblings Sammy and Jamie.

Their faith and the support of the Ronald McDonald Family Room have kept the family strong. "I can go to the Family Room and take a shower and get something to eat without leaving the area" says Lori, who takes Sammy and Jamie to the Room when they get restless. "We give them a break in the Family Room and don't feel like we have to leave the hospital. They love the room." Angela appreciates that she can have more time with Erin, knowing her other children are in a welcoming and supportive place.

Even with her difficulties, Erin's personality is emerging. She is expressive and quick to reach for objects or grasp a finger. Now more stable, she likes to be propped up and greet visitors with a smile and inquisitive eyes. Doctors are hoping she is soon strong enough for a complete heart repair. Until then, Lori, Angela and her siblings will remain by Erin's side, with a little help from the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

"The volunteers have all been great, and I love that I get to meet and talk with other families. They encourage me, and I encourage them. I'm often here by myself and the Family Room helps me feel less lonely. It's special to me ... It's comforting."

-Erin's grandmother Lori







Top to bottom: Erin, with Kris, with Angela.



Providing Support, Teaching, Awareness, and Resources, Ronald McDonald STAR Centers offer a fun and welcoming learning environment for children while their family members receive focused outpatient care. This enables caregivers to focus their full attention on the patient while the children visiting the Center are given activities and mini-lessons to promote healthy habits and well-being.

The support of the Ronald McDonald House extends beyond walls through our online Family Resource Link. **RedTreehouse.org** supports the well-being of families and children with challenges, disabilities and health care needs by linking them to resources in their community. Site visitors can find organizations, tools, helpful guides and events to meet their needs.

RedTreehouse.org resources became available on the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse's new youth-led online community site, HeylmHere.org.

A \$50,000 RMHC[®] Remarkable Impact Grant, funded by AbbVie, enabled RedTreehouse.org to expand into Pennsylvania and West Virginia in collaboration with RMHC of Pittsburgh and Morgantown.



Volunteers Jane (seated) and Helen Rapp review the Red Treehouse website.

Through a contract with the Ohio Attorney General's office, RedTreehouse.org is serving as the online resource directory for the Linking Systems of Care for Ohio's Youth (LSCOY) project. The project goal is to improve the response to children and youth who are victims of violence and/or impacted by trauma.

www.rmhcleveland.org

At Outpatient Centers and Online

The STAR Centers at Cleveland Clinic Children's Outpatient Center and the UH Center for Women & Children both completed their first full year of operations, serving over 7,000 children.

The STAR Center at UH (bottom photo) was among the partners to bring San Diego Zoo Kids closed-circuit television adventure channel to the Center. The channel allows children to connect with wildlife and provides educational content for lessons.

> **Ohio State Bar Foundation** grant activities that began in 2017 came to a close. Local legal interns researched and published more than 40 helpful guides and added hundreds of resources to the site. Four live educational webinars were conducted and are available for viewing on the site.



Legal interns with project director, Jeanine Carroll (3rd from right), left to right: Ricardo Vidal, Helen Rapp, Shannon Meyer, Tia Garcia, Jack Maib

Volunteers: the Heart of the House

VOLUNTEERS OF MERIT

Ronald McDonald House

Mohammed Alarjani, front desk Peggy Dudash, front desk Lucy Simm, front desk Judy Pryzinsky, garden John Girbino, *kitchen* Esther Joherl, kitchen

Family Room at **Cleveland Clinic** Children's Nancy Levin

Family Room at **MetroHealth Medical** Center Tanya Reynolds

Family Room at **Cleveland Clinic** Fairview Cecilia Susko

Family Room at UH **Rainbow Babies &** Children's Patti Anderson



Willa Jones and Barb Fisher volunteered together for 28 years

The RMH mission would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers. Ronald McDonald House, Family Rooms and program volunteers were recognized for their contributions at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on November 2, 2019. Guests gathered for a delicious meal and award ceremony at the Agora Ballroom, birthplace of the phrase "Rock 'n Roll". Recognition of volunteers by years of service, from one to thirty, was followed by presentations for Volunteers of Merit and the Willa Jones Award.

Willa Jones Award Honoree: Michael Sardinsky, front desk

RMH's very first volunteer, Willa Jones "showed up" to volunteer before the original House opened and served for 28 years, "retiring" at the age of 93. The Willa Jones Award recognizes a volunteer who, like Willa, is steady and unwavering in their commitment to our mission. This person serves families with soft and caring conviction, has a positive demeanor, trusts the decisions of RMH staff and Board and eagerly takes on new roles when need arises.

Button. Michael's name is now A volunteer since 2012, Michael stands out for his kind, loving, helpful nature. He greets all quilt, which hangs behind the front desk. visitors, volunteers and families warmly, jumps up to help with the door or get a wheelchair



Barbara Fisher 40-Year Service Award

Fitting for the celebration of RMH's 40th Anniversary, Barbara Fisher became the first recipient of the 40-Year Service Award, named in her honor. Barb has worked her front desk shift since answering the first ad for House volunteers in 1979. She also volunteers at the Family Room at Cleveland Clinic Children's and has served on the RMH Board of Trustees and several committees.



House Volunteer Manager Jennifer

Director of House Operations Joanmarie

embroidered on the Willa Jones Award

Sinisaalli, Michael Sardinsky and

Barbara Fisher with RMH Executive Director Craig Wilson

Each year, the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland presents its most distinguished award to companies, groups, and individuals who have given guietly, generously, consistently and thoughtfully on a long-term basis. This award recognizes the commitment and constant support provided by these corporate and community partners, allowing us to sustain our mission.

The Ackerman Family

Tom "Tall" Ackerman was generous, thoughtful, kind and an avid golfer—traits he shared with his family. For the seven years since his passing, they have celebrated his birthday and honored his memory with the Tom Ackerman Memorial Golf Outing, donating all of the proceeds from the outing to RMH for the sponsorship of Room 219 and other House necessities

> RMH Board President Keith Strauss, RMH Events Manager Claire Donovan, Colin Ackerman, Micki Ackerman, Joe Lester, Kourtney Lester, RMH Executive Director Craig Wilson, Kristin Ackerman, (front row) Joey, Luke and Khloe Lester

Kim Beidler

Since 2011, Kim has gifted the House with her dedication and unique artistic talent in countless ways. She prefers to work in the background: cleaning the kitchen, preparing a meal, designing raffle baskets or providing professionallevel event décor, but is always available when a family needs someone to listen. Serving others at RMH is Kim's way of "showing gratitude for all that I have in my life."

> Kim (3rd from left) with Director of House Program Operations Joanmarie Button, Craig Wilson, and Board President Keith Strauss at the 40th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting.

Court Durkalski of Truline Industries

Court's deep passion to make a positive impact on the world is shown by his many contributions to RMH. For nine years, the CEO of Truline Industries has supported our mission with sponsorships, event tickets for families, and personal involvement. The inspiration for Court's service to RMH is a shared dedication to provide "loving and nurturing care to families during vulnerable times."

> Court received his award from Craig Wilson at the 40th Annual RMH Pro-Am, of which Truline is

Pillar of the House Awards







a 10-year Presenting Sponsor



Events

Signature events are a vital part of our fundraising efforts, consistently bringing in about 14% of our yearly net revenue and helping build community awareness of RMH services. Last year's events were no exception.

6th Annual A Night at the Races presented by SITE Centers

400 attendees enjoyed an exhilarating evening of filmed horse race excitement, food and drink on April 12, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in Independence. The sell-out event generated net proceeds of \$33,523.



5th Annual Wine Women & Shoes presented by Majestic Steel USA

A wonderful day of wine, fashion and pampering took place on October 26, 2019 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. 500 well-heeled attendees helped raise net proceeds of \$190,884.



40th Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament presented by Truline Industries and University Hospitals The largest and longest-running event to support RMH, Northeast Ohio's most prestigious charity golf event was held on June 24, 2019 at the Mayfield Sand Ridge Club. This exclusive outing, born the same year as the House, brought in an impressive net of \$206,428.



For events visit www.rmhcleveland.org/events

Pull Tab Palooza

Collecting pull tabs is a fun and easy way to support the House. Pull-Tab Palooza is a free, outdoor celebration that welcomes people to deliver their pull tabs and mingle with RMH staff and guests in our beautiful yard.

This year's Palooza was bittersweet as we celebrated the life and legacy of our friend and avid pull tab donor, Morgan Stock, for whom our Collect-A-Million Club is named. Morgan passed away on May 9 at the age of 22. Friends, family and community brought more than 3,660 lbs. of pull tabs to the event, and several monetary donations were made in Morgan's memory.

13,600 lbs of pull tabs were donated in 2019, totaling **13.6 million** acts of kindness and \$4700 for the House. 1 lb. = 1000 pull tabs

Emerging Leaders

Emerging Leaders, formerly known as the Ambassador Council, are an enthusiastic group of young professionals whose mission is to raise awareness, promote volunteerism and generate financial support to advance the mission of RMH.

EMERGING LEADERS **FUNDRAISERS**

CycleBar Charity Ride

- Super Bowl Squares
- A Night Out at Nano Brew Cleveland
- 2nd Annual Golf Outing at Big Met
- 12 Bars of Charity Bar Crawl
- Member Dues & Adopt-a-Family Program

Net Proceeds: \$26,640



Everyone's a super hero at Pull Tab Palooza!



Morgan Stock and family at the first Pull Tab Palooza in 2016



Emerging Leaders Leah Sardiga and Katie Bible check players into the Golf Outing

Chair: Meredith Rachek Vice-Chair: Leah Sardiga Secretary: Hunter Aims **Events Planning Committee** Chairs: Bill Ambrogio Elizabeth Burright

Engagement Committee Chairs: Justin Hamlin Katie Bible

Marketing Committee Chairs: Elizabeth Burright Allison Forhan Tanya Reynolds

Membership: 49

THIRD PARTY

Third party events raised **\$115,102** for the House!



Former House quest Kodi Pride delivered over \$5000 raised at the 9th Annual Total Healing F.A.I.T.H. Walk held in memory of her daughter, Lorelle Faith.



Aidan and Ava raised **\$120** at their lemonade stand.



Chloe Weaver brought RMH **\$1500** that she raised by holding a fundraiser for her Willard High School senior project.

Looking Forward

The original Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland had rooms for 26 families, some common spaces and a shared kitchen. In 1994, a new 36-family House was opened with beautiful grounds, more shared spaces and a kitchen that could accommodate meal groups and families who wished to cook. Expanded in 2013 to 55 rooms, the House helps more families than ever stay strong to focus on the most important thing—their children.



Kitchen rendering by Onyx Creative



"Our time here has been an absolute blessing and we have taken nothing for granted. While Emma spends her days learning ways to cope and live again, I am busy writing thank you cards with sincere gratitude for everyone involved at the Ronald McDonald House, from the milk donation, to the washer and dryer company."

—Sarah Markley, pictured with daughter Emma

In 2019, RMH launched the 40th Anniversary Campaign for updates to serve families well into the future. The goal is to raise \$2.1 million for projects including:

New Kitchen

The kitchen is central to our community of love and support, and now serves 1085 meals per year, up from 436 when it was last upgraded.

Renovation plans include:

- Commercial equipment that is more efficient and can handle the number of meals provided
- Increased ability to comply with newer food safety requirements
- Increased space for larger groups who come to prepare family meals
- Upgraded family kitchens for those who want or need to cook their own meals
- Updated serving and seating areas, with more efficient traffic flow

Increased Laundry Capacity

The RMH laundry room is used by families and also for the countless loads of bed linens, towels and other items needed to keep the House running. Renovating the space and purchasing new, stackable units will double capacity while saving on utility costs and increasing convenience for our families.

Day Room

Renovation plans include converting current utility space into a Day Room for families who are not staying overnight at the Ronald McDonald House, but still need our support and a quiet place to get away from the hospital during the day.

Dear Friends,

On these pages, you've read and seen the stories and the statistics that make Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, our Family Rooms, STAR Centers and online resource, RedTreehouse.org such incredible assets to this community. The number of families cared for, the number of meals served, the activities that provide normalcy in the midst of a vulnerable and chaotic time...they make this House a home.

Supporting it all is YOU: Our donors...volunteers...staff...friends.

Your gifts, your time, your compassion are the heart of this House. For that, we THANK YOU. The families who stay with us every day THANK YOU.

Our success for the past 40 years is truly only possible because of the commitment of this community and the incredible people who make it up, those in Cleveland and far away. As we position ourselves to serve more families, and to provide more of what they need for the next 40 years, we will continue to rely on you.

We have every confidence that we will be able to do so because of the overwhelming support you have given in the past.

Our goals in the year ahead include renovating our kitchen and laundry rooms, the most used areas of the House. We will be upgrading our technology and security infrastructure to better serve each family. And of course, we will continue to enhance our grounds and magnificent gardens which provide such a beautiful respite to all who visit. We welcome your help in this campaign to raise \$2.1 million.

THANK YOU for your financial gifts, your time and your expertise. They are critical to our success.

Most importantly, THANK YOU for your heart. Your partnership with us means the world to the families we serve.

Gratefully,



N'Allako

Timothy G. O'Callahan Director of Development

PEACE OF MIND

Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland has partnered with FreeWill to give you an intuitive online resource that helps you write a legally valid will online. This free resource can help you create your legacy in 25 minutes, ensuring the peace of mind that comes with having a plan for you and your loved ones. Just go to **freewill.com/rmhcleveland** to get started.

WAYS TO GIVE MORIAL GIFTS Make a difference with us today.

Make a difference with us today.



Celebrating 40 Years

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