



# HOUSE HAPPENINGS

*A Newsletter for the Staff and Volunteers of the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston*



It's a new year! And we are celebrating as our House is filling up with the families and children who so need our care. We are so thankful for the help so many of you have given during the pandemic. We are delighted to have our volunteers helping out. Our wish for you and your loved ones for 2023 is a year of wonderful new beginnings, as we all adapt to our new (and hopefully better) normal.

### Happy Birthday

- Jan 7 - Lucy Bourgeois
- Jan 17 - Albert Chavarria
- Jan 29 - Frances Estrada



### Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Actually, there are a lot of them. Our children and families couldn't be home for the holidays, but we were blown away at the generosity of our community in making sure that Santa Claus (and the Grinch) were dedicated to making it as happy as possible. Our loyal chefs brought many festive meals. Some of those who donated are pictured below.

Rosenberg Elementary GISD's The Butterfly Club. Children helping children always warms our hearts.



The Port Of Galveston Police Department delivered Christmas gifts AND Pizza!



Herobuilt (our heroes!) delivered 50 many presents.



The Giving Doll HUGS (Hope United Gives Strength) Project brought 21 beautifully handmade dolls in honor of Uvalde.



Our hearts belong to the Galveston County Sheriff's office who always delights us with their generosity.



The UTMB Resiterns took time away from their busy schedules to host a toy drive for our little ones.





Cavazos Realty International and the Jamaica Beach Police not only brought many Christmas gifts for the families, but a friendly Grinch, as well!



The Trevino Group came again this year with gifts. Juan LOVED his dinosaur!

Southwest Airlines Employees are valued members of our Ronald McDonald House Family. They delivered much-needed Wish list items including cleaning supplies and fresh produce.



Mitchell Merano delighted our kids with toys.



Friendswood High School surprised our kids with very fun Spiderman and Unicorn plush and blankets.

One of our newest board members, Michelle Byrd, and her friends delivered many lovely gifts to our very grateful teenagers. Zoe and Melanie loved the nail polish and makeup.



Amy Crippin and friends of Clear Lake Shores donated winter jackets, hair accessories, makeup, and lots more for the families for the holidays. Those jackets were perfect during our freeze.



The Queen and her Dickens Festival entourage honored us with a holiday visit.



E. F. Green Junior School's The Good Humans treated our families to a fun Bingo session and donated over 300 books and handmade bookmarks to our classroom.





### In the Newspaper

A big thanks to Galveston County Daily News and its editor Leonard Woolsey for a December editorial mentioning the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston as a worthy cause for Holiday gifting. "A gift to a local charity or organization will work long after the wrapping paper and bows find themselves on the curb. And the multiplier, the impact of your investment in others, helps lift everyone. So, again, this a unique and thoughtful act of gifting." How often do we hear, "We have too many things"? How many people are difficult to find gifts for? A donation in their name is indeed the gift that brings a lasting thankful spirit to all.



### Happy Volunteer Anniversary

3 Years - Terri Prescott  
15 Years - Maryellen Le Duc

### New Board Members

At our annual meeting we announced our 2023 executive board and new board and advisory board members.

#### Our executive board for 2023:

President: Caroline Nelson Becker Secretary: Jan Brick  
V/P of Fundraising: Dixie Messner V/P of Communication: Heather Peterek  
V/P of Finance: Marie Robb V/P of House Operation: Paula Roberts  
Legal Counsel: Debbie James Past President: Maryellen LeDuc

We'd like to welcome Natalie Hodge as a new Board Member, and Kandy Arena, Michelle Byrd, Patricia Coskey, Paula Friesner, Mary Orange, Terri Prescott, Sunday Roberts, and Laurel Sukel as new Advisory Board Members.



### Charity of the Year

We are humbled and thankful that the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce has selected the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston as the 2022 Nonprofit Organization of the Year. The House will officially receive the award at the 178th annual meeting "Back to Detroit City featuring The Four Tops" on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Galveston Island Convention Center. "The commitment, love and dedication of Margie, the RMHG team and the entire board of directors is what makes the House extraordinary."

### A New Room

Ann Blanchard and family worked magic in making over one of our rooms. Families will have pleasant dreams of racing to recovery in the very cool "Galveston Speedway" room.



### Happy Birthday to Ivan

Ivan has been staying at the House for a year and a half. He'd have loved to be home for his birthday with his family, but our families, staff and board members celebrated his special day at the House, his home away from home. Luis Betancourt entertained the families with an evening of songs. Reports are that a lot of dancing and singing happened. And to top it off, Ivan was finally able to return home for Christmas with his family.

### Mealtime

We love our loyal supporters who provide very appreciated hot meals to the families. Below is a calendar showing the scheduled meals for January. We can use more! There are several options for you to participate:

JANUARY 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	♥	♥	4	♥	♥	7
8	9	10	♥	♥	♥	14
♥	16	17	18	19	♥	21
22	23	24	25	♥	27	28
29	30	31				

1. Curbside delivered meal: Curbside meals can be delivered any day of the week for lunch or dinner! Sign up for a date and let us know what curbside meal you will be sharing.
2. Order/Deliver a meal: Order any delicious meal from restaurants to deliver; buy premade food from a store; or deliver us your homemade meal.
3. Sponsor a meal: Donate any amount to help cover the cost of the meal and we will take care of the rest! Go to the donation page (<https://www.rmhg.org/donate>). The average amount to feed RMHG families is around \$125, but all donations are welcomed. To schedule a meal, make an in-kind donation, volunteer or for more information, call (409) 762-8770 ext. 280 or ext. 102.

### Wish List - Most Wanted:

- Breakfast meats - Deli Meats
- Fruit - Vegetables
- Corn Tortillas - Queso Fresco
- Cheddar Cheese - Bread

Thanks for your support, and may 2023 be your best year ever!

