

## HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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



Happy March! I think we're all ready for some warm weather. As the season warms up, there are Mardi Gras, St Patrick's Day and Spring Break celebrations. At our House, our staff and volunteers strive to provide celebrations to raise our children and families' spirits. Laissez les bons

temps roulez! Of course, the warm, loving environment, the lovingly prepared meals, the safe and comfortable rooms, the cheerful kitchen and common areas and most of all the volunteers, staff and donors are all designed to help those in their difficult times. We're grateful to all of you responsible for supporting The House That Love Built.

### Happy Birthday



- March 7 - Kimberly Lyke
- March 25 - Lida Polio
- March 20 - Beverly LaRock
- March 31 - Art Ramos

### Around the House in February



SLS, the Sullivan Brothers Companies are our angels. Their creative crew developed and launched a holiday campaign to raise money from their employees as an end-of-year charity project. They provided stories of some of the children who have stayed at the House, and they made a video of our Susanne Sullivan describing what the House does and what it means to the families that stay there. The employees' contribution was matched by the Sullivan Brothers. The result was a HUGE check for our House. The company also paid for the printing of our Annual Appeal. Our heartfelt thanks to the Sullivan Brothers and all the employees that participated, and to the very talented Chelsea Andoe, Giuliana Lucchesi and Tina Gomez Hearn who spearheaded the campaign. The House That Love Built!



Southwest Airlines Employees played fairy godmother and donated groceries, cleaning supplies, and paper supplies from our wish list. Helen Bookit, Brenda Johnson, and Irma Bird are pictured with our House Manager Frances

Estrada. They came later in the month on the VERY coldest night and brought their warm hearts and a hot meal to our families. ❤️ We are SO thankful for the needed wish list items, and the wonderful people at Southwest who bring us so much love!



Valentine's Day is special to our House That Love Built. Our families were treated to two parties by our supporters. A special thanks to Natalie Hodge, Pat Lanier, Maryellen LeDuc, Seal Grief and Paula Roberts for turning our House into a Valentine's wonderland.



Texas A & M First Program students came and helped us celebrate the occasion with a Home Depot kit building party. Thanks to them for a fun time!



The ladies of Alpha Delta Pi sorority at Lamar University held a Valentine's Day party at the House making cards with the kids and families. It was the perfect way to celebrate the holiday of love and friendship, sharing their time with the families.

### Bingo!



The Rotary Club of Galveston brought pizza, fun and games to our children and families with a very lively Bingo session. It was a great day for the families to have fun. Thanks for bringing the love!



Our Mardi Gras season was kicked off when Da Krewe du Roux brought their Too Kids Krewe to help our kids craft beautiful and fun shoe box floats. Our kids love this kind of event, the camaraderie was wonderful, and the "floats" came out great!



Da Krewe du Roux Chicken Run is one of the most fun Mardi Gras activities. Not only is it a blast with a hayride, gathering the ingredients for the very delicious gumbo, dancing, live Zydeco music and chasing the chicken (ostensibly for the Gumbo pot—but no chickens were injured in the process), but Da Krewe donates all the proceeds to our House and to the Shriners. Lydia Polio, our teacher, brought Luis, one of our kids, and his dad to the event. We were concerned his medical condition could be a problem, but he really wanted to compete, and he ended up catching a chicken and winning a trophy to the delight of all, especially the RMHG staff and board members who were there.



Aargh! Ahoy Mateys! The pirate life/ WhoDa Krewe hosted movie night, snacks, and Kings cake for our families. What rollicking good fun it was!



The Dilliards store had a promotion at Christmastime with monies raised for our House. Hester Williams is our angel at Dilliards. She came and delivered a check. Our children thanked here with a special painting. We thank everyone who participated, and especially Hester for championing us!



While we are not fully funded by McDonald's restaurants, they, and especially our local owner/operators, are amazing partners who support us in many, many ways. Their current "Round Up" program (when you round up your bill to the nearest dollar) in their restaurants helps us immensely. They also donate a portion of their Shamrock Shakes sales to us. By the way, McDonald's has reissued their Shamrock Shakes for the month of March, and they are delicious! They also brought a donation and a dinner to our House for our families. Thanks for the love and all you do!

Our families were also treated to meals by the Broadway Church of Christ, The Moore Sisters, Drs. Pat Lanier & William Posnick, Maryellen Leduc, the Cosmic Cookers, the First Baptist Church of Christ, the Flores/Perez Corporation/McDonald's, the Temple Emanuel Christian Church, the Harvest Church Group, United We Stand, the Layers of Love Foundation, The Brick Family, Vera Carmona, and the Galveston Lions Club,

Our supporters also hosted several fun parties and events during the very cold month. The UTMB Medicine Class of 2026 hosted an Art Class. The Coastal Community C-Group hosted a

Bingo & Snacks night. The National Charity League 7th graders made a Book Delivery for our classroom. Paula Friesner, Laurel Sukel and Lidia Polio hosted a Bingo session and movie nights. The Student National Medical Association hosted an Ice Cream Social. The Galveston Art Center hosted several Art Lesson parties. Jeff Fong, who operates several bubble gum machines around the area, gave us a very nice monetary donation. We thank everyone for bringing warmth and fun to our families.

## Calendar

Don't forget to get your Ronald McDonald House Galveston calendar. They are only \$20, and they make great gifts. Hanging one on your wall will make you smile every day. The beautifully colorful artwork was done by the kids. The calendars are now being sold at Hendley Market, Strand Brass, Sunflower Cafe, Betsy by Design, the Original Mexican Café, and at our House. A special thanks to these local merchants for their help! Shop local.



## Staff and Volunteer News

We'd like to wish a big welcome to our new employees. Tammy Cervantes is a new weekend manager, and Delores Fernandez will be joining us as a new weekend assistant. Glenda Cleveland is our new Data and Donor Manager. Glenda comes to us from UTMB where she was a Patient Access Specialist. A BOI, Glenda now lives in Texas City. She has five grandchildren—four of them are age 3 and under! She loves spending time with them. She says that the Ronald McDonald House "has been her dream job forever. I have always wanted to work at a facility that does such amazing things for those in need. I love helping people."



**Happy Work Anniversary** to Frances Estrada. Frances has been our very special daytime House Manager for 17 years. She's the one who welcomes all the families and takes care of day to day needs. This is Frances, riding Da Krewe du Roux Chicken Run hayride with Luis, one of our kids.



## VOLUNTEER Spotlight



### Micaela Chism

Micaela is originally from Corpus Christi, Texas. She graduated from UT Austin with a degree in biology and a minor in Spanish. She and her cat Iris moved to Galveston from Austin, TX in July to support her boyfriend, who just started medical school at UTMB. She currently works at UTMB as a patient care

technician assisting nurses taking vitals, checking blood sugars, and in general checking in on patients. Her goal is to become a Physician Assistant. She enjoys crafting, knitting, and trying new things. She's now in training to run a 5k for pancreatic cancer research in April. She loves hanging out with friends, crafting something new, or reading/listening to a good book.

She says that since she is new to the area, she decided to volunteer at our House as she wants to meet new people and make a positive impact on the community. She loves seeing the children making progress and the families that stay at the house becoming friends with each other. Her biggest personal philosophy is to treat others how you would like to be treated. She loves meeting new people, and says, "Don't be afraid to say "Hi" if we haven't met. :)" She also says, "If you ask me for a photo of my cat Iris, I will be more than happy to show you!" During the cold spell, she crocheted a headband for one of our kids. We are so happy to meet her and delighted with her service and that she has become part of the Ronald McDonald House Galveston family!

**we**  **our volunteers**



Jerry and Winkie Mohn have been angels to our House for many years, serving in many capacities on our Board and contributing their time and talents. Jerry recently retired from some of his

too numerous to count community service and volunteer activities, including WGIPOA, the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association, which he has led for 25 years. On the occasion of his stepping down, the Association held an appreciation party for him, and Major Craig Brown proclaimed February 22, 2025 as "Jerry Mohn Day". He was also presented with a painting of our House made by our kids.♥



We welcome our newest Advisory Board Member, Raegan Markey. We look forward to working with you on the Board.

### Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars to share in the fun. Everyone is welcome; we'd love to see YOU there!

**April 16, 2025** - Mahjongg Fundraiser, Lunch and Desserts 11:00 - 3:00 at the Galveston Country Club. \$75.00 per person. Get your group together and come for a fun-filled afternoon. Registration info coming soon.



**October 26, 2025** - Family Fun Event Fundraiser We said we wouldn't do it again. But 2024's Family Fun Event at the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier was so much fun and so successful, it will be back by popular demand in 2025. **Hope to see you there on October 26<sup>th</sup>.**

### Most Wanted Wish List



We have been overwhelmed with the response to our Wish Lists. The goods mean so much to our House, staff and families. Thank you all!

This month's most wanted:

- Salty Snacks - Sliced White Bread**
- Bacon - Hot Dogs - Bottled Water**

Our weekly Wednesday Wish Lists are on our Facebook Page.

Call ahead to let us know you're coming~409-762-8770

Curbside Delivery Hours - 9:00am-6:00pm

Be sure to let us know when you drop things off; we'd love to be able to thank you properly.

### In the spirit of St Patrick's Day:

- May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.
- May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.
- May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.
- May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

