

HOUSE HAPPENINGS

A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family



As we start the New Year, we are counting our blessings. Blessings for the outpouring of love and gifts and toys showered on our families for the holidays. Blessings for our volunteers, such as Tom Lewis and Bob Ford and Jerry Stone who have faithfully given their time and talents to our House for

many, many years. Blessings for our staff, who work tirelessly (even during their off hours) to make sure our families have what they need and our events are successful. Blessings for the individuals and groups that provide hot meals for our families. Blessings for our Board members who do their best to serve our children and families. Blessings for UTMB which supports our House in so many ways. And blessings for the monetary and in-kind gifts that allow us to open our doors to families in need. May you and yours be blessed this New Year as you have blessed our House!

Happy Birthday

- January 7 - Lucy Bourgeois
- January 8 - Swapan Banerjee
- January 29 - Frances Estrada



Yummy, Yummy!



The House was very busy in December with holiday celebrations and several special events. Our loyal meal providers brought yummy nutritious meals and treats almost every day.

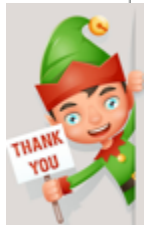
Our thanks to the Moore Sisters, Bill & Pat, Maryellen Leduc, the Broadway Church of Christ, the Board's House Operations Committee, UTMB Medicine Hector Garcia Osler Society/McGovern Academy, the Temple Emanuel Christian Church, the Galveston Rotary Club, Da Krewe Du Roux (pictured), United We Stand, the First Baptist Church, The Brick Family, Vera Carmona, the Galveston Lions Club, Southwest Airlines Employees, Layers of Love, El Nopalito



Restaurant, The Pruns Family, the Antely Family, the Harvest Church, the National Charity League and Welcome Shriners/Galveston Ambassador Velasquez.

Merry, Merry!

Our children and families may be away from their homes and extended families over the holidays, but our caring donors came with gifts to make their holidays as special as possible. Thanks to the UTMB Resiterns and Rosenberg Library and Naked Iguana Brewery who hosted toy drop off boxes. Santa's elves were very busy delivering toys and goods from our wish lists. We thank everyone who contributed to making the holidays at their Home Away from Home special for our families. You have shown us the true spirit of the holidays.



The Robert Fong / Pan American Golf Association donated fun goodies.



The Trevino Group brought joy and toys for girls and boys.

JANUARY

January 2025

Texas International Terminals hosted a Christmas ornament craft glass. They provided the supplies and the fun. Our children and families LOVE craft and art projects. TIT used the ornaments to decorate their office tree. They also found out the ages of the kids currently in the House and brought them special gift boxes for each one.

The School of Health Professionals at UTMB delivered Gingerbread Houses. Amazon Logistics of La Marque brought backpacks. We send each child home with a backpack filled with their school supplies. Melissa Spoon & Son brought a Toy Giveaway. Hugh and Jeffs Carwash Sports Bar and Grill brought a carload of Christmas toys. McKenna Mackey also brought Christmas cheer.



Once again, the Galveston County Sheriffs Association showered us with truckloads of toys, gifts and needed household items. We are so grateful for all the Sheriffs do for our children and families. They represent the true spirit of giving all year long.



Alpha Delta Pi Sorority donated toys, as did the South Texas Boilers and the Seventy7Runners. The Zumba Crew came with the Grinch to deliver gifts and dinner. McKinney Restaurant Management of McDonald's Houston brought Santa and dinner.

The Galveston Art Center came with their art lessons and our House Operations volunteers, led by Paula Friesner and Laurel Sukel hosted bingo and a movie night.



Lights of Love



It was a feast for the senses and the tummies. A host of people and organizations made our Lights of Love celebration a huge success. Thanks to Anne Murray, our staff and all the volunteers for giving the community a magical night of celebration. Galveston school children joined in to honor our community and all it does for our House. Many organizations donated mountains of special food treats. Santa and Mrs. Santa were there to give gifts, take photos and listen to the children's wishes. We were thrilled that our

traditional Santa, Jerry Stone, and his wife Peggy were able to return after several years of health issues. And the Grinch (from the Jamaica Beach Police Department) even showed up, who was also a very popular photo op.



Blake Sullivan Family and Delta Pi Beta

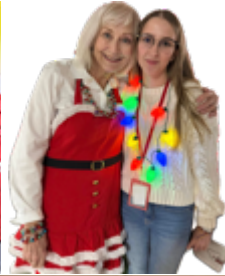
JANUARY

January 2025

Hooters sent their famous wings, served by UTMB nursing students, and Independence Coffee Company prepared hot cocoa, which hit the spot on the chilly evening.



Moody Bank brought delicious cupcakes.



Southwest Airlines Employees cooked us up some hot dogs.



Rachel, Linda and Ursula from UTMB popped poppers full of popcorn treats.



Wayne Newsome and the VFW Post 4820 Port Neches brought and distributed Pizza, Pizza and more Pizza. Bottled water was supplied by the family in remembrance of the very giving Elmer W. Venzke Jr. Taco Cabana and Seventy7Runners also brought yummys.

McDonald's Enterprise supplied their ever-popular cheese burgers.





The Cosmic Cookers and the Moore Sisters baked and baked and baked enough Christmas Cookies to satisfy all our cookie monsters.

The festivities were made special by the local celebrity voice of the Astros sound guru Bob Ford. Our thanks to him!



Entertainment was provided by Oppe Elementary 4th grade choir, the Ball High School Folklorica Team, the Burnett Folkloric Junior Ballet, a reading of The Night Before Christmas by Braydon of Trinity school, the Burnett Choir and a very special performance by the kids staying at the House.



The children were treated to face painting by volunteers under the tutelage of Pat Lanier and really fun woodworking kit projects brought by Home Depot.



Our Honoree - Tom Lewis



Tom Lewis was our 2024 Lights of Love volunteer honoree. Tom's career started at UTMB. He was actively involved in Galveston Little League which laid the groundwork for his enduring commitment to

volunteering. He has been a loyal RMHG volunteer since 1993. Tom's enthusiasm extends to travel and other charitable endeavors. We honored him to thank him for his remarkable service to our House.

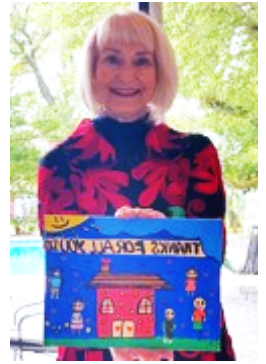


Thanks to Laurie Popovich for organizing a silent auction of delectable holiday baskets.



2024 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Thanks to UTMB President Reiser for a delightful holiday luncheon at the Artillery Club during our annual Board meeting. Dr. Tuli, UTMB Pediatric Department Chairman, gave the opening remarks, mentioning that he once gratefully stayed at a Ronald McDonald House when his son was hospitalized after a car accident. We welcomed our new advisory board members Benjamin Herndon, Reagan Markey and Sara Martin and our new Board members Kandy Arena, Michelle Byrd, Terri Prescott, Sunday Roberts and Laurel Sukel. Our outgoing president Alane Nuzum passed the gavel to incoming president Janice Pierson. We will miss Alane, who has served our House for several years as she relocates to Dallas in January. The executive committee for 2025 will be Janice Pierson, Mary Orange, Jan Brick, Helen King, Fredell Rosen, Paula Friesner, Carolyn Nelson-Becker and Debbie James.



Happy Employment Anniversary



Our staff is amazing. All of our families remark how caring and helpful they are. Lidia Polio, our teacher, probably has the most contact with the children. She has been making learning fun and delighting our children since 2013.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars to share in the fun. Everyone is welcome, and that means, YOU!!!

March 18, 2025 - Mahjongg Fundraiser

October 26, 2025 - Family Fun Event Fundraiser

We said we wouldn't do it again. But this year'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 26th.**

Wish List

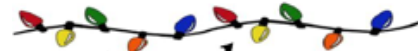
We are currently in need of:

Luggage - Bowls - Plates - Zip-Loc Bags (All Sizes) - Dish Soap
Mom's Grocery List:

- Chicken (Thighs/Legs) - Beef - Broccoli - Carrots
- Cilantro - White Rice - Pancake Mix
- Sandwich Meats - Ham/Turkey

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

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



We thank you for making 2024 easier for our families. We hope your 2025 is your best year ever.



Happy Volunteer Anniversary

Maryellen LeDuc - 16 years

Terri Prescott - 5 years



We couldn't do it without our loyal volunteers.