



# HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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



It's the time of year for celebrations. November was filled with the hustle and bustle of numerous celebrations at our full House. We are so blessed with the support from our volunteers, staff, board and supporters who make the days brighter for our young patients and families. We celebrate all of you and your continued support, and hope your holidays are filled with the love you have shown our House.

## November Blessings



It was a very Happy Thanksgiving at the House, with food from United We Stand and games with Janie, Lidia and staff. Elves were very busy in November bringing fun and cheer to our children and families with a movie night at Diamond Beach Condos hosted by Laurel Sukel, an afternoon of haircuts by Santa, a construction project party hosted by Paula Friesner, Laurel and Darryl from Home Depot, a Dia de los Muertos art party hosted by Pat Lanier and Paula Friesner, weekly art lessons by the Galveston Art Center, a Bingo party by Paula and Laurel, and even visits by royalty (from the Dickens Festival) and a president (UTMB)! Those very appreciated meals were provided by our wonderful monthly (or more often) supporters the Cosmic Cookers, the Moore sisters, Maryellen LeDuc, Drs Pat and Bill, the Galveston Rotary Club, Mike McNamara, United We Stand, Mike Robertson, Temple Emmanuel Church, Jan and John Brick, Southwest Airlines, Vera Carmona, the Broadway Church of Christ, Clear Point Church of Pasadena and the Harvest Church Galveston-Jasper Ministries. We were also delighted with meals from Ms Cobb and the Alvarado Family. Welcome to the RMHG family, and thanks to all!

We had a RMHG family celebration of Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, remembering and honoring those who have gone before. Burnet School Folklorica Group performed traditional dances, dinner was graciously provided by Rosa at El Napolito, freshly baked Pan Dulces/Sweet Bread deserts were provided by Anna at Bakery Emmanuel, and our teacher Lidia Polio gave a presentation. The participants constructed an ofrenda (altar) featuring photos of loved ones, flowers, artwork and gifts. Thanks to all who participated!





### A "Toys for a Claus"

Doubles Tennis Tournament was held at Menard Park's Scoggins-Stiglich Court. "I thought the tournament went great," organizer/director Mitchell Moreno said, noting approximately 50 toys were collected as the players' entry fees. The players had fun, and our kids will have fun with the toys donated to us. Thanks, Mitchell, and all who participated.

The US Army Corps of Engineers of Galveston brought us food from our Wish List.



### Sudsy Blessings



What do 10,645 loads of laundry, 12,756 servings of cereal, 500 rolls of paper towels, 118 jeeps, prizes from Coca Cola, and many volunteers add up to? The Houston Jeep Club's 2023 Suds and Cereal Run! A parade of colorful jeeps, led by Juan Pena and Galveston Country Sheriffs, descended upon our House to deliver their annual windfall of cereal boxes, laundry soap pods, and, this year,

paper goods. A huge shout-out to Penny Ohlemacher who organizes it all for us each year, and a special thank you to the National Girl's Charity League, NASA, and Southwest Airlines for volunteering to unload the mountains of goods.

### A Presidential Visit



Dr. Jochen Reiser, the new president of UTMB, paid our House a visit before hosting a beautiful Holiday Luncheon for our Board's Annual Meeting. The support of UTMB always had been and continues to be invaluable in providing our House that Love Built to the children and their families.

We welcome Dr. Reiser to Galveston and to the Ronald McDonald House Galveston family.

### Happy Birthday

Dec 22 - Nancy Lopez

### Happy Anniversary

Dave Lewis has been with us for one year. We are so delighted to have him as part of the RMHG family!

Tom Lewis has been a volunteer for 30 years!





## Best Holiday Present Ever



Stressed out finding the perfect gift for that very special someone? A paver on the pathway to our new playground is something that fits all, won't need to be returned and will last and last and last. Order online at <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/rmhg>, call or e-mail the House for an order form, or use the one attached to this e-mail.



It's a Beary Merry Holiday! Ann Blanchard, her daughters Jennifer and Ann, and her granddaughters have turned the House into a truly enchanting home away from home, decorating the living room tree and house with hundreds of Teddy Bears. The decorations can't help but bring smiles to the faces of every child (and former child).

## Time to Order 2024 Mah Jongg Cards

Over the years, the Mah Jongg cards ordered through Sally Galbraith or Bev Odom have reaped thousands of dollars for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston. The National Mah Jongg League sends us a portion of the sales from those who order from them. Once again, Sally is handling the ordering for the House. Many thanks to Sally for organizing this each year! The cards for 2024 are \$14 for regular size and \$15 for large size. An order form is attached to this e-mail, or you can call Sally at 409-621-6412 for more information. Mail or drop off your order form and check by January 24, 2024 at 10 Colony Park Circle, Galveston, TX, 77551. And please tell your friends to order the cards from Sally for the Ronald McDonald House!!

## Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!



♥ The VERY talented Tina Gomez-Hearn, Kayla Orton and Chelsea Andoe of SLS Companies did it again! They have worked absolute magic in designing a charming Annual Appeal for us. A special thanks to the Sullivan Brothers companies for donating their time. Hopefully your copy has appeared in your mailbox, and you'll consider donating. Many thanks to those who respond. ♥

## Christmas Wish List

### Girls

Dolls  
Lego Sets  
Dress-Up Clothes  
Barbie  
Art Sets  
Dresses  
Little Live Pets  
Art Cases  
Lite Brite  
Character Night Lights  
Barbie Fashion Design Sets  
Slime Kits

### Boys

Remote Controls Toys (w/batteries)  
Action Figures  
Lego Sets  
Full-Zip Hoodie Jackets  
Hot Wheel Cars  
Light Boards  
Bean Bag Toss Game  
Robots  
Airplanes  
Dinosaurs

### Teen Boys

Soccer balls  
Long Sleeve Shirts  
High-Top Tennis Shoes  
Elastic Pants (Adults S-L)  
Wireless Headphones  
Sports Watches  
Shaving Bundles  
Baseball Caps

### Teen Girls

Body Spray  
Face Make-Up  
Hair Brush  
Hair Accessories  
Art Kits  
Journals  
Cardigans  
Jewelry  
Lip Balm Sets  
Hair Styling Tools

### Miscellaneous

Local Restaurant, Grocery, and Salon Gift Cards  
Robes, Slippers, Coffee  
Travel Mugs  
Perfume, Cologne, and Body Spray  
Nail Kits, Hair Detangle Spray, Hair Gel

Call Janie at 409/762-8770 ext. 102 or e-mail to [Janie@rmhg.org](mailto:Janie@rmhg.org) to schedule your donations. Curbside deliveries are accepted 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.



*Many Thanks for all the Love that continues to support the House. May you and yours have healthy, safe and the very best of Holidays and New Years.*