

HOUSE HAPPENINGS

A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family



Happy August! Summer has been bustling at Ronald McDonald House Galveston. Our guest rooms are full, and we've added new admissions software to better serve our families. Thanks to UTMB Maintenance, important improvements are underway, while our families and volunteers have brightened our garage with cheerful painting. Our new van has taken families on memorable outings, our new emergency generator is in place, volunteers have kept everyone well-fed with delicious meals, and generous donors helped make our very first Fourth of July Block Party a tremendous success. Thank you to everyone who makes our House a welcoming home away from home!

July Happenings



The Giving Doll of Alvin brought smiles and comfort to our House with beautiful handmade dolls, each accompanied by a matching blanket, tote bag, and a heartfelt message of love, faith, hope, joy, and comfort. These precious, comforting gifts will be treasured by the children who receive them. Our sincere thanks to the talented and generous members of The Giving Doll of Alvin for sharing their time, creativity, and compassion with our families.



A heartfelt thank-you to the Brave Like Me Foundation for its generous donation of inspiring children's books! Our young readers have loved them, and we've already incorporated them into our curriculum. After reading Finnegan the Football, the children shared their favorite parts through creative artwork. The Foundation's mission is to spread joy, hope, courage, and encouragement through

literature—a beautiful reminder that our children are brave every single day, especially on their hardest ones.



A baby kangaroo, baby chicks, a tortoise, and guinea pigs...oh my! If there's one thing we love at Ronald McDonald House Galveston, it's a surprise visit from some adorable furry—and not-so-furry—friends! Our heartfelt thanks to Jungle Jim's Petting Zoo for bringing these amazing animals to delight our families, volunteers, and staff. From cuddles to smiles, the day was picture-perfect from beginning to end—and the baby kangaroo was the cherry on top! Thank you, Jim, for making memories our families will never forget.



Christmas in July! Christmas came early. We are so thankful for the abundance of love and goods gifted to us for our Christmas in July drive. A BIG thank you to McCoy's and the Galveston County Citizen Sheriff's Academy Alumni Association! Our families were thrilled with their ride in the Sheriff's Polar Express.





Our newest neighbor, the authentic French Bakery Bleu Sucre, comes two or three times a week to drop off the unsold fresh baked breads, sandwiches and desserts to our House. Delicious treats from right down the street! All of Galveston is raving about this new business, and we're delighted with their treats. BEST. Neighbors. Ever. Thanks, Bleu Sucre!



Our heartfelt thanks for the gigantic check from the Bayou Vista Golf Tournament! A special shout-out to Landa and her incredible team for their hard work and dedication in organizing this wonderful event. It truly takes a village, and Ronald McDonald House Galveston is grateful to be part of yours. Thank you to every golfer, sponsor, volunteer, and donor whose generosity will help provide comfort and care for the families we serve. Your support makes all the difference!



The Sovereign United Supreme Council brought us a truckload of goods from our wish list, including canned goods, paper goods, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, laundry detergent, water

and more. Thanks to this awesome, caring council for this massive assortment of needed items. They brought the love!



Our House was overflowing with kindness thanks to Trinity Episcopal Church! Jackie and her wonderful team arrived with an incredible donation of fresh fruit, paper products, books, and craft supplies—gifts that will bring comfort and joy to our families for weeks to come. We were also delighted to give them a tour and share the mission of Ronald McDonald House Galveston. Thank you for your generosity, your hearts for service, and for becoming part of our House family! If your group would like a tour, call us!

Our Why



There are few moments more rewarding than welcoming former families back through our doors. Seeing children who once filled our House during treatments return as healthy, thriving adults is a beautiful reminder of why we're here. Recently, TJ stopped by with his wife. After years of staying with us during his treatments at Shriners, he wanted to revisit the House that had become a second home. Together, we toured the House, shared hugs, and reminisced about the memories made within these walls. The Bernal Family also stopped by for a reunion with their baby girl who is thriving and getting stronger each day. In 2018, Jamie

AUGUST

August 2026

Boyd spent 28 days at Ronald McDonald House Galveston after a vacation became an unexpected NICU stay for newborn Jameson. Eight years later, Jamie returned with Jameson and his sister, Scarlett, to revisit the House that helped her through those difficult days. She even comforted a current NICU family preparing to take their baby home. Thank you, Jamie, for your generous donation and for reminding us that the greatest gift is seeing our families return healthy, happy, and thriving. Visits like TJ's, the Bernals and the Boyds remind us that while a family's stay may end, they will always remain part of the Ronald McDonald House Galveston family.



One night's stay has become a lasting blessing. Before Isaiah's surgery, he and his family returned to Ronald McDonald House Galveston with nearly 40 Scentsty stuffed animals and cozy neck pillows for our families. From Highland cows and dragons to puppies and turtles, the stuffed animals quickly became treasured companions, while the neck pillows provided much-needed comfort for parents and children alike. Seeing our kids proudly carry their new friends to breakfast the next morning was pure joy. Lizzy, Isaiah, and family, thank you for your incredible generosity and for filling our House with comfort, smiles, and love.



We're always delighted (and a little sad) when our families get to return to their homes and loved ones. A fond farewell to the Spinato Family, who spent 86 days with us while their adorable baby Leia was in the UTMB NICU. We are so glad to have you as part of the Ronald McDonald House family. We love you and can't wait to see you again soon! ❤️💛💚

Making Birthday Magic



Birthdays are a big deal at our House. Our children and families are far from their homes, and we want to make sure their special occasions are duly celebrated at their home away from home. Brayan and his dad Roberto have been staying with us for four and a half months, and he is like a brother to many of our children and family to all of us. So we couldn't let his special day go by with a big celebration! Feliz cumpleaños Brayan! We love you. Here's to 14! ❤️🎉



Three birthdays. One amazing celebration! Thanks to Anita Botita Clown Show for filling our House with cake, bubbles, face paint, magic, and endless smiles as we celebrated three of our teen guests. The laughter was contagious, the memories priceless, and the fun exactly what our families needed. Thank you for making the day so special!



Dinnertime



Once again, thanks to Southwest Airlines employees who never fail to provide a truly delicious and heartwarming meal to our families.





Layers of Love lives up to their name, bringing gifts of love and warmth and smiles, and yumminess! Thank you!



A heartfelt thank-you to the Galveston Rotary Club for treating our families to a delicious donor dinner! They prepared homemade chili and cornbread, and with all the toppings, everyone enjoyed a fun chili bar. More than a wonderful meal, they shared kindness, fellowship, and a reminder that our families are surrounded by a caring community. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Other meals were provided in July by Cosmic Cookers, the Broadway Church of Christ, the Moore Sisters, Drs. Pat and Bill, Maryellen LeDuc, the Galveston Rotary Club, UTMB, the First Baptist Church, Westward Church, Eddie with the McDonald's Corp, John and Jan Brick, the Temple Emmanuel Christian church, McDonald's Lucero, Southwest Airlines, Layers of Love, Ruth and Marshall Yost, Vera Carmona, Helen and Gayle King, United We Stand, Maria Tabaracci, Cathy Mclean and Carolyn Nelson Becker, Vera Carmona, McDonald's Carrie Perez, the National Charity League of Space City and our Super Chef Lonnie. You are SO appreciated!

Would your organization like to give back with a meal for our families? It's a great opportunity to support the community, to promote the fellowship of your organization, and to bring nourishment and smiles to our families. We are launching a new program just for you! Come cook with Chef Lonnie!



Cook with CHEF LONNIE

CHEF LED PROGRAM

MORE THAN A MEAL.
IT'S CONNECTION, COMMUNITY & CARE.

A unique hands-on cooking experience where sponsors and volunteers come together with Chef Lonnie to prepare a delicious meal for the families staying at RMHG.

HOW IT WORKS

YOU JOIN For \$250, you sponsor a meal for the families at RMHG.	WE PROVIDE All ingredients are purchased by us—fresh, high quality, and ready to cook!	YOU COOK Come to our house and cook side-by-side with Chef Lonnie and fellow volunteers.	WE SHARE Enjoy the meal together and know you made a difference in the lives of families.
--	--	--	---

WHY SPONSOR?

- Support the families who call RMHG home while their child receives medical care.
- Build connections and create lasting memories.
- Enjoy a fun, chef-led experience that gives back.
- Help us continue providing comfort, meals, and a home-away-from-home.

YOUR IMPACT
Your sponsorship provides not only a meal, but also hope, encouragement, and a sense of community for families going through challenging times.

Let's cook up change—together!
SPONSOR TODAY. MAKE A LASTING IMPACT.

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE FAMILIES AT RMHG
Thank you for helping us keep families close when they need it most.

CONTACT US
EMAIL: RMHG@RMHG.ORG
MONICA LIMA
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
MONICA@RMHG.ORG

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE:
WWW.RMHG.ORG
A home. A community. A purpose.

GOOD FOOD. GREAT PEOPLE. STRONGER TOGETHER.

SPONSOR A MEAL FOR THE FAMILIES AT RMHG

\$250

BE PART OF SOMETHING MEANINGFUL.

Experiences



Our families love visiting the Moody Gardens Pyramids! Thanks to the generosity of wonderful donors, our guest passes allow different families to enjoy this special outing every two weeks. It's a welcome break from hospital routines, filled with fun, discovery, and unforgettable memories. Thank you to those who make these adventures possible!



Our children face challenges most of us can only imagine, and every one of them deserves a team cheering them on. We celebrated Sofia's amazing courage following her tough treatment with all her favorite things—chicken Alfredo, cupcakes, and everything pink! A special thank-you to Dr. Pat, Lidia, Daisy, and our incredible staff for surrounding Sofia with so much love and making her day unforgettable. Sofia, we're all in your corner and are honored to be part of your journey. Keep shining—we're cheering for you every step of the way! ❤️



Master Polio earned a black belt in generosity! He surprised every one of his taekwondo students at Ronald McDonald House Galveston with a brand-new dobok, making our Friday evening karate class extra special. The children proudly wore their new uniforms with big smiles and even bigger confidence. Thank you, Master Polio, for your kindness, encouragement, and for inspiring our kids to stay strong—one lesson at a time!



Our guests have amazing artistic talent. Every week Daisy leads an art party, Lidia uses art in her lessons, and Pat Lanier and friends are helping our kids decorate our under-house parking and laundry area. The artwork is so good, several children exhibited and sold their works at Marmo Plaza during Galveston's Artwalk. Thanks to our volunteers whose art therapy is so beneficial, to Marmo for their sponsorship, and to our very talented kids (who were delighted with their sales)!

Our families also enjoyed wonderful outings and activities throughout the month. From shopping trips to Walmart, Ross, and Burlington to beach days on the Seawall, ferry rides to spot dolphins, SMART Family Literacy story time at The Spot, and in-house "free shopping," there was always something to look forward to. Add in Bingo, karate, music, and art lessons, and it's easy to see why our families feel so loved. A heartfelt thank-you to our incredible volunteers and generous donors for making these special moments possible!

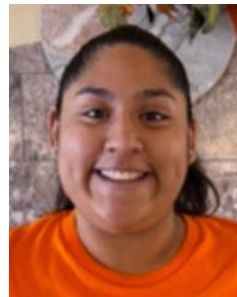
Volunteer and Staff News



Congrats to our Fabulous Director of House Operations Monica, who was recognized for her professional accomplishments and service to the community in the Galveston County Daily News's 40 under 40 annual list. So well-deserved!

Employee of the Month

Ximena Villa



Ximena has been a valued member of the Ronald McDonald House Galveston team since October 2025. Fluent in Spanish and passionate about serving others, she has become a favorite among our families and staff. Her warm smile, positive spirit, and compassionate heart brighten every evening shift, and families are always happy to see her walk through the door. Ximena, thank you for the kindness, dedication, and joy you bring to our House each day. We are so grateful to have you on our team!

Happy Volunteer Anniversary

Gloria Appell - 14 years
Kimberly Lyke - 2 years
Beverly LaRock - 2 years
Daisy Martinez - 2 years

Happy Birthday

August 22 - Shirley Jahn

Happy Work Anniversary

Mayra Monreal - 1 year
Monica Lima-Torres - 1 year
Estella Guerra - 2 years

In Our Thoughts

Our Ronald McDonald House Galveston family experienced heartbreaking losses this month. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dixie Messner and her family on the passing of Ron, a devoted friend and steadfast supporter of our House. We also hold our chef, Lonnie, and his family close in our thoughts and prayers following the loss of his father. May you find comfort in knowing you are surrounded by a community that cares deeply for you. Our hearts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.



The Lakewood Methodist Houston volunteer group also helped spiffy up our downstairs area with delightfully colorful paint. The cheerful scheme cannot help but brighten up the days for our families. Our huge thanks for your contributions.

Happy 250, America!

We held our first ever Fourth of July Bash, welcoming our whole community. And it was a community effort, with a multitude of donors and volunteers. Party goers enjoyed face painting, a bounce house, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, music, local vendors, a raffle, special occasion t-shirts (designed in a contest by our kids), and fun for all ages. A heartfelt thank-you to the Darling family, Dash Gordon, Michelle Byrd, and the many generous donors, volunteers, and staff who made this celebration possible. Together, we celebrated our nation's spirit by sharing kindness, serving others, and making a difference in our community.



Once a volunteer, always family. After more than 20 years of faithful service, Joy Jordan recently returned to visit—and arrived with an extraordinary gift: an electric wheelchair for our House. We were delighted to welcome Joy back and are deeply grateful for her continued generosity and unwavering support. Thank you, Joy, for once again making a meaningful difference in the lives of our families.



A whole hearted thank-you to the incredible volunteers from Marathon, Strake Jesuit, and Metro Detroit for spending the past few weeks organizing, painting, cleaning, and helping make our House brighter, fresher, and more welcoming for the families we serve. Your hard work, generosity, and willingness to roll up your sleeves truly made a difference. We are so grateful for each of you. Thank you for being a member of the House that Love Built family!





Upcoming Events

October 25 – Family Fun Event at the Galveston Historic Pleasure Pier



Save the Date for the Most Fun You'll Have All Year!

Get ready for Ronald McDonald House Galveston's Family Fun Event—our biggest fundraiser of the year! Instead of a formal gala, we're throwing a one-of-a-kind family party at the iconic Galveston Historic Pleasure Pier, where fun is the dress code.

Enjoy thrilling rides, delicious food, games, prizes, cotton candy, Dippin' Dots, gift bags, surprises, and memories that will last a lifetime. It's the perfect opportunity to spend time together, introduce your little ones to the joy of giving back, and let everyone—from ages 1 to 100—embrace their inner child. Come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume or simply come as you are. Everyone is welcome! Sponsorship opportunities are coming soon. For more information, call Ronald McDonald House Galveston today. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Wish List

HELP KEEP FAMILIES CLOSE

When a child is receiving medical treatment, families should be able to focus on healing—not everyday necessities. Your donations help provide a comfortable "home away from home" for families staying at Ronald McDonald House Galveston.

★ PANTRY ITEMS

- Fresh fruits
- Fresh vegetables
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Granola bars
- Crackers
- Applesauce cups
- Fruit cups
- Juice boxes
- Bottled water
- Coffee and K-Cups
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Jelly

HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Facial tissue
- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Dish soap
- Dishwasher pods
- All-purpose cleaner
- Disinfecting wipes
- Trash bags (13-gallon & kitchen size)
- Hand soap

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shaving cream
- Razors
- Feminine hygiene products

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Puzzles
- Card games
- Board games
- Children's books
- Craft kits

GIFT CARDS

- Walmart
- H-E-B
- Kroger
- Target
- Amazon
- Sam's Club
- Visa Gift Cards

EVERY DONATION HELPS PROVIDE COMFORT, CARE, AND HOPE TO FAMILIES WITH SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN.

Please Note

- We kindly ask that all donated items be new and unopened.
- Fresh produce is always appreciated when arranged with the House in advance.
- For current high-priority needs, please visit www.rmhg.org or contact the House directly, as wish list needs are updated regularly.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE GALVESTON

301 14th Street
Galveston, TX 77550
(409) 762-8770
www.rmhg.org
[Facebook.com/RMHGalveston](https://www.facebook.com/RMHGalveston)

Thank you for helping us keep families close!

Donations may be dropped off curbside—just call, and we'll come out to collect them. You're also welcome to come inside for a tour. Please call ahead to let us know you're coming. (409) 762-8770



May your summer activities be fun and safe and joyful, as you have made our children and families!