



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family



Happy February! Cupid's arrows are numerous, as our volunteers and staff fling their time and talents to make the Ronald McDonald House Galveston the loving, magical place it is today. Baby, it's cold outside. But our House is filled with the warmth

provided by our staff, volunteers, supporters and board members. Thank you!

Happy Birthday

- February 1 – Mayra Monreal
- February 13 – Dave Lewis
- February 14 – Stella Guerrero



January Happenings



Each year, SLS leads an ambitious annual giving campaign on behalf of the employees of the Sullivan Brothers Family of Companies, with all contributions generously matched by the Sullivan Brothers. Recently, they visited the House to present a very generous check. These funds directly support the comfort and care of our families when it matters most. In addition, this talented team donates their time and expertise to design our Annual Appeal. We are deeply grateful for their continued generosity and support.



We were visited by a family who were guests at Ronald McDonald House 15 years ago. The family was in town and wanted to "pay it forward". They brought us nine cases of water, fruit, bread and lunch meat. We're always delighted by visits from our "Alumni". It was such a wonderful loving gesture that is very much appreciated!



Following an inventory of the House, we addressed several safety and security needs by upgrading equipment, purchasing new safety items, and implementing updated safety and security protocols. Our new generator is now fully operational—HUGE thanks to everyone who helped make this major accomplishment possible. In addition, we are in the process of constructing new back stairs to replace those with safety concerns, with grateful appreciation to UTMB maintenance for their support. We're happy that our families and staff are now better protected.



Our volunteer extraordinaire, Daisy, led a New Year's resolution art project with our families. Each child set goals to make 2026 a year full of courage and achievements! We BELIEVE, always.



The founders of the Joe-Joe Bear Foundation visited the House with an unexpected gift. For more than 10 years, Joe-Joe Bears—handmade in honor of Joe Ortiz, a young leukemia patient whose wish was to comfort children facing fear and isolation—have been a cherished source of comfort for our families. Though the foundation recently dissolved due to rising costs, the founders shared remaining resources with RMHG. We are deeply grateful for their years of compassion and partnership and will truly miss their support. Thousands of kids have been comforted by their teddy bears.





Thanks to a wonderfully fulfilled wish list, we are fully stocked with donated teddy bears, stuffed animals, blankets, and quilts. After sharing our need on social media, we were overwhelmed by the incredible response and generosity of our community. These small but meaningful gifts leave a lasting impact on our guests—each one a piece of RMHG they can take home with them. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped us replenish our supplies for 2026! ❤️



A former Ronald McDonald House guest thought of us while vacationing with his family. This young fella was housed at another TX House a year ago, after undergoing heart surgery and was a direct recipient of the goodness our mission provides. We're delighted he is doing so well. While in Galveston, he decided to stop by and donate stuffed animals to fellow children battling medical issues. Full circle moment and we loved visiting with this family!



Being very blessed by the community means needing extra storage. We are truly grateful for our friends at Home Team Storage on Stewart Road in Galveston. Melinda and her team have done a great job with providing extra storage space for the Ronald McDonald House over the past two years. ❤️

A generous donor donated new teaching aids for our classroom. The kids are especially loving the new supermarket and cash register!



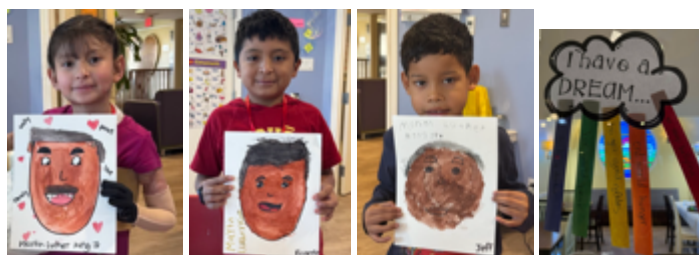
Caroline from Joy Nails does it again! After her neighboring souvenir shop closed its doors a year ago, she inherited all the unused clothing and has gifted the House with 3 clothing drops since. Bags of new shoes, beachwear and other items have been donated by this thoughtful community partner. They also brought home-made curry and rice for our families to enjoy. This meal didn't last long! We thank you for being so good to us, Joy Nails.



The Jack and Jill of America Clear Lake/Bay Area Chapter came to the House to play games, create art and gift our kiddos with homemade snack tackle boxes for their long therapy days. Such a special treat!



With many thanks for a grant from Tempur-Pedic, we received 30 twin and 5 queen mattresses. A huge thank-you to our House staff and the many Dads staying with us who helped unload six pallets of mattresses and box springs. We are now seeking another nonprofit to receive our gently used mattresses (3-5 years old).



In a lesson for Martin Luther King Day, our kids drew portraits of the man.



In preparation for da Krewe du Roux's CHICKEN RUN, Dr. Pat and Paula R. hosted an art party for our children to prep for the event.

Thank you to Crossroad Dogs #177 and all your friends at the Marine Corp League! These stuffed animals will get lots of love from the kiddos here!



It was a cold and windy day, but the Gumbo was hot, and the Chicken Run full of fun and joy. And one of our children and his Dad both caught chickens and trophies! This is an annual event that is so much fun, and the proceeds come to our House and to Shriners. Thank, da Krewe du Roux for a fabulous time.



Many thanks to Southland Title Company for their generous donation. We accept NEW toys and NEW clothes all year for the kiddos here at the house. In 2025, we housed 251 different families with a total of 3,017 nights spent in our house. 🏡 That's a whole lotta love to share! ❤️ If you are interested in volunteering here at the house, please contact us at 409-762-8870 & ask for Monica!



Bingo! Our families really love the Bingo games. Participation and sponsorship opportunities are available. If you wish to sponsor a bingo evening or on a weekend day, please do not hesitate to contact us at 409-762-8770. Thank you to everyone who puts so much effort in the activities at the house for our families!

We try to bring some respite to our families with weekly activities such as Shopping Wednesday, when our guests select clothing, toys and sundries from the items that have been donated to us. We also take field trips to Walmart and the Dollar Store; our families sometimes just like to "get out of the house". Paula Friesner and Laurel Sukel host bingo and arts and crafts parties, and Daisy also hosts weekly arts and crafts parties.





Our January Meal Providers

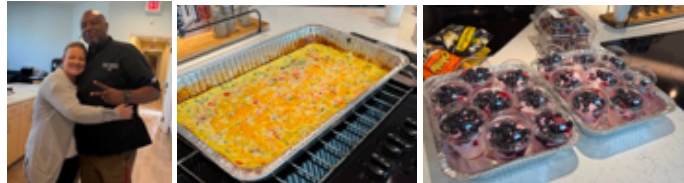
We are committed to a policy of one healthy hot meal each day for each of our families. Our Lonnie added to his duties as a part-time Chef. Lonnie is also the chef for the Our Daily Bread organization which gives support to the homeless. Chef Lonnie lovingly provided a New Years feast and breakfasts for our families during the week and lunch on the weekends. Ruben, our PM shift supervisor, helps by prepping the oven and beginning the baking process, so our guests may enjoy the most important meal of the day by 8AM. Our evening shifter, Tammy, also prepared a yogurt parfait bar, complete with fruit and granola. We applaud our teammates for stepping right up and using their skill sets for the betterment of our House. These meals have been a huge hit with our families.



Chef Lonnie invited the House to Our Daily Bread for a catered event donated by a team out of League City. Judd & Thuy own a pet resort, and their customers sponsor and cook a meal at ODB annually. After meeting the members of our House and our families, the couple came to tour the House and donated a large bag of handmade scarves and hats. They have since volunteered to begin sponsoring the quilts that we gift our guests. What a blessing!

Staff and Volunteer News

Our families and staff celebrated Monica's, Kendall's and Frances's birthdays. Happy Birthday!



We would like to acknowledge our guest "chefs" who provide such comforting meals for our families.



Thanks to the Rotary Club of Galveston for whipping up a delicious salad, baked ziti, bread and dessert for our families. Our guests loved the Italian feast and playing BINGO with our Rotary friends.



Cosmic Cookers is a fabulous group of ladies that work(ed) at NASA. They are truly rocket scientists. This team has cooked for our House on the first Friday of each month for 20+ years!!! Now that's commitment. Our families loved having breakfast for dinner=BRINNER! Bacon & Waffles? Yes, please!

Other meals were provided by the Broadway Church of Christ, the Westward Church of Christ, the Moore Sisters, Drs. Pat Lanier and Bill Posnick, Maryellen LeDuc, Galveston Lulac 151, the First Baptist Church, the Temple Emmanuel Christian Church, John and Jan Brick, Layers of Love, Southwest Airlines, Helen and Gayle King, McDonalds Lucero, Ruth and Marshall Yost, Vera Carmona, and United We Stand. Our families love the care and cherish the communal mealtimes. Thanks!





Help Wanted – Executive Assistant

We are seeking an experienced office professional with strong communication skills and proficiency in office systems, software, and equipment. This role requires strict confidentiality, efficient office management, and the ability to prioritize multiple tasks while working with staff, volunteers, Board members, and resident families. Responsibilities include general office administration, procurement, accounts payable, payroll, banking, audits, records management, website and social media maintenance, and executive support.

Qualifications: Associate's degree or equivalent in a related field; proficiency in Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, and Excel; bilingual Spanish fluency required. Competitive salary commensurate with experience.

Please pass this on to those who would like to make a difference in our families' lives.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars. All are very welcome, and that means you!

March 25 - Mah Jongg fundraiser

October 25 - Family Fun Event fall fundraiser

Our Sincere Condolences



Sadly, one of our biggest supporters, Thomas McCauley, passed away, unexpectedly, last week. Thomas was a member of the Southwest Airlines group that committed to cooking dinner at RMHG on the third Friday of each month, for years. He also contributed his time and energies for many House events. He wore a huge smile, had a welcoming spirit, a larger-than-life personality, and an even bigger heart, dedicated to serving others. Thomas loved our mission and represented it to its fullest. His kind and generous nature is one that will remain with us for years to come. Please keep Thomas' family and dear



friends at SWA in your prayers. Thomas, we thank you for loving us so well. You will be sorely missed.

Our Why

While we applaud and support our children and families with their medical treatments, the outcomes are not always what we hope and pray for. One of our Moms lost her NICU daughter after many difficult weeks. The House families & staff rallied around her, offering support and friendship. Our children gifted her with homemade cards with heartfelt sentiments to offer comfort during a significantly trying time. This is our WHY. ❤️❤️



Wish List

- ♥ New nursing bras
- ♥ New undergarments for boys and girls (9 yr to teen sizes)
- ♥ Feminine pads
- ♥ Breastfeeding pads
- ♥ Suitcases in good working condition
- ♥ Shoes (all sizes; new or gently worn for boys, girls, men & women)
- ♥ Sugar
- ♥ Single-serve wrapped snacks
- ♥ Healthy breakfast options (no cereal)
- ♥ Chorizo
- ♥ Sausage & bacon
- ♥ Oatmeal
- ♥ Coffee and creamer
- ♥ Shredded cheese
- ♥ Fresh fruits and vegetables
- ♥ Cinnamon sticks
- ♥ Sandwich meat
- ♥ Frozen chicken nuggets
- ♥ Lysol bowl cleaner and disinfectant spray
- ♥ Pine-Sol
- ♥ Glass cleaner (aerosol can)

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

We are collecting for a family that has been housed with us since June. They are temporarily relocating to the island to continue treatment for their son. We've asked for household essentials to help get them started and our community has once again, shown up! HUGE thanks to donor, Magen Ortiz for the abundance of furniture that she gifted this wonderful family. AMAZING! We are still looking for more donations for this sweet family. Contact the House for more information on how you can help.



February is a time for celebrations, and we celebrate you, the Ronald McDonald House Galveston family for all you do.



Bless you all!