



# HOUSE HAPPENINGS

*A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family*



Happy July! Hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelon s'mores, ice cream. These are summertime favorites. Our families love the foods you provide for them, as well. When they have communal meals, they gather and share not only bread, but their experiences and their friendships. These caring families do so much to help each other's psychological healing (which doctors tell us also fosters the physical healing). We have empty spaces on our dinner calendar, and we would love for you and/or your organization to donate a dinner. You can lovingly cook it in our kitchen, join with the families and bring it to them, drop it off curbside or donate the \$ and we'll do the ordering and serving. Whichever way, you and the families will be glad you did! Call Glenda at the House to schedule. 409/762-8770. Our profound thanks to all who faithfully provide meals.



The Broadway Church of Christ comes once a month with a Saturday breakfast, as do The First Baptist Church and Layers of Love. Once a month The Moore Sisters bring lunch, Dr. Pat Lanier and Bill Posnick treat to a Pizza party, and Maryellen LeDuc brings a dinner. The Cosmic Cookers work their magic in our kitchen, and this month provided a Father's Day dinner. The Bering Church of Christ brought dinner and a fun Bingo session. The Temple Emanuel Christian Church cooks our families a dinner each month, as do The Galveston Rotary Club, El Nopalito Restaurant, Southwest Airlines employees, the Galveston Lions Club, the Harvest Church Group, and the Marathon Bay Refinery employees. Vera Carmona, The Heart of Refuge Church Group, and the Brick Family provide warmly delicious dinners as well. Food for the tummies and food for the soul. Thanks!

Families like to stay at our House for many reasons: our family style dinners, our classroom where kids can continue their learning while away from home, and our many fun events. Santa Gonzalez provides them haircuts once a month, the Galveston Art Center gives art classes, Paula Friesner and Laurel Sukel and friends have bingo sessions, movie nights and craft sessions. Dr. Pat Lanier and friends works with the children on fun and beautiful art projects. In June, Virginia Pixley delighted the kids with the donation of an Xbox. Our caring staff, volunteers, board members and supporters (in other words, you!) make this

the loving Home Away from Home that our families love. Thank you.



We currently have 14 families staying in the House. Six of those are the parents of babies in UTMB's NICU. And three of those have sets of twins!

## Happy Birthday

July 12 - Robert Wright

July 18 - Micaela Chism



## Around the House in June



Youth volunteers from Northwest Presbyterian Church came and washed windows, put together Home Depot projects, removed some unwanted items from the storeroom, shredded, read a book to the kids and painted with the families. What a great group and we are thankful for their help with everything. Way to go guys and girls!!



These are the Cosmic Cookers. They have been cooking meals in our House for our families for many years. Why Cosmic? Because this group was started by rocket scientists! The meals they cook are varied and always super tasty.



The National Charity League Space Center is a group of young people who do many wonderful volunteer activities for our families. In June they hosted BINGO. Everyone had such a fun time!

### They're Da Krewe!



Da Krewe du Roux holds several very fun activities not only at Mardi Gras time, but throughout the year. Not only are these a blast, but they are also fundraisers. Da Krewe has been super generous to our House, presenting us with a very large check. We are so grateful for the love and fun they bring to our House that Love Built!

### Welcome to Galveston RMHG



There's a new face around the House, at least for 3 months. Ronald McDonald House Global Charities has lent us the support of Ann Petrie to help with the transition following Margie Chavarria's retirement. Ann's story:

"With Margie's retirement, I stepped into my new role as executive support for RMH

Galveston and will provide 3 months of support (physically being on-site in Galveston one week in each of these 3 months). During this time, I will work closely with the Board of Directors and the staff, helping to share ideas, observations, and offer RMHC Global best practices and resources. I will also help with the recruiting of a new organizational leader.

Ann served 4 years on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Wisconsin Ronald McDonald House Charities (including serving as Finance Chair) before transitioning to the paid staff position as its CEO/President. She spent 12 years in this role, during which time she and her team worked to raise funds to expand the House twice (from 38 to 70 rooms and again from 70 to 84 rooms) and she helped see their dream of developing a Family Room Program exclusively for behavioral health patients and their families. After retiring in January of 2023, in January of 2024 she said "yes" to serving the RMHC Global Charity as executive support for Chapters and Houses in transition.

Ann is from Wisconsin, including attending the University of Wisconsin Madison, where she received finance and accounting degrees, and then working in the Milwaukee area.

Her "life compass includes my family, friends, and my faith. My husband John and I have raised 4 daughters, two of which are married and have blessed us with 4 grandchildren, and the younger twins, who are busy starting their careers (Emily also is getting married August 9th)."

Ann loves spending time volunteering as a Master Gardener Volunteer at RMHC Eastern WI, volunteering with a Honduran Christian mission and running its scholarship program, reading, golfing and spending time with her grandchildren.

Ann's personal philosophy is "Find joy each day in everything you do and continue to learn new things every day about our world and all that lives in it."

Ann says, "The Galveston House is filled with staff and volunteers who love the mission and help serve the families who call it their home. Galveston is a beautiful place, and it is filled with amazing history and people."

The Ronald McDonald House has been part of her life story as it provided her a place to stay when her 6-month-old daughter faced a tough medical journey and needed multiple surgeries, all related to a rare heart defect. "I will never forget the compassionate care I received during that time and have been honored to volunteer and work for this charity system." And we're honored to have Ann help us through this transitional phase.







Winningly Beautiful

July 2025

Happy Work Anniversary



Artist Boat's Beautify the Bucket contest allows participants to help beautify Galveston Beaches and improve stewardship. Each year they hold a contest in conjunction with their World Ocean Day Festival.

Thanks to Lidia Polio, Paula Friesner, Helen Salvador and Emily Catechis and friends for their help. Our young artists won 1st place in the Business/Organization category!

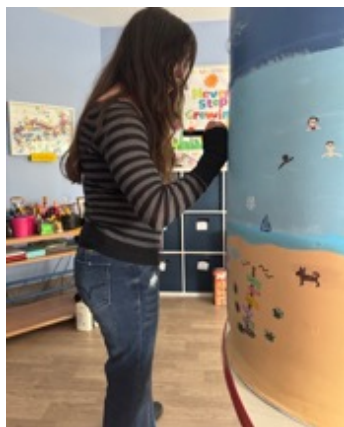
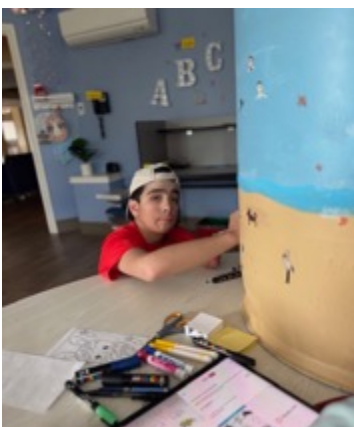
Ruben Flores has been on our Ronald McDonald House staff for 10 years! Thanks for your service.

## Upcoming Event

Mark your calendar. Save the Date. Do you like riding amusement park rides? Do you like playing midway games (and winning big prizes)? Do you like to overdose on carnival food? Do you love watching your kids, grandkids, family, friends, and young disadvantaged kiddos having the time of their lives laughing and smiling? Do you like the fulfilling feeling of giving to an excellent cause? Be prepared to have the most fun day ever, while supporting our House. We will soon be accepting sponsors, and we hope you all will be among them. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we need your help. Call Lucy at 409/762-8770 for the details. We want you to come out and play with us!



*Save The Date!*



## Wish List Most Wanted

Pots and Pans! Ours are worn out and we need new ones.  
Dish Soap - Pledge - Disinfectant Wipes - Lysol  
Twin size mattress protectors

**And for our new moms:**

Nursing Covers for Baby Breastfeeding Safari Soft Breathable  
Cotton Breastfeeding Cover for Mom - available on Amazon.

**Happy 4th of July!**

May the joys of July bring you and your loved ones celebrations and happiness, as you have brought our children and families at the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston.

