

Around the House

Spring & Summer Happenings 2017



With the help of Sadie, our resident Pawstivity Officer & Certified Therapy Dog, RMHC of Nashville celebrated 26 years of "keeping families close."



Crowe Horwath LLP gathered wishlist items for our families.



Jackson makes dinner regularly for our families.



Ravenwood Girls Cotillion raised \$6,000 for RMHC Nashville.



Multiple Optum volunteer groups have helped us to organize the House this summer.



Livy and her parents delivered snacks and pull tabs they collected for 4th Annual Livy's Miracle Day.



The Jordan Hackett Foundation donated \$20,000 from the 15th Annual Race for Jordan.



The Pitts family who stayed at the House in 2007 decided to give back by donating wish list items and preparing dinner.



Jesse Davis donated 450lbs of pull tabs he has been collecting since January!



"Horse Plus Therapy" brought some furry friends to spend some time with our families.

Connor Mahoney raised money to help kids staying at the House.

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Upcoming Events



Monday, October 9*: The 22nd Annual Golf Ball Tournament will be held at Hillwood Country Club. Golfers will enjoy a golfer gift, on course refreshments as well as breakfast, lunch, a cocktail reception with dinner and a silent auction.



Friday, October 27*: The second annual Music City Sporting Clays Tournament in association with Kids and Clays Foundation will be held at the Nashville Gun Club. Registration includes ammunition, exclusive shooter gift, a delicious lunch, and a cocktail-awards reception and dinner.



Friday, November 17: It's not too late for your school to register for the 13th Annual Pull Tab Collection Challenge! We ask students from middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky and northern Alabama to collect the most aluminum tabs from cans that can be recycled with all proceeds benefitting RMHC of Nashville! This contest is a fun way to involve groups in a philanthropy project that encourages a simple way to give that collectively adds up to a large donation for RMHC of Nashville. Visit our website for details and start collecting today!

* We are seeking sponsors, golfers, marksmen, silent auction items and committee volunteers for these events.

Third Party Events

Third party events are hosted by companies, organizations and individuals in the community who select RMHC of Nashville as the beneficiary for events they organize.

***If you're interested in planning a third party event, we'd love to hear from you! Give us a call or visit our website for details.**

Friday, Sept. 29th: 8th Annual BBQ in Red Shoes Barbecue Cookoff will be held at Nissan Stadium and opens to the public at 11:30am. Since its inaugural year, BBQ in Red Shoes hosted by the AGC of TN has raised more than \$40,000 for our programs! Stop by to check out the competition, vote on your favorite dessert and buy a \$10 lunch ticket for delicious BBQ – all to benefit RMHC of Nashville!

Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Sunday, Oct. 30: Lucky Ladd Fall Family Fun! Discounted tickets are available now for \$7 each (an almost 50% discount off face value) at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House. 100% of the proceeds from these tickets goes towards our programs! Come by the House to purchase tickets before they're gone (cash or check only)! Visit luckyladdfarms.com for information about the Farm.

Early Nov. – Sunday, Dec. 31: The Dancing Lights of Christmas will hold the 7th Annual Drive Thru Lights and Music Show, the largest in Middle Tennessee! RMHC of Nashville will be selling discount tickets at the House with proceeds benefitting our programs. Visit www.thedancinglightsofchristmas.com for information about this event!

For More Information and to Register: 615-343-4000 or www.rmhcnapville.com/event



Ronald McDonald House Charities® Nashville

House Notes

FALL 2017

A Communicative Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, Tennessee, Inc.

New-Found Friendship and Lifetime Bonds are Made at Our House

Kendall James (6), from Benton, KY, and Klayton Butcher (16 months), from Lawrenceburg, TN, are both fighting a big battle and their families have found solace in each other at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House.

Kendall was diagnosed with stage 3 Rhabdomyosarcoma Embryonal (cancer of the soft and connective tissue) in January 2017. Kendall was sent straight to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt for treatment and surgery to remove the football size tumor in her abdomen. Kendall and her mom, Kendra, came to stay at the House after the surgery so she would be near the hospital for daily chemotherapy and radiation treatments to target the area the surgeons could not remove.



Playing with bubbles while their parents cheered on the Nashville Predators during the playoffs.

The bond between these two families formed in the dining room at the House where the mothers began discussing the struggles that come with having a sick child. The families grew close while coming up with creative ways to entertain Kendall and Klay for hours every day. Kody said of their new found friendship with the James's "It's been really great to have somebody to be with to help pass the time. We are thankful they were here for us." They watched the Predators play in the playoffs, ate meals together, shared shuttle rides

to and from the hospital, and even got out to see some of Nashville's sights when the kids were feeling up for it. After staying 45 nights at the House, Kendall was cleared to go home, leaving a tearful goodbye



Kody, Lori and Klay went home after 49 nights at the House.

but a bond that will last a lifetime. Klay stayed at the House for another 2 weeks (a total of 49 nights) and they have scheduled time to reconnect when Kendall returns to Nashville for chemo.

While we're glad we can serve as a home away from home for families when they need us most, we are always thrilled to say farewell to families heading home to return to their lives. Of course, we'll always be here should they need us again. ❤️



Kendall and Klay spent countless hours together in the playroom

In early December 2016, Kody Butcher and Lori Bankston received devastating news. Their 9 month old son, Klay Butcher had a grade 2 Ependymoma brain tumor located on his brain stem and was spreading into his spine. They were immediately rushed to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt where Klay had surgery to remove the tumor, but cancer cells still remained in his little body. In May, they returned to Nashville and checked in to the Ronald McDonald House to begin radiation.



Your \$15 donation will cover the cost of a family's lodging at our House for one night. Please consider donating to the Share a Night program so families like Kendall and Klay's can stay worry free. Donate online at www.rmhcnapville.com

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
DAN KUNINSKY
President-Elect
TROY DICKENS
Secretary
KAREN HACKETT
Treasurer
DON BIRDWELL

Jeff Banta
Linda Burrell
Billy Ray Caldwell, Jr.
Andrea Cleeton
Marlee Crankshaw
Janet Cross
Tom Dodge
Michelle Dube
Joann Ettien
Bob Flynn
Jon Gaston
Matthew Howlett
Patricia Hunt
Kathie Krause
Eric Kruse
Mendy Mazzo
Don Miller

Tyler Muesch
Noreen Parker
James Pelletier
Sarah Elizabeth Perry
Roger Rochelle
Bill Rochford
Marsi Shelton
Barbara Speller
Paul Stumb
Chris Talbott
August Washington
Greg Welch
Linda Whitley-Taylor
Emily Williams
Stan York
Pam Zimmerman

ADVISORY BOARD

Susan Andrews
Thompson
Nicki J. Cook
Tom Doyle, M.D.
Tim Farley
Mary Fox
Jerry Garrett
Don Hancock
Leslie Hough
Bill Hudson

Helen Lane
Steve Lane
Lawrence M. Lipman
Larry Odum
Eddie Phillips
Wright Pinson, M.D.
Fred Turner
Lucy Marshall White
Tommy Wilson

STAFF

Executive Director
Elizabeth Miller Piercy
House Manager
Kaye Slater
Development & Communications Director
Amy Southard
Volunteer Coordinator
Kirra Menees
House Operations Coordinator
Maemie Donnelly
Administrative Manager
Melissa Anderson
Maintenance
Chris Curtis
Housekeeping
Olivia O'Connor
Resident Manager
Yuliya Hassan
Certified Therapy Canine & Pawsitivity Officer
Sadie A. Labradoodle

FOLLOW US ON



2144 Fairfax Avenue · Nashville, Tennessee 37212
615-343-4000 · Fax: 615-343-4004
rmhcnashville.com

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Nashville is one of 366 Houses and 213 Family Rooms worldwide. The House provides shelter, emotional support, understanding and a home-like environment to families during their time of need. Please help continue the caring!

OUR HEARTS REMEMBER

APRIL – AUGUST 2017

Throughout the year, families come to us in search of hope and healing for their sick child. For many, miracles happen, but for some, the journey must end. We remember them all as they remain a part of our history and forever in our hearts.

Tanner Evan Roberson Ruth Noria Soto Vichel

If you are interested in making a donation In Honor or In Memory of someone special, please visit our website: www.rmhcnashville.com and click the donate button near the top of the web page.



Welcome Maemie!

We are excited to announce that Maemie Donnelly has joined RMHC of Nashville as the new House Operations Coordinator! Born and raised in Nashville, Maemie likes to spend time with her family (she is the oldest of four), go salsa dancing and backpacking, and is on a mission to find the best Mexican bakery in town! She is excited for this new adventure and can't wait to meet the families we serve as well as all the wonderful volunteers.

Love Letters – From Our Families

“The Ronald McDonald house has been wonderful while we stay up here for my son’s radiation. The staff is excellent and they make you feel right at home.”

–family from Ethridge, Tennessee

“This place is amazing, and beyond perfect in every way! Very helpful! Amazing staff, and great atmosphere!”

–family from Waynesboro, Tennessee

“During our son’s 3½ month stay in the NICU, the Ronald McDonald House gave us a home away from home. We felt like we had a familiar place in a world that seemed to be constantly changing. They gave us comfort and support. We felt safe. Even when the whole house was evacuated to the basement for a tornado warning and I ran back to our room because I had to grab something, Kaye came looking for me to make sure that I was okay. There are few words to adequately describe how blessed we were by RMHC of Nashville.”

–family from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

Why Your Donation Matters

Your gift to RMHC of Nashville allows us to “keep families close” by providing essential resources and a “home away from home” for families of critically ill children receiving inpatient or outpatient medical care at Nashville area hospitals.

Our annual budget is more than \$1,300,000 per year, and 100% of our program and operational funding is raised through the community from individuals, corporations, private foundations and organizations.

There are many ways you can help us help families in need, and we appreciate every donation! You can donate online to our various programs at www.rmhcnashville.com or by mail at **Ronald McDonald House Charities Nashville, 2144 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212**. If you have questions or want more information, feel free to contact us by phone, at **615-343-4000**, or via email at info@rmhcnashville.com.

Because there are so many ways to invest in our programs, we highlight different ways to give in each of our House Notes newsletters. Below are these three options:

Organize a Wish List Drive!

Make a difference by collecting household items that we use daily at the House and Family Room. Check our website for a list of needed items! You can also collect gift cards to grocery stores, gas stations, convenience stores and local restaurants. Live too far away to deliver items? Order items off Amazon to be delivered here! If you visit smile.amazon.com and select Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville as your charity of choice, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to us.

Sponsor a Family For a Night, Week, Month or More!

Monetary donations keep our doors open and the lights on. It costs \$83/night to host a family and providing over 11,600 family nights a year adds up, so we value all gifts, both big and small. In 2016, 91% of families could not afford to pay the \$15/night we request and 9% paid only a partial fee. However, we never refuse service because a family is unable to pay. To make a donation to Share-a-Night, or any of our other gift-giving programs, visit our website.

Planned Giving

Did you know you can make a more significant gift than you ever imagined, without sacrificing income or security for your own family? These are several ways you can help us serve families of seriously and chronically ill children through planned gifts:

- Donate gifts of stock
- Name us in your will
- Include us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan
- Make us the beneficiary of a life insurance plan

One Year With Sweet Sadie

Sadie is an Australian Labradoodle who has been trained to comfort and bring joy to families with commands such as “sit”, “snuggle”, “visit”, and “give knuckles”. Sadie was hand-picked for this job because of her laid back personality and mild temperament. She became a staff member at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House on August 29th, 2016 and has been supplying support to House guests like Nathan and Addie ever sense. Sadie made such an impact on 17 year old Nathan Gates (pictured left) during his 78 night stay that he drew a portrait of Sadie for the House before he went home to Newport, TN. 6 year old, Addison Gatlin (pictured right), from Toney, Alabama has been staying at the House since August and loves playing with Sadie when she returns from her daily radiation treatments.♥



Thanks again to Sadie’s Sponsors

Brentwood Veterinary Clinic and Bellevue Pet Supermarket

For keeping her happy and healthy so she can provide therapy to families at the RMHC of Nashville.

Caring Corporations – Spotlight on Dell Nashville



We want to thank Dell Nashville for their unwavering support. Dell Nashville provides monetary support through sponsorships such as the Tote Board Sponsor of our 2017 “Calls for Kids” Telecast and for the last two years as a sponsor of the Hustle for the House 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run.

In addition to sponsorships, Dell employees can always be counted on to help with other projects, events, and third party events benefitting RMHC of Nashville! Lisa Ellis (pictured left) from Dell has been instrumental in Dell’s involvement with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville and can always be counted on to get the job done. This past year, Lisa noticed a need for a new tote board for our annual telecast and the wonderful employees at Dell Nashville filled the bill in a large way by donating a 70-inch TV monitor!

We are grateful that Dell Nashville staff are always willing to step up, even if that means arriving at the House before the sun rises!♥

Can You Help Make Our Wishes Come True?

Imagine being away from home during the holidays and facing the critical illness of a child. Please think of the families we serve who will be calling our House their “home-away-from-home” during the holiday season that is just a few months away.

FOR OUR FAMILIES

Photo albums
Journals
Jewelry (preteens/teens)
Lotion gift sets
Perfume gift sets
Gift cards (fast-food restaurants, Target, Walmart, Kroger, gas cards)
DVDs (PG13, PG, G)
Infant socks/booties
Rattles
Baby toys*
Bottles

Infant receiving blankets
Baby dolls (from all cultures)
Toys (ages 2-10)
Sports equipment
Art supplies
Craft sets
Premie clothing
Infant clothing
Socks
Gloves
Scarves
Adult coloring books
Markers

FOR THE HOUSE

Pillow protectors
Microwaves
Flat screen TV with built in DVD player (20 inch)
Trash bags (all sizes)
Paper plates
Plastic solo cups
Dryer sheets
Crib sheets
Mattress pad covers (twin size)
Paper Towels
Dish towels

Hand-held Kitchen Aid can openers
Standard size pillows
Metal silverware (forks & spoons)
Microwaveable & Dishwasher-Safe Ceramic cereal bowls
Gift cards (Lowe’s, Home Depot, Walmart, Kroger and Target)
Holiday bows for packages
Small air compressor
Jumper cables
Rubbermaid utility cart

FOOD ITEMS*

Cereal/Breakfast bars
Pop-Tarts
Canned Meals (soup, chili, etc.)
Easy Mac
Individually packaged sweets (Little Debbie’s, cookies, etc.)
Individual bags of chips
Fruit snacks

NOTE: ALL GIFT ITEMS ARE TO BE NEW ITEMS ONLY. Thank You!

*When buying toys– please be mindful of small pieces that could be a choking hazard.

*Please NO peanut butter and cheese crackers.