

30 YEARS

1991-2021

HELP US CELEBRATE!

Ronald McDonald House of Nashville is celebrating 30 years of providing essential resources for families with critically ill children.



Join others who have been impacted by the House with a donation of \$30 – that's \$1 for each year of comfort, care, and compassion. To donate, please visit www.rmhcnapville.com.



For more information
2144 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37212
rmhcnapville.com • 615-343-4000

Impact at a glance

keeping families close



Over 15,837 families have been served at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House since 1991



Families come from:
• All Tennessee counties
• 66 counties in Kentucky
• 41 other states
• 2 U.S. territories
• 14 foreign countries



16,800+ visitors served each year in the Ronald McDonald Family Room, located in the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt



Approximately 480 meals served annually



Families stay an average of 29 nights



More than 200 active volunteers



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Nashville

House Notes

FALL 2021

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

The True Meaning of a "Home-Away-From-Home"

Christian Wilson will forever be grateful for the house that turned into his home, and the strangers that became his family during his stay at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House back in 2008. Christian's life changed in the blink of an eye when he passed out during a high school football game in his hometown of Pleasant View, Tennessee. The once busy 16-year-old, went from being the



Christian with another transplant patient, Cody Risner, who was staying across the hall from him at the time.

quarterback of the football team, an avid golfer, and star baseball player to being diagnosed with an extremely rare form of cancer, T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Gamma Delta. Christian's battle began on October 4, 2008, when he was admitted to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt to receive chemotherapy treatments. Fortunately, just a few months later, Christian received a perfect match for a bone marrow transplant from a stranger, which changed his life completely.



Once the star quarterback, Christian became too weak to play football again in High School.

After Christian's bone marrow transplant, he and his mother moved into one of the Extended Stay Suites at the House. From the moment that he arrived at the House he remembers how "the staff surrounded me and showed my family the support that we needed during this trying time". The Extended Stay Suite was exactly what Christian and his mother needed for his recovery, providing them with a full kitchen, bedroom, private bathroom, living and dining area. Leaving behind their home where his father

and little sister stayed was very difficult, but building a new home here was one of the best things to come out of a horrible situation for Christian.

As Christian's stay went on, he began to regain his strength allowing him to be the social teen that he once was. He remembered all the different relationships that he formed at the House and the different ways that they affected

his life. Christian developed a close friendship with Cody, another teen in the house at the time and recalled how "you connect with other people at the House in ways most people don't understand."

On May 5, 2009, after 77 nights at the House and 4 months after his transplant, Christian was able to move back home to Pleasant View. Christian's football career ended with his cancer diagnosis, but he was invited to step in and take the last snap in the final game of the season. Today, you might find Christian spending time with his wife and puppy in Dover, TN or on the golf course with friends. The influence the House had on Christian's life was tremendous so much so that, "the reality to me is this is the Ronald McDonald HOME". "Home" is something we hope every resident feels at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House. ❤️



Christian with his wife, Deandra, and adopted dog, Bo.

Give back to our House through these upcoming events...

We learned a lot throughout the past year and are excited to adapt our lineup of special events to incorporate both in-person and virtual experiences. We are closely monitoring and adhering to CDC, state, and local guidelines as our team prepares these fundraisers, and we will continue to make modifications to our event experiences as necessary. Please save the dates, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Friday, October 29*: The **6th 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.



Friday, November 19*: All are invited to participate in the **17th Annual Pull Tab Collection Challenge** taking place through November 12. We ask that a representative from your group bring the tabs to the House by November 19th and help us fill our giant dumpster to be taken to the recycler. Visit our website for more details and start collecting those pop tabs today.

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



Wednesday, December 8: 2nd Annual Light up the House Campaign— RMHC of Nashville will be featured throughout every WKRN News 2 newscast starting with Good Morning Nashville from 4am-7am, News 2 at 11am, and again in the evening News 2 broadcast from 4pm-5:30pm. During this station takeover we will highlight our programs and the families who

need them as well as the volunteers, companies and organizations who support RMHC of Nashville each year. Purchase a yard sign or ornament, donate, and tune in to WKRN News 2 to help us reach our goal to raise \$125,000 and light up the House for families staying with us over the holidays.

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



HELP CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE WITH YOUR GIFT OF SUPPORT.



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Nashville



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Celebrating 30 Years

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Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Nashville is one of 377 Houses and 267 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

FEBRUARY 2021 • AUGUST 2021

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.

Charles Jackson Lee Chisam Cora Mae Evans-Karriker Genesis Northern

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.

Our Growing Family



It's
A
B
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Welcome to the world and the RMHC of Nashville family, **Anderson Kyle Leonhardt!** Melissa and Kyle are excited to share that their beautiful baby boy was born on September 8, 2021, weighing 6lbs 15oz. Mom and baby are both doing great and enjoying their time together. ❤️



Elle Fabian has joined the RMHC of Nashville staff as our Temporary Administrative Manager! Originally from Northern California, Elle recently graduated from San Diego State University and moved to Nashville at the beginning of August 2021. She enjoys country music, being active, and exploring the new city. Elle is thrilled to be a part of the RMHC team and can't wait to meet everyone involved in the House! ❤️

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 in each families' lives.

We are grateful for our 2021 Adopt a Room Sponsors, including: Adam and Alexandra King, Dell Nashville, Fridrich & Clark Realty Agents Foundation, Healthpeak Properties, Jordan Hackett Foundation, Hugh & Charlotte MacLellan Charitable Trust, McDonald's Greater TN Valley Operators, The Penick Family, the RMHC of Nashville Board of Directors, and three anonymous donors. 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.

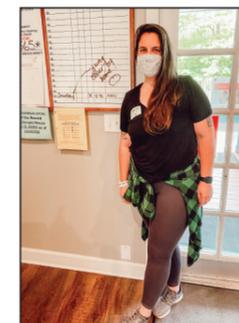
For more information about donating please visit rmhcnashville.com or contact Liz Piercy, Executive Director, at 615-343-4000 or liz@rmhcnashville.com.

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

Sutton Stays Strong



Rachel and Dave stayed at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House for 151-nights to be close to their son Sutton who was born 15 weeks early with congenital heart disease. After a long journey in the Vanderbilt NICU, Sutton grew strong enough to be moved to the PICU in their hometown of Knoxville! 2-year-old Sutton has improved leaps and bounds since November 2020 when they were finally released to go home. Rachel is grateful to be able to work



from home and they also have a day nurse who comes 5 days a week to help take care of Sutton and show him more attention than he could ever ask for! Sutton stays busy, seeing a physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech therapist each week along with at least 1 specialist in addition to their trips to Vanderbilt for appointments each month. Sutton enjoys cuddling, Elmo, and laughing. His favorite hobby is jumping in his jumper and he's beginning to stand while he's in it. He's started drinking water and is steadily weaning off of his ventilator with hopes of being off the ventilator for short periods of time later this year. ❤️

Help Families During the Holidays*

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.



The 2021 Southern Living Christmas Cookbook is Here!

Look no further for the perfect gift as the 2021 Southern Living Christmas Cookbook will once again benefit local RMHC Chapters! From October 11th – December 25th, the cookbooks will be available for purchase in your your local Dillard's store or online at www.dillards.com for just \$12 per cookbook. Cooking and entertaining are a little more meaningful when you are helping to keep families together!



Tennessee's Largest Synchronized Drive Thru Light and Music Show returns to Wilson County and the James E. Ward Agricultural Center on November 12, 2021. Regular price tickets are \$30 per family vehicle at the door, but you can purchase discounted tickets through RMHC of Nashville for \$20 each and support families with critically ill children being treated at a Nashville area hospital. Discounted tickets purchased at www.rmhcnashville.com are valid Sunday thru Thursday and will be mailed to your house.



Family Fun For All!

Discounted tickets to Lucky Ladd Farms Fall Family Fun are available now through October 30th for \$10 each (an almost 50% discount off face value) at RMHCNashville.com. 100% of the proceeds from these tickets goes towards our programs! Purchase tickets online and they will be mailed to you. Visit luckyLaddfarms.com for info about the Farm.

Donate a Holiday Wish List Item!

- Donate a new, unwrapped gift or gift card from our Holiday Wish List to the Ronald McDonald House Christmas Market Place, where families staying at the House can 'shop' for loved ones free-of-charge during the month of December.
- Purchase gift items from our Target Registry by visiting <https://www.target.com/gift-registry> and searching for the organization "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville"
- Purchase gift items from our Amazon Registry by visiting <https://www.amazon.com/registries> and searching for "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville"



Give a gift that gives back: Underwrite the cost for a family in someone's memory or honor. Families staying at the House are asked to contribute just \$15 per night for their stay. However, more than 91% 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. Please visit www.rmhcnashville.com/donate and select "In Honor Or Memory" to make a donation online in honor or memory of someone special to you.

amazon smile Using Amazon to do your holiday shopping? Visit www.smile.amazon.com, log in with your existing Amazon account information, and choose "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, TN" as the beneficiary. You'll find the same low prices and vast selection, and a portion of the purchase price will go to RMHC of Nashville at no cost to you.

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