



Ronald  
McDonald  
House®  
of Galveston

Keeping families close™

# Around the House

SPRING 2020

## BLESSED TO BE IN THE BEST PLACE EVER

On December 18, 2019 Corniece Young's water broke. She was just over six months pregnant. Coming from Port Arthur, she entered the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) the next day. Suffering from a host of complications, her labor was induced, and Daniel Wright came into the world on January 4th. His original due date was March 12.

He weighed just 4 pounds and 12 ounces, and his little, undeveloped respiratory system couldn't process oxygen properly.

UTMB is one of the few hospitals in the state to have a level IV Neonate Intensive Care Unit (NICU Level IV), providing care for more than 600 premature and high-risk babies each year. Over thirty years ago, the Founding Mothers of our Ronald McDonald House Galveston saw a need for the moms and families of those sick babies.

Although many of our guests now come from Galveston's Shriners Hospital for Children, we continue to welcome those new moms and families whose babies are being cared for in the NICU. As a child, Corniece stayed for seven months at a Ronald McDonald House in Chicago, when her sister was recovering from a 3-month coma. So she was very relieved that the House provided a nice place to stay close to the hospital for her, her fiancé and their one-year-old son, Randy while watching little Daniel's progress.

In a typical day, Corniece goes to the hospital after breakfast to feed and sit with little Daniel, returns to the House for lunch with her family, and then goes back to the hospital in the afternoon after any errands. After enjoying dinner at the House she then may go back to the hospital. Corniece says it's been a difficult time, but the people at the House have made it so much easier. She says that the staff has given her hope, and that Janie is "everything to me". She loves Frances and Maria and all the other staff members. She has learned so much from the burn patients staying at the House to have faith and keep

God first. She says she has a new family now, and has shared friendship bracelets with people she now considers life-long friends. It's been a safe, fun place for Randy, who has also made friends. He's become especially attached to a little patient named Samantha. Corniece is one of those people that is strong for other people, and, with the help of the loving people at RMHG, she now understands that God is strong for her. She says she feels very blessed to be in the best place ever.

During the long journey, she credits UTMB as being the very best, staying on top of every little thing in a difficult delivery and recovery. Nurses Ola and Annette literally saved her and her baby's life. The NICU staff, including Nina, Chelsea, Susan, Ola, Annette, Michelle and Mark, have been caring, loving and supportive, taking care of the parents as well as the babies. Corniece marvels at the friendliness and caring support of the campus transport as she travels back and forth to the hospital.

At five weeks old, Daniel has grown to be 6 pounds, 5 ounces and his own little person. One day he pulled the feeding and oxygen tubes out of his nose, and it was pretty clear to nurse Pam that he was ready for his first drink of milk. Since then he smiles every time he eats. He's a "laid back little mister", who loves laying in his crib and smiling at everything. We're told he's one of the easiest babies in the NICU, only fussing when he's hungry.

The family moved from the Chicago area to Texas to give the children a better life. Corniece foresees Daniel and his brother playing sports, graduating from school, and becoming "somebodies" in life, with the proper learning, respect, love for people and helping others that the family has experienced at the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston.





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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

I am honored, humbled and incredibly excited to walk in the footsteps of so many amazing people before me, as the new President of the Ronald McDonald House in Galveston.

As we face an unprecedented global crisis, I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe, healthy and happy. While the COVID-19 virus is making this a difficult time for all of us, imagine what it's like for families of patients far from home. Our House has just two families remaining, each with a critical need child. Borders are closed and transportation is difficult or impossible.

*"We wish you health, and thank you for your support, because you are making a difference and making a difference is what life is all about."*

The House is indeed a pocket of love and refuge for these families, thanks to the loving care provided by our loyal staff, and the donations made by all of you. We are following RMHC Global guidelines and can't accept any new families until further notice. While our situation dictates to discontinue all volunteers, visitors, tours and activities, we can all support the House with

greatly needed donations and prayers.

We understand the problems faced by so many now but hope you will consider the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston as we tackle a serious financial shortfall. We will continue to provide a House humming with care and activity once this is over.

We wish you health, and thank you for your support, because you are making a difference and making a difference is what life is all about.

I look forward to a healthy new beginning very soon!

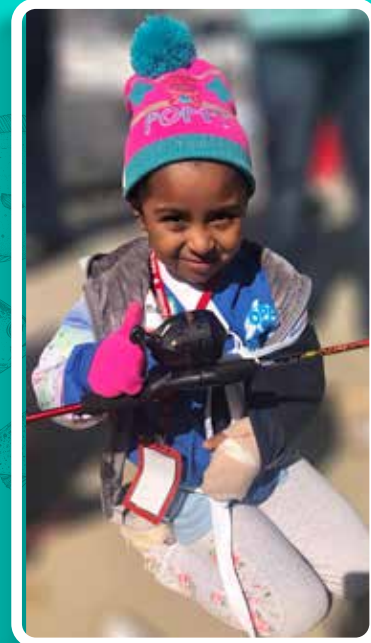
Always Grateful,

Jeff



# THE BEST FISH STORY EVER

Once again, our families and children were treated to a very fun "Piggy Perch" at the Pelican Rest Yacht Club. The Houston Big Game Fishing Club provided a yummy BBQ lunch, t-shirts and trophies, as well as the very loving and patient volunteers who outfitted and coached the kids and families while baiting hooks, cheering catches, pulling fish from hooks and sharing laughter. The fish were biting on a beautiful day. Our thanks to Laurie Bass and the Club, not only for this outing, but also for all the generous and fun things the Club does for us.



## WADE'S ROOM

All of our guest rooms are different; generous donors have lovingly decorated them. One of the rooms was recently repainted and refurbished by the Ann Blanchard family and friends working together to honor the memory of Wade Allen Smith. Every year, Ann and her family magically decorate the House into a Christmas fantasy. The beautiful Dr. Seuss artwork will be so inspiring to the kids whose families stay there. Once the kids leave this house that love built, "Oh, the places you will go!"







# VALERO BENEFITS KIDS

The Valero Texas Open is a PGA tour event in San Antonio sponsoring the Valero Benefit for Children, including the golf outing, skeet shooting and other activities to raise funds to support hundreds of agencies that make a lasting difference in children's lives. In December, the Valero Energy Foundation presented the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston with a sizable check, which is, indeed, making a big difference for our children and families. Thanks to Valero, we now have much-needed new telephone system, enhanced wifi, new computers and monitors.



## COAST GUARD TO THE RESCUE

When you are located in a coastal area and have a large number of families, children and volunteers living, playing and loving in the house, there are always household thingamajigs to be repaired, heaviness to be moved, decorations to refurbish and imperfections to be perfected. The US Coast Guard Electronics Support Detachment in Houston lent us some much appreciated helping hands throughout the house to correct these wrongs. Our lights and spirits are shining more brightly thanks to your help.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



We welcomed our newest Ronald McDonald House of Galveston board members at our January meeting. We are so glad to have Dixie Messner, David Powers, April Darling, Dennis Darling, Marie Robb and Juan Pena join the RMHG family.

# THOUGHTFUL NOTES



The beautiful and happy heart art created by our fabulous and talented children under our angel Pat Lanier's tutelage were printed onto gift cards with the lovely help from Betsy by Design. Proceeds will benefit the RMHG Children's/Humanitarian Fund, providing necessary clothing, shoes, birthday parties and, sadly, even funerals. Special thanks to our RMHG schoolteacher Lidia, and our very special artists. Pick up a box of 10 or individual cards at Betsy by Design, Hendley Market, Jamaica Beach Hardware, The Sugar Bean, Toms Thumb Nursery or at RMHG.



## WORKS OF LOVE

Texas International Terminals is a busy company integral to shipping in Galveston Bay and the Ship Channel. The company has lent their employees to volunteer their time to tasks essential to the daily operation of our House. From removing a trip hazard parking stop (so dangerous for little ones with limited mobility) to building a much needed laundry table, to participating in the Valero Texas Open, they are making important contributions to the House's functional needs.



# Cerealicious and Sudfabulous

On November 9th 176 Jeeps and over 300 people participated in our 8th annual Suds Run. The combined efforts of the Houston Area Jeep Groups, Coca-Cola, Martin-Brower and McDonald's local owner/operators delivered detergent pods, boxes of cereal and cash to complete 22,890 loads of laundry and serve 18,563 bowls of cereal. Plus they gifted us \$7,930 in cash. The large jeep caravan was led by the Ronald McDonald Shoe Car and escorted by police. Students and other volunteers helped to off-load the goods and cheer the participants. Thanks to all who have made the Cereal & Suds Run so successful. Mark your calendars for the 9th Cereal & Suds Run on November 14th 2020.





# RUN, CHICKEN, RUN!

Squawking, flapping, live chickens. They were the stars of Da Krewe du Roux's traditional Mardi Gras chicken run, a fun fundraiser. The day included trophies for the most successful chicken catchers as well as yummy gumbo for all. Many thanks to Da Krewe for benefitting us with their Mardi Gras celebration.

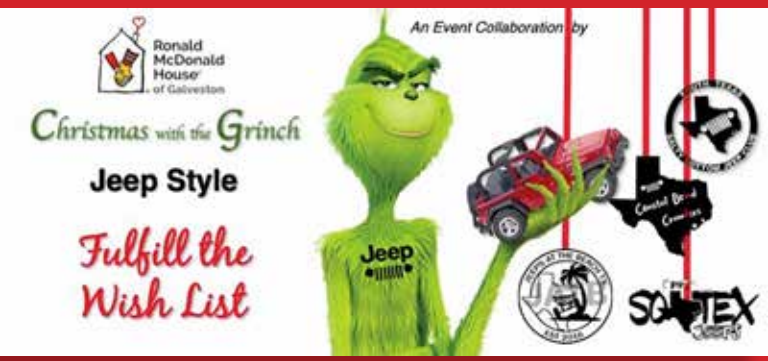


## Our Holiday Luncheon

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, UTMB hosted a beautifully scrumptious holiday luncheon for the House board members, staff and volunteers at the Moody Gardens Hotel. It was a magical time feting those who give their time to the house and make it such a special, loving place. Many thanks to UTMB which makes many things possible.



# JEEPERS, NOT SO GRINCHY!



The Texas Salty Bottom Jeep Club, SoTex Jeeps, Coastal Bend Crawlers and Jeeps at the Beach joined forces to complete our Christmas Wish List with a "Christmas with the Grinch - Jeepers Style - Fulfill the Wish List" party. A parade of more than thirty decked out jeeps delivered a mountain of household needs on December 21. Big hugs for sharing your love and goodies.





# TURTLE!

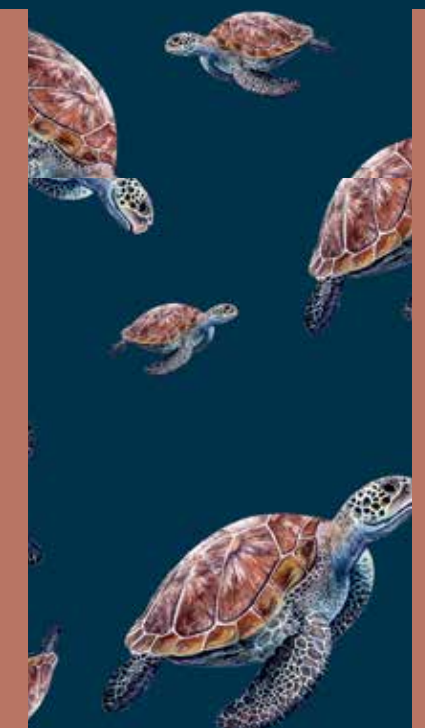


# SANTA'S PJ PARTY

Our very special Santa (aka Jerry Stone when he's in civilian clothes) came once again this year to distribute the gifts and fun donated by so many caring Santas. It was a very jolly PJ party brightening the holidays for the families away from home. Special thanks to Brad Adcock for his amazing photography and continued support.



Turtles have sprung up all over Galveston. Benefactors to the Turtle Island Restoration Network are raising turtle conservation awareness while supporting tourism and the local business economy. We're lucky enough that Mitchell Historical Properties donated a beautiful one to the House. Thanks to them and to Jeff and Joanie Steinhaus of the Turtle Network who laid the concrete base. This is a lovely addition to our House.





# HERE COMES THE SHERIFF (AND SANTA)



Since 2009, the Galveston County Sheriff's Office under the tutelage of Lt. Tommy Hansen has teamed with members of Tropical Impression Racing Team Youth Outreach program and the Citizen Sheriff's Academy Alumni Association to help make this a home-away-from-home for the children and families here during the holiday season. From basic household needs, the donations have grown with food, pantry staples and financial donations thanks to local business and community group "Silent Santas". Their "Deputy Claus" program collects a dazzling array of toys. With the help of Santa, this collection of over \$12,000 in funds, \$4000 in household items and several thousand dollars worth of toys were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House on Dec 19. The House and Galveston County are brighter during the holidays and throughout the year because of your outreach efforts. Thousands of thanks!

# RIDING HIGH

The American Legion Riders Post 89 in Texas City is made up of American Legion, Sons of American Legion, and Auxiliary members who share a love of riding motorcycles, a love for country and a love for serving others. On December 7, they hosted a police-escorted motorcycle run from La Marque to the House, bringing tons of wonderful surprises for our kids and families.





# OUR GUEST Chefs



Leadership Galveston



LeDuc Family



Cosmic Cookers



Clear Creek Community Church

These Phenomenal People  
Help Make the House a  
Home in Many Ways  
- Thanks!



Tony & Vera Mendoza



Ann Blanchard & Family



Lions Club



Alpha Delta Pi  
Delta Beta



National Charity  
League Dinner



Alpha Delta Kappa



Moody Bank of Galveston



# 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™

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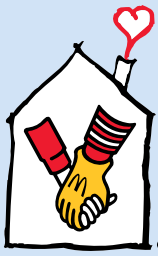
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**EVENT POSTPONED**  
Out of concern for your health,  
we have postponed this event  
to Saturday, September 26.

**DETAILS:** [www.rmhg.org](http://www.rmhg.org)



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