



HOUSE HAPPENINGS

A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family



June brings a little extra sunshine to the Ronald McDonald House, where seriously ill children and their families find moments of joy between hospital visits and treatments. From shared meals and movie nights to crafts, outings, laughter, and quiet evenings together, the House becomes a place where families can simply be together. In the middle of difficult journeys, June is filled with small celebrations, warm memories, and the comforting reminder that no family faces it alone, thanks to you, our staff, volunteers, board members and supporters.

Happy Birthday

Tom Lewis – June 6

Terri Prescott – June 13



May Blessings



Austin Elementary School held their annual community giveback day at our House. Students were able to make lunch for families at the house and take a tour of the facility to learn more about how we help families while loved ones are in the hospital. Special thanks to the Galveston Golf Cart Society and Mr. Gaido for donating the food. In addition, a special thank you to Mary Moody Northern Endowment and the Moody Mansion for matching their donation.

The stats:

- ♥ 72 sandwiches made
- ♥ \$350 in donations from Austin
- ♥ \$500 in food donations
- ♥ \$850 in matched donations
- ♥ \$1,700 in donations
- ♥ 26 hours of community service (22 students and 4 adults in the kitchen for an hour each)

Thanks to Austin's Mrs. Bellamy and Mrs. Mitchell for organizing such a heartwarming occasion, and to all the students and benefactors!



Love Here Friendswood was founded by a group of mothers seeking to instill a sense of community service in their children. After learning about the mission of Ronald McDonald House Galveston from a presentation by Kendall, they packed dozens of blessings with love and enthusiasm--70 meal kits, 32 birthday kits, 40 hygiene kits and more that will bless our families. Thank you, Love Here Friendswood, for your generous hearts and for making such a meaningful difference in your children's lives and especially for the families we serve! ♥♥♥



For several years Darrell Mattern from Home Depot has been bringing kids' building kits each month. The kids love the hammering and gluing and painting and the finished projects. Thanks to Darrell who always brings the goods and the love!

Thanks to Torres Barber and Beauty Salon for spiffing up our families!





Da Krewe du Roux is about to celebrate its 10th year. During that time, their contributions to our House have continually increased. They hold several fundraising events each year including the very popular and fun Chicken Run (Courir de Mardi Gras), a Mardi Gras Ball and Pub Crawls. In their short existence, they have contributed over \$120,000 to our House and to Shriners. Plus, their consistent provision of art supplies, books, beads, snacks, meals, parties and generous donations throughout the year greatly benefit the families we serve. Thank you for your kindness and unwavering support! Laissez les bons temps roulez!



Our children were delighted with a new activity at the House. Our aspiring martial arts kids now have weekly Taekwondo classes. What a great way to "marshal" all that energy and frustration! Thanks to Master Polio for bringing fun and joy to our House.



Our families made a field trip to the Houston Zoo. Our families arrived at noon and didn't get back to their Home Away From Home until 7:30. A McDonald's stop on the way home helped round out a perfect day from beginning to end for our families. Many thanks to Monica for organizing, and all those who made this unforgettable trip possible.



With the help of the Sullivan and Yarbrough families and Moody Gardens, we were able to purchase Moody Gardens passes for 2026. For the next year, you'll find us partying with the penguins, monkeying around with the monkeys and living our best lives at the pyramids. 2026 is looking pretty special for our families. Thanks to the donors who made this possible! This group had a blast! ❤️👤👤👤👤



We were overjoyed to finally meet the generous man behind the gumball machine, Mr. Jeffrey Fong. Mr. Fong, a wonderfully sweet human who loves this House, has been donating a portion of his gumball machine proceeds to the House since 2002! Our children gave Mr. Fong an original piece of art and many hugs. Thanks, Mr. Fong, for supporting our House for all these years. What an impact you have made!



Galveston Children's Museum is one of our very favorite places to be on this island. Zahrah and her team shine brightest when they pour their fun and love into a community that loves them right back. Thank you for catering to our families in all ways. As if the children's play & learning spaces didn't offer enough, our families were able to enjoy a kazoo band on the museum lawn! With some members of the band over 100 years old, this was a performance full of joy, inclusion & love! Thanks to GCM for always including us. ❤️💛❤️



Cinco de Mayo!



LULAC invited our families to ride in the Cinco de Mayo parade. They loved the trolley experience and the LULAC sponsored Cinco de Mayo Festival. Mucho Gracias!!!



We are delighted to celebrate the unwavering commitment of the staff at our local McDonald's restaurants. Our sincere thanks to the owners and staff for their role in making the Round Up program a success, benefiting the Ronald McDonald Houses. We offer special congratulations to The McDonald's - Kades Corporation on their impressive award wins at the recent McDonald's Houston annual manager's rally. This event celebrates the hard work of the managers and gives everyone a chance to relax and have fun together. Even Ronald McDonald had to get in on the fun! Be sure to "round up" your check at McDonald's; a large portion of the funding to support our House comes from those nickels, dimes and quarters.



Our House hosted our own very festive Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 7th, complete with a delicious Mexican spread, folklorico dancers, live music and playground fun! A big thanks to Lidia for organizing this fun event and to Dr. Pat Lanier, El Nopalito, La Nopalera, Rigo's Café, Lulac, Mr. Martinez for the sing-along, Daniela Vargas's Selena music, the Burnet Elementary ballet folklorico dancers, our own family musicians our wonderful staff and all the others who helped make such a special evening for our families.



Not So Wild Game



We contributed to Yaga's Wild Game Cookoff by hosting a variety of Mother's Day crafts for the community to enjoy, as well as selling tickets and providing volunteers for the event. Family, fun, bounce houses, brisket sandwiches, art & crafts, snow cones and a petting zoo made for one picture perfect day for our families! Yagas holds this and other events in support of Yaga's Children's Charities. We are grateful for Yagas Children's Charities' grants to our House that have helped meet our families' needs. We thank our volunteers and patrons who participated and Mike Dean and Yagas for a very fun day and for their support!



Did You Know



Our mission includes not only the families that stay in our Galveston House, but other families with children in area hospitals. Representatives from Baptist Hospital Southeast in Beaumont visited our House, collecting the first of multiple loads for their hospital cheer cart that we are sponsoring. We are delighted to supply vital items for patients and their families. The visit included a House tour, lunch, and a fellowship benefiting everyone involved. The playground is a hit for all ages! We are looking forward to our next adventure together! Thanks for visiting the House that Love Built. ❤️💛❤️

Happy Mothers' Day



The mothers (and dads) of our kids have unbelievable burdens dealing with their children's illnesses. They are away from their homes and families, and they are with their child 24/7. These mothers are truly special. We posted a donation ask on social media and boy, the way this community showed UP for our families was truly amazing! We repurposed Friday's Art Class with Daisy into a Mother's Day stuffing party with all of our donated items. The mothers were thrilled and the kids so happy they could honor them.

Lemonade Day





June, 2026

Ronald McDonald House Galveston's Lemonade Day was wildly successful this year! Thanks to a large community turnout, many volunteers, Tito the wonder dog paying us a special visit, and the kiddos of the House learning the ropes of running a business, it was one fabulous event! The kids (and kids at heart) were especially thrilled when the fire department dropped by with their firetruck. The Ronald McDonald House Galveston logo oyster shells and handmade classroom art gifted to donors were just the icing on the cake. Thanks to Lidia and the Lemonade Day Committee for the help. We raised over \$1,030 for the House! 🍋

Good Eats



Temple Emmanuel Christian Church graciously presented a yummy dinner to the families. They lovingly provided meals for over 40 people, including chicken with carrots, potatoes, savory gravy sauce, Mexican rice, refried beans, tossed salad with dressing, apples for dessert, and bottled water. The National Spanish Honor Society from Ball High School also pitched in and helped. These outstanding young students did an amazing job volunteering and serving the families with kindness, compassion, and dedication. We are truly grateful for everyone who helped make the night so special for our families and community.



Thanks to EL Nopalito for bringing dinner to the House unexpectedly. Our families especially LOVED the enchiladas. What a wonderfully delicious surprise. Thank you!



We love our Island Rotary Family. Not only do they prepare delicious meals for our families, but this sweet group goes above and beyond for our families, packing treats and prizes for the BINGO games they host. Our families love the communal meals and the fun evenings. Such a great time when they visit! Thanks, Island Rotary!

Other meals were provided in May by Cosmic Cookers, Broadway Church of Christ, the Moore Sisters, Dr. Pat & Bill, Maryellen LeDuc, Galveston Lulac 151, First Baptist Church, Temple Emmanuel Christian, Galveston Rotary Club, John and Jan Brick, Southwest Airlines, Layers of Love, Helen and Gayle King, Rotary Club Galveston Island, McDonald's Lucero, Ruth and Marshall Yost, Vera Carmona, United We Stand, Maria Tabaracci, Cathy Mclean and Carolyn Nelson Becker, the Spot, and our in-House Chef.

Out and About and In-House Activities



On the last Tuesday of the month, SMART Family Literacy hosts a reading hour at The Spot. Once our friends at SMART mentioned that they will include a Spanish book for our children, we jumped right on the opportunity to bring our families! What a treasured experience for us...

- ♥ Outdoor sunshine ✓
- ♥ Delicious Spot burgers and more ✓
- ♥ Listening to a Spanish book in a cozy nook ✓
- ♥ Learning how to grow veggies ✓
- ♥ Community involvement for our families ✓
- ♥ Taking home two books each to promote reading back at Home= Priceless

Thanks to SMART Family Literacy for offering this exceptional opportunity for our families. We can't wait to make this a routine. THANK YOU! ❤️🍋

Our families also had outings to Walmart and Marshalls, the ferry, the Seawall, World Ocean Day, Moody Gardens, the



Children's Museum, the Cinco de Mayo festival, and Yaga's Wild Game Cook-Off games and fun.

Additionally, the families were treated to Daisy's Arts and Crafts and Bingo with Paula and Daisy as well as "Shopping Wednesday" when they are given tickets to select goods from those so generously donated to the House.

Our weekly beach walk is always another highlight. Thanks to Beth at Funky Munky for providing sno-cone treats on a recent visit.

Bring Your Time. Leave a Lasting Impact.

One thing's for sure; our families LOVE the beach and the experiences they get while staying at the Ronald McDonald House Galveston. Our staff is constantly looking for ways to keep the families active and experience everything our beautiful Galveston Island has to offer. Summer is upon us and if you're looking for meaningful activities for your family and things to do, please consider volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House Galveston. Your family or organization can be a part of the amazing things happening here at the house. We are always on the hunt for entertainment, activities or meals cooked with our families at our House. We have a chef at the house that can do the shopping for your sponsored meal and provide assistance while you cook and visit with the families! Please reach out to us if you would like more information @ 409-762-8770! ❤️👉❤️

Volunteer and Staff News

Welcome! Our newest volunteers are Katherine Rivera and Tina Nguyen. A huge welcome and thank you for becoming members of the Ronald McDonald House Galveston family. You rock!

In the headlines! We were thrilled to see our new CEO, Kendall Childs, highlighted on the front page of the Galveston County Daily News. Kendall brings so much to our House and the community.

GALVESTON COUNTY The Daily News.

TEXAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER • PUBLISHING SINCE 1842 • CELEBRATING 184 YEARS

GOVERNMENT/PROPERTY TAX RATES

Texas City, Kemah among cities flagged by Paxton

By COREY GREENBERG
and MAGGIE VILLANOVA
The Daily News

Four Galveston County cities are among more than 150 across Texas that Attorney General Ken Paxton says failed to comply with state financial transparency and audit requirements.

The action stems from Texas' 2015 law, approved during the 2015 legislative session, which has cities from adopting property tax rates above the set maximum. "Ronald," if they're not meeting state-mandated audit and financial reporting requirements.

The state launched an investigation into whether the cities had complied with the law. The state launched an investigation into whether the cities had complied with the law.

See PROPERTY TAX - A5

HELPING OTHERS / NONPROFIT HOSPITAL

New director connects Ronald McDonald House with community



Kendall Childs is the new executive director at the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston.

By DAVID MORGAN
The Daily News

After decades helping patients in hospital and waiting rooms while being connected to the island community around them, "The moment that I walked in and saw the place, I realized

that was the only position where I was able to still function as a volunteer while getting to interact with patients on the positive side of things," Childs said. "I get to see the great outcome instead of hearing about it on the inside."

See DIRECTOR - A3

COMMUNITY AMENITIES / LAGOONFEST TEXAS

Residents of Lago Mar annoyed about near-empty lagoon

By COREY GREENBERG
The Daily News

As temperatures rise ahead of Memorial Day weekend, frustration among residents at the Lago Mar community in Texas City is heating up as well, with the neighborhood's aquatic amenities. "These amenities are still sitting empty just days before the unofficial start of summer."



Workers waded in the near empty lagoon at Lago Mar in Texas City on Thursday.



Lidia Polio



For 13 years, Lidia has been the heart of Ronald McDonald House Galveston. As our Family Support Specialist, she walks alongside families from the moment they arrive through their journey home and beyond.

Whether she's leading classroom activities, coordinating House events, assisting with lodging reimbursements, translating, mentoring, or simply offering a listening ear, Lidia's impact is felt in every corner of our House.

With creativity, patience, and a heart full of compassion, she finds ways to connect with children of all ages, nationalities, languages and backgrounds, helping them learn, grow, and discover their unique talents. One mother shared that while her son disliked school at home, he couldn't wait to spend time in Lidia's classroom.



Lidia says, "I love having a positive impact on the children in the classroom. I thrive on seeing their potential and progression. It warms my heart to find their talent and watch it shine."

More than a staff member, Lidia is a trusted friend, mentor, and source of comfort to countless families long after their stay has ended. Lidia, thank you for the love, encouragement, and unwavering support you give so freely. You inspire our children to be their best, even on the hardest days, and you make our House a brighter, more joyful place for everyone who walks through our doors. You are deeply loved, greatly respected, and truly one of a kind. ❤️🏠❤️



Time to Say Goodbye



Time to say goodbye. We're so happy for this family who can now go home to start their new life with their beautiful baby twins who have graduated from the NICU. But we will miss them!



Baby Jesus was also finally able to head back home, after spending 48 days in the NICU. His sweet family became a House staple with us, as they loved to cook for the staff and families and attend field trips. A bittersweet goodbye. We wish both families bright futures and happy days ahead.

Upcoming Events



June 8 - Bayou Vista is sponsoring a Summer Festival Golf Tournament to benefit our House

June 21 - Father's Day

July 4 - Ronald McDonald House Galveston July 4th Bash

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



Don't miss it! Start the celebration of our country's 250th birthday at a huge party! Free admission Saturday, July 4th in the UTMB Parking Lot across the street from the Ronald McDonald House Galveston. It's a block party for all ages, complete with bounce houses, face painting, games, food and surprises. Thanks to the sponsorship of the Darling Family, and our appreciation for UTMB, Shriners and our community supporters.

Most Wanted

We want to thank the community for constantly supplying the house with much needed supplies. Your response truly warms our hearts. We are currently in need of:

- ♥ Travel Size Hygiene Items, Hairbrushes, Makeup Wipes
- 👶 Baby Items, Diapers, Wipes, Blankets
- 📖 Children's Books And New Stuffed Animals And Blankets
- 🎮 Small Handheld Games, Cards, Sticker Books
- 🖋 Colored Gel Pens, Adult Color Books
- 🔋 Phone Chargers, Ear Buds
- 🎒 Backpacks And Suitcases
- 🍷 Mayo, Ketchup, Salsa
- ☕ Coffee And Coffee Creamer
- 🥤 Juice Boxes
- 🍲 Cooking Oil
- 🍚 Rice
- 🥕 Fresh Fruit And Veggies
- 🍗 Fresh Chicken, Hamburger Meat Etc.
- 🍷 Individual Wrapped Snacks

We are always in need of 🧼 cleaning supplies, 📄 paper products, 🛍 baggies, gently worn clothes (all sizes) and shoes. We are also on the hunt for a hand cycle (bicycle kids can pedal with their hands) for the house so ALL the kids have an opportunity to ride bikes. (409) 762-8770

We thank you for your support in helping children and families during their difficult time. We wish you the happiest and safest of summers!

