

HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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



As we enter a New Year, we are so very thankful for our staff, volunteers, board members and supporters who made 2023 such a wonderful year at the House. We welcomed new volunteers and new staff members, who are filling some of our need areas. (We could use more volunteers; call Janie at 409-762-8770 ext. 280 for more info.) Our hearts are full with the many donations of food, household items, toys and fun occasions for our children and families. We welcomed a nice crowd and wonderful donations for the first Lights of Love we've held since Covid. Our House is now full of families benefitting from the love that you have shown them. After several difficult years with Covid and the flood in our House, we are happy to see our House once again fulfilling our mission of providing seriously ill children and their families safe, cheerful surroundings and the support of other families, volunteers and staff. Thanks to you all!

Christ, The Moore Sisters, Pat Lanier and Bill Posnick, Maryellen LeDuc, Maria Burns, Harriett Cobb, Heart of Refuge, First Baptist Church, Clear Point Church of Pasadena, Temple Emmanuel Christian Church, Galveston Rotary Club, Mike McNamara and Friends, The Bricks, The Gou Family, McDonald's Restaurant, Vera Carmona, the Alvarado Family, Holy Family Parish Youth, La Nopalera, Mike Robertson, Sheri Muse, Galveston Lions Club, and the Trevino Group. On Christmas Day, Rosa of El Nopalito Restaurant dropped off a special Pozole.

The UTMB PM & R Interest Group led a Bingo session, as did Paula Friesner and Laurel Sukel. Darrell from Galveston Home Depot came with projects for the children, aided by Paula Friesner & Laurel Sukel. Santa Gonzalez once again came and gave haircuts to our families. Thanks to all for making spirits bright!

Santas of Many Forms

Santa loves our House! He visited in his usual garb several times, once on Dec 3. And he came in many other forms. He really brightened the kids' days!



Happy Birthday!

- 1/7 Lucy Bourgeois
- 1/27 Albert Chavarria
- 1/29 Frances Estrada



December Happenings

The families greatly enjoyed special meals and treats this month from the Broadway Church of



JANUARY

January 2024

Alicia Spicer and SCENTSY sisters, friends, and family collected gifts over the year and brought them to our Kids.



Sandra De Leon's Zumba group from Texas City and Anita and Luna from Houston and Pasadena came dressed as Santa and Mrs. Claus, Grinch and Christmas Teddy Bear, bringing dinner, gifts, homemade sweets and hot chocolate. We sang Feliz Navidad and enjoyed the characters so much.



Pico Cardenas of Bossletics Gym visited bearing special gifts for the children.



Lt. Tommy Hanson of the Galveston Country Sherriff's office is one of those special people who makes the world a better place. He has spearheaded support for our House and other worthy endeavors for many years. As he retires after 50 years of service, we would like to thank him, his Citizens Academy Alumni, his Beat the Heat Racing and all those others he has led. We salute you! This year the County Sheriffs brought trailers full of household goods and gifts for the House.



Cavazos International Realty and the Jamaica Beach Police came with a Santa Grinch bearing presents.



We want to include everyone's birthdays & special announcements. Please let us know of any errors or if we've forgotten anything



This is Devin. He and his mother, Rebecca Lanclos, brought us presents at Christmas. Devin spent his first Christmas in a NICU unit, while his mother stayed at a Ronald McDonald House.



UTMB Osler Student Scholars are continually engaged in community service. Bryan Pearson used his annual special project funds and brought a check allowing us to purchase much needed items for our families. The Osler students also gave us special fire safety books. What a great way to spread holiday cheer!



The UTMB House Officer Association (HOA) wrapped gifts and the HOA and UTMB Resiterns and the Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME) came to deliver toys and books. The Resiterns teamed with Rosenberg Library and the Galveston Farmers Market to collect the toys for our children.



Friendswood High School students delivered blankets for the families. Robert Fong and the Pan American Golf Association came for a tour of the House and gave us a very welcome check and toys. McDonald's Restaurant (Carrie's Flores Team) threw us a Christmas Patio Party and dinner. Luis Trevino dropped off toys. Other toys and gifts came from Gloria M and from the South Texas Boiler Industries. And we were delighted to welcome our traditional Santa Claus (aka Jerry Stone) for our Christmas party on December 20. We are very grateful to all our "Santas". ❤️



Our December opened with our Lights of Love Celebration. Traditionally, this was a community party as our House was lit for the holidays, not only with illumination, but also with the love of and for the Galveston community. It was a special celebration this year, as it was the first since Covid. Local school children performed dances and songs, Home Depot provided projects and expertise for the kids, board members donated a plethora of silent auction gift baskets (beautifully put together by Janice Pierson, Lindsay Touchy and Laurie Popovich), and Janie Puentes, Ann Blanchard, Pat Lanier, Paula Roberts turned our garage into a magical wonderland. Santa (aka Randy Trncak) and his very capable elves, Nessa and Slade Hodge, made sure that all the children had presents. Our thanks to the many, many people who made the evening such a special occasion for all.



Oppe Elementary Campus of Coastal Studies Hispanic Dancers put on a delightful show.



Burnet School Folklorica Group performed traditional dances for all.



Student Carolers entertained.



Our elves provided face painting



Our DJ kept the music and fun going, and the Silent Auction was successfully contested!



Party goers were treated to special goodies by Double Dave's Pizza Works, Cosmic Cookers, the Moore Sisters, Hooters, Southwest Airlines, Moody Bank, the Proletariat Gallery and Public House, Jamaica Beach Police, Beverly Watts, Newsome Family, Dave Powers and Coca Cola, Ben and Jerry's, McDonalds, Independence Coffee, and Brothers Produce Company.



Hamburgers and hot dogs and chips and wings and pizza and popcorn and dozens and dozens of home-baked cookies and cupcakes and ice cream and oranges and hot chocolate and candies and cokes, oh my!

Our families closed the evening with a spirited rendition of Feliz Navidad.



Thank You

Have you noticed the beautiful tree and House decorations in these photos? Those are thanks to the very talented Ann Blanchard and her family!



New Volunteers & Staff

We welcome John Beatty and Leslie Rodriguez as our newest volunteers, and Irma Lopez as a new Weekend Manager. We're so happy you are part of the Ronald McDonald House Galveston family!



January Volunteer Anniversaries

Maryellen LeDuc - 16 years
Terri Prescott 4 years
Laurel Sukel - 1 year



Our Staff are the very best. They have done an amazing job coping with the Covid restrictions and being short-staffed. They also were instrumental in making Lights of Love a success.

Staff Anniversaries

Frances Estrada 11 years
Lidia Polio - 11 years

Most Wanted

Our wish lists are posted every Wednesday on our Facebook Page (be sure to like us!), as well as on our website, www.rmhg.org. The Facebook post also has a link to an Amazon Wish List if you'd like to order something to be shipped directly to us.

Our most needed items now are:

- A Luggage Scale
- Dish Soap
- Paper Plates
- Forks
- Coffee
- Face Masks

Call ahead to let us know you're coming~
409-762-8770 ext. 280
Curbside Delivery Hours - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm



As we close out 2023, we are very grateful to all of you who supported us this past year. We're looking forward to an even better 2024, and hope you are, too!