



Ronald
McDonald
House®
of Galveston

Keeping families close™

Around the House

SPRING 2019

STRONGER THAN FEAR: THE STORY OF ERICKA

Erica Ramirez lost both her hands in a tragic accident. Please enjoy a brief story in her words about her experience in life, written with a pencil between her lips. A testament to the human spirit, Erica is an inspiration for all.

HUMAN SPIRIT IS STRONGER THAN ANY FATE OR FEAR.

My family has always been there, and they have been aware of my well-being. When I needed anything, they were there. My mom gets me ready every morning when I go to school, and my dad gives me motivation to continue and never give up.

My life in Guatemala is very enjoyable because I play with my brothers and cousins. We like to joke around with our aunts, we go to places together and I give thanks to God and to the fact that I can still write without my hands. My writing is not perfect because I am writing for the first time since the accident. At school, I have very good grades and I also must thank the people where I live San Pedro Necta: the people there have supported me always.

My friends at school help me and feed me during lunch. After lunch we will go shopping and visit with other friends. Here in Galveston at Shriners and Ronald McDonald House I have met a lot of friends which most of them went home already. And I am still here, and I enjoy all the friends because we learn a lot from each other. My life is different now because God has given me the strength to continue being myself and making a difference in life. I give thanks because I never gave up and this trip, I made to Galveston is to obtain my prosthesis. My goal is to write and so many different things with them.

I AM MADE TO GO FORTH WITH RESILIENCE AND TO OVERCOME. TO ACCOMPLISH, TO ACHIEVE, TO REJOICE, TO BE HAPPY.

Erica



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ONE FISH, TWO FISH, RED FISH, BLUE FISH

Casting their poles, the kids enjoyed a wonderful day at our annual Houston Big Game Piggy Perch Tournament. The kids reeled them in all day long. Each child celebrated their fishing success. Some with major bragging rights received a trophy and commemorative t-shirt. A delicious BBQ lunch provided by Houston Big Game and prepared by Light House Charities was a great way to end the day and celebrate. A special thank you to Buddy and Marita Schultz, Deano Merrigan and Heather Harper, The Houston Big Game Fishing Club, and Pelican Rest Marina.



TRICK-OR-TREAT!

The kids enjoyed a Halloween costume party, along with one of their favorite family dinner choices, McDonald's. Special thanks to Chris Oliver, Jennifer Thornburg and the entire Robert Flores Organization for creating such a fun night.



ANGEL FOUND IN GALVESTON

We all have a guardian angel, who is loving, kind, and caring; and the children at RMHG do too with Dr. Pat Lanier. The best kind of people are those who make a difference in your life, who believe in you so much, you start to believe in you too. Dr. Pat is a Godsend to our house with her never-ending generosity and involvement with the kids. Taking her personal passion for the Arts and bringing into a child's life, she's dedicated hours in creating special moments in every child's life.



Dr. Pat, you are a true inspiration and we love you!



MAHJONGG!

You could hear tiles clicking together along with much laughter and fun at our 7th annual MahJongg tournament held at the Galveston Country Club. The event was a grand success with over 60 ladies enjoying lunch, wonderful raffle items, and fellowship. The event raised \$10,900. A special thanks to our MahJongg committee Janice Pierson and Karen Flowers.



COOKING WITH LOVE PROVIDES FOOD FOR THE SOUL

No matter how you slice and dice it, food and love are inextricably tied. People who give you their food – give you their heart. The act of preparing food for someone is a significant act of love. Every week our friends at Farley Girls create an amazing meal for the families at the house. We say thank you for providing us your food and your heart. Thank you Ryanne and Rosmond for your continued generosity!



MEGHANN

Farley Girls manager Meghann was a guest at RMHG over ten years ago and enjoys her continued connection to the house with weekly meal delivery.





A Sudstastic and Cerealific Saturday

On Saturday, November 10th 2018, 102 Jeeps and over 250 people joined us for our 7th annual Suds Run.

This year we added a partnership with McDonald's Houston Owner/Operators and a "morning twist", by expanding our donation efforts to include kid friendly cereal. The combined efforts of the Houston Area Jeep Groups, Coca-Cola and McDonald's delivered, with the help of our friends at Martin-Brower, enough detergent pods and powder to complete 67,194 loads of laundry and serve 16,272 bowls of cereal.

The 2018 event generated cash donations of \$8,018 and has surpassed \$46,000 in its short seven year history. Each year on the second Saturday in November, a large jeep caravan with police escort drive from the mainland to the Ronald McDonald House in Galveston; in tow with thousands of laundry detergent pods and boxes of cereal for the families at RMHG.

Thank you, McDonald's Family of Greater Houston and Galveston, Coca-Cola, and a special thank you to Penny Ohlemacher for all her efforts to make this event such a great success.





DICKENS ON THE STRAND

Queen Victoria, Anne Boyd and her entourage visit families at RMHG each year in grand Victorian attire, with holiday treats for the all kids to enjoy. Thanks for sharing the holiday spirit!



VOLUNTEERS – SERVING OTHERS AND DOING GOOD

Volunteers are the heart of the home, dedicating countless hours to serve the families at the house. Our wonderful, Carolyn Nelson-Becker hosted an afternoon tea at her beautiful home to show the board's appreciation. The group enjoyed great appetizers, drinks, and time to socialize with their fellow volunteers. Three Cheers for our Volunteers!

Stockings overflowing!

Thank you KGBTexas Houston office for the wonderful stocking stuffers for all the kids! You created many smiles with your kindness!



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION WITH THE 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you UTMB and Dr. David Callendar for a wonderful luncheon in celebration of our incredible partnership and the holiday season. We appreciate your love and support!



Santa in his Pajamas!

It was the biggest moment of the year at the North Pole. All eight reindeer were hitched up, and Santa's sleigh was flying across the Christmas Eve sky. Santa was soon to arrive in Galveston, but he forgot one thing, his Santa suit. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" Santa laughed as he entered the house in his PJs. The kids loved their evening with Santa.

Dining on McDonald's and making their own Christmas cookies, singing and dancing to Christmas tunes, and taking photos with Santa himself, it was a magical celebration. Santa arrived with presents for every child and a special surprise gift for each child's mother. A special thank you to Jerry Stone and the entire Stone Family for such a cherished evening.



RIDERS ARRIVE WITH HEART-WARMING HOLIDAY CHEER

On Saturday, Dec 8th the kids at the house could hear sleigh bells, but it wasn't Santa Claus, as over 60 motorcycle riders who roared in and delivered hundreds of toys. The American Legion Riders, Post 89, Texas City, hosted a Toy Run with the participation from other caring motorcycle clubs, namely, the Voyagers in Santa Fe and League City, Bikers Against Bullying, V-Twins, Riders Republic, Damaged Souls and the Warriors Bikers 4 Charity. The kids were so excited to see all the motorcycles and their eyes all aglow at the sight of so many Christmas Toys. What an incredibly thoughtful way to start the spirit of the season.



Santa ARRIVED IN A PATROL CAR!

We got your attention! Just a joke to say thank you to the Tropical Impression Racing Team, the Citizen Sheriff's Academy Alumni Association and the Sheriff's Office employees. The Ronald McDonald House Galveston has been blessed for many years as the team's special charity. Embracing their motto "If You Use – They Use It", since 2009, and adding a very special group of Secret Santa's in more recent years. In checks, cash, gift cards and household item donations, the value of this incredible gift for the Ronald McDonald House was over \$9,000.

Thanks to all for your dedication to the community and RMHG. Special Thank you to Tommy Hansen and Keith Spalding for your incredible generosity during this time of giving.



Thank you, McDonald's Family of Greater Houston/Galveston, for your incredible and never-ending support. Your recent donation of \$12,700 from your financial planning training seminar is very appreciated. You are always there for us in so many ways – Thank you!

Ronald McDonald House Galveston Presents

OUR GUEST CHEFS



**GALVESTON BAY
CHRISTIAN SOCIETY**



**UTMB - TINY TOES
NURSING STUDENTS**



TIDEWAY



**MOODY
BANK**



UTMB - SOTA



**CARNES FAMILY
CHRISTMAS EVE**



UTMB - SOTA



UTMB - OLSER SOCIETY



UTMB - OLSER SOCIETY



**MIKE MCNAMARA AND
HOME DEPOT - GALVESTON**



**ROBERT FLORES
MCDONALD'S ORGANIZATION**



**WILLING WORKERS
CHURCH GROUP**

*Special Thanks to
All Our Guest Chefs!*



**KOUNTZE HIGH -
DECA CLUB**

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!



Keeping families close™

Donations

August 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

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.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Allen
Alvin Bible Study Group
Dr. Amr Abouleish
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Rev. and Mrs. Rick Benson
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Mr. and Mrs. Jay Brassieur
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Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Rosen

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Mr. Raymond Brouillard
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Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Worsham

Jeannie Urbani
Dr. and Mrs. James Le Duc

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Welch
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Worsham

Correction from Fall 2018 Newsletter:
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Linda Susman

In-Kind

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Mrs. Corina Alonso
Alpha Delta Pi
Alpha Delta Pi - Delta Beta Chapter at Lamar University
Alvin Bible Study Group
Alvin Seventh Day Adventist Church
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Houston Clear Lake Civitan Club
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Drs. Pat Lanier and William Posnick
Mr. Jeff Lawhorne
Dr. and Mrs. James Le Duc
Mr. Thomas Lewis
Ms. Sheila Lidstone and Mr. Christopher Webber
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Ms. Nancy Sheiman
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Starlight Children's Foundation
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Sullivan Interest
Sunflower Bakery
Temple Emanuel Christian Church
Texas Assoc. for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Texas International Terminals
Texas Star Bakery

The Company Store
The Donut Palace
The Lyceum
The Martin-Brower Company LLC
The Moore Sisters
Tideway Therapeutic Pool
Tiki Island Chapel
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UTMB - Blackwell Osler Society
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American Kitchen
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Christmas Tree Store
El Gusto Del Pueblo Restaurant
El Jardin
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Hummel's General Store
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Jamaica Beach Hardware
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La Estacion Restaurant
La Kings Confectionery
La Mexteca Resturant
Los Compas Mexican Restaurant
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Seven Sea's Grocery
Sonny's Place
Star Drug Store
Starbucks @ UTMB
Strand Brass
The Original Mexican Cafe
The Spot

Pop Tabs

It is with great sorrow that we announce the discontinuation of the Pop Tab Program. We thank each and everyone of you for your understanding and years of donating.
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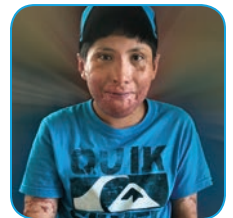
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MISSION STATEMENT

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.