



WORDS OF HOPE

Stories, News & Inspirations from RMHC New England

Provide Comfort and Care in the New Year

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to a close, we can't say it enough: **thank you**. And with one day left in 2021, one thing stands out...**our gratitude for you!**

Though we are about to ring in the New Year, certain realities remain unchanged; childhood illness has not stopped, and families still need you. Your generosity is why families are able to stay together while their child receives the critical medical care they need.



With only one day left in the year, we humbly ask if you would make a tax-deductible gift helping to provide strength and support families find at our Ronald McDonald Houses.

Your ongoing generosity is what will carry us through. You made it possible for us to keep our doors open and continue to offer families the gift of togetherness when they need it most. We hope we can count on you once more as we close the book on 2021.

Thank you for all you continue to do to keep critically ill children with their families and near the medical care they need.



WHAT'S INSIDE

Hope for the Holidays • 2
Family-Centered Care Programs • 3
Stories that Inspire • 4
Ways to Give • 5
Volunteer Spotlight • 6
2022 Save the Date! • 7

*"Our family cannot thank you enough for providing such a beautiful home for us during such uncertain times. We truly wouldn't have been able to afford this trip if it weren't for your incredible hearts. **The Ronald McDonald House is a wonderful blessing—thank you.**"*

-The Moon-Boyinton Family

Hope for the Holidays

The holidays can be tough for families who are far from home, but thanks to our wonderful community, we were able to keep families together to celebrate. You helped us overcome obstacles and find creative ways to bring joy this season. Thank you!

A Very Napoli Christmas

The holiday season is one built on tradition. Here at Ronald McDonald House Boston Harbor, we are fortunate enough to be a part of the Napoli Family Christmas celebrations. Thank you to Sal Napoli and crew for spending Christmas Eve with our families and serving up an incredible feast while you're at it.



Special Gifts

Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England received an overwhelming amount of support from our respective communities this holiday season! We are thankful for the Wish List items brought in by the Super Joey Foundation, the holiday goodies from the O'Shea Family, and gift bags from the Professional Moms of Rhode Island...just to name a few. Your generosity is a very special gift.



Cheers to Our Volunteers

Our Providence House was merry & bright thanks to the dedication and support from our volunteers. From ribbons on our front door from our friends at SeaScape to handmade ornaments on our tree from volunteers like Christine, our families are wrapped up in holiday spirit.



Family-Centered Care Programs

Meals With Love- Check out the newest recipes!

We welcomed two new **Meals With Love Guest Chefs** to the kitchen to film the creation of their favorite family recipes! Volunteer Karen DiPietro and Social Media Influencer Alaina Pinto (pictured right) walk you through how to sneak broccoli into our favorite snack, and how to make delicious vegan pulled "pork"! Check our socials and [Meals With Love webpage](#) for fun videos, recipes, and ways to get involved! Currently, both Houses are looking for fully vaccinated volunteers to provide home-cooked meals for our families!



Virtual Arts & Craft Nights

We continue to be grateful and amazed by the creativity our volunteers and families show! Regular arts and craft nights are held via zoom, families are provided kits full of all the supplies needed to let their inner artist shine!

Pet Therapy Returns!

Our Dog Therapy Programs have returned to both Ronald McDonald House Providence and Ronald McDonald House Boston Harbor. **We are excited to welcome veteran furry friend, Rafter (pictured right), back to our Providence House, as well as newcomer, Bodhi, to our Boston Harbor House.** These four-legged meet and greets are made by appointment only to adhere best to sanitation and social distancing practices! Proof of Vaccination is required to participate.



Stories that Inspire



The Walker Family

A Note from Mrs. Walker:

I don't think there's been a day that I haven't thought about our journey in Rhode Island and how grateful we are for the doctors, nurses, and staff that treated our daughter. **Ronald McDonald House Providence gave me a peaceful place to land during the hardest experience our family has ever been through.** It also gave peace of mind to my family, friends, and colleagues that I had a quiet place to retreat after a long day, knowing I needed to recharge for the next day at the hospital. The staff, volunteers, and meals provided were awesome (even with COVID guidelines) and something I could rely on. Even more, if I had a question, I wasn't afraid to ask.

I'll share one moment of many I had that will forever be remembered and exactly why a place like RMH is important during a medical crisis that takes you out of state. After a very rough day at the hospital, I shuffled my way to the fridge feeling worn out, exhausted, and deflated about the day, I grabbed a prepared meal. I popped off the cover and tears came to my eyes. Volunteers that day had prepared an entire Thanksgiving turkey with stuffing, gravy, and even cranberry sauce. As I reheated my plate, tears slid down my face with gratitude. All I could think about was how food connects us and how truly comforting it is. **When I returned to RMH each day I knew I was being taken care of.**

We are forever grateful to Ronald McDonald House, staff, and volunteers. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and here's to a healthy New Year!

With Gratitude,
The Walker Family

The Nealy Family

Lorenzo was diagnosed with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS) during his mother Alysa's pregnancy. HLHS is a serious and rare congenital heart defect. There are only about 1000 babies in the entire US that are born with it each year. After staying at Ronald McDonald House Boston Harbor Alysa writes:

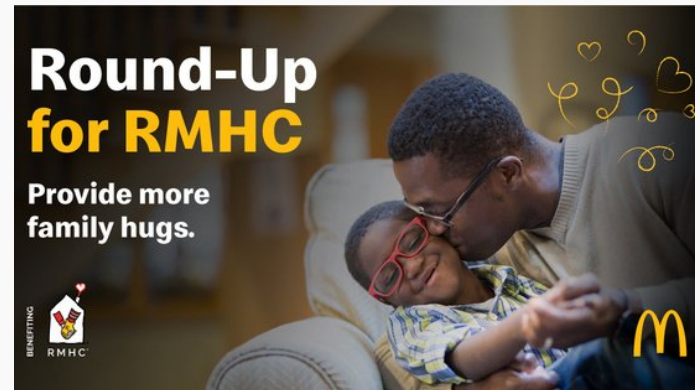
"Not only did Ronald McDonald House Boston Harbor provide us a place of security to stay during our stay while Lorenzo was admitted at the hospital, but it was also so close to the hospital as well which helped some of our fears in worrying about him knowing we were so close to him at night. The apartment was stocked with toys, books, and games for both adults and kids. It also was stocked with supplies to cook with and some essentials. We had a place to do our laundry, cook, sleep, relax and wash up all at once. **We felt safe and supported at the Ronald McDonald House at Boston Harbor.**"



Ways To Give

A New Kind of Happy Meal

Take your next lunch break at McDonald's and participate in the Round-Up for RMHC program. **By choosing to Round-Up, you can help make a big impact on families with sick children.** When you finish placing your order, simply ask to "Round-Up for RMHC" at participating McDonald's restaurants, and your order will be rounded to the nearest dollar.



Start Your Own Personal Fundraiser!

Have fun with your group while raising money to help children and families stay together and near the critical care their child needs.

Start a fitness challenge, host a chili cook-off, or company dress-down day. The sky is the limit and we are happy to help provide ideas and input to help make your fundraiser a success! Check out these resources to help you get started [HERE](#)



A Note on Your Impact

“ We are so thankful to have had the opportunity to stay at Ronald McDonald House Boston Harbor while Makai was receiving treatment at BCH. You ALL have been amazing! **Words can't really describe how tremendously grateful we are for the positive emails, meals, activities, and support for resources we received throughout our stay.**”
We can't thank you enough.

-The Maldonado Family



Volunteer Spotlight



Meet Tracy Iannelli

What brought you to Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England?

I always felt so fortunate in my life as a career professional in the retail sector—commuting from Boston to New York City for over 12 years as my last job. As time went on and I began to look for my next chapter, I realized that, while I had built businesses, I was still in need of a different purpose. **It was important that I reach out and find something that was connected to my community as well as people whom I could help.** It was right under my nose, four blocks away at Harborview. I felt like I was moving back to Boston and wanted to become part of my neighborhood.

Why is Our Mission special to you?

I am a two-time adult cancer survivor; I understand a little about the highs and lows, fears, and stresses that go along with a serious illness or diagnosis. Even since I was a child, I loved to cook; I knew the Meals With Love program would be the perfect way for me to give back. Not to overanalyze it but preparing a meal for someone is a wonderful gift. I think back to when I had a crush on my boyfriend, now my husband, and I baked a quiche for him...we have been together ever since.

Anyway, **what began as one simple meal, which I prepared at RMH, morphed into events with birthday cakes, decorations, activities, live music, face-painting, and families sitting around a large table in the Boston Harbor Community Space (this was the best part.)** Families lingered and laughed with other folks who knew EXACTLY what they were going through, and they may have even forgotten their cares for an evening. I recruited my friends, and my husband to help, and it was impossible to tell who enjoyed these evenings more!

What are some of your favorite moments at Ronald McDonald House Boston Harbor?

There are so many, but here are a few: I watched a baby crawl so fast across the floor, I was astounded; and even more, I was astounded to find out that seven-month-old had open-heart surgery four days before! And then there was Valentine's day dinner with Gretchen Manning—who knew two years later she would be the CEO? I also learned to love listening, to just be there with a family member or their child and offer an ear so they could share how they were doing. **I have seen some amazing things in the best of ways at RMH. The combination of their care with our medical community is so very special.**

[Find Tracy on Our Volunteer Page](#)



**** All photos were taken prior to the pandemic****



2022 Save the Date!

401Gives

Mark your calendars for April 1, 2022, as 401Gives returns in its third year!

Ronald McDonald House Providence has witnessed firsthand the deep culture of giving that exists in the Rhode Island community. This 24-hour long, online fundraising campaign is designed to uplift the nonprofit community and highlight the intrinsic generosity that exists in the 401. Stay tuned to register your personal 401Gives fundraising page and help us provide housing, comfort, and support to Rhode Island families and beyond!



2022 Boston Marathon

We are happy to announce that the Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England is proudly partnering with the John Hancock Non-Profit Boston Marathon Program for 2022! We have an incredible team.

We've got three runners signed up and a fourth on the way. We can't wait to introduce you to these All-Stars! **[Read the inspiring stories and motivations of Team RMHCNE HERE](#)**



30th Anniversary RMHCNE Night Out at Fenway

We'll be back at Fenway in 2022 and we hope you'll be there with us for our 30th Annual RMHC New England Fenway Night.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone anniversary with you, our partners who have been with us since the beginning.

Please plan to bring your family, friends, and employees to celebrate the inspiring families of RMHC New England. As always, your participation will allow us to continue to provide compassionate support to families facing a medical crisis.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England

45 Gay Street Providence, RI 02905

401.274.4447

250 1st Avenue Charlestown/Boston, MA 02129

617.398.6458

rmhcne.org