

Around the House Summer 2020



Dorothy and LaMar who stayed at the House while their newborn daughter, Safiyah, was being treated for prematurity and heart disease, donated wish list items on their daughters ½ birthday.



The Nelson family stayed at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin 7 years ago and continue to give back to the Nashville House by donating pull tabs and making masks.



We have the cleanest House on the block thanks to our good friends at Orkin Pest Control who provided us with Orkin's VitalClean service.



Nashville Predators Mascot, Gnash, and Joe Dubin from WSMV Channel 4 announces that RMHC of Nashville is a recipient of a Nashville Predators Foundation grant to transform our teen game room into the "Predators Penalty Box."



We celebrated the 5th birthday of guest family member, Eddie, with decorations and dinner!



Lacy's family and friends collected donations and wish list items in honor of Isaiah's 1st Birthday!



Martin Brower donated disposable masks and alcohol wipes to help in our efforts of keeping families and staff healthy!



Scientific Air Management donated this amazing machine named "SAM" that works around the House night and day to eliminate 99.9995% of airborne pathogens.



RMHC of Nashville staff put together goody bags with snacks and treats to cheer up families in the hospital.



Alesha and her mother brought wish list items donated by family and friends in celebration of what would have been Alisha's son, Cooper's, 1st birthday, June 26, 2020.



Ronald McDonald House Charities® Nashville

House Notes

SUMMER 2020

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

Keeping Families Close Since 1991: A story from one of the first guest families to stay at the House.

Lillian Lynch's story started the same time the Nashville Ronald McDonald House opened, in July of 1991. Lillian was born 10 weeks premature as a result of having a twin that never fully formed. Her parents, Frank and Lee Bacus, had 4 boys at home in Hendersonville and adding a critically ill newborn turned their world upside down. Lee was stressed beyond belief and, with only one family car, making the daily drive back and forth from the hospital just added to the chaos.



Lee Bacus with her newborn daughter, Lillian, shortly after being released from the hospital.

One day a NICU nurse mentioned to Lee that a non-profit housing option was opening that would enable families to stay close to their sick child. Soon thereafter Frank and Lee became some of the very first guests to stay at RMHC of Nashville, 29 years ago.

Lee said her most vivid memories being at the House include the food in the community refrigerator, the library and

the peaceful environment in general. She loved her time at the House since it allowed her to be closer to the hospital and still feel like a home environment. She was also able to bring her other children to visit as Lillian's health improved. Her favorite memory is the baby blanket the staff gave her when Lillian was released to go home. The blanket is adorned with farm animals and became Lillian's favorite throughout her childhood.



Lillian's son, Elijah, with the blanket her parents received from the Nashville Ronald McDonald House in 1991.

Lillian (now 29 years old) thinks back to that baby blanket, "it stayed on my bed even as I got older. Mom made sure I knew

the special story behind that blanket and how it was made with love by a special group of quilters who make blankets for guest families at RMHC." Lillian, now a mother herself, uses that same blanket in her son's nursery. She said, "I use that blanket more with my son than any other blanket that we were gifted."

Lillian always knew how Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville helped her family when a lot of uncertainty and chaos surrounded

them, and that special blanket was a constant reminder of that kindness. "As I grew up, I knew that I wanted to support this special place by collecting pull tabs, donating wish list items and giving back any way I could." When Lillian went off to college, she learned

that the Alpha Delta Pi (ADPi) Sorority supports Ronald McDonald House Charities as their national philanthropy and knew she had to get involved. Now a proud ADPi Alumni, Lillian says, "I'm so honored to be a very small part of what ADPi does to help RMHC.



Lillian (pictured far left) serving a meal at the House with her sorority sisters from the ADPi chapter of MTSU.

Knowing my chapter helps the House that once helped me and my family makes me so proud. Now, as a mom myself, I see what a blessing the Ronald McDonald House was for my mom by allowing her to stay close to me when I needed it most. Thank you for all you do to help families and most importantly for being there for my family 29 years ago!"

Wanna Get Out of Your House? Join us for one or all of these GREAT Fall 2020 events!



September 1-19*: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this 10th Annual event will be held as a VIRTUAL 5k Run and Walk and we need your help to make it bigger and better than ever! The Hustle from Your House Virtual 5k & Kathy Dungan 1-Mile Fun Run Presented by Jackson with Race Day Sponsor Dell Nashville will take place from September 1-19th! Registration is open for this virtual race that you can run whenever and wherever you'd like! Register now at rmhcnashville.com \$35 for the 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run or Spirit Runner and include Fido for just \$10!



Monday, October 14*: The 25th Annual Golf Ball Tournament will be held at the prestigious Governor's Club this year! Golfers will enjoy a golfer gift, on course refreshments, and a day of friendly competition on this beautiful course!



Friday, October 30*: The 5th 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 huge 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, September 17: The 25th Annual Music City Classic will take place at Old Hickory Country Club. This tournament is put on by the Nashville Station employees of Southwest Airlines. For details, visit: <https://rmhcnashville.com/blog/ways-to-help/participate-third-party-event/>

Saturday, September 26: The Jordan Hackett Foundation's 17th Annual Race for Jordan 5K Run/Walk will be held virtually this year! Find more information at facebook.com/the-jordan-hackett-foundation and run or walk 3.14 miles for Jordan anywhere you choose!

Saturday, August 29: The Action Heating & Cooling- Fergusson Golf Tournament will start with an 8:00am shotgun start at the Heatherhurst Brae Course in Crossville, TN. Visit www.rmhcnashville.com for registration information.

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

September 1-19th • Register online www.rmhcnashville.com

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Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Nashville is one of 377 Houses and 262 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

NOVEMBER 2019 - JULY 2020

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.

Emiliana Buchweitz
Taryn and Ta'Ron Gayle
Lincoln Honeycutt

Zhauijah Jackson
William Liggett
Jack Richardson McCaleb

Cooper Parker
Charleigh Pharris
Reya Alva Velasquez

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.

Taste of Home



Due to concerns regarding COVID-19, we have had to suspend ALL volunteer activity and non-essential staff & guests at RMHC of Nashville until further notice. This includes our meal groups who so graciously provide meals for guest families each night. We would be grateful for your support in helping us continue to meet the basic needs of our families.

In order to accomplish this goal, we have launched a new program, 'Taste of Home'. This program relies on the generous support from RMHC meal groups, restaurant partners and people like YOU! Your donation of a meal for our guest families will enable us to continue

providing the highest quality of care for them and allow their sole focus to be on the health and care of their child.

There are a variety of ways to provide 'A Taste of Home'!

Cater A Meal – Place an order to the restaurant of your choice and have it delivered to the House.

Stock the Pantry – Make a donation to help stock the pantry or donate through our Amazon Wish List. House Staff are accepting wish list items on a cart outside the front door of the House. Feel free to drop off wish list items any day from 9am-8pm.

Sponsor A Meal – Make a donation to the 'A Taste of Home' Program and we will take care of the ordering and delivery/pick up! There are designated costs allocated for each meal: breakfast is \$150, lunch is \$200, and dinner is \$250.

Gift Card Donation – Provide a meal by donating fast-food and restaurant gift cards in any amount for single-family use. You can have them mailed or dropped off at the House.

Please contact our House operations Coordinator, Chelsea, at 615-343-4000 or Chelsea@rmhcnashville.com to learn what dates/times meals are needed. We are grateful to you for your help while we all navigate this difficult time.

Why Your Donation Matters

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville's mission of serving families whose children are battling against pediatric illness has not stopped during this pandemic. Due to public safety concerns related to COVID-19, the Nashville Ronald McDonald House is strictly limited to outpatient children, direct caregivers and RMHC staff, and the Ronald McDonald House Family Room Program is temporarily suspended.

In order to minimize potential exposure, we have had to cancel all volunteer shifts, meal groups and tours for the foreseeable future, but there are still ways you can help:

Share-a-Night

Underwrite the cost for a family to stay at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House. Families staying at the House are asked to contribute just \$15 per night for their stay. However, more than 85% of our families are unable to pay due to mounting medical bills and other uninsured expenses. You can help by underwriting a family's stay, or a portion of their stay. Donations of all sizes support our mission.

Donate Wish List Items

We have updated our Wish Lists with our most needed items. You can donate these items from the safety of your own home through our Amazon or Target Wish Lists. Your donated items will be delivered right to our doorstep and put to great use.

Giving Tree

Honor or remember someone special by adding a leaf to the Giving Tree in our House. For a donation of \$250 or more, you can honor or remember a loved one with an engraved gold leaf that will be placed on our hand-painted Giving Tree as a never-present tribute. You can support our program by filling out the online Giving Tree Donation Form at rmhcnashville.com/giving-tree/.

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



Blow up the balloons and put on your party hats, because Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville turned 29!

Since it's opening in July 1991, the House has provided a 'home away from home' for more than 15,400 families traveling to Nashville to seek medical care for their sick child.

Over the past 29 years, RMHC of Nashville has expanded from a 16 bedroom House to now being able to serve 36 families! We also opened the doors to the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Monroe



Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in February 2004. This room is an extension of the House where families and friends of seriously ill children can enjoy a break from corridors and waiting rooms, whether or not they're staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

In honor of the start of our 30th year serving families, we're raising money to help us continue supporting families for another 30+ years. Celebrate with us by making a donation of \$30 (or more)! \$30 covers two nights of a family's stay at the House. Make a birthday donation at rmhcnashville.com/donate or fill out the envelope included in this mailing.♥

This year the Hustle goes virtual. Participate in YOUR own way... YOUR location, YOUR speed, YOUR time!



The 10th Annual Hustle is going virtual this year and is now the *Hustle from Your House* Virtual 5k and Kathy Dungan 1-Mile Fun Run Presented by Jackson with Race Day Sponsor Dell Nashville! That's right - we are not letting this quarantine keep us down and we hope you won't either!

Complete your run, walk or jog outside or from the comfort of your own treadmill any day and time from September 1 - 19! Participants are invited

to use the free ItsYourRace app to track their run, or you can use any GPS watch or smartphone app then report your time online by September 19th.

All participants will receive a commemorative medal and tie dye t-shirt! Prizes will be awarded to the largest team, top fundraising team and the most spirited individual (must submit race photo to be considered).

Visit www.rmhcnashville.com/event/hustle-for-the-house/ to register and start building your team!♥

Your Support Builds a Stronger Future for Families



Kayla has stayed at the House 163 nights (and counting) to be close to her son, Logan.

These uncertain times provide a small glimpse into the worries that Ronald McDonald House families feel on a daily basis. Having a child with complex medical needs is a life-changing event. A journey filled with questions regarding their child's health and practical items such as: Where will I stay? Where will my next meal come from? Will my job be waiting for me when we return home? Will my child be ok? The mission of the Nashville Ronald McDonald House is to eliminate as many of these worries as possible so families can focus on what matters most – their child.

Your support helps provide a home-away-from-home for families like Kayla's. Kayla gave birth to her sweet baby boy,

Logan in July of 2019 at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. Logan weighed under 2 lbs. and has been on quite a journey thusfar. After 7 months at Erlanger, Logan was transferred to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt for additional treatment and recently celebrated his 1st birthday at RMHC Nashville. Kayla has been at the Ronald McDonald House now for 163 nights (and counting). Imagine being away from your home and everything that you are used to for such a long period of time! That's how we know RMHC of Nashville is more than just a House. It provides families like Kayla's a place to come home to after a long day at the hospital. Families have a place to rest, a nourishing meal waiting for them in the kitchen, a community of fellow families going through similar situations, and so much more. We have seen the healing power of family and togetherness. Thank you for being a part of the RMHC of Nashville family and providing a place of comfort and support for families like Kayla's!♥

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