

Around the House Spring Happenings



Nashville Predators donated funds towards the purchase of new lockers for the kitchen.



Team Noah collected wish list items in memory of Noah Bass, who would have turned 5 years old this year.



Cigna employees packed up the library to prepare for it's new floors and paint.



The LEGO store hosted a mini-build for our families.



Tyson cooked the first meal in our renovated kitchens.



A little rain couldn't stop us from having a fun Easter egg hunt.



The Good Food Group cleaned the toys in the playground.

Give back to our House while having fun at these upcoming events...



Saturday, September 14*: Hundreds of participants will be hustling to the finish line during the 9th Annual Hustle for the House 5k & Kathy Dungan 1-Mile Fun Run, Presented by Jackson with Race Day Sponsor Dell Nashville. Registration is open for this family friendly, certified and chip-timed course which starts and finishes at the House. Register now before the early bird special ends: \$25 for the 5K or Spirit Runner, \$15 for the 1-Mile Fun Run, and you can bring Fido along for just \$10!



Monday, October 14*: The 24th Annual Golf Ball Tournament will be held at the prestigious Governor's Club this year! Golfers will enjoy a golfer gift, on course refreshments as well as breakfast, lunch, and a cocktail reception with dinner and a huge silent auction.



Friday, October 25*: The 4th 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 with dinner and a silent auction.

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

Upcoming events benefitting RMHC of Nashville*

RMHC of Nashville is honored to be the beneficiary of community events organized by individuals, schools and businesses. These fundraisers help us care for families while they focus on their seriously ill or injured child.

***If you're interested in planning an event with RMHC of Nashville as the beneficiary, we'd love to hear from you! Give us a call or visit our website for details.**

Thursday, August 22: The 24th Annual Music City Classic will take place at Hermitage Golf Course with a 1p.m. shotgun start, put on by the Nashville Station employees of Southwest Airlines. Visit <https://birdeasepro.com/musiccityclassic> for details.

Saturday, September 21st: The 4th Annual Dash for Derek 5k Fun Run/Walk will begin at 9:00a.m. in Crossville, TN. Learn more at www.facebook.com/dashforderek5k. They will also hold a Golf Tournament Fundraiser on August 31st at the Heatherhurst Brae Course.

Friday, September 27: The Associate General Contractor's 9th Annual BBQ in Red Shoes Cook Off will be held at Nissan Stadium and opens to the public at 11:30am. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/BbqInRedShoes/> for details!

Saturday, October 19: The Easton Goad Foundation 5K will be held in Red Boiling Springs, TN. Access information about this race at <https://www.facebook.com/eastongoadfoundation/>



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Nashville

House Notes

SUMMER 2019

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

The House with a Purpose... And Pizza!



To the Powell Family, who are from Savoy, IL, a vacant room at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House was a huge blessing and relief. "Knowing that we had a clean, safe place to stay and an environment that Joe could thrive in was wonderful news," recalls Joyce Powell, who is mother to 12-year-old, Joe Powell.

One in a million children are diagnosed with a rare disease called Nephronophthisis, that destroys your kidneys by adolescence. The Powell family found out that not one, but two of their five children

had this rare genetic kidney disease after their older son Michael, had to be hospitalized because of extremely low kidney function. It was then that the doctors determined that Michael (12) and Joe (7) both had this rare, genetic kidney disease and would both need a kidney transplant. Michael received a new kidney in 2014 and doctors determined that Joe would need to be monitored very closely and maintain a very strict diet in the interim. Joe went 4 years with impaired kidney function, but it wasn't without sacrifice. He couldn't have pizza, chocolate, chips or French fries, which is quite a sacrifice for a young boy!

Joe's kidney function continued to decline, so his doctors in Illinois decided that he was in urgent need of a new kidney and transferred his care over to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. On May 30th, just 2 days after graduating from the 5th grade, the Powell's



Joe with his best pal, Sadie!

received news that they had found a matching kidney for Joe. The Powell family drove overnight to Nashville where Joe was rushed into surgery. He spent 5 days in the hospital post-transplant and once discharged from the hospital, Joe and his parents, Joyce and Thomas, were faced with the unsettling decision of where they would stay. It was imperative that Joe remain close to the hospital for his post-operative care, so they checked into a hotel. "Joe is immune suppressed, so I can't take him to a store or amongst crowds. Handling the task of feeding him while staying in a hotel was overwhelming, but it was

the only option at that time because there was no vacancy at the Ronald McDonald House."

The next day, Joyce received news that a room had just become available at the House and they were able to check-in to a newly renovated home-away-from-home that would not only meet their basic needs of warm meals and a comfortable place to sleep but would also provide a support system through the staff and other families staying at the House.



Joe has access to all the Legos he could possibly build!

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**Saturday
September 14th**
Register online
www.rmhcnapville.com

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Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Nashville is one of 367 Houses and 250 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

MARCH 2019 • JUNE 2019

Throughout the years, families come to us in search of hope and support when their child faces a medical crisis. For many, miracles happen, but for some, the journey ends. We remember them all as they remain a part of our history and forever in our hearts.

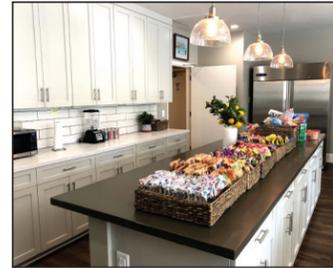
Navy Kariem Skye Elsalem

Ava Grace Fowler

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.



We are excited to see the progress being made around the House! Families are enjoying the newly renovated kitchens, dining room, living rooms, library and guest bedrooms!



Follow us at @RMHCNashville on social media for an inside look!

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 \$1,800,000 per year, and 100% of our program and operational funding is raised through the community from individuals, corporations, private foundations and organizations.

Because there are so many ways to invest in our programs, we've highlighted a few different ways to give to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, starting with these options:

Adopt A Room

This Program gives families a place to stay when they need it most. Families are asked to donate \$15 per night to stay at the Ronald McDonald House, however, no family is ever turned away due to inability to pay. Adopt one of our 33 standard bedrooms for a \$5,500 annual sponsorship or one of our 3 extended stay suites for a \$7,500 annual sponsorship. Adopt A Room Sponsors directly affect the lives of many families each year who will call this room "home" while their child is receiving medical treatment at a Nashville area hospital. Please visit our website (www.rmhcnashville.com/adopt-a-room/) for more information about this program, including the ways we will recognize the difference you are making on each families' lives.

We are grateful for our 2019 Adopt a Room Sponsors, including: HCP MOB, Johnson Family, Jordan Hackett Foundation, Josie Mazzo Children's Charities, In Memory of Mikayla Honeycutt, Pinnacle Financial Partners, and the RMHC of Nashville Board of Advisors. This exclusive group of Adopt A Room Program Sponsors is invested in our families, our House, and the goal of turning a time of uncertainty and fear into comfort and support.

Corporate Partnership

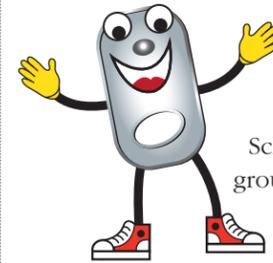
Whether it's through monetary gifts, in-kind donations or volunteering, our corporate sponsors are a vital part of helping us deliver comfort and care to children and their families. We tailor partnerships to meet the goals of each corporate donor, while also meeting our mission of providing the comforts of home to families with sick children. Not only do corporate partners help fund our programs and services, they give RMHC of Nashville the gift of their time, products and expertise.

Legacy Planning

With your big heart and a little planning, you can help us bring hope and help to sick children and their families for years to come. The power to strengthen and keep families together is in your hands. Here are several ways you can help through planned gifts: Donate gifts of stock; Include us as a beneficiary of your will / retirement policy/ insurance policy.

For more information about donating please visit rmhcnashville.com or contact Amy Southard, Development and Communications Director, at 615-343-4000 or amy@rmhcnashville.com.

To Give a Gift: 615-343-4000 or www.rmhcnashville.com/donate



Join in on the fun for the 15th Annual Pull Tab Collection Challenge!

Schools, businesses, and groups of all kinds are invited to participate in the 15th Annual Pull Tab Collection Challenge taking place August 2nd until November 15th. All participants are welcome to attend the Drop Day Celebration at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House on the morning of November 22nd! We will have hot chocolate while each group dumps their collected pull tabs into the dumpsters to be weighed and recycled. Last year, over 24,000 individuals from 62 schools, organizations and businesses



from across middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky and northern Alabama took on the challenge of collecting the most aluminum can tabs to be recycled with all proceeds benefiting RMHC of Nashville. Over 4,300 lbs. of pull tabs were collected and we need your help to make this challenge even bigger! 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 more details and start collecting those pop tabs today! ♥

A Love Letter from the Surrett Family ♥



L-R: Parents Thomas and Bethany Surret. Daughter, Ginny and son, Remy.

"In October 2013 I was diagnosed with several complications while at a routine appointment and had to have an emergency C section at Vanderbilt. I didn't have anything with me except for my phone and wallet. As with most first-time parents, we found ourselves unprepared and terrified, and we didn't have any family close by!

Our daughter stayed for 2 weeks in the NICU. It was so amazing to have the safety of the Ronald McDonald House, and to be able to eat dinner and have snacks, as well as a shower and a clean bed. We were also able to wash our clothes! All things people take for granted. Without the kindness of strangers and businesses, clubs and churches donating meals, we wouldn't have survived those 2 weeks. The expenses of trying to find a hotel, food, commute, laundromat, and many other things was overwhelming. To have the Ronald McDonald House was such an amazing blessing that cannot be put into words. We encourage everyone to donate and support the amazing things you do!" ♥

— Bethany Surret, from Clarksville, TN



Joe's father and brothers came to the House to visit for Father's Day Weekend.

The House with a Purpose... Continued from page 1

Joyce said, "When we checked into the House, Joe needed a walker because he had become so frail from kidney failure. The progress I've seen him make is wonderful. Now he is running around and has an unending appetite. Hunt Brother's Pizza provided dinner at the House one night and it was Joe's first pizza in years. He couldn't get enough! Joe has really blossomed, playing with other kids, spending time with the staff and his pal, Sadie (RMHC Therapy Dog). Joyce added, "The House is a clean, safe, and all around

wonderful environment for Joe, and I also feel taken care of here. I knew some meals would be provided but I had no idea how often! I have really enjoyed having a support system and being able to talk with other parents who are going through a similar circumstance."

Joe continues to have multiple doctor appointments each week and, having had a few set-backs, the proximity between the Ronald McDonald House and the hospital offers even more of a relief for Joe and his parents.

Joe has always enjoyed playing video games and building with Legos as some other normal child-hood activities have been very limited by his illness. He is looking forward to participating in sports, running around with his pets and eating all the pizza that he can get his hands on! ♥

For More Information: 615-343-4000 or www.rmhcnashville.com