November 2023

around the HOUSE 35 years

3413 10th Street • Lubbock, TX 79415 • 806.744.8877
RMHCsouthwest.com

RMHC® of the Southwest

The Little Boy Who Could



Tazzie and his sister, Tazzara, came to Tazz and Margie Barba's family as foster children at six months and eighteen months old, respectively. Not long after, they received a phone call saying that Tazzie had missed an important doctor's appointment. The children had a history of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) in their family and Tazzie needed to have tests run to check if he had the gene.

Unfortunately, Tazzie did have the gene for DMD and his need for ongoing medical treatment began early in his life.

Tazz and Margie then recieved a second unexpected call asking if they were willing to adopt Tazzie and Tazzara. Margie recalls the conversation and how knowing the struggles Tazzie would face factored into her and her husband's decision. "We're not letting them go."

Tazzie and Tazzara's adoption was official within a year.

Part of Tazzie's treatment plan came to include frequent infusions. The closest location to their Odessa home was at Midland Memorial Hospital. Since 2021, the family has gone to the hospital every week for this treatment.

The Ronald McDonald Family Room at Midland Memorial opened last year in 2022. Margie says that she didn't find the Family Room; the Family Room found her. She recalls her first meeting with the Family Room Coordinator who came by the hospital room to greet the family and bring Tazzie a wooden dinosaur. The family was invited to come by the Family Room whenever they wanted to grab a snack, play, or take a break.

Going to the Family Room after Tazzie's infusion became a ritual for the family. Tazzie got to play a little and get a snack and his parents could relax. It gave the family time to decompress and step away from the hospital environment before they started the trip back home. Tazzie felt at home and made art to hang up in the Family Room, "He was so excited, leaving the hospital room and going to deliver his drawing."

For Tazzie's 6th birthday party at the hospital this past year, he recieved two gifts from RMHC

(continued inside)



From the Desk of the President & CEO



I hope this message finds you well. As the President & CEO of RMHC of the Southwest, I wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Your contributions have had a profound and lasting impact on the children and families we serve, and we cannot thank you enough for your continued dedication.

Over the years, your generosity has enabled us to do incredible things. Thanks to your support, we've been able to create a nurturing environment where families can find solace during challenging times. It's a place where children battling illness can find comfort and companionship, and parents can find the support they need to navigate through difficult journeys.

Through your contributions, we've been able to provide a home away from home, where families can stay close to their children receiving medical care. It's a haven where they can focus on healing, surrounded by a community of understanding and compassionate individuals like you.

The impact of your donations and volunteer hours is great. It's seen in the smiles of children as they engage in activities that help them forget their pain. It's felt in the relief of parents who know they have a place to turn to during their toughest moments. It's evident in the sense of belonging and strength that our families find within our walls.

Your support has allowed us to continue our mission of serving children and families in need, and we are humbled by the positive change you have helped bring to their lives.

As we move forward, we want you to know that your partnership remains vital to us. Together, we will continue to provide comfort, care, and hope to countless families in our community. Your generosity is the driving force behind everything we do, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

With warm regards,

Emmanuel Ramirez

Emmanuel Ramirez
President & CEO

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Tazzie's Story Continued

of the Southwest. He recieved a stuffed stegosaurus, his favorite dinosaur, and a McDonald's Happy Meal. Both brought a huge smile to his face.

Margie says that one of the best things about the Family Room is having support from other people for herself and especially for Tazzie. "Someone being there for you...it doesn't matter the amount of time. It really helps."

Tazzie's diagnosis of DMD will make mobility harder as he gets older. Fortunately, he is surrounded by family and friends who love and support him. His big sister is already a great helper when Tazzie needs assistance with his wheelchair. His mom and dad are committed to his medical care, no matter the number of doctor's appointments or distance they'll need to travel. Thankfully, they also have the support of people like you, the donors and volunteers of RMHC of the Southwest who make programs like the Ronald McDonald Family Room possible.



Ronald McDonald Family Room Facts

- 4 locations: UMC, Covenant Children's, Medical Center Hospital, & Midland Memorial
- 6 sleep rooms
- 1,330 visits so far in 2023

You can support families just like Tazzie's!

Having a child with a serious illness or injury is not easy, but these families are not alone. Your support of RMHC of the Southwest provides families with a place to stay, space to decompress, meals, snacks, peace of mind, and so much more. Your support allows families to stay focused on the most important thing — their child's health. Thank you!

Donate today by using the enclosed envelope or visiting RMHCsouthwest.com.

Quarterback S.A.C.K.

The 22nd season of Quarterback S.A.C.K. (Support And Comfort Kids) is off to a great start! Coach Joey McGuire and Texas Tech Athletics helped us kick-off the season at an action-packed lunch. Thank you to our title sponsor, United Supermarkets!

You can still get in the game and support families like Eliseo's. During their 9 month stay, the Ronald McDonald House became a true home to their family. Today, Eliseo is in remission and plans on training his new puppy to be a therapy dog to help other kids going through cancer treatment.





Eliseo, 2022



Eliseo, 2023

Families Giving Back



The Price Family, who stayed at the Ronald McDonald House last year for 83 days, gave back to families going through experiences just like them. They donated proceeds from their Price Strong First Annual Golf Tournament and were also in the kitchen making dinner for families in the House.

We are always excited to see the progress of our RMHC kids. It is also moving to see when former guest families want to give back to help future families. Few people know better how every donation, meal, and volunteer hour makes a huge difference than the families served at the House.



Fun Around the House



Jordon and his mom enjoy the nice weather on a splash pad on the playground.



Eliseo celebrates receiving his Make-A-Wish of a puppy at the House with family and friends.



The old "condemned" playhouse is removed and a brand new playhouse is added to the playground.

Additional Ways to Give



Volunteer



Collect pop tabs & aluminum cans



Play at Bingo Express III on Fridays

House to Home



Navarette Family



Rentrria Family



Arns Family

Supporting families when they leave the House

For many of the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House, going home can mean going back to a home they have not lived in for at least a week or two. Sometimes, they have not lived there for months. Our House to Home Program provides families with items they need to make the transition from the Ronald McDonald House to their home easier. This includes gift cards for groceries and gas as well as non-perishable food items and household goods. It is part of the way we show that being part of the RMHC Family is forever and lasts long after families head home.

Dear Santa's Helpers

We need your help making the holidays magical



Christmas Wishlist

- Toys for all ages, especially babies & teens
- Gift cards for parents
- Wrapping paper & supplies
- New decorations for the House or gift cards for decor

Everyday Wishlist

- Laundry detergent
- Bottled water
- Snacks
- Paper plates & bowls
- Plastic utensils
- Coffee cups & creamer

Join the fun! Volunteers are needed to help decorate the House Monday, November 27th through Friday,December 1st. Call or email Anna to sign up, 806-744-8877 or anna@rmhcsouthwest.

Round-Up at McDonald's

Donate from IRA distribution & stock

Learn more

Thanks for Giving

Our Thanks for Giving Luncheon on November 2nd gave us the opportunity to honor our volunteers and donors who make RMHC's mission possible. Thank you for being part of 35 years of serving families. Join us in making a difference: RMHCsouthwest.com/volunteer.

Jim Murray Heroes Award



Alex Vargas

Junior League of Lubbock Award



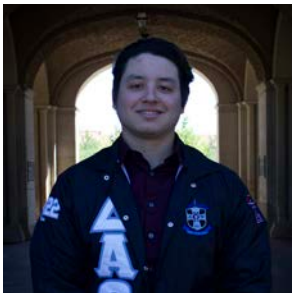
Lockney ISD

Richard Ligon Service Award



House of Flowers

Time Awards



Antonio Ramirez



Lubbock Public Health Initiative



Coronado Woodworking



Rock City

Talent Awards



Sydney Witte & Christi Felton



Nesloney Homes



Lois Baird, Wanda White & Deborah Pierce



National Charity League

Treasure Awards



United Supermarkets



George McMahan



West Texas Endurance



Starbucks

Memorials & Honorariums

January-September 2023

<u>In memory of:</u>

T.W. "Red" Ayers
Barry and Diane Altman

Martie Bateman
Michael and Mary-Denise Sims

Roy Borden
Michael and Melissa Mapes

Tommy Brashears
Rusty and Linda Andrews

Michael Crank
Bryan and Donna Reinart

Baker Laine Didway
Matt and Jana Didway

Maria Ha Thi Do
Hugo and Edna Vargas
Joe and Ed Phillips with EMJ Weatherford Inc

Rex Paul Driver
Becky Driver

Haley Harvey
Hyatt Harvey

Gennean Hendricks
Ross and Connie Chesser

Kenneth Holt
Kyle and Bobbi Farquhar

Kiley Lane
Emmanuel and Christina Ramirez

Miquela Martinez
Estaban Sena

Brayden McCrady
Ashlynn Cunnigham

Jimmy Nail
Johnny and LaJuana Quarles

Jerry Prather
Barry and Diane Altman

Lewis Reeves
Harry and Pam Zalewski

Tim Rice
Larry and Daphne Sowers

Creed Maddox Sherrill
Norman and Sue Sherrill

Bob Simpson
Rusty and Linda Andrews

Cliff Smith
Linda Gaither

N.E. Stephens
Bruce and Linda Cowan

Pearline Welch
Melva Tims

Jackie Wiley
Tommy and Nancy Thrash

<u>In honor of:</u>

Allie
Patti Burks

Todd and Melissa Bains
City Bank

JaKobe Benson
Hinika McDaniels

John and Sheila Casey
Ed and Melinda Felton

Kenny, Christie, Kenneth and Morgan Fadke
Paula Fadke

Christi Felton
Ed and Melinda Felton

Sara McKee
Susan Barfield

Cedric Perez
Matthew Walker

Ms. Sadie
Ed and Melinda Felton

Jordan Clay Shuman
Ernesto and Ann Navarrette

Erin Strine
Victoria Kumich

Dan Taylor
City Bank

Sebastian Alex Terrell
Angela Terrell-Hickman with Terrell Consulting

Tonne Twins
Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalez

Show Us Your Stripes

Thank you to all the sponsors, participants, and volunteers of the 3rd Annual Show Us Your Stripes Golf Tournament. It was our best golf tournament yet!

Thank you to our sponsors: Lubbock National Bank, McDonald's, Martin Bower, LBK Roofing, Carpenters Hand, T&T Earth Movers, Allstate, Two Docs, ABC Supply Company, Alliance Credit Union, Plains Capital Bank, and CTSI.



Lubbock National Bank- Title Sponsor



1st place-Seth Moore's Team

RMHC of the Southwest
3413 10th St
Lubbock, TX 79415

Save the Date: Major Events 2024

Spring

March 10th- RMHC of the Southwest 36th Anniversary

March 22nd- Red Shoe Gala

April 1st- Ronald McDonald Family Room at MCH 18th Anniversary

Summer

July 1st- Ronald McDonald Family Room at UMC & Covenant Children's 18th Anniversary

TBD- Show Us Your Stripes Golf Tournament

TBD- Quarterback S.A.C.K. Kick-Off Lunch

Fall

November 3rd- Ronald McDonald Family Room at MMH 2nd Anniversary

November TBD- Thanks for Giving Luncheon

Winter

December 3rd- Giving Tuesday

More stories, photos, and up-to-date news on our social media:

