



# Room in Your Heart

At Memorial Hospital of South Bend

[www.rmhmichiana.org](http://www.rmhmichiana.org)

Spring 2010

## Remembering a Dear Friend



Steve Hecker

With great sadness, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Indiana – Michiana Chapter mourns the loss of a dear friend. Steve Hecker, Owner/Operator of several McDonald’s restaurants in Southwest Michigan, died in November 2008. He had a very special bond with Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) and the Ronald McDonald Family Room® in South Bend. Since opening our doors in 2002, Steve has been one of the organization’s longest supporters.

We remember Steve today as one of the most caring and generous people with whom the organization has had

the pleasure of working. His ongoing financial and moral support helped us provide comfort to many families from our local communities whose children were critically ill.

Even now we are reminded of his generous spirit as he has named Ronald McDonald House Charities of Indiana – Michiana Chapter as a benefactor in his will. On behalf of the local RMHC and the Ronald McDonald Family Room in South Bend, we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to Steve and his family. His charitable spirit will always be remembered and live on in our hearts. ✦

## View from the Room...



The passing of each year yields new resolutions, new promises and new beginnings. This New Year brings even more

changes as we enter into a new decade. Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) has been working hard the past several years to increase its awareness of the Ronald McDonald Family Room, to provide the best services possible to our families during their special time of need, and to raise the dollars necessary to fund our operations. As we move into 2010, I believe we’re on a positive path.

Besides the new relationships created daily between the families that we serve and our volunteers, we have seen many exciting and promising happenings. The Ronald McDonald Family Room starts the year with new bedroom furniture donated by an anonymous benefactor. To that individual, we say many, many thanks. We are extremely grateful. In addition, we received a tremendous response to our volunteer training, adding 31 new volunteers at our most recent session.

As part of our increased awareness efforts, a new Web site has been created solely for the Michiana Chapter. This site, [rmhmichiana.org](http://rmhmichiana.org), includes background on our organization, as well as information about upcoming events, volunteering, and the many other ways that people can help support our mission.

We are also excited to start the year with two interns from the University of Notre Dame who will help us keep RMHC and the Ronald McDonald Family Room running smoothly. The RMHC Teen Board has had a great first year as well. Through the beginning of March, they will be accepting applications from all Michiana area high school students for the 2010-2011 school year.

Since we opened our doors in 2002, a great number of people (too many to mention here) have helped to make the past seven years a great success. We look forward to this new decade and making RMHC and the Ronald McDonald Family Room an even more special organization in our community.

**Shelley Lesniewicz**  
*Executive Director*

## In Praise of Our Volunteers



Volunteer Mary Lawrence helps stock the Ronald McDonald Family Room pantry.

I am very lucky to come to work every day and work with such wonderful, generous people. Our volunteers truly are the "Heart of our Home." Whether they are lending a listening ear, preparing a cup of coffee or meal, cleaning a room for someone who is in need of a good night's

**"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."**  
~Author Unknown

sleep or greeting a new family at our doors with a smile, our volunteers do it all.

We continue to be able to offer all of the services provided to our families at no cost because of our dedicated volunteers and many very special donors who continue to support us through their generous contributions. I would like to recognize a few of these organizations. Without your generosity, we would not be here. Thank you to Coca-Cola, Whirlpool, Panera Bread, Blondie's Cookies, McDonald's KADA Partnership, McDonald's NIO Co-op, Studebagels, Carol Dawson, Ray Schuler Advertising, Makin' Me Crazy, Service Master Cleaning, Striving for Perfection Painting, Monroe Restoration, Ronald McDonald House Charities® Teen Board, Whims and Wishes, Memorial Children's Hospital, Omni-Source

Recycling Center, along with everyone who donates to our pantry, supply closet and pop-tab collections. To all of the meal donors listed in this newsletter who continue to provide a hot meal every night for our families, thank you very much!

I am so lucky to see every day the impact this beautiful facility has on families who need us during some of the most difficult times in their lives. Thank you for everything you do to help us keep our doors open, welcoming parents and letting them know that we are here for them.

The Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Hospital is open 365 days per year, 12 hours per day. The Ronald McDonald Family Room is staffed with two volunteers during four shifts from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering and joining an outstanding team of volunteers, please contact me regarding one of our 2010 training sessions. The three remaining sessions will be held May 8, August 19 and October 9. Applications are available upon request.

Would you like to help us at the Ronald McDonald Family Room, but, do not think

a regular volunteer shift is possible right now? Please give me a call at 574-647-7711! We can work together to find just the right fit. We have many opportunities to help during the year. You may be able to assist with a meal, run errands or help put together a mailing. Working together we can make a difference.

Won't you join us?

Kellie Montgomery  
Volunteer Coordinator



~ Ronald McDonald Family Room in South Bend ~

### Volunteers Recognized

This past November, a very special group of 50 volunteers were recognized for their continued dedication and service to the Ronald McDonald Family Room. These very special people were presented with their "Caring Heart" pin in recognition of their time and service. They continue to volunteer at the RMFR because they believe in what they are doing; because they know that they are truly making a difference in the lives of families in need.

#### 7 Years

Loretta Atherton  
Tammie Blackman-Brown  
Jody Bruetman  
Tina Deren  
Catherine D'Hoore  
Nancy Ferguson  
Susan Guljas  
Beverly Hanson  
Diane Healy  
Sue Heick  
Donna Lamberti  
Shelley Lesniewicz  
Betty O'Malley  
Anita Poorman  
Phyllis Rozanski  
Diane Sarnat  
Kathleen Sparks  
Joan Zielinski

#### 6 Years

Betty Baiz  
Kathy Boehler  
Mary Jo Carter  
Patricia Chodzinski  
Melva Conlon  
Midge Creed  
Pam Filley  
Judi Finkler  
Eileen Fogarty  
Betsy Hornback  
Nancy Mah  
Linda Marker  
Mark Marker  
Nancy McBride  
Margaret Moss  
Michelle Smith  
Wally Stoelting  
Melissa Takach  
Patricia Tollins  
Meg Tomshack  
Ellen Van Arsdale

#### 5 Years

Anjie Brenda  
Judy Graf  
Jolene Hanna  
Marilyn Hardwick  
Carol Holderbaum  
Barb Johnson  
Paul Ogren  
Carol Peters  
Jan Petty  
Lynn Schmidt  
Lynda Simon  
Sue Stringfellow

## Community Opens Its Heart...

### Notre Dame Students Intern



Interns Melissa Kaduck and Jean Zhang.

Ronald McDonald House Charities welcomes two new interns from the University of Notre Dame — Melissa Kaduck and Jean Zhang. Both are junior marketing majors who hail from Pittsburgh and come to us through the University's Career Center.

The two young women are extremely enthusiastic and have been assisting with all aspects of the organization from helping with the RMHC Teen Board, to preparing information for the Annual Report and researching grant and scholarship opportunities. Both students have volunteered at the Ronald McDonald Family Room and are gaining insights into what is involved in the day-to-day activities taking place in the organization.

"The Ronald McDonald Family Room is such a welcoming place and I really respect the work that they do here," Jean said. "It requires a lot of community members' hard work to make it run smoothly ... As a marketing major, I feel that I can contribute to the awareness of the Ronald McDonald Family Room and how the organization continues to serve the families in the Michiana community."

"The Ronald McDonald Family Room is a support group for the families of sick children," Melissa noted. "To be part of that support group is extremely fulfilling and a rewarding experience."

The Ronald McDonald Family Room is grateful to have these interns on board and part of the RMHC team.

### Social Concerns Fair

The Ronald McDonald Family Room also took part in the Social Concerns Fair held at the University of Notre Dame this past January. The fair encourages Notre Dame students to become involved in social service opportunities available in and around the city of South Bend. Over 50 local organizations and clubs attended the fair. Our own organization was well represented with Executive Director Shelley Lesniewicz and new interns Jean Zhang and Melissa Kaduck manning the booth. Over 30 students signed up in the two-hour period to take part in the orientation training to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald Family Room, and many more were informed about the mission of RMHC. We are very excited by the students' interest and hope to see many of them become new volunteers.

### Dimples A Golf Outing

Get ready for the 4th Annual "Dimples A Golf Outing" to benefit the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Hospital and mark your calendar for May 18, 2010. Sponsored by Martin's Supermarket at Heritage Square, this year's event will be held at Juday Creek Golf Course and will kick off with a luncheon, followed by golf and ending with appetizers and awards.

There will be a noon "shotgun start," and from there, up to 36 teams will have the opportunity to compete in an 18-hole golf scramble for a chance to win this year's many prizes. There will be many other exciting activities during the day, and a "special character" is expected to join in the fun.

Participants can sponsor themselves or secure a sponsorship from area businesses. Hole sponsorship is \$100, Team/Golf sponsorship is \$400, and Team/Hole sponsorship is \$500. For further information, call us at (574) 647-7868. ✦



2009 Dimples golfers relax with Ronald McDonald.

### Runners Needed for Sunburst Races

The Sunburst Races are one of the most exciting athletic events in the Midwest. There are many different races to accommodate runners from all walks of life — a marathon, half marathon, 10K, 5K and even a Family Fun Run. All runners end their race on the University of Notre Dame Stadium's 50-yard line, a memorable moment in itself that few people are able to experience. The Sunburst Marathon brings people from across the country to this area as the race is a qualifier for the famed Boston Marathon.

In 2009, the local RMHC chapter was involved in helping with this special event. The RMHC Teen Board spent Friday handing out literature and sharing the charity's mission with the public. They also manned the fluids tent on the field of Notre Dame's Stadium at the end of the race on Saturday as part of their community service efforts.

This year the race will be held on Saturday, June 5, and RMHC hopes to find runners that will help raise money for the charity through sponsorships. If you are interested in running, or know someone who is, a pledge form is available on the local RMHC Indiana – Michiana Chapter's Web site at [www.rmhcichiana.org](http://www.rmhcichiana.org).

~ Ronald McDonald Family Room in South Bend ~

## 2009 Contributors

The Ronald McDonald Family Room recognizes and thanks the following individuals, businesses, service organizations and groups who, through their generous support and friendship, enable us to operate. If we error or omit anyone, we sincerely apologize.

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## Wish List

- ♥ Gift Cards & Monetary Donations: Monetary donations in any amount (100% of your tax deductible donation stays here at the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Hospital in South Bend). Gift card donations: (i.e. Martin's, Meijer, Sam's Club/Wal-Mart, Target, Office Depot, Staples or Office Max).
- ♥ Pantry Food: Individual snacks (i.e. chips, pretzels, etc), individual-size cereals, individual-size fruit juices, spaghetti sauces, salad dressings, jelly, syrup, crackers, granola bars, peanut butter crackers, cheese and crackers, cake mixes or dessert mixes.
- ♥ Please call regarding the need for refrigerator/perishable food: Eggs, milk, meats, lunchmeat,

hot dogs, hamburger, individual cheese slices, cheese sticks, individual cream cheese packets, butter or margarine, buns, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables.

- ♥ Office items: Postage stamps, copy paper (white, pink, yellow, green, blue), glue sticks, tape.
- ♥ Personal Care Items: (sample size) toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs & brushes.
- ♥ Paper Products: Paper towels, napkins and tissues.
- ♥ Kitchen/Bathroom/Laundry Items: Trash bags (large kitchen and 8-gallon), air freshener, hand soap, hand sanitizer, HE (high efficiency) and baby laundry (i.e. Dreft) detergent, dishwasher

soap, fabric softener, twin plastic mattress covers, plastic pillow covers.

Wish List items may be delivered from  
9:00 am – 9:00 pm to:

**Ronald McDonald Family Room**  
Memorial Hospital, 3rd Floor  
615 N. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601  
574-647-3020

*While local McDonald's Restaurants provide generous support of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Indiana – Michiana Chapter, we could not provide services without the many financial contributions from individuals in the community, special events and corporate sponsors. Thank you for your ongoing support.*

*Room in Your Heart* is published three times a year by the Michiana Chapter of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Indiana and is devoted to the families, donors, volunteers and communities served by the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Indiana.

**Ronald McDonald House Charities  
of Indiana – Michiana Chapter  
P.O. Box 1274, South Bend, IN 46624  
574-647-3020**

## Save the Date!

**Dimples A Golf Outing** – May 18  
*Sponsored by Martin's Super Markets  
Juday Creek Golf Course, Granger, Ind.*

✦  
**2010 Volunteer Training Classes** – May 8, Aug. 19, Oct. 9

✦  
**Sunburst Races** – June 4-5

✦  
**McDazzle** – Sep. 30

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