



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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



It's holiday time again, and we have so many blessings from all of you, our staff, volunteers and supporters. We are building up the House, now with 13 families. The schoolroom and common areas are buzzing with the sounds of children. Masks and only essential visitors are still the rules to keep the families safe. We wish you and your loved ones very happy holidays and meaningful times to be back together again.

Thankful Hearts

I thank the Ronald House for accepting and helping so many families, and in general all the donations and attention they give us, making our stay more pleasant.



It was a busy November at the House, thanks to many of you. Our teacher Lidia taught the kids the meaning of Thanksgiving and had them write what they are thankful for. Our curbside meal angels, our loyal volunteers, the Suds and Cereal Run, the donations from so many brought the lesson home to them in our House That Love Built. We thank all those who donate meals each month, and welcome those who did it for the first time. The warm meals are so comforting to the families after their days at the hospital. United We Stand & Hearts of Refuge made the day special, for providing Thanksgiving lunch for the families.



The Mike Evans Family Foundation brought our families delicious early Thanksgiving Dinners. We're delighted a local true hero chooses to give back to the community and to our House!



The Holy Family Catholic School of Galveston dropped off backpacks, which our teacher Miss Lidia distributed to some very grateful kids. The Leonard Family donated Hot Wheels cars for the kids. The children love to receive the new school supplies, puzzles, games, coloring books and toys.



The "Good Time Girls" presented the House with a generous check, as part of their celebration being together in Galveston with member Maryellen LeDuc. We celebrate you!



Cereal & Suds Run

After a two-year hiatus thanks to Covid, the jeeps came back! Tons of thanks to organizer Penny Ohlemacher and the Houston Jeep clubs who brought us TONS of cereal and laundry detergent in support of our families on 2022's Cereal & Suds Run. Actually



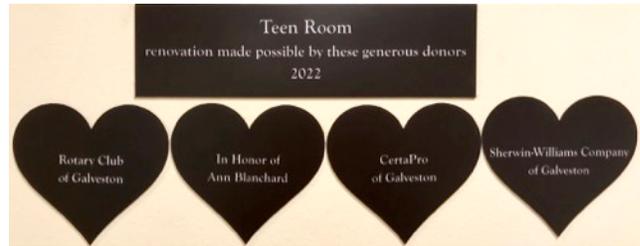


enough for 13,836 servings of cereal and 21,783 loads of laundry. It was a really fun day, with Juan Pena and Galveston County Sheriffs leading a parade of over a hundred jeeps from Bucces to our House. Coca Cola and McDonald's donated fun door prizes, and lots of volunteers showed up to help unload all the goods. Thanks to all for a very fun day!



Teen Room

We told you last month about all those who donated their money, time and talents to revamp our well-worn teen room. We had the dedication in November, and are delighted with the results!





Happy Holidays!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Ann Blanchard and friends have turned the House into a truly enchanting home away from home, decorating every nook and cranny of the House. The kids got VERY excited seeing all the Christmas trees around the House, and the House is filled with holiday cheer. The decorations can't help but bring smiles to the faces of every child (and former child). Many thanks!



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

♥ SLS Companies have some VERY talented people. Tina Gomez-Hearn and Kayla Orton have once again worked absolute magic in designing a delightful and charming Annual Appeal for us. The Sullivan Brothers Family of Companies donated their time to us. Look for the appeal in your mailbox soon. ♥



Happy Birthday

Dec 1 - Alex Chavez Zarazua
Dec 22 - Nancy Lopez



Happy Volunteer Anniversary

29 years - Tom Lewis

Welcome! We welcome our newest volunteer, Marilyn Polk. Our volunteers are vital to our efforts at the House. We are so very thankful for you.

Most Wanted

Paper towels are on the top of our wish list this month. Other items include: Chicken, Fresh Produce, Bread, Cooking Oil, Bottled Water, Chorizo, Bacon, Canned Black Beans, Seasonings, Ice Cream and Copy Paper.

For our full list, look for #WishListWednesday on our Facebook Page. Call ahead to let us know you're coming at 409-762-8770 ext. 280. Our Curbside Delivery Hours are 9:00 am-6:00pm. We always welcome your donations of meals and in-kind goods.



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 the House for an order form, or fill out and send the order form attached to this e-mail.

Just in time for the Holidays!

Give the gift that will last a lifetime AND provide funds to help families of similarly ill children stay together. Our brick pavers cost an \$10K and be placed on our path to our new playground, and can be engraved with your special message or name.

To order yours today scan the QR code, visit [bricksrus.com/donorsite/rmhg](https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/rmhg) or call 409.762.8770



Contact Janie@RMHG.org for drop off scheduling of meals and donations.



Farewell, Donald

It is with heavy hearts we mourn the passing of Donald Lewis. Donald served the House for 19 years as our maintenance go-to guy. He was indispensable in doing all those

chores no one else wanted to do. He was also the chauffeur, driving our children and families to their appointments at the hospitals. We will miss his cheerful smile. Our prayers are with his family. Below is a letter from the family of Emi, just one of the children he touched.

To my great friend, Donald,

Thinking that I am writing a goodbye letter breaks my soul, because you touched our hearts even from a distance, it did not matter, our love continued to grow.

You were the inseparable friend, the accomplice of mischief, the playmate. Going to the Doctor in Galveston was always the reason for one more hope that Emi would recover his sight; but what excited Emi was going to see his friends, his second family, his house Ronald. Remembering so many beautiful moments makes tears roll down my cheeks.

How can we forget that voice so hoarse and strong, that when Emiliano heard it he jumped with emotion and immediately ran to look for you to take your hand and walk together to the elevator, or go directly to your office. There are so many anecdotes my good friend that I would never know how to give thanks for them all: so many days full of laughter, playing the piano, walking in the garden, or working in the cellar. Emi loved to "help" you, or take your coke in the board room and take your snack.

We watched them together sitting without saying anything, they just laughed and my child was so happy, with your phrase "HEY EMI", you don't need so many words in the language of the heart.

He was happy that you surprised him with his McQueen toy. I saw in your eyes how you liked to see Emi happy, and each time you said goodbye back home, you had the doubt, "what happens when Emi grows up? Will he continue to be excited like this, will he remember us?"

Today I can tell you that after these long years of not seeing each other, and Emi now at 13 with his limited vision, we came back just to see the House. My Emi ran excited recognizing everything, and arrived at the warehouse to knock on your door, but there was no one there; he ran to the next door and wanted to open it, we didn't have the opportunity to see you and with lies we put him in the car

to return. But I can tell you that yes, my dear friend, your Emi keeps remembering and loving you because the mark you left on his heart is forever.

Fly high friend, God has given you your wings to be another angel. I have no doubt that from there you will continue to care for my child. Thank you for so much love to my Emi, thank you for giving him so much happiness in the most difficult moments for us.

It's not goodbye my friend, it's a see you later; we will never, never forget your memories, your memory and all the love.

Emi will never forget you. Thanks my great friend Donald, now my beautiful blue angel.



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.

