



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family



Happy April! Spring's promise of fresh beginnings fills our hearts with joy—especially for the families at Ronald McDonald House Galveston, where children are on their journey to recovery. Thanks to our incredible staff, devoted supporters, caring volunteers, and dedicated board members, each day is made brighter and more uplifting. Together, they help ease burdens, create moments of joy, and make sure kids can simply be kids—even during the toughest times. Thanks to you all!

these deserving moms with roses, cakes, and a handmade banner filled with love. Juan Pablo even went the extra mile, treating Jackie to a homemade breakfast! It all came together to create a beautiful, joy-filled celebration these wonderful moms will always remember. 🌸🍰🎉



A BIG thank you to the State Bar Association for their incredible bike donation. We were thrilled to be invited to The Tremont House to cheer on their team during relay races—on the very bikes they built for the House. Fourteen members later visited our House for a tour, where they enjoyed meeting our families and sharing the joy their bikes will bring. Thank you, State Bar Association, for your generosity and for creating such a fun and meaningful experience! 🚲💖



Dr. Pat Lanier, Natalie Hodge and Paula Roberts once again worked their magic, transforming our House into a magical springtime fantasy that delighted our families.



With a recent wave of little ones at the House, we realized we were missing a very important basic—highchairs! One quick social media post later, and the response was incredible. We were flooded with donations and now have a highchair in each of our dining areas—and they're already being put to great use. Once again, Galveston showed up in the best way for our House! 💖



Happy Birthday

- April 6 - Jaun Chavarria
- April 18 - Linda Starnes
- April 18 - Tammy Cervantes

March Happenings

La-Z-Boy, as a national partner of Ronald McDonald Houses, provided us with two beautiful new sofa beds, giving us more options for housing our families. Thanks to them!

Our Moms and caregivers spend 24/7 with their children while staying at our House. They are very special people, dealing with their children's health issues and being away from their homes and families. Juan Pablo and Daniel both came to us with one heartfelt mission: to make their moms' birthdays truly unforgettable. We were delighted to help surprise



Juan Pablo has been coming to our House over the past five years during his treatments at Shriners. Our Lonnie invited him to speak at Our Daily Bread, our local homeless shelter. Juan Pablo joined their lunch

service to share a heartfelt and motivational message, offering hope and encouragement not just to survive, but to truly thrive.





He continues to be a shining light to everyone he encounters—often even asked by Shriners physicians to speak with fellow patients facing loss and hardship. His strength, compassion, and resilience leave a lasting impact wherever he goes. To say we are proud of this remarkable young man doesn't quite capture it. Juan Pablo, thank you for being such an inspiring example to us all. ❤️



Our staff and president had a wonderful and productive visit to UTMB's Pediatric floor and PICU. We connected with staff, shared updated brochures, and joined in a valuable roundtable discussion with key leaders in pediatric care. The conversations offered great insight into how we can better support this patient population and care for parents staying in UTMB patient rooms. There's so much positive momentum—and many exciting ideas already taking shape! 💡



Every week our volunteer Daisy comes and delights our families with one of their favorite activities—art parties! 🎨



We continue to support the artists in the House and brought our families to their first Art Walk in March. Chasidy and Oscar escorted our guests to a variety of local galleries and they left feeling inspired!



To say we are in awe of our kiddos at the House is truly an understatement! Each year, in honor of Earth Day, UTMB hosts a drawing contest—and this year, the 1st place design, which will be featured on a t-shirt, was created by our very own IVAN! 🎨

Ivan is not only an incredible artist, but also a wonderful human being. He's part of an amazingly talented group of children here at the House who continue to shine in so many ways—especially through their creativity. We're also proud to celebrate a 2nd place win for Brayan and five honorable mentions from our House! Congratulations to Ivan, Brayan, Elizabeth, Ashley, Daniela, Gladiely, and Thaylli—we are SO incredibly proud of each of you. ❤️💛❤️



After nearly one month, little Luvli and her parents, Carley and Carlos were able to head home. This family loved the House. They took every field trip, participated in each activity and cried when they left. We wish them the best in this next part of their journey with this beautiful little bundle of joy. Our thanks to all of you who made this stay enjoyable and possible.



In honor of Social Work Month, we were delighted to host an appreciation luncheon last week for our incredible Shriners partners. With a full house in attendance, the afternoon was filled with meaningful conversation and shared insights on best practices to better serve and support our families. We enjoyed great food, plenty of laughter, and guided tours—and to say our guests were impressed with our recent updates would be an



understatement! We are so grateful for our Shriners collaborators and are excited to continue growing this partnership together. Teamwork truly is the key to success! ♥



We took our families on a field trip to the Rosenberg Library petting zoo. Goats and calves and even a baby kangaroo! Our families gave and received so much loving. How much fun was this!



It was time for Juan Pablo and his mom Jackie to depart, once again. We celebrated his birthday and bid them farewell with a party. They will be back in August. We were so happy to celebrate this amazing young man with presents, two birthday cakes, a piñata and a game of basketball with the entire House.

NICU dad Oscar has been such a fun and welcoming mentor, taking some of our kiddos under his wing to teach them the ins and outs of PlayStation. The kids have loved gaming together and picking up all his tricks of the trade. A big thank you to Ruben for keeping all our gaming systems up and running so these special moments can happen. You both are making a difference in the best way—our very own GAMING GUYS! 🎮♥



We celebrated Read Across America, aka DR. SEUSS DAY with our families. Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!!! "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more things you learn, the more places you'll go!" -Dr. Seuss All ages were front and center for story time with the Cat in the hat himself! Thank you Ryan and Karen Anderson



for the amazing visit!



filled with laughter, joy, and special memories for our families. Thank you, ShyKatz! 🌸🐰💖



A heartfelt thank you to The Bridge Family for generously purchasing every item on our WISH LIST! The House was in great need of infant essentials and post-partum items for moms, and the Bridges showed up in a truly big way.

Because of their kindness, our shelves are fully restocked and ready to support the families who need us most. We are so grateful for your generosity and care—thank you for making such a meaningful difference! 💖



When the Yarbrough Family asked what our families would enjoy most, the answer came instantly: bowling and a movie in Spanish! Thanks to Erin and Beau, that dream became a reality. Families from our House, Shriners, and UTMB came together for a joyful day filled with bowling, a Disney movie, pizza, popcorn, and so much more. It was heartwarming to see the kids participate in activities that proved they can do it! It was a truly special experience and a dream come true for many. We are incredibly grateful for this thoughtful and generous gift! 🎳🍿💖

Soundbar and The Galveston Happy Hour Club teamed up to spread some Easter joy at the House. Together, they delivered over 25 beautifully filled Easter baskets. The kids had so much fun choosing their favorite colors and discovering all the treats tucked inside. We are so grateful for the kindness and generosity of these wonderful community partners who helped make the holiday extra special! 🐰💖



What a beautiful Sunday it was! ShyKatz hosted a wonderful Pre-Easter Eggstravaganza at Kempner Park, and all our House families joined in the fun—Easter baskets in hand and smiles all around. From chili dogs and donuts to face painting, rock painting, bead-making, and an exciting egg hunt, there was something for everyone to enjoy. And of course, a visit from the Easter Bunny made the day even more magical! It was a perfect spring day





James Newsom chose a project for our House for his Eagle Scout Service Project to earn the Eagle Scout rank —and wow, did he go above and beyond! Not just one Lego table as promised, but FOUR creative options for our families to enjoy. From a clever crawfish-inspired table (complete with a center opening for easy cleanup) to two TV tray Lego tables and even a lap table designed for our wheelchair guests, every detail was thoughtfully crafted. Kids instantly gathered around and started building. James told us, "This project took a lot of time, patience and hard work but I can already tell it was worth it." These have already brought so much joy to our families, and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you and congratulations, James, for your creativity, generosity, and heart! ♥

Flowers and everyone else who helped make it such a success, and thank you for your continued support of our House! ♥



Shout-out to Jamaica Beach Hardware for their FULL RMHG point of sale donation canister! Let us know if your business needs one of these beauties at the register!



A sweet donation came to us via Sai and his dad Arun from SATHYA Sai Center Of South Houston this week. We can always count on Jayanthy and the team to come through with needs off our wish list for the week. Thank you for always being a huge supporter for the Ronald McDonald House!

Our families also had other activities to keep them busy and happy. Every Wednesday is "Shopping" day, when we give them tickets to select goods (clothing, toys, etc.) donated to us. (Thanks to our donors!) We also provide transportation for a shopping trip to Walmart and the Dollar Store so they can "get out of the House" and purchase things for their needs. We make a monthly trip to the Galveston Children's Museum, Paula Friesner and Laurel Sukel treat them to a movie night and a bingo night at the House, and Santa comes to give our families haircuts. In March, the Interact/Rotary Club came and hosted a very fun game night.

Volunteer News



Our 14th Annual Mah Jongg Spring Fundraiser at the San Luis Ballroom was a HUGE success! Thanks to the incredible support of our Board members and community—through volunteering, donating, and attending—it was truly a beautiful and memorable event. We've been so grateful to hear all the positive feedback and kind words that followed. Bravo to Janice Pierson, Karen



We've had an exciting surge in volunteer applications lately—over 12 new volunteers in just the past few months. WOW!

Last week, we were thrilled to welcome our newest group, students from San Jacinto College. These amazing ladies jumped right in, helping organize our abundance of food donations onto our new shelves and making our workflow smoother than ever.





SJC students, we are so happy to have you on the team—thank you for your energy, heart, and helping hands!

WELCOME VOLUNTEERS! ♥



If you'd like to volunteer, fill out the form on our website (rmhg.org), or call the House. We welcome your help!

Happy Meals



Cosmic Cookers, our rocket scientist friends, came once again and cooked a really yummy meal for our families. This dependable bunch always shows up with smiles on their faces and energy to spare! The House delights in having them in our kitchen and we love their commitment to making our families happy. Thanks, Cosmic Cookers, for not only the food, but for your devotion.



We're so grateful for our newest guest chefs, the Lyday Family! This wonderful trio jumped right in, preparing a delicious taco bar that our families truly enjoyed. It was a joy to have them in

the House, and we can't wait to welcome the Lydays back again soon. Thank you for sharing your time and heart with us! 🍌♥



The Rotary Club of Galveston delivered another fantastic dinner complete with ground beef tacos, rice, salsa, and all the fixings, rounded off with cookies and cupcakes. Thank you, Rotary Club of Galveston. You all are always one of our favorites!!



Temple Emmanuel Christian Church hosted a dinner that was both delicious and enjoyable! We are so grateful for your visits and it's always a pleasure seeing you!! Thank you!

Other meals were provided in March by the Moore Sisters, Dr. Pat & Bill, Maryellen LeDuc, Cosmic Cookers, the Broadway Church of Christ, the Westward Church of Christ, the Galveston Rotary Club, the First Baptist Church, McDonald's Corp- Eddie Rex, Vera Carmona, McDonald's Lucero, John and Jan Brick, Southwest Airlines, Layers of Love, Helen and Gayle King, United We Stand, Ruth and Marshall Yost, Interact/Rotary club, Holy Family church, and our chef Lonnie. Thanks to all who provide these meals that warm our families' tummies and souls.

Web Update



Exciting news— the Ronald McDonald House Galveston website has been refreshed! We invite you to explore the updated look, featuring vibrant new colors, recent photos, and a spotlight on our amazing House staff.

We hope these enhancements make it even easier to find information about donation and volunteer opportunities. Take a look and let us know what you think: <http://www.mhg.org> ♥





Upcoming Events

Remember, everyone is invited, and that means you!

May 1 – Lemonade Day

May 8-9 – Yaga's Wild Game Cookoff at Moody Gardens

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

LEMONADE DAY
Benefiting the
Ronald McDonald House
of Galveston

We invite you all out for a complimentary
Lemonade at our Ronald McDonald House!

301 14th Street • Friday, May 1st • 10am - 2pm

Can't make it out? You can still help the House by:

Click "Donate" on our website

Mail checks to:
Ronald McDonald House of Galveston
30114th Street, Galveston, TX 77550

Call: 409-762-8770

Please include "LEMONADE DAY" in the notes section when donating online!

All who kindly donate \$20 or more will receive a **SPECIAL GIFT** from our House during Lemonade Day!

Scan to Donate!

Yaga's Childrens Fund has been a valuable friend and contributor to our House for many years. We support their efforts in their fundraisers, including the upcoming Yaga's Wild Game Cookoff, with ticket purchases, volunteering, event participation and silent auction donations. The amount that we receive for our grants is based on how much we help. We could use your help! We receive credit for Rasta Sponsorship Party, YC Raffle and Saturday and BBQ Lunch tickets sold; volunteer participation (this is really fun); donated silent auction items and assistance with procuring items, and event engagement, including participation in the 5-K Fun Run. Please let us know if you'd like to purchase tickets for Yaga's Cookoff:

- Meal Plate= \$20
- Sponsor Party= \$75
- Sponsor Party & Raffle= \$100

You can sign up to volunteer at the event on-line at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4CAFA929A1F58-62681321-2026#/,](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4CAFA929A1F58-62681321-2026#/) and you can volunteer to assist with judging (and sample the tasty entries) at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4CAFA929A1F58-63237757-2026#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4CAFA929A1F58-63237757-2026#/) You can sign up for the Fun Run at [https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-ycf-5k-fun-run.](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-ycf-5k-fun-run) Be sure to indicate that you are supporting the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston!

Wish List

- ♥ New nursing bras
- ♥ New undergarments for boys and girls (9 yr to teen sizes)
- ♥ Feminine pads
- ♥ Breastfeeding pads
- ♥ Hygiene products (body soap, shampoo, deodorant)
- ♥ Nail clippers and tweezers
- ♥ Suitcases in good working condition
- ♥ Shoes (all sizes; new or gently worn for boys, girls, men & women)
- ♥ \$10 gift cards to Walmart
- ♥ Art supplies
- ♥ Sugar
- ♥ Cooking oil
- ♥ Raw fresh meat: hamburger, chicken
- ♥ Single-serve wrapped snacks
- ♥ Healthy breakfast options (no cereal)
- ♥ Sausage & bacon & Chorizo
- ♥ Oatmeal
- ♥ Coffee and creamer
- ♥ Shredded cheese
- ♥ Fresh fruits and vegetables
- ♥ Cinnamon sticks
- ♥ Sandwich meat and sliced cheese
- ♥ Bottled water
- ♥ Frozen chicken nuggets, pizza, hot pockets
- ♥ Individually wrapped cheese sticks
- ♥ Single serve yogurt
- ♥ Grape and strawberry jam or jelly
- ♥ Lysol bowl cleaner and disinfectant spray
- ♥ Pine-Sol
- ♥ Glass cleaner (aerosol can)
- ♥ Commercial grade black trash bags
- ♥ Fabulosa cleaner
- ♥ Poper towels
- ♥ Sponges

Deliveries can be made to the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston, 301 14th St, Galveston, TX 77550

Call us and let us know when you are coming. (409) 762-8770
You can also order on our Amazon wish list for things to be sent directly to the House.



Thanks to all of you for helping to build "the House that Love Built". Your contributions of time, talents, gifts and energy are what keeps our House running. We treasure you!

