



Ronald
McDonald
House®
of Galveston

Keeping families close™

Around the House

FALL 2019

IT MADE MY LIFE SPECIAL: THE STORY OF GUILLERMO

As a young boy, Guillermo loved to ride his bicycle in his home of El Salvador. Guillermo especially loved the La Cordillera del Bálsamo (Balsam Mountain) trails, but always had to access them through the streets of his city, Antiguo Cuscutlán which lies in the foothills. One beautiful summer day, Guillermo (11), his father Marco Sr., and his older brother Marco (17) were riding out of the city to enjoy a day together on the mountain trails. Suddenly, a local bus cut-off Guillermo throwing him onto the pavement, breaking his pelvis, and creating a road burn across the entire mid-section of his body.

The young boy was in desperate need of medical care and swiftly taken to the National Hospital. The doctors did their best in the tiny town of just 40,000, to give Guillermo the care he needed. The next 3 months, Guillermo remained flat in bed at the National hospital and was seeking additional care for his broken pelvis which connects the spinal column to the legs.

Just a few days later, Guillermo was airlifted via aircraft ambulance from El Salvador to our wonderful friends at Shriners. It would be his first airplane ride and first time visiting the United States. Still unable to walk, the doctors quickly assured Guillermo and his family they would be able to rebuild and strengthen his pelvis so he could walk again. Guillermo was walking within 3 weeks and was on the road to recovery, but still faced the long-term effects, as a growing boy of the painful road burns that covered his buttocks and upper thighs.

Over the course of the next eight years, Guillermo would visit Shriners more than 15 times for surgery and additional skin grafts, each time staying at The Ronald McDonald House in Galveston.

Just 11 years old, Guillermo remembers his first time at the house. "It was so pretty and big; everyone was so nice, and I met so many wonderful people." When Guillermo reflects on his journey, he wished the accident didn't happen, but at the end he says, "it made my life special and I learned so much". "I learned how important it is to be nice, as you never know a person's situation; to be generous and give back; and that you can do anything despite the difficulties you face".

Guillermo will make his last visit to Shriners and the house this winter. He will return to El Salvador as a young man, with wisdom and forethought of a person much older, ready to make a difference in people's lives.

GUILLERMO IS ATTENDING CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND IS STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY. WE WILL MISS HIS SMILING FACE BUT WISH HIM MANY BLESSINGS!



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I reflect upon the last two years as President of the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston, I have mixed emotions of pride for all that we have accomplished and a bit of sadness that my term is ending. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served in this capacity along with so many of you who came before me. Each of you has contributed your special abilities and talents to this office with all of us sharing the same aspirations, objectives and desires...that of contributing

to, enhancing and advancing the objectives of our mission; always in the name and spirit of Love for the House, the children and families.

As is every year, these two have been especially eventful and remarkable. We celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a Gala of resounding success. We oversaw through the assistance and support of the University and the Galveston Historical Society the successful removal and relocation of the Archie house.

We received an extremely generous bequest from the estate of Dr. Fisher through the Diocese of Houston/Galveston specifically for the development of an adaptive playground for our children and their special needs. Susanne Sullivan and Fredell Rosen have spearheaded this project to create this magnificent gift for our children. Thank you to them as well as to all of you who have remained active, loyal and committed Board members for so many years. You continue to be a remarkable resource of strength and experience.

While this has been a very difficult year for me personally, I am most grateful to those of you who stepped forward in my place to keep the board process moving forward seamlessly. As in a patchwork quilt, you all bring a unique perspective with your own colors, definition and texture. Along with our dedicated staff and volunteers, you bring life and vibrancy to our "home-away-from-home".

Thanks to you all!
Maryellen



FOREVER GRATEFUL

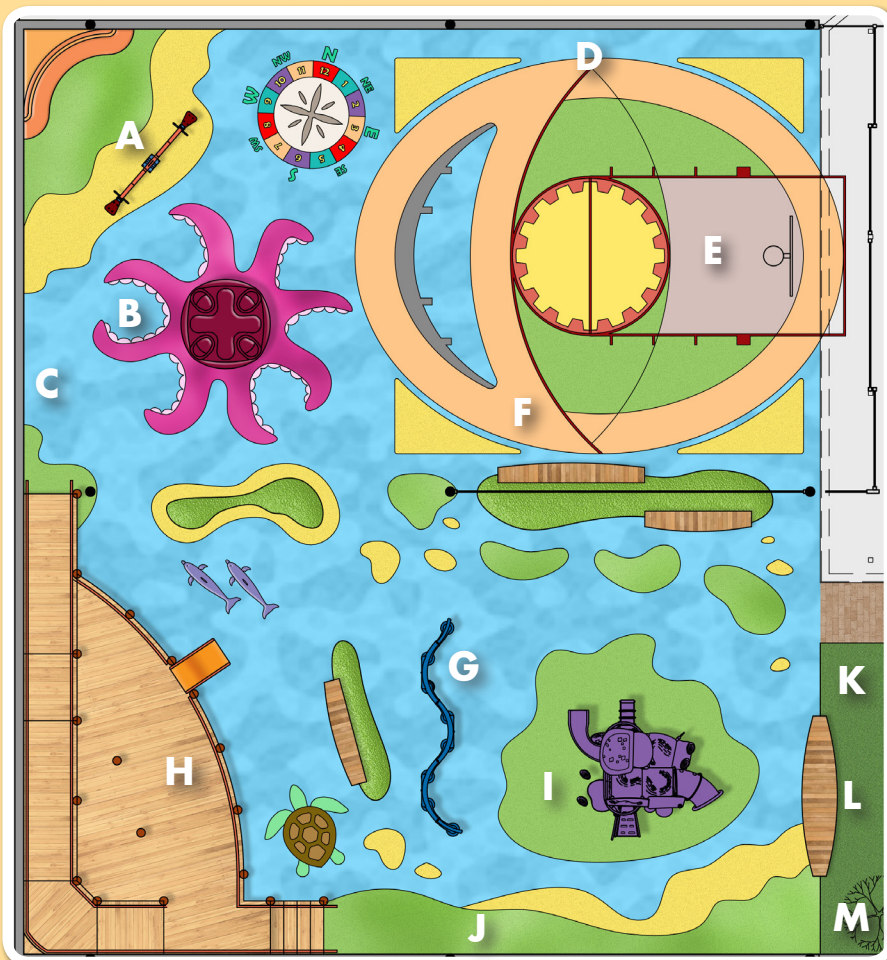
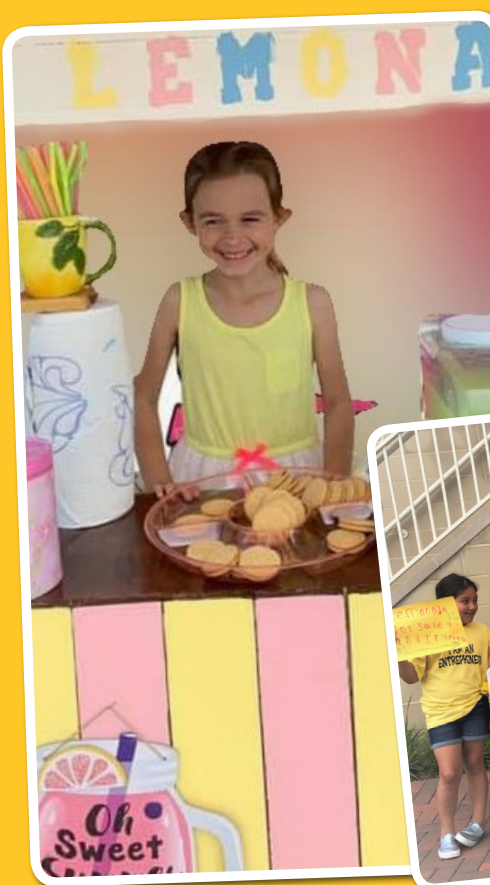
The families, staff and volunteers of Galveston's Ronald McDonald House are enormously grateful to Dr. David L. Callender, who served as president of UTMB for 12 years and whose enduring support helped our House prosper and grow. Dr. Callender recently left UTMB to become President and Chief Executive Officer of the Memorial Hermann Health Care System in Houston, so he's still in the neighborhood and still supporting our mission to be "home-away-from-home®" for so many children and families in need. We wish him all the best and many blessings in this new chapter of his career.

LEMONS TO LEMONADE

Combining the entrepreneurial spirit and passion for giving back is what makes lemons into lemonade. National Lemonade Day is a chance to teach youths about setting up and running their own company while learning how to give back to a good cause in the local community. Abby Popovich, just 6, scored several awards for her lemonade stand at Moody Bank. Next year, Abby has big plans to be a Lemonade Days 2020 Champion.

Margie Ruiz with the help of her six grandchildren Kiara, Nicolas, Jaelyn, Sebastian, Viviana and Giabella brought the folks at UTMB some delicious summer-time refreshment with their creative efforts and salesmanship. The combined efforts of both raised over \$500 for the kids of RMHG.

THANK YOU ABBY AND MARGIE!



LET'S PLAY AND JUST BE KIDS

We are excited to announce our new outdoor recreational play area to serve the children at the house. Located just steps away, the new facility will provide a safe, entertaining, and challenging play space like no ordinary playground. The project will reconfigure existing space and parking off Mechanic Street and add adjacent purchased property. The area includes equipment designed for prosthetics and other special needs; ground flooring with soft-fall surface to avoid injury, and canopies to protect skin from direct sunlight. We would like to thank the estate of Dr. Frederick Fisher Trust, the Moody Foundation, McDonald's Operators of Greater Houston/Galveston, the Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust, the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund along with others for their generous contributions which made this project possible. We look forward to breaking ground in early 2020. Stay tuned for more exciting updates in future publications.

THIS PLAYGROUND IS A WORK IN PROGRESS. Sample Key of Facilities: A. See-saw B. Octopus Spinner C. Donor Mural D. Movie Wall E. Basketball F. Bike Trail G. Sensory Wall H. Pirate Ship I. Climbing Structure J. Sensory Wall K. Artificial Turf Playing Area L. Donor Paving Stones M. Water Wall



PEARL GALA

CELEBRATING

30 YEARS

It's hard to believe our wonderful house is now in our 30th year serving the Galveston community. The Pearl Gala raised over \$140,000 thanks to the kindness of so many. A special thank you to UTMB Health, John P. McGovern, along with Winkie and Jerry Mohn for their generosity with our celebration. We would like to thank our fundraising and event chair, Janice Pierson for her leadership in planning and organizing this grand night. A special shout out to the Galveston Country Club for creating a festive atmosphere and preparing delicious food for all.





Ronald McDonald House Presents



BAKING IS **LOVE MADE EDIBLE**

The house is so blessed to have the wonderful support of our local bakeries. Each of them provides delicious baked goods for the kids and families to enjoy during their stay at the house. We give thanks to each of them for their support and sharing their secret ingredient – LOVE.



OUR GUEST CHEFS



**UTMB ASHBEL SMITH
OLSER SOCIETY**



**ROBERT FLORES
McDONALD'S**



**NATIONAL
CHARITY LEAGUE**



**STEVE MCKINNEY
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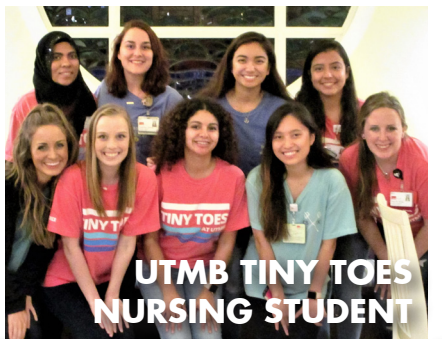
**GALVESTON
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**CLEAR CREEK
COMMUNITY CHURCH**



UTMB SOTA



**UTMB TINY TOES
NURSING STUDENT**



*Celebrating 35 years
Ronald
House
of Galveston
Keeping Families Close*

PLANNED GIVING

The Ronald McDonald House of Galveston is very grateful for the support of our donors over the years. Their generosity has ensured that we can continue the mission of helping children and families as they undergo treatment for serious illnesses. Since our inception, our House has appreciated all the gifts we have received and has worked hard to thank donors and recorded all gifts. During the past several years, we have been fortunate to receive gifts from people we never met. These individuals made bequests to the Ronald McDonald House in their wills, because they believed in our mission and trusted our organization to continue helping families in need. We are forever grateful to these wonderful people whose legacy will help our guest families while they are with us in Galveston seeking medical help for their children. It has truly been "manna from heaven." Planned giving is indeed a lasting legacy! Should you decide to make a charitable gift by will, please think it through carefully. Then meet with your attorney to discuss and update your will, and explain what you would like to do.

Please call our Business Office should you have any specific questions about the needs of our organization. We would love to know of these plans so we might be able to appropriately thank you. It is important to remember that your planned gift could serve as an example for others to follow. Should you want to remain anonymous your wishes will be respected. Whatever the case, please know your support of the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston is deeply appreciated.

Donate in Memory of A Loved One!



Ronald
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of Galveston

Keeping families close™

Donations

January 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019

Our House relies on the support of individuals and organizations in the community to provide services to families in need. We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and groups who have demonstrated their support in many ways. If we have erred or omitted anyone, we apologize.

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Alpha Delta Kappa Texas Beta Theta Chapter
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 La Kings Confectionery
 La Mixteca Mexican Restaurant
 Los Compas Mexican Restaurant
 Mosquito Cafe
 Murdochs
 Pilgrim Cleaners
 Pilgrim Cleaners Stewart Rd
 Quality Cleaners
 Rita's on Seawall
 Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
 Russo's New York Pizzeria
 Seahorse Grill
 Seven Sea's Grocery
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 Sonny's Place
 Star Drug Store
 Strand Brass
 The Original Mexican Cafe
 The Spot
 UTMB - Coffee Shop

Canisters

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 Ben & Jerry's
 Broadway Drug Store





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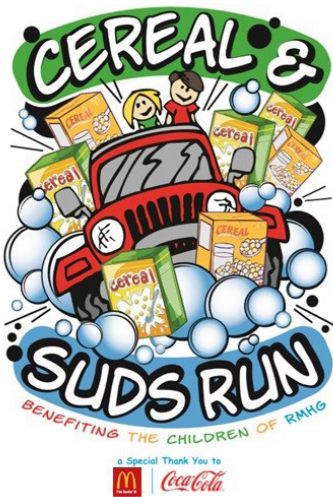
The House That Love Built®

**Ronald McDonald House
of Galveston**
301 14th Street
Galveston, Texas 77550
409-762-8770

For more stories and information
on our House, please visit us
online: www.rmhg.org



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT EVENTS



NOVEMBER 9, 2019

MANJONCC!



NOVEMBER 19, 2019

FALL WISH LIST

KITCHEN

Coffee Makers
Can Openers
Frying Pans

YARD

Potting Soil
Water Hose
Garage Sweeper

PARENTS

Crochet Yarn
Adult Coloring Books
Wal-Mart Gift Cards
Crochet Supplies

FOOD PANTRY

Tuna
Pinto Beans
Rice
Flour
Cooking Oil
Spam
Tomato Sauce
Chicken Bouillon
Mayonnaise
Ketchup
Ramen in a cup
Corn Tortillas

LAUNDRY ROOM

Irons
Ironing Boards
Baskets

HOUSE

LED Light Bulbs
Vacuum Cleaners
Pledge
Lysol

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ronald McDonald House of Galveston is a "home-away-from-home" for the families of children who are seeking medical treatment at University of Texas Medical Branch, Shriners Hospital for Children and Transitional Learning Center. The House is more than a place to stay; as an alternative to an isolated hotel room, the families and children enjoy cheerful surroundings and the support of other families, volunteers and staff.