

# OUR HOUSE



Orlando

A newsletter published for the Central Florida Ronald McDonald House® Family

Volume IX, Issue 2, Fall 2003

## Our New House is Open to Serve More Families And Has Been at Full Occupancy Many Nights!

**S**unday, May 11, Mother's Day, families were welcomed to Orlando's second Ronald McDonald House to be only moments away from their sick child. And, by the first week we were at full occupancy.

Two floors of the three story House on the campus of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women opened the first phase with 22 bedrooms to serve families with sick children who are receiving treatment at area hospitals. More than 600 families per year are anticipated to be served by the new facility. This expansion has doubled the current Ronald McDonald House program in our community.



*Phil Manahan, house operations manager, welcomes our first guests, Ben and Rachael Israel of Tampa, at the entrance to our new House.*

Photo: Orlando Business Journal

The Grand Opening Celebration began with a Preview Party and over 300 donors enjoyed a tour of the new House and a reception in a tent just outside. The Grand Opening Ceremonies and Ribbon Cutting were held Friday, May 9, at 10 a.m. and tours of the new House continued through Saturday with more than 1,000 people visiting our second House. Thank you to all the companies,

organizations, and volunteers who helped make these events special. Grand Opening photos are featured on page 11. ♥



Photo: Eric Camden

*Kelly Fisher and Dennis Berkowitz with twins Ethan and Madison are pictured with Dr. Gregor Alexander of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women at the Grand Opening of our second House.*

## Comfort at a Stressful Time – One Family's Story

**J**ust imagine that you are on an out-of-town business trip to Orlando. Add to this that you are pregnant with twins. You arrive at your hotel and begin your meetings. All is as planned until you begin to have trouble with your pregnancy.

This story is quite real for Kerry Pepper of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania (just outside Philadelphia). She is a district sales manager for Victoria's Secret and came to Orlando for a conference at the Radisson Hotel at Universal Studios. She had been in Orlando just a couple of days when she developed complications with her pregnancy and was rushed to Arnold Palmer Hospital. Her first twin, twenty-two weeks old, was born shortly after arrival at the hospital and did not survive the premature birth.

After the birth Kerry was confined to bed rest. After several days in the hospital she was released, but the trip to

Pennsylvania was too risky for the second twin. She then learned of the new Ronald McDonald House close by and called to see if she could stay during her bed rest. She entered the House and only a couple of days later she had to go back to the hospital again. June 7 baby William (Will) was born at 25 weeks weighing 1 pound, 10 ounces.



*Kerry Pepper, guest from Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.*

Her husband, William, came to be with her and stayed in the House while the baby was born to be only moments away during this stressful time. Baby Will has had to undergo heart surgery and breathes with the aid of a ventilator since his lungs are still immature. Will is now 8 weeks old and weighs 2 pounds, 8 ounces.

Kerry is still a guest at our Ronald McDonald House. William comes every other weekend and her mother or dad come alternate weekends to be with her and visit young Will.

"I don't know what I would do without the Ronald McDonald House," Kerry said. "I don't know anyone from here; I am so far away from my doctors, friends and support group. The other families have become my support group and I have formed a strong bond with many of them. When you are going through hard times, the Ronald McDonald House makes things a whole lot easier." ♥

Help "Light Up" Our Houses This Holiday Season See Details on Page 5

## President's Message . . .

In celebrating the Grand Opening of our second Ronald McDonald House of Orlando, we applaud our Central Florida community for their support of our mission of care and compassion for as many families as possible who are experiencing such a difficult time in their lives.



Our House at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women joins Our House at Florida Hospital in radiating a sense of warmth and gracious hospitality. And for the families whose thoughts and concerns are focused on the recovery of their children, the Ronald McDonald House continues to be a place where they can gather with other families and share encouraging words and support each other through their time of family crisis.

We recognize and thank the numerous individuals, foundations, corporations, and volunteers whose generosity – financial, in-kind, and otherwise – have made the realization of a second Ronald McDonald House of Orlando possible.

Since both our Houses are experiencing full occupancy many nights we realize that our challenge continues. We count on the on-going support of the community as we now have two houses, 22 additional bedrooms per night, to maintain the level of service to our high standards. Additionally, we must plan for the future, which includes the build out of our third floor in the second House.

And so, my message to you as we watch the Ronald McDonald House of Orlando program grow, is a simple one: thank you for your support – and let's keep working together to secure continued success for the future.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Chandler



**LEAVE A LEGACY**

When you *Leave a Legacy* through charitable giving in your will or trust, you help ensure that assistance is there for those who need it. Many of these gifts can also provide you with tax savings.

For more information about the *Leave a Legacy* program, and how you can join others in helping the **Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando**, please call (407) 206-0957.

Eboni Wheeler and daughter Ajah Lucan from Eustis pose just outside Our House at Florida Hospital.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando are operated by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida, Inc., a not-for-profit Florida corporation. The Board of Directors is an all-volunteer board which is comprised of members representing the medical, business and social services community, parent groups and local McDonald's franchisees. The board meets regularly and provides direction for the management, fund raising and operation of the Houses.

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Our House is published by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida, Inc., a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Your comments, questions and suggestions may be sent to:  
The Ronald McDonald House of Orlando,  
2201 Alden Road, Orlando, FL. 32803.

E-mail: [house@rmhorlando.com](mailto:house@rmhorlando.com) Web site: [www.rmhorlando.com](http://www.rmhorlando.com)  
Newsletter Editorial Board: Linda Mayfield, editor; Julia Montgomery; Lou Ann DeVoogd; Bette Jore; Phil Manahan; Barbara Gehrmann; Kelly Wallace; Dennis Ansbro; and Sharon Winget.

## Ronald McDonald House Charities Names Director of Development

Kelly Wallace has been named director of development of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida, Inc., the non-profit organization which includes the Ronald McDonald House program in Orlando. The announcement was made by Lou Ann DeVoogd, executive director of the charity.

Wallace, with 11 years at RDV Sports and the Orlando Magic, most recently served as manager of the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation.

DeVoogd, commenting on the newly created position said, "Kelly's leadership, management skills and knowledge of our community are a great asset to our organization. She will direct fund raising activities for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Kelly shares our passion for the families who stay at our Ronald McDonald Houses and I look forward to her expertise as we plan for our future growth here in Central Florida."

She is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in Communications and a major in Public Relations. A native of Orlando, she and her husband Thadd live in Winter Park. ♥



## Join Us For Our Fourth Annual Clambake On Friday, October 3rd

**I**t's been an exciting year for everyone involved with Orlando's Ronald McDonald Houses. In May, we opened our second house, offering twice as many families a "home- away-from-home." That achievement makes this year's 4th annual Clambake fundraiser more important than ever. Your support will make a significant difference for families facing the toughest of times.

On Friday, October 3rd, guests will be treated to a traditional New England-style Clambake complete with steamed lobster, clam chowder, corn on the cob, red potatoes and all the trimmings. It will take place under the romantic Central Florida skies, along the beaches of Orlando's most unique and exciting attraction, Discovery Cove.

Featured events will include live music, beach games and chances to win beautiful pearl jewelry, and other prizes while at the same time supporting the children and families who count on Orlando's Ronald McDonald Houses. You'll also have the opportunity to bid on vacations, gift certificates, dinners, autographed memorabilia, and other valuable prizes during our silent auction.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us October 3rd. Call 407-206-0957 for sponsorship information, ticket requests and details about this very special event. ❤️



## A Planned Giving Made Simple Seminar Held Recently by RMHC

**T**he Planned Giving Committee of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida, Inc. held a Planned Giving Made Simple Seminar in downtown Orlando recently. David K. Cahoone, Esq. of Esperti, Peterson, Cahoone from Sarasota and Carol Peskoe Schaner, Esq. of Quinlivan & Kaniewski LLP from South Coast Metro, California, were the guest presenters. Topics covered included charitable giving laws, outright gifts of money and property, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, and other subjects of interest to those who are planning to leave a gift to charity or who help clients with their charitable giving priorities.



*David Cahoone, Thom Rogers, and John Petrakis pictured at the Planned Giving Seminar.*

Special thank you to the presenters and to the RMHC committee: Richard A. Leigh, chair, Ronald H. Roby, Charles D. Wilder, and Thomas R. Rogers for their help in organizing the seminar and to our guest speakers for presenting the seminar pro bono. Other seminars are planned for the future. To be included on the mailing list or for more information, call Lou Ann DeVoogd at (407) 206-0957. ❤️

## From the Executive Director

**I** am always moved when I meet a family that is staying at Our House or read a note from a family member who tells us how much the Ronald McDonald House has meant to them. Our families are so grateful to have a "home" to come to after long hours of uncertainty and emotional stress. Most tell us how much a good night's rest has helped them cope with having an ill child.



The realization that our decision to expand our Ronald McDonald House program was right on target became very clear when, almost immediately after our opening in May, both Houses began operating at full occupancy many nights. Literally, we have doubled our Ronald McDonald House program now offering 44 families per night a place to stay while their child is ill and in the hospital. In less than seven years we have grown from one 13 bedroom House in 1996 to two Houses with 44 bedrooms and an anticipated expansion and build out of the third floor at our new House. We are projecting to serve more than 1,200 families in our first year of operation of two Houses.

This is, at once, exciting and challenging. With this growth comes additional needs. Our costs to operate our Ronald McDonald House program have increased; we have added more staff to serve more families; and the number of families who need our services continues to increase. Our Houses are open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

I encourage you – this year more than ever before – to come to our Clambake, participate in our first-ever "Share-A-Night, Light-A-Light" program, ask your organization to "Share-A-Meal", save pop tabs, schedule a speaker for your group, come to tour our Ronald McDonald Houses, become a volunteer, or help in whatever way you can.

If you are already a supporter, please consider increasing your level of support. As you review this issue of "Our House," look for ways to help us help the families when they are experiencing great stress due to the illness of their child.

Sincerely,



*Lou Ann DeVoogd*

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

**If your organization is interested in hearing more about the Ronald McDonald House, please call Our House at (407) 206-0957 to schedule a speaker.**



## Ronald McDonald House at Florida Hospital Receives Beautification Award

Commissioner Vicki Vargo, District 3, recently presented our Ronald McDonald House at Florida Hospital a Beautification Award from Keep Orlando Beautiful “for making a visible effort toward the improvement of their business.” Lou Ann DeVoogd accepted the award on behalf of RMHC and numerous individuals and businesses who made our “new look” possible. Special thanks to Mimi Dusault, Norm Gaulding, Winter Park Landscape Management, Rick Suggs, Dan Strome and the nursery owners, throughout our community, who so generously donated plants, trees, sod, and mulch. ❤️



*AEPi/L'amifidel from Warner Southern College at Lake Wales came to volunteer at our new House just before the opening.*

## Welcome New Staff At Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando



*Left to right: Holly Lucas, Heidi Grueser and Dennis Ansbro*

### **DENNIS ANSBRO – Assistant House Manager**

Dennis began his association with the Ronald McDonald House with his wife Debbie as both served as volunteers for special projects at the original House. A Tennessee native, he attended the University of Memphis and has a major in business management and marketing. His background includes hotel management and residential property investment. He and Debbie have 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter and live in east Orlando.

### **HEIDI GRUESER – Resident Manager**

Heidi is an Ordained Minister and currently serves as “baby chaplain” at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women during the day and evenings she is resident manager at our second Ronald McDonald House. She has a BA in Christian Education at Taylor University and a Masters of Divinity from Asury Theological Seminary. A native Floridian, Heidi has served as pastor for two churches in Georgia. She also worked four years as a chaplain in Jacksonville at Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital. During this time she served as the resident manager for the Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville.

### **HOLLY LUCAS – Volunteer Coordinator**

Holly is serving as our part time volunteer coordinator and will recruit and work with our volunteers who are the backbone of our Ronald McDonald Houses. Holly is a native of New Jersey and has a BA in psychology from the University of Central Florida. She brings extensive counseling and advisory skills to her newly created position. She most recently served as academic advisor at Webster University here in Orlando, marketing and recruiting students to the University. Holly and husband, Derek, have a little girl named Nicole, who is four, and live in Casselberry.

# An Invitation to Leave Your Legacy

Traditionally, many people have assumed that the only possible charitable donation is a cash gift made outright. Although the Ronald McDonald Houses welcome and encourage such gifts each year to advance the programs and services of Our Houses, there are other important ways to contribute by making planned gifts.

Your consideration of a planned gift to the Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando may include one of the following methods:

- ♥♥♥ **Wills** – You may name Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando in your will for a specific amount, percentage or remainder interest.
- ♥♥♥ **Insurance** – You may establish (or transfer) an insurance policy naming Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando as the owner and beneficiary.
- ♥♥♥ **Trusts** – You may create a charitable remainder trust naming Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando as a beneficiary.
- ♥♥♥ **Securities** – You may transfer securities of other appreciated assets into the name of Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando and designate the funds for the Endowment Fund.
- ♥♥♥ **Gift Annuity** – A gift annuity may be established that provides income to you and/or your family.

To learn more about how you may leave a legacy to the Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando, call Lou Ann DeVoogd at (407) 206-0957. Your planned gift will help assure financial stability for the services and programs critical to meeting the needs of children and families in medical crisis in our community. ❤️

# "LIGHT-A-LIGHT"

## And Help A Family at Our Ronald McDonald Houses During the 2003 Holiday Season

Our Ronald McDonald Houses are going to be decorated with holiday lights for the 2003 holiday season. Each bulb represents a night's stay for a family with a sick child in the hospital.

Won't you help us light up our Houses with the warmth of holiday season for our families who are in medical crisis?

### It's really very easy . . .

- For as little as \$10 per light, the amount a family is asked to pay to stay at the Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando, individuals, companies, schools, churches, and community groups can share the cost of supporting a family for one night.
- Share a week for \$70
- Share two weeks for \$140
- A month for \$300, since extended stays are common.

Many of our families cannot pay even the \$10 per night fee. Yet, no family is ever turned away for inability to pay.

**Your participation as a corporate or individual sponsor will show our community the special power of giving while lighting our Houses for the holidays. Consider giving a gift of a night's stay "in lieu of" a gift to your vendors, clients, customers, and friends. Call 407-206-0957 to give this special gift this year.**

Our lights won't go on until generous donations come in to "Share-A-Night, Light-A-Light." Corporate and individual sponsorships are available for \$10,000; \$5,000; \$3,000; \$1,000; and \$500. Any amount will help make this stressful time for our families a little easier during the holidays and all year long. Join the list of our current corporate sponsors by responding today.

"The Lighting Ceremony" will be held at our annual Holiday Open House set for Tuesday, December 2, at 6 p.m. and held simultaneously at the Ronald McDonald House on the campus of Florida Hospital and at Our House on the campus of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women.

A special part of The Lighting Ceremony will be the illumination of The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation Light Tower, which serves as a beacon to the community and stands as a symbol of the organization's commitment to the children and families of Central Florida. A \$1 million grant from Dr. Phillips, Inc. has made the tower at our Arnold Palmer Hospital location possible. The foundation serves as the presenting sponsor of our "Share-A-Night, Light-A-Light" program.

If you participated in our "Share-A-Night" campaign in the past, please consider increasing your donation this year to light a light and help even more families.

Clip and mail or fax the form below to make sure your lights are included when we light up both our Ronald McDonald Houses for the first time on December 2. Your generosity will last all year long. ♥

**Participating Sponsors To Date:** • Presenting Sponsor, The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation • Lead Sponsor, OUC  
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SHARE  
A  
NIGHT



LIGHT  
A  
LIGHT

Presented by  
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Foundation

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## YES! I Want To "LIGHT-A-LIGHT"

### And Help A Family at Our Ronald McDonald Houses During the Holiday Season

**Enclosed is my gift (made payable to the Ronald McDonald House of Orlando):**

- \$10 for one night    \$70 for one week    \$140 for two weeks  
 \$300 for one month    \$\_\_\_\_\_ other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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**MAIL TO:** Ronald McDonald House of Orlando, 2201 Alden Road, Orlando, FL 32803

**FAX TO:** (407) 581-0434   **CALL FOR INFORMATION:** (407) 206-0957

**Thank you for your donation to help the children and families that we serve!**

Clip and mail or fax to "Light-A-Light"



# ♥ Gifts From the Heart ♥

The Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando recognize and thank the following individuals, businesses, service organizations, and groups, who through their generous support and friendship have enabled Our Houses to operate.

Contributions are noted March 1, 2003 through July 31, 2003. If we have erred or omitted anyone, we apologize.

## Donations \$5,000 and above:

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The Roberson Family, Francie and Jerry with children: Jerad, Austin, and Haylee, from Williamsburg, Kentucky, return as guests to Our House.

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 Ms. Lesley Liggett  
 Ms. Amanda Lindberg  
 Ms. Emily Lynch  
 Ms. Karen Manfredi  
 Mr. Joshua R. Manring  
 Ms. Ann Marie Marinaccio  
 Ms. Mary C. Marvin  
 Ms. Marie M. Mc Glory  
 Ms. Maryellen McCarthy  
 Ms. Elizabeth J. McCracken  
 Ms. Robin McDonald  
 Mr. Malcolm C. McKay  
 Mr. Charles E. McKee, III  
 Mr. Michael McKinley & Associates  
 Ms. Sandra T. McManus  
 Ms. Martha L. Minich  
 Ms. Christine L. Mitchell  
 Ms. Karen R. Mitchell  
 Ms. Karen D. Morgan  
 Mr. Clyde W. Morrison  
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 Ms. Mary-Preston Morton  
 Ms. Florence A. Mullane  
 Ms. Anne H. Nalwalk  
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 Mr. David C. Osborn  
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 Ms. Adelina Parra  
 Ms. Amanda L. Peel  
 Ms. Cynthia Pesch  
 Ms. Jacqueline Phillips  
 Ms. Nancy M. Podurgiel  
 Ms. Sara L. Quinn  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Racicot  
 Ms. Patricia Reeves Murphy  
 Mr. Douglas L. Reilly

Ms. Betty Richards  
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 Ms. Ann S. Robins  
 Ms. Joan L. Ryter  
 Ms. Linda Sample  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Sheerar  
 Siobhan Sheerar  
 Mr. Robert R. Simmons  
 Ms. Joanna H. Skolfield  
 KSM Hoskins Smith  
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 Ms. Nancy D. White  
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 Mr. John S. Wilks  
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 Ms. Lucille Willoughby  
 Ms. Ann E. Wohlleber  
 Ms. Pamela J. Young  
 Ms. Kelle R. Zizmer  
 In Honor of Ian Oliver  
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Seyler  
 In Honor of Robert L. Ragsdale  
 Ms. Margaret Tyrlick  
 In Honor of Doreen Young's Birthday  
 Ms. Janet A. Crockett  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeVoogd

Ms. Jodi Drake  
 Mr. and Mrs. John J. Finnegan  
 Ms. Susan G. Miller  
 Dr. and Carlos Pacheco

## Memorials:

In Memory of Joseph Borho  
 Mrs. Linda DePascale  
 In Memory of Mary Criner  
 Mr. Scott Montecalvo  
 In Memory of Carol Greene  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Lagodzinski  
 In Memory of Jane Kelley  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Knappenberger  
 In Memory of Mrs. Helen F. Napier  
 Mr. and Mrs. E. Daniel Swanson  
 In Memory of Marti Perrotta  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ahring  
 In Memory of Maggie Pfeiffer  
 Ventura Sunshine Outreach Club  
 In Memory of June Preve  
 Ms. Vera S. Lombardi  
 In Memory of Stephen Ruth  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Knappenberger  
 In Memory of Carolyn Wilson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ahring  
 Swiss Village Friends

## Capital Campaign:

Bob Allen Family Foundation  
 Alpha Delta Pi Sorority at UCF  
 Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation  
 CNL Investment Company  
 Roger and Susan Chapin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeVoogd  
 Fairwinds Credit Union  
 Mr. John Hillenmeyer  
 Hughes Supply  
 K92FM  
 Martha Lewis  
 Ms. Linda Mayfield  
 McDonald's of Central Florida  
 Owner/Operators  
 Mark and Wendy Nation  
 Arnold D. Palmer & Winifred W. Palmer  
 Foundation  
 Jeno and Lois Paulucci Family  
 Foundation  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Petrakis  
 Mr. Phil Rampy

The Rusnak Family  
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## Heart Stone Garden Bricks:

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 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 53  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Dale Bellows  
 Benevolent, Patriotic Order of Does  
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 Mr. Wilbur C. Biggin, Jr.  
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 Ms. Mimi Dusault  
 and Ms. Barbara Gehrmann  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Ellis  
 Ms. Pat Engfer  
 Ms. Barbara Fleischer  
 Fleming Brothers Roofing, Inc.  
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 Dr. Shashi B. Gore  
 Grace Episcopal School  
 Ms. Gail Hoepner  
 Ms. Connie Holland  
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 Mr. and Mrs. John R. Kinkade  
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 Martin-Brower Company, LLC  
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mathews  
 Ms. Linda Mayfield  
 Mr. and Mrs. William McCracken  
 Ms. Evelyn Monfort  
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 Randall Mortgage  
 Ms. Brenda Sanzenbacher  
 and Ms. Louise Fote  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. Lee Sanzenbacher  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schaefer  
 SchenkelShultz Employees  
 Mrs. Naomi Schwartz  
 Ms. Sherrie Sitarik  
 Ms. Michele Smayda  
 St. Cloud Hospital Auxiliary  
 Swiss Village Friends  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert White

## Share-A-Night/Light-A-Light Sponsorships:

AAA  
 East Balt. Bakery  
 Nemours Children's Clinic  
 Nordstrom's  
 The Nation Law Firm  
 SunTrust



Orange County Leadership 2003 Class held a bowling tournament at Aloma Bowl to raise \$10,000 to underwrite the Volunteer Room in our second House. Pictured are front: Tim Fenton, second row: Carol Burkett, Donna Schou, Kelly Kwas, Donna Loyko, third row: Peter Shipanock, Kurt Peterson, Martin Bird, and back: Allen Morton.

# ♥ Gifts From the Heart ♥

## In-Kind Donations

Agency for Work Force Innovation  
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ahring  
AirTran Airways  
Alpha Delta Pi, Kathie Worthington  
American Hotel Registry Company  
American Solutions Group, Inc.  
Anchor Hocking Glass  
Antioch Primitive Baptist Church  
Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women  
Ms. Tracey Bachard  
Abigail Badley and Tamara Sparling  
Ms. Collette Bates  
Bay Meadows Elementary School  
Beardall Senior Center  
Best Read Guide  
Bissell Homecare, Inc.  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida  
Ms. Carrie Borho  
Ms. Marianne Bouffard  
Ms. Paula Braun  
British Airways at OIA  
Brownie Troop #1319  
Ms. Lorraine Bruzdewicz  
David Cahoon  
California Closets  
The Cardinal Foundation  
Cargo Kids!  
Carlman Booker Reis PR  
Central Florida Florist Association, Inc.  
College Park Towers  
Cypress Creek High School  
Ms. Caitlyn Czech  
Demo Sales Inc.  
Doll Creators Of Central Florida  
Dundee United Methodist Church  
Ebert Family  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Mrs. Donna Frazier  
Florida Mobility  
Florida's Hometown USA Program, Inc.  
Ken Gehrmann  
Georgia Pacific Corporation  
Susan Gertel  
Girl Scout Troop #58  
Ms. Shelagh Glazier  
Golden State Foods  
Ms. Caryn Green  
Greenberg Traurig, P.A.  
Mr. Tony Gregory  
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R. Hogan  
Tom and Karen Hollern  
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K92FM  
Ms. Geri Kaplan  
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La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries - Maitland  
Lynn Lefebvre  
Lost Lake Elementary School  
Ms. Jane Maciejewski  
Maitland Montessori Elementary School  
Maitland Vision  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mann  
McDonald's Corporation  
Mrs. Joan McDonough



*Sonny's Bar-B-Q brings delicious food to "Share-A-Meal" with our families.*

McRae's Florist, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McVey  
Medela, Inc.  
Millennium Custom Theaters  
Mr. Leo Morency  
Mount Pleasant Church  
Muslim Academy of Central Florida  
New Hope for Kids  
Mr. Charles Nordstrom  
Orlando Garden Club  
Orlando Science Center  
Barbara Page  
Parks, Tschopp, Whitcomb & Orr, P.A.  
Kara Pastis  
RDV Sports  
Mrs. Frances Rhoades  
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Carol Peskoe Schaner  
Gary and Stormy Schaefer  
SchenkelShultz  
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Scrapbook Cottage  
SeaWorld  
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Mark Shobin Family  
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Lori Sullivan  
Swiss Village Friends  
Swiss Village & Lake Alfred Lions Club  
Tennessee Baptist Church  
Tews Company  
The Cardinal Foundation  
The Community School  
Mr. Louis Theisen  
Tilt-Con Corporation  
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Valencia/Salon on Wheels  
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Mr. James Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wills  
Mrs. Annette Wimberly  
Women of Wekiva  
Doreen Young and Friends  
  
"Share-A-Meal"  
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5th Grade Girl Scouts  
AirTran Airways  
Derek & Kimberly Andrews  
Alpha Delta Pi  
Alpha Kappa Phi  
Alpha Theta  
Aurisoph, Inc.  
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Arnold Palmer Hospital - Pastoral Care  
Arnold Palmer Hospital- Pediatric Surgery  
Betty R. Boyer  
CFO Strategic Partners  
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CKI  
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Church of the Holy Spirit  
Congregation Ohev Shalom  
Delta Sigma Theta  
Donato's Pizzeria - S. Orange Ave.  
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Estate Planning Attorneys  
FAMU Alumni Association  
Foundation Academy  
George & Son Catering  
Girl Scout Troop 1687  
Girl Scout Troop 606  
Sandy Gruesser  
Jared Hanks  
Hard Rock Hotel  
Brandon Hoffman  
Inroads Organization  
Insurance Office of America  
Martha Jones

K92FM  
Shirley Knappenberger & Gerri Morrison  
Jay & Werner Korb  
Life Praise Worship  
Holly Lucas  
Machar @ Congregation Shalom  
Lori Martin  
McCree, Inc.  
McDonald's Restaurant  
Pat McKendall  
Derek & Kimberly Merrill  
Miller Legg  
Mom's Club of Lake County  
Mom's Club of Oviedo  
Mother Cabrini Circle  
George, Judy, Kara & Daniella Nadzen  
Nature's Table - Westwood Plaza  
New Life Praise Worship  
Ohev Shalom  
Olive Garden  
Olympia High School Freshman Student Government  
Oracle 1000  
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Panera Bread Company-Altamonte Springs  
Pappa John-s Pizza-Curry Ford Rd  
Perot Systems  
Mary Reichert  
Renaissance Hotel Orlando  
Renee & Kim Oliver  
Rollins College  
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St. James Church  
St. John Singles  
St. John's Lutheran  
St. Johns Singles  
St. Luke's Cathedral  
St. Mark Church Female Usher Ministry  
St. Stevens Catholic Church  
Warren & Connie Sloane  
Sonny's Bar-B-Q  
Southwest Airlines  
Subway S. Orange Ave.  
Kim & Jasai Swan  
Tedder James Worden & Associates  
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Thuy, Brittany & Holly  
Tiffany & Co.  
Timbercreek High School Key Club  
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University High School - National Honor Society  
University High School Beta Club  
University High School Key Club  
Lynette & Mark Versace  
Virginia Vilorio  
Courtney Walmer  
Webster University - Orlando North  
Frank & Sally Wills  
Winter Springs High School Key Club  
Women of Wekiva  
WOW  
Lynn Ziener

## ♥ Remember Us In Your Workplace Giving Campaign! ♥

*If you work for a company with workplace giving opportunities, remember the Ronald McDonald House as your choice for a donation! If our name is not listed, please write us in as your choice for giving.*

*Many companies also offer matching dollars for employee contributions.*

*Thank you for "thinking of the Ronald McDonald House" as you decide your philanthropic priorities.*

# Volunteer Spotlight – Martha Lewis

**V**olunteers are always the lifeblood for any non-profit organization, and that is especially true for the Ronald McDonald House. These volunteers provide the manpower, monetary and emotional support that is necessary for continued sustenance and growth.

One volunteer here in Orlando that has been a testament to the commitment of our volunteers is Martha Lewis. A 27-year-old fourth grade teacher, she has been a committed volunteer who enjoys every moment of volunteering and has done so since prior to the opening of the first Orlando House.

Transferring from the University of Vermont to attend school in Orlando, Martha immediately became involved with the opening of the House at Florida Hospital, assisting house operations manager Phil Manahan in many ways. She had volunteered with the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington, Vermont and was immediately interested in helping to get the House up and running in

Orlando. Since then she has been a dedicated volunteer, personally raising \$12,000 for the Ronald McDonald House on the campus of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women, by completing the Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon this past June in Anchorage, Alaska. This amazing personal feat was inspired by a heart-touching experience that Martha had as a child.

Growing up in Connecticut, she had always wished for another older brother, and found that brother in neighbor Philip Gildersleeve. She spent countless afternoons playing Monopoly, Clue, tag and Legos at his home, and creating a special bond



*Top: Gail and Tom Lewis congratulate Martha at the finish line of the 30th Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska. Above: Martha Lewis is pictured with her mom Gail at the opening of our new House.*



*Lucy Gildersleeve Willoughby (Philip's sister) with her two daughters Gracie and Helen. After the race, Martha went to Connecticut to share her adventures with the Gildersleeves.*

with him. Martha's world could not get any better.

Then in May of 1985 Philip was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a cancer of nerve tissue, and had to travel to Philadelphia for treatment. While in Philadelphia, Philip and his mom spent six weeks together in the Ronald McDonald House during his radiation. During the bone marrow transplant that followed, Philip's mom stayed in the House for three additional months. After fighting the cancer for three years, Philip passed away in 1988.

As a dedication to Philip, Martha became determined to remember him through her service to society. Inspired by this experience, Martha is using \$5,000 of her fundraised money to dedicate the coach lights on the new Ronald McDonald House as a tribute to Philip. In addition, she hopes to continue raising money for the House, and dedicate a room as another tribute to Philip.

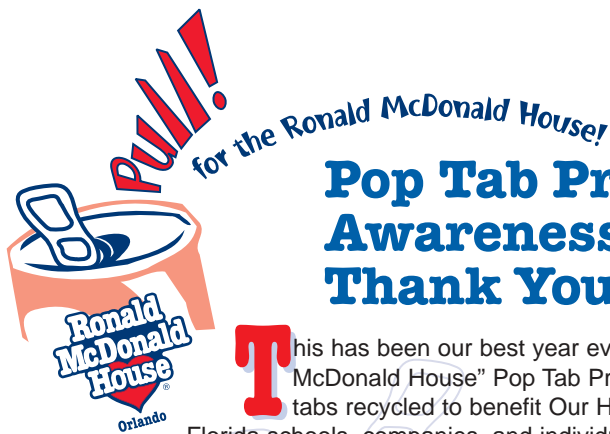
Martha is grateful to all of the donors who helped her reach above and way beyond her original goal of \$6,000,

which included many who knew Philip and many who did not but were touched by his story.

While she continues to serve the Ronald McDonald House, Martha demonstrates the commitment and drive that our volunteers bring to use every day.

And how was it running 26 miles in Alaska? "It was incredible...emotional...cold...an adventure, and amazing to think that so many people were a part of it all, all for Philip," said Martha. ❤️

Photos Courtesy of Martha Lewis



## Pop Tab Program Raises Dollars and Awareness for Our Houses – Thank You!

**T**his has been our best year ever for our "Pull for the Ronald McDonald House" Pop Tab Program with more than 22,901,760 tabs recycled to benefit Our Houses! Thank you to all the Central Florida schools, companies, and individuals who saved those little pop tabs from soda cans, pet food cans, health drink cans, canned meat products, etc. to raise \$7,514.73 to help the families who stay at our Ronald McDonald Houses. Special thanks to Martin-Brower, WKMG-TV, Aaron Scrap Metal, K92FM, and McDonald's restaurants. **Together we have raised more than \$23,000 since our program began in 1997!**

Please continue to "pull" for the Ronald McDonald House and tell others of this easy way to support us. Pop tabs may be brought to either Ronald McDonald House location and participating McDonald's restaurants for recycling. ❤️

*Harvey and Anna Mae Ahring of the Swiss Village in Winter Haven continue to collect pop tabs from their community.*



*Beth Shinall (left) and Michelle Green are pictured at the Winter Park McDonald's with the pop tab collection bin. Thank you to all participating McDonald's restaurants for helping make our pop tab project so successful.*





# We Salute The Room Donors and Designers of Our New House



**Dr. P. Phillips Light Tower**  
Donor – Dr. Phillips, Inc.

**Foundation**  
Donor – K92FM

**Land**  
Donor – Orlando Regional Healthcare

## FIRST FLOOR

**Bedroom #1 American Country**  
Donor – K92FM  
Designers – Ethan Allen Furniture  
Jill J. Maghan, Allied Member ASID  
Mary Jean Santomauro

**Bedroom #2  
The Roots of Country Music**  
Donor – K92FM  
Designer – Jack B. Fowler, ASID

**Dayroom #3 Canyon Country**  
Donor – K92FM  
Designers – Seminole Community College,  
Interior Design Department  
Jill Smith, ASID, Advisor  
Samantha Eddy, Student Member ASID  
Anne Knowlton, Student Member ASID

**Dayroom #4 Oceanic Fantasy**  
Donor – Orange County Convention Center  
Construction Division  
& Transportation/Security Division  
Designer – Elite Interiors  
Yen Tu, Allied Member ASID

**Bedroom #5 Postcards from Africa**  
Donor – The Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, Inc.  
Designer – Robb & Stucky  
Furniture and Design Studio  
Debbie Sheaf, ASID, IDS

**Bedroom #6 Mosaics**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designer – Sherry Torrence Interiors, Inc.  
Sherry Torrence, ASID

**Bedroom #7 NASCAR**  
Donor – The Rusnak Family  
Designer – Classical Home Designs, Inc.  
Susan P. Berry, ASID

**Bedroom #8 Island Tropical**  
Donor – Ren and Ania Nitzsche  
Designer – Interior Designs by Diana Inc.  
Diana Cook, Allied Member ASID

**Bedroom #9 Notre Dame Retreat**  
Donor – The Notre Dame Club of Greater Orlando  
and The N. Donald Diebel Jr., M.D.  
Good Samaritan Fund  
Designer – Diane Hagar Burns Interior Designs  
Diane Hagar Burns, ASID

**Bedroom #10  
Alpha Delta Pi Sorority**  
Donor – The Alpha Delta Pi Sorority at UCF  
Designer – Diane Fouts Interior Design  
Diane Fouts, ASID

**Manager's Office**  
Donor – Alexis and Jim Pugh  
Designer – Dawson's Decorating Center  
Merry Dawson, Allied Member ASID

**Coach Lights**  
Donor – Martha Lewis

**Volunteer Room**  
Donor – 2003 Orange County Leadership Institute

**Kitchen**  
Donor – SunTrust  
Designer – Fred Rodgers, ASID

**Quiet Room**  
Donor – The Nemours Foundation  
Designer – Dawson's Decorating Center  
Merry Dawson, Allied Member ASID

**Tween Room**  
Donor – CNL Investment Company  
Designer – Sherry Torrence Interiors, Inc.  
Sherry Torrence, ASID

**Dining Room**  
Donor – Southwest Airlines  
Designer – Fred Rodgers, ASID

**Reception**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designer – Dawson's Decorating Center  
Merry Dawson, Allied Member ASID

**Pantry**  
Donor – East Balt. Bakery of Florida, Inc.

**Weather Vane**  
Donor – The Tom and Peggy Chandler Family

**Fountain Area**  
Donor – Darrell and Carole Kelley

**Alcove Areas**  
Donor – K92FM (2)  
Donor – Bank of America (1)

**Front Porch**  
Donor – The Bob Allen Family Foundation

Please call (407) 206-0957 to find out how you can become a room donor.

## SECOND FLOOR

**Bedroom #11 Staying at the Ritz**  
Donor – Mark and Wendy Nation  
Designer – Interiors by Lawrence David  
Mickey Searcy, Allied Member ASID

**Bedroom #12 A Walk in the Woods**  
Donor – Sprint  
Designer – Lynne Watson Interiors  
Lynne Watson, Allied Member ASID

**Bedroom #13 Tropical Oasis**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designer – The Design Studio  
Roberta LeMoine, ASID

**Dayroom #14 World Tour**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designers – The Inside Story  
Heather Magray  
Taryn Bianco

**Bedroom #15 Terracotta Retreat**  
Donor – The Chicone Family Foundation  
Designers – Julyan Hayward, ASID  
Gladys M. Clarke, Allied Member ASID  
Suzanne Wilson, ASID  
Lecky Wyatt

**Bedroom #16 Orient Express**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designers – Gladys M. Clarke, Allied Member ASID  
Pauline Weingarten, Allied Member ASID

**Bedroom #17 Grandma's Attic**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designer – Fine Lines Design Services  
Laurie Malmberg, Allied Member ASID

**Bedroom #18 Safari**  
Donors – John, Katherine, Eric & Elizabeth Gatch  
Cookie and John Petrakis  
Designers – Seminole Community College,  
Interior Design Department  
Jill Smith, ASID, Advisor  
Christopher Popovich, Student Member ASID

**Bedroom #19 Surf Culture**  
Donor – Southwest Airlines  
Designer – Antoinette Unique Interiors, Inc.  
Antoinette Prisco, ASID

**Bedroom #20 Orchid Garden**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designer – Fred Rodgers, ASID

**Bedroom #21 Key West**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designers – Barbara Shearman, Allied Member ASID  
Karleen Bensinger, ASID

**Bedroom #22 Tropical Toile**  
Donor – Phil Rampy  
Designers – Furniture Classics  
Karleen Bensinger, ASID  
Barbara Shearman, Allied Member ASID

**Play Room**  
Donor – ABC Fine Wine & Spirits  
Designer – Classical Home Designs, Inc.  
Susan P. Berry, ASID

**Telephone Room**  
Donors – Carl Hill Galloway Telephone Pioneer  
Club ITPA and  
The Independent Telephone  
Pioneer Association Foundation

**Manager's Apartment**  
Donor – Hubbard Construction Company  
Designer – Sherry Torrence Interiors, Inc.  
Sherry Torrence, ASID

**Laundry Room**  
Donor – The Peter Barr Family  
Designer – Sherry Torrence Interiors, Inc.  
Sherry Torrence, ASID

**Alcove Areas**  
Donor – AVAILABLE

**Porch**  
Donor – AVAILABLE

**Gathering Room**  
Donor – AVAILABLE  
Designer – Sherry Torrence Interiors, Inc.  
Sherry Torrence, ASID

Thank You Central Florida for Our Second House!

# Grand Opening Festivities At Our New House



Photos: Eric Camden, Mark Winget

## ♥ Special Thanks For Our Grand Opening Festivities ♥

- ABC Fine Wine & Spirits • Alpha Delta Pi • American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) • Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women
- Bonfish Grill • Central Florida Florists Association • Coca-Cola • Elegant Images by Mark • Eric Camden Photography
- FAIRWINDS Credit Union • Fry Hammond Barr • K92FM • Martin-Brower • McCree, Inc. • McDonald's of Central Florida • Michael J. Casalino
- NEVrland, Inc. • Oerther Foods/McDonald's • Organized Jungle • Orlando Kids on Stage • Orlando Regional Healthcare
- Orlando Regional Healthcare Foundation • Ronald McDonald • Ronald McDonald House Volunteers • SchenkelShultz
- SeaWorld/Discovery Cove Orlando • Winter Park Blueprint & Color Graphics

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## ♥ Wish List ♥

- Batteries – AA
- Cereal
- Coffee – Regular
- Deodorant
- Dish Cloths & Towels
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
- Frozen Dinners (Family-sized)
- Hot Dogs
- Instant Oatmeal & Grits
- Laundry Detergent (Powder)
- Light Bulbs 60W & 100W
- Meats (Chicken, Beef, Pork)
- Movies - DVDs, VHS
- Nintendo 64 Games
- Paper Towels
- Pasta & Sauces
- Photocopy paper
- Projection Monitor
- Razors
- Restaurant Meal Coupons
- Scanner
- Sony Playstation 1 Games
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Trash bags – 13, 30, & 55 gallon
- Tuna
- Umbrellas
- Zip Lock Freezer Bags

Clip and take with you as you shop

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**September 2003 – January 2004**

**“Share-A-Night, Light-A-Light”**

Project to light both Ronald McDonald Houses with lights this holiday season. Fundraiser to benefit the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando. Lights are available for \$10 per light.

**October 3**

**Fourth annual “We’re Having A Clambake”**

At Discovery Cove. A traditional New England clambake “Florida style” to benefit our Ronald McDonald Houses. Sponsorships are available and auction items needed for the event.

**November 20 - World Children’s Day**

Go to participating McDonald’s restaurants November 20-23 and purchase featured items which will benefit Our Ronald McDonald Houses.

**December 2 – “The Lighting Ceremony”**

Held at 6 p.m. at both Ronald McDonald Houses for “Share-A-Night, Light-A-Light” project followed by a reception at both locations.

**On-going**

**“Pull for the Ronald McDonald House”**

Pop Tab collection and recycling project. Pop Tabs to be dropped off at either Ronald McDonald House.

**For more information, call (407) 206-0957**

## Heart Stones Still Available for Purchase

**T**here is still time to be a part of our Heart Stone Garden at the Ronald McDonald House of Orlando on the campus of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children & Women. Bricks are available for \$100, \$500, and heart stones for \$1,000. Your donation will buy your own personally engraved brick or heart stone for the terrace just outside the dining area in our second House. You and your family, your company, your church or civic group, or your child’s school can be a part of our second House and have your own message in our Heart Stone Garden.



**Check Us Out at [www.rmhorlando.com](http://www.rmhorlando.com)**