



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Central Indiana

HEART & HEARTH

WINTER

2022

40 YEARS

celebrating together,
TOGETHER

40 FROM OUR 40

P.4

MORE STORIES FROM OUR 40 YEARS

TASTE, TOGETHER RECAP P.12

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS P.24

ANNIVERSARY EDITION • VOLUME II

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Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Central Indiana

HEART & HEARTH WINTER 2022

A magazine for friends
of Ronald McDonald
House Charities of
Central Indiana

ABOUT HEART & HEARTH

Heart & Hearth is
published twice annually
by RMHCCIN. Our mission
is provide a supportive
home away from home
for families of children
receiving medical care
at Riley Children's Health
and other area hospitals.

On the Cover:

Celebrate 40 years of the
Ronald McDonald House
in central Indiana with this
special anniversary edition.

Please send your
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THE HAMILTON FAMILY



Our daughters, TJ and Zander, were born
February 23, 2022, 17 weeks premature. Not
long after their birth, we began our nearly
eight-month stay at Ronald McDonald House.

During our time there, the staff was amazing, ensuring
we always had anything we needed including meals,
supplies, and answering all our questions. We're so
appreciative of the staff, the volunteers, and the donors
who make having to stay at the House under critical
circumstances more comforting. Everyone was so
personable and they genuinely cared about not only
the welfare of our babies but also our well-being while
enduring the lengthy NICU stay. We would like to thank
everyone involved who makes the operation of the
Ronald McDonald House seamless, so families don't
have to worry about housing while trying to be present
and care for their loved ones. After 232 days, Zander
was discharged from the NICU followed by TJ at 240
days. The girls are thriving since being home and have
nowhere to go but up, with very bright futures ahead!
The Ronald McDonald House plays a part in their story
and we will forever be grateful for the services and
housing they provided in what was probably our most
difficult time of need.

With gratitude,
Teela and Taylor Hamilton

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KAREN CAMPBELL

INTERVIEWED BY KARIN OGDEN



In 1980, Karen Campbell became the first vice-president of a group that would become Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. Since that induction, she's been a key advocate for the organization for over four decades. Widely recognized as a pillar of the Indiana House, fewer are aware of the impact Karen has had globally. She is truly a Ronald McDonald House ambassador to the world.

Karen didn't begin her professional life as a champion for sick children and their families. While attending Georgetown University, and after earning her master's degree in political science in 1969, Campbell served on the staff of Indiana Senator Birch Bayh where she was part of a team that drafted the 25th and 26th amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

In 1972 Karen and her husband, Howard, settled in East Chicago, Indiana. The second woman to serve as a Civil Rights Investigator with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Chicago region, Karen commuted to Chicago. Concurrently, Howard worked as the director of East Chicago's public housing program.

The Campbell's first son, Kevin, was born in 1973 and was diagnosed with leukemia in 1975. Kevin's treatments took them to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, 65 miles from their home. Karen slept in a chair next to Kevin's hospital bed.

The first Ronald McDonald House (RMH) opened in Philadelphia in 1974, the second in Chicago in 1977. One day, Dr. Edward Baum, Kevin's physician, asked if Karen would be interested in volunteering. After an enthusiastic "yes!," her first job was to get beds for the new RMH. She telephoned the president of Serta

Mattress Company and asked for 18 beds. When he replied, "I suppose you want me to donate frames and headboards too?" Karen realized she could accomplish many things by simply asking for what she needed. "We were off and running!"

In 1978, the Campbells moved to Indianapolis when Howard became area manager of all federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in Indiana. Kevin's cancer treatments continued at Riley Hospital for Children (now operating as Riley Children's Health) and Karen saw again parents sleeping in chairs by their children's beds, for there were no other options.

Interest in building an Indiana Ronald McDonald House grew in the Fall of 1978 when a group of McDonald's owner/operators from the Indiana area attended a presentation by the individuals involved in creating the Chicago House. Several pediatric doctors from Riley Hospital visited the Chicago RMH and, in the spring of 1979, another meeting was held with supporters in Indianapolis. During this meeting, Riley Hospital, then owned by Indiana University, was represented by the Dean of the IU School of Medicine, Dr. Steven Beering. Dr. Beering was clearly supportive.

The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana opened in October of 1982 and within three months, the 25 bedrooms were consistently full. A long waiting list showed the need was overwhelming, so planning for an expansion was begun. In 1989, 21 rooms and six apartments were added to the original House.

Cities across the U.S. and throughout the world began contacting McDonald's corporate offices looking for information. Community leaders were connected to executives from McDonald's marketing and communications office who would join RMH founders and present to groups of local hospital representatives and McDonald's owner/operators.

When Coral Gables, FL contacted McDonald's Karen was asked to join the presentation. Though she had played a role in founding the Chicago and Indiana Houses, Karen knew the executives were skeptical

“The Houses gave me a chance to pay back the greatest gift ever given to me, my son’s life.”



▲ Karen Campbell

about her ability to deliver and she was nervous.

During the presentations, a promotional film closed with a scene of a young boy flying a toy airplane with his younger brother in tow. The boys were the Campbell's sons, Kevin and Scott. After the film, Karen began, "My name is Karen Campbell and you just met my motivation, my son Kevin, who has leukemia." The impact she brought to the conversation was palpable and Karen soon began speaking to communities in Florida, Maine, and New York; in cities like Denver, Montreal, Toronto, and Quebec and on college campuses such as Stanford, Texas Tech, and Texas A&M.

Karen shared her passion for respite and healing for families with sick children across the world. She helped galvanize communities that were considering a Ronald McDonald House and was a key contact with many chapters while they were building. She drafted white papers on fundraising, volunteer management, and facility development that could be left after presentations so, "people

would have something tangible to hold onto."

Karen remembers a tough negotiation with a McDonald's owner/operator in New York who demanded that Long Island Jewish Hospital (LIJH) give land to the House on which to build. Karen noted that a standard ground lease would suffice as it had in Indianapolis. Letting nothing stand in the way of getting Ronald McDonald Houses built for families, she collected a portfolio of leases and made them available to LIJH lawyers. The 100th RMH opened on Long Island in 1986.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, she helped a chapter choose between two potential partners. One hospital was in desperate shape. Feral cats surrounded the building. Doctors made their rounds with unsheathed hypodermic needles. Karen advised against a partnership with that facility, recommending another smaller but safer infirmary. In so doing, she chose to make the world much better for 50 families rather than try to take care of 100 families poorly.

In the late 1980s, Bridget Coffing, head of PR for McDonald's worldwide, whose responsibilities included oversight of the burgeoning RMH movement, asked Karen to join her trip to Houses in Paris, Munich, Vienna and London. In Germany they met Karin Zeiter, head of Ronald McDonald House Charities, Germany. When they asked if Zeiter had any hope East and West Germany would reunify, she said, "sadly, no." Later at a RMH International Conference in Chicago, Zeiter shared, "The (Berlin) Wall has fallen. We opened a House where we thought was a dream that could never come true, in Aachen."

In Austria, Coffing and Campbell attended a reception with the local RMH parents' group. One mother asked, "Do you ever forget your child's illness?" Karen replied, "I promise you; it won't always be the first thing you think about every morning." Diverse countries and language barriers never mattered because every parent shared a common experience, each had a sick child.

Karen helped host visitors from England, Sweden, Holland, and Japan. She remembers Freda, a Dutch mother, who shared that when she learned her daughter was ill, she asked a neighbor to pick up groceries for her family and another neighbor to pick up her other child. Freda declared, "We must ask our country to be our neighbor."

Karen Campbell spent 21 years on the International RMH Advisory Board. "The Houses gave me a chance to pay back the greatest gift ever given to me, my son's life." For about a year, the Indianapolis House was the largest in the world. Today there are over 365 Ronald McDonald Houses in 39 countries.

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MIKE RHINAMAN

STORY BY ADAM LOWE



▲ Mike Rhinaman

Mike Rhinaman dedicated his time and spirit to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana for nearly two decades, leaving an indelible mark on families, staff, and volunteers alike. He was known for his love of spreading Christmas cheer, and his steadfast dedication to volunteerism, working on weekends and holidays so other volunteers could spend time with their families.

Mike spent most of his career in the banking industry. When a coworker introduced him to the Ronald McDonald House, he became hooked right away. "He fell in love with Riley from the first time he volunteered," Nancy Cox said of her brother. Later adding part time employee to his Ronald McDonald House resume, Mike dedicated himself to making sure the (then) Ronald McDonald House inside Riley Children's Health was running smoothly. That space is now serving families as a Ronald McDonald Family Room.

As every year would come to an end, Mike would find his time to shine. Mike's brother Jack shared, "Our family has always been Christmas-crazy and he took that to the extreme we all did." Mike would transform the RMH facilities into a veritable winter wonderland for the holiday season. He led the charge annually with Santa's Workshop, a one-of-a-kind experience where guest families could "shop" free of charge for presents for their children. Santa would make an appearance, and the House would be filled with the inescapable smell of hot chocolate.

Throughout it all, Mike put everyone else before himself. "Our lives revolved around the Ronald McDonald House," Jack shared. "On the holidays when he volunteered, we would want to wait to eat and he would say 'No, go ahead, just make sure I get a plate. Or two or three.'"

Mike passed away on July 26, 2019 at the age of 57, tirelessly dedicated to the Ronald McDonald House until the very end. Inside the Ronald McDonald Family Room on Riley Children's first floor, Mike has a closet dedicated to his memory. It was his closet, filled to the brim with all the decorations and merriments he would share with guests. To an outsider, a dedication of a closet may seem like a silly gesture, but for those that knew him, it's a fitting tribute to his favorite part of serving the House. "We're going to lift up and celebrate all that was important to him," said Karin Ogden, CEO. "We'll also try to lead by example, be there for each other and for the families and our community. God bless him for his love and his service to this House. We are better because of it."



▲ Mike and friend Stephanie Keys at a volunteer celebration.

RICH SCHREINER

INTERVIEWED BY STACY CLARK

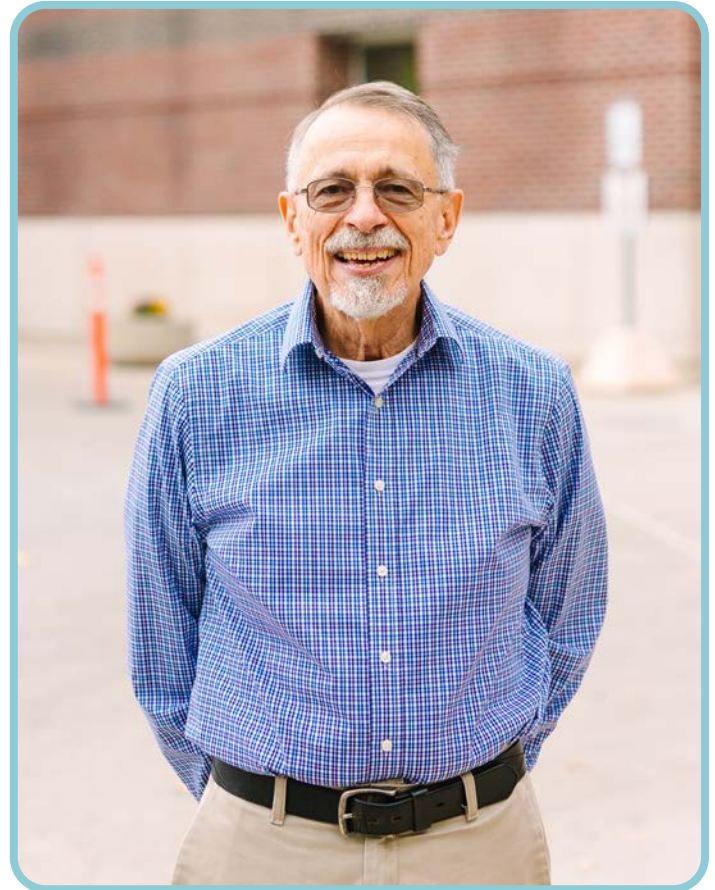
As you enter the Simon Family Tower at Riley Children's Health, you'll be greeted by a life size statue of this man – Dr. Richard Schreiner, retired Chair of the Pediatrics Department and Physician-in-Chief.

Dr. Schreiner's accomplishments are many and include growing the size of the department and significantly increasing funding for research and training residents. "He devoted a significant portion of his efforts as chair to the development of better health care delivery systems and state-of-the-art pediatric educational programs for medical students, residents and practitioners to meet the ever-changing technology and modes of treatment for all children."

When Dr. Schreiner started his career in medicine in St. Louis in the late 1960's hospital care was very different than we know it today. At the time, visitation for parents in most children's hospitals was for two hours a day but Riley had already changed that, allowing 24-hour visitation for parents. The Riley NICU was very crowded, with 1/10 the total amount of space it is today. Parents were sleeping in chairs in a small waiting room. The team of doctors and nurses at Riley felt it was essential that parents be part of their child's care plan. Dr. Schreiner credits his predecessor in the department with leading the charge at Riley for a move toward family-centered care. The team strongly believed that the child would do better and would definitely be better cared for when they went home, if parents could be part of care at the hospital.

Dr. Schreiner was working at Riley and taking care of a lot of sick newborns when our fearless founders were building their case and garnering support for the first Ronald McDonald House in Indiana. When he heard about what the Ronald McDonald House could provide for families he called it "a Godsend."

Parents were coming from all over Indiana, east central Illinois, and west central Ohio. Many families were coming from small towns and suddenly finding themselves alone and frightened in the big





▲ Dr. Richard Schreiner's likeness in bronze greets patients as they enter Riley.

city without a support network of friends and family, a place to stay, or money for gas and food. There was no doubt in his mind that a Ronald McDonald House was needed to provide critical support for parents as Riley continued to pioneer the concept of family-centered care.

"All of a sudden, parents had a wonderful place to go, to rest comfortably and eat good food, and meet other people. It was like night and day. It was just wonderful for parents," recalls Dr. Schreiner after the House opened. He continues to tout the impact the House has had on families by emphasizing, "They have a place to stay! And, that place allows parents to feel connected. Human interaction is essential. Parents can find camaraderie, friendship, and support from other parents and volunteers."

In fact, the support the House receives from our countless dedicated volunteers is his favorite RMH memory. "The concept of volunteerism is wonderful; parents develop relationships with

volunteers, and they have someone to talk with. That is so important. They create a safe supportive space. Parents have enough to worry about with their sick child. Volunteers make it a safe home away from home and take away a lot of that worry." He also marvels at the number of volunteers that have provided and served countless meals to families over the years.

A committed hospital partner is one-third of the Ronald McDonald House recipe for success. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana is proud to have been a part of supporting Riley Children's Health's commitment and vision to developing a family-centered care approach to healing by doing what Ronald McDonald Houses do best- provide a home for families when they need us most.

*Source: <https://medicine.iu.edu/pediatrics/history/schreiner>

24 MARK MEYER

INTERVIEWED BY
STACY CLARK

Mark Meyer has been supporting the House since we built the new addition in 1989. Mark is a former board member and was inspired to get involved by founder, Chuck Richmond. Since that time, Mark has faithfully made a gift annually and intends to do so for the remainder of his life. He teased, "If you don't see the check by the start of the new year, there is no need to call." He doesn't give for acknowledgement; he just believes it is important to help kids. "The House was built to help people, and I'm all for that," says Mark.



25 THE DAYWALT FAMILY

INTERVIEWED BY ROBIN CHALMERS

Typically, the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House deal with the illness or injury of a sick child. However, in the case of the Daywalt family, it was the family's patriarch, Scott, who was being treated when his family found themselves in need of a home away from home. Scott Daywalt had a liver transplant in 2002, after receiving tainted blood in a transfusion after a tragic car accident.

Debbie Daywalt, Scott's wife writes, "For us, (staying at RMH) alleviated the financial burden of having to pay for lodging and meals while Scott healed." Debbie, Scott, their two children Ryan and Lesley, and even Scott's parents Don and Ginny stayed in one of our apartments while Scott's transplant was monitored and he healed.

"You will never forget the generosity you receive at a critical time in your life," Debbie writes. "When I think of RMH, I think of what a blessing it was at one of the most challenging times of our lives. This challenge was made easier by the generosity of others!"

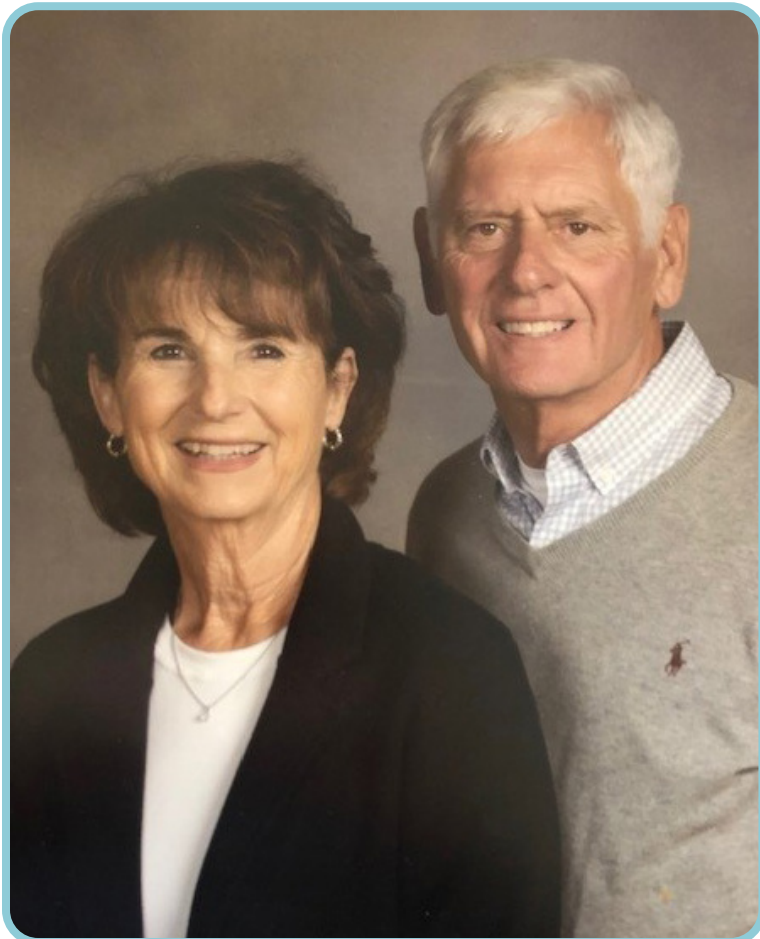


26 SCOTT MAYBEE & NEXTGEAR CAPITAL

INTERVIEWED BY STACY CLARK

"I became involved with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana and immediately connected with the mission," shares Scott. In December 2018, the Maybees noticed their 2-year-old daughter Kennedy suddenly couldn't walk. They took her to the hospital, where they spent a harrowing 48 hours. Despite extensive testing, doctors were unable to identify the cause. Fortunately, Kennedy's issue resolved itself. But Scott didn't forget how it felt to be in the hospital, worried and afraid. He wanted to join the RMHCCIN board to make a difference in families' lives, like those that he met in the hospital.

"As a father of young kids, I think about the challenges these families are facing and how important assistance is during that time. It's not just the room or meals, but the network of support the House provides to them that makes it so special and such an asset to our community."



27 RUTHANN LORD

INTERVIEWED BY BETH JOHNSON

Ruthann Lord has been a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House since 1989, working Monday mornings since she started. Ruthann has a professional background in social work and child welfare, so volunteering at the House felt like a perfect fit.

On her experience with the House and its guests, Ruthann shares, "I'm always amazed at how grateful families are for the services we provide. Even in crisis they take the time to thank us. I have to admit, 33 years have gone by quickly. I have met so many wonderful people that I would not have otherwise met were it not for my time here at the House."



TASTE, BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

After two years of virtual events, we're excited to have had a tremendous turn out at Taste, Together. This year was all about fun, from elevated versions of our House guests' favorite meals to interactive games and even a magician.

Taste, Together was co-presented by two partners that have supported our mission since the very beginning, McDonald's and Riley Children's Health. Cody Adams, anchor at WISH-TV, hosted the

evening as 275 guests celebrated RMHCCIN's achievements and milestones – and had a lot of fun doing it! By the end of the evening, more than \$175,000 had been raised to keep families close when they need it most.

To our guests, sponsors, and friends, we hope you enjoyed the evening and are looking forward to 2023!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

CO-PRESENTING SPONSORS



Riley Children's Health
Indiana University Health

GOLD SPONSOR



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR 2023 EVENTS

SWING FOR KIDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

PRESENTED BY: NEXTGEAR CAPITAL

MAY 22

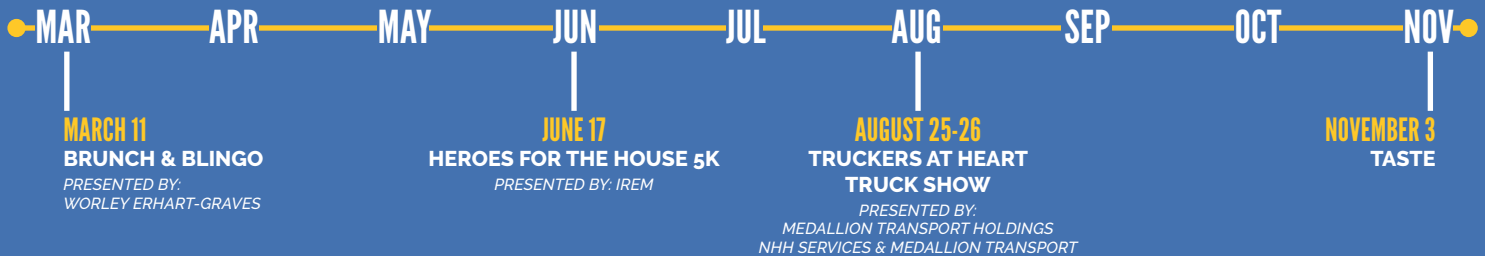
SUMMER SHINDIG

JULY 27

GOLF OUTING

PRESENTED BY: SAFELITE - TOTAL RESTORATION | A DIVISION OF KUSTOM - FARMERS INSURANCE | DAMON A. HOUSTON

SEPTEMBER 13



28 PAST PRESIDENTS

INTERVIEWED BY STACY CLARK

A panel interview with four past RMHCCIN board presidents representing a combined 63 years of service.



One year ago, we opened the Ronald McDonald Family Room First Floor, a renovated space inside Riley Children's Health to meet the current needs of families caring for a hospitalized child.

Each day upwards of 100 caregivers come in for breakfast, lunch, or snacks and find an island of quiet in a sea of hospital noise. But to hear these four leaders tell it, initially deciding to build a House inside the hospital was not a "given."

At that time, there were very few chapters that had two Ronald McDonald Houses serving the same hospital. There were concerns about how families would use the new space, how we would staff the space, and how we would fund the construction and operations.

"We were haunted by how long the wait list was and were wondering how we could serve more families," shared Jennifer.

For Chris, it was a "mission moment" discussion that drove the conversation forward. "I was talking to a parent with a kid at Riley Hospital, money was tight and he was on the verge of losing his job. He shared that as he drove into Indianapolis, he looked closely at the bridges and overpasses, wondering which bridge he would have to sleep under. At that moment, I knew we had to take action and do something about the wait list." The House welcomed him as a guest.

After considerable discussion and careful thought, the board made the decision to invest in what would become a new Ronald McDonald House inside of Riley. The space would have six sleeping rooms that would accommodate families needing to stay even closer to their child or provide space for parents to grab a nap, take a shower, and run a load of laundry. It would also have a kitchen where meals could be served, comfy couches for relaxing and talking, a few tables



JENNIFER DZWONAR

PARTNER, BORSHOFF
17 YEARS OF BOARD SERVICE
PRESIDENT 2006-2008



MICKI SINER

CPA, SHAREHOLDER, VONLEHMAN & CO., INC.
14 YEARS OF BOARD SERVICE
PRESIDENT 2009-2010



BRIAN BRUNNER

OWNER, PRESIDENT, CENTERPOINT
16 YEARS OF BOARD SERVICE
PRESIDENT 2011-2012



CHRIS LAKE

ARCHITECT, PARTNER, DELVE DESIGN
16 YEARS OF BOARD SERVICE
PRESIDENT 20013-2014



for eating and access to a courtyard where you could grab a breath of fresh air.

According to Brian, "We were financially conservative and worked hard as a board to be a good steward of our assets. The new House came with a significant financial commitment, but we recognized the need to expand our services and we had finally made the decision to invest in the House at Riley."

That week, they received an unexpected call from an estate lawyer. Someone had made a bequest to the House for just \$2,000 shy of what it would take to complete the construction.

"There was no history with this donor, no previous connection. I'm convinced she was an angel for us and that generous gift confirmed our decision to build," recalls Micki.

Once the room was complete, everyone saw the immediate value of the space. Not only was it a place to get some food and rest, but it was, as Jennifer puts it, "an oasis." Families were close, but they could get a break. It provided a place of respite where they could cry, yell, or simply recharge.

The designer in Chris noted, "The design of a space supports a family's mental health needs. The room is a support network."

"We created a place to feel 'normal,' a place where you did not feel like you were at the hospital, and many times, that was more valuable than the bed," shares Brian.

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MARY FRANCES RUBLY

INTERVIEWED BY KARIN OGDEN

Mary Frances Rubly and her son Jerry began giving to the Ronald McDonald House in 2006. "It makes Jerry and I happy to be there helping children and their families. The thought of them struggling to afford long hotel stays breaks our hearts. We love that they can stay close to the hospital in a *home away from home*," shares Mary Frances.

No stranger to tough times, Mary Frances grew up on the south side of Indianapolis. "Happy, but poor. I didn't know it at the time, but looking back, we were. Most of our time was home together in the yard or garden. Our garden was plentiful and it sustained us. I remember sharing vegetables with families that needed them. It was a good feeling."

Over the years, Mary Frances and Jerry have developed friendships with staff at the House. "I've had the opportunity to meet great people because I'm a donor. I'm most proud of making sure the House is in my estate plans so that the good work for families continues long after I'm gone. You can't take it with you, you know."



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BETH BELANGE-HOOD AND SUN KING BREWERY & SPIRITS

INTERVIEWED BY MAX CATTERSON



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana's pop tab program often starts a path to philanthropy for many young people. Beth Belange-Hood was in the third grade when her elementary school began collecting tabs for the House. She is now the marketing and promotions director for Sun King Brewery & Spirits, leading their new Sun King Collect Your Tabs Challenge. They collected about 400 pounds in 2021, and more than doubled that to 900 pounds in 2022.

Beth shares why she and Sun King are so excited to support RMHCCIN: "It's so vitally important to keep families together during tough times, to give them a place where they feel comfortable, safe, loved, and cared for. The small acts of kindness that are given to these families in need while they are staying at the House are so helpful for the healing process."

31

KARIN OGDEN

CURATED BY ADAM LOWE

RMHCCIN staff & board members were invited to ask their most pressing questions.

From Nickie Cornett, Database Administrator:
What made you want to work for RMHCCIN?

"Thirty years ago, I became a volunteer. Every other Thursday night I worked. I remember the evening house manager, Vonda Tyler. She would have a list a mile long for us. We'd tackle it all and get it done. We'd always find time to laugh and have a little fun too. I looked forward to it. The job posting was for a compassionate leader; that called to me."

From Karen Doe, Director of Operations:
How do you see RMHCCIN adapting to serve families as healthcare continues to evolve over time?

"We often say the tragic reality of the work we do is that children will never stop getting sick or injured. Our hospital partners will continue to make tremendous advancements to save children's lives. I'd like to see RMHCCIN make advancements alongside the hospital, particularly when it comes to serving families where they are, in ways that align with their needs. That could come to fruition in many ways; perhaps we'll be offering different types of room options for different cases. I see us doing more so the entire family can stay and be wrapped in supports, the hallmark of an RMHC experience."

From Michael Hillsman, RMHCCIN Board Member:
What is your vision for what you want RMHCCIN to look like 40 years from now?

"In the next 40 years, I think we can be in a place where we are offering a facility that caters to the unique needs of each family we serve, with programs nimble enough to better address those needs. When a family leaves, I want them to feel supported and more resilient than ever – ready to tackle the long road to recovery that starts when they get home."



Along with that, with hard work and dedication, I think we can have the best volunteer program in the region. We can be the place of choice when it comes to donating time.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to continue to strive for excellence in stewarding our donors and cultivating new donors. Every time someone donates, from \$1 to \$1,000, they should rest assured they are making a real impact and that their contributions are appreciated and used for the greatest good."

From Mac, Chief Cheer Officer, Good Boy:
What do you love most about me?.

"Aww, buddy, I love everything about you. I love that you have a personality—you do what you want when it doesn't matter. When it matters, you show up. When a child, a mom, or a dad needs a hug or a pet, you are there. You are one of my favorite teammates. Quit eating people's lunches."

Join us for Karin's full interview, featuring a few surprise contributors, at rmhccin.org/news-stories.

PETE AND SUZANNE LETHERMAN & SWEAT PEA FOUNDATION

INTERVIEWED BY STACY CLARK



▲ Letherman family today

We were in our late 20s and we would leave the hospital and see college kids lined up to go to bars or people on the streets shopping or going about their daily lives, walking past the hospital and wonder how they could be so unaware of all the worry and struggle inside." Suzanne continued, "Our lives had turned upside down. It felt like we just were those kids. Our experience changed our perspective. And now, we share our story so more people know what life is like for families with a child inside a hospital."

Grace Letherman was born in South Bend, IN on November 1, 2002, to parents Pete and Suzanne. She had been delivered by C-Section and was immediately transferred to Riley Children's Health in Indianapolis. Suzanne could not leave at that time because of her own surgery, but Pete made the trip to Indianapolis to be with his daughter. He found himself trying to acclimate to the new city and hospital and booked a night in a hotel that was located on the IUPUI campus, keeping him close to his daughter.

The hospital soon shared that he and Suzanne would be able to have a room at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH). At the time, they did not know what that was or what a blessing that would be. They soon learned that it was truly a home away from home, though their young niece firmly believed they were living at a McDonald's restaurant while they were away, caring for Grace.

The Letherman's spent six weeks at Riley seeking answers to what was causing Grace's low muscle tone. "We found ourselves asking, 'Why is this happening to us?'," recalls Pete, "But we would look around the dining room at the House and realize it was happening to everyone else there too in one way or another. It helped us realize we were not alone."



▲ Suzanne (above) and Pete Letherman (below) with their daughter, Grace Elizabeth.



They not only found comfort from the other families staying at the House, but also in the normalcy the House provides. "I loved doing laundry. It felt so good because it was a normal thing I would do at home," said Suzanne. Pete added, "It may seem small, but it was huge. Making our own dinner or sitting on the couch to watch a basketball game are all things I would do at my own house and that created a real sense of normalcy in the middle of this incredibly stressful time when I found myself navigating so much unknown."

When asked what they would tell a family just arriving, they shared that families should be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to just unwind and refresh for the day ahead. "It is a long road and you need to take time for yourself. It is so important to refresh your mind and rest." They also shared how much the house can really help families manage their costs.

Grace was eventually diagnosed with a rare form of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and passed away in May of 2003 while resting peacefully in her mother's arms. Their journey sparked a light in Pete and Suzanne and they promised Grace that they would find a way to help children in the hospital.

They founded the Sweet Pea Foundation in 2003 with the mission of helping sick children and their families with non-medical assistance. The goals of the Foundation were established in sequence with the Lethermans' journey with Grace. The first goal was to create an endowment that would perpetually support a room at the Ronald McDonald House of Central Indiana. Secondly, the organization set out to provide toys and activities for children while they

"I loved doing laundry. It felt so good because it was a normal thing I would do at home."

are receiving care in a hospital. There is a significant amount of waiting when caring for a child in the hospital. Pete and Suzanne found that a new toy or book was a great distraction while waiting for test results or the doctors to make rounds. In addition, it has been said that "play is the work of children" and activities that allow a child to play helps the healing process.*

The foundation is an Adopt-a-Room partner, which underwrites the operation of a room for a year. To date, the Foundation has donated over \$55,250. "When I think of Ronald McDonald House, I think of a loving community," said Suzanne.

We are so grateful to the Sweet Pea Foundation for their help creating that sense of community for future guests and humbled to know how much impact providing the normal comforts of home can have on families with a child experiencing a medical crisis.

**Source: Sweet Pea Foundation*

▼ Pete and Suzanne share dinner in the RMHCCIN North Dining Room.



WAYS TO GIVE

During the Holiday season, as we take stock of and share our blessings with others, know that a gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana will make life a little easier for sick children and their families. When everything is so expensive, families fighting illness far from home need your help now more than ever. Families are at the heart of everything we do—especially during the holidays. Please make your holiday gift now.

When you make a gift to RMHCCIN, you may not be able to alleviate the worry a parent feels about their child's health, but you can help caregivers feel and function better. Gifts from donors like you allow us to provide care for families at no cost, easing their financial burden while providing a comfortable place to rest and nurturing meals that feel like home.



MAKE A DONATION

When you make a gift of cash or stock, it will have an immediate impact. Your donation allows us to provide what families need most, when they need it, throughout the year.

- Make a one time or recurring gift by visiting our secure online donation page at donate.rmhccin.org
- Go old-school and put the check in the mail payable to RMHCCIN at 435 Limestone Street, Indianapolis IN 46202
- Make a stock donation by reaching out to Stacy Clark, Director of Development at sclark@rmhccin.org



SHOP OUR WISH LIST

Top items to consider are gas cards and other gift cards that can help support families while they are staying at the House and as they transition to home. www.rmhccin.org/wishlist



ADOPT-A-ROOM

Adopt-a-Room partners open the doors to a home away from home for weary moms, dads, siblings, and other caregivers, keeping them close to and allowing them to focus on their hospitalized child.

Each of our 45 rooms has a plaque on the door that welcomes guests and gives the name of the person or organization that has provided a gift of \$5,000 to support a room for one year. Adopt-a-Room as a family, a team, a business, and know that you will help to offset the expense of a family's stay! We will share notes throughout the year from families expressing their gratitude to you, our Adopt-a-Room partner.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next year we will host four fun events that you can support as an individual or a sponsor. Subscribe to our e-news for announcements or contact Robin Chalmers at rchalmers@rmhccin.org for more.



HELP KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER TODAY AND FOR YEARS TO COME WITH A LEGACY GIFT

Like the Stivers, you can provide hope for future generations of guest families by including Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana as a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement plan. All it takes to make a gift is a simple update to your will or trust, or details added to your life insurance or retirement plan beneficiary form. Please share with your legal or financial advisor who can help make sure that your wishes are fulfilled.

When you let us know of your intention to include RMHCCIN in your estate plans, you will become a member of our Cornerstone Society, which recognizes the generous arrangements of a planned gift that will provide our Ronald McDonald House with much needed support for the future.

Visit www.rmhccin.org/legacy for more information.

33 CATHERINE STIVER

INTERVIEWED BY MAX CATTERSON

Catherine and Ron Stiver became guests of the Ronald McDonald House in 2008 after their daughter Caitlin was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. While Caitlin tragically passed away, her memory lives on every year as the Stiver family serves dinner on her birthday, repaying the kindness and generosity they received during their stay. Catherine is a member of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana's legacy donor program, The Cornerstone Society, and previously served on the board of directors.

"We chose to include RMHCCIN in our estate planning because we have experienced firsthand the tremendous impact the House has on families who have critically ill children at Riley. We know how important the House and its programs are to those families during one of the most difficult times of their lives. We know our gift to RMHCCIN will help to ease their burden."

Round-Up for RMHC®

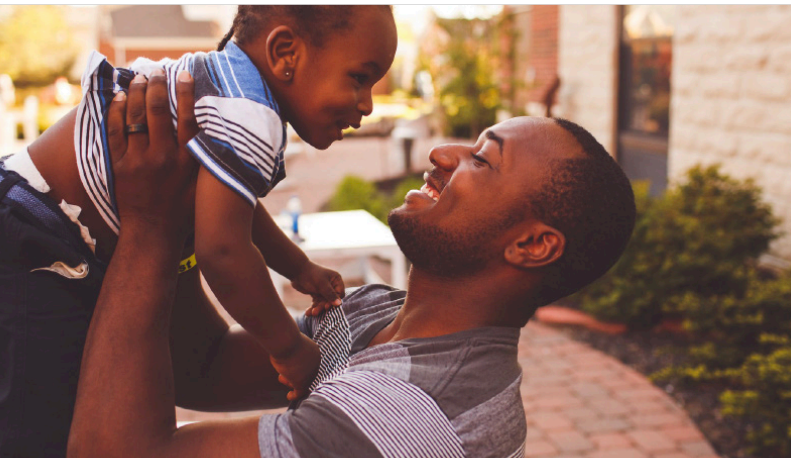
An easy way to give



Every time you Round-Up for RMHC you can help provide families with hospitalized children something of real value - hope and healing. Even the smallest of donations can make a big difference.

Next time you're at McDonald's, ask to Round-Up for RMHC!

BENEFITING



SHOP THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop online at Amazon.com? If so, you could help support RMHCCIN at no cost to you, all with the click of a button. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support RMHCCIN every time you shop.

Simply visit www.smile.amazon.com, log in using your existing Amazon account, and select Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana as your charity. A portion of the purchase price will be donated to RMHCCIN. Amazon will prompt you to use Amazon Smile in the future, and you can even bookmark the link.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

34

LAURIE & ELIZABETH HENRY

INTERVIEWED BY STACY CLARK



their time, talent, and treasure with RMHCCIN over the years. They have both proudly served on the board of directors, both supported the House by attending our many events and both are leadership level donors. "I love what the House does. It means so much to the families," says Laurie. "I try to find ways to give day-to-day to others that are having a hard time. My financial gift is a gift of comfort."

Their heart-felt belief in the power of family is reflected in their management style. Both women focus on creating a supportive family atmosphere in their restaurants. The general manager at their airport location has been with the team 43 years! "Don't give up on people," says Elizabeth. Laurie adds, "We all know there will be hills to climb, but you need to give people the opportunity and support them to get over each hill."

Elizabeth retired earlier this year and Laurie assumed ownership of the three restaurants. She continues to serve McDonald's sandwiches a couple times a month at the first floor Family Room inside Riley. Both are committed to the success of RMHCCIN and envision a day when every need is met, no one is hungry, and everyone has a place to lay their head.



One of the great things about a Ronald McDonald House (RMH) is that multiple generations of family often stay with us to support each other and the hospitalized child. And sometimes,

multiple generations of family members also support the House. Meet Elizabeth Henry and Laurie Henry – Bradley, a mother and daughter duo that have long ties to McDonald's and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana.

Elizabeth operated the McDonald's inside of Riley Children's Health from the late 90s until 2013. That is how she initially got involved with the central Indiana RMH chapter. "It was our pleasure to bring a bit of normalcy, in the form of the Golden Arches, to families staying in the hospital. Parents would come down once their child was asleep to grab something to eat or even buy treats like ice cream or French fries for their children."

Laurie learned a lot from her mother about managing a business and supporting your community. Both women have generously shared



▲ Elizabeth and Laurie at the restaurant inside Riley.



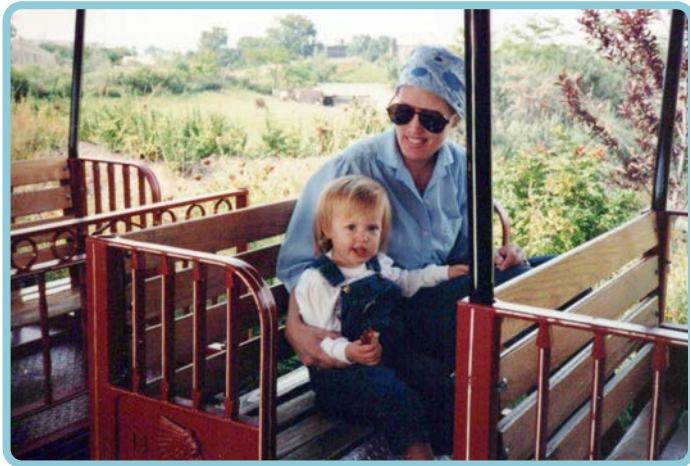
▲ Lori and husband, Dave.



35 LORI KLEIMAN

STORY BY KARIN OGDEN

Lori and her husband Dave were students in Muncie in the late 1970s. Lori was student teaching in the special-needs department. One of her students was sick and had to be hospitalized at Riley Hospital, (now Riley Children's Health.) Lori witnessed firsthand the family's struggle to be not only with their sick child in Indianapolis, but also with their other children in Muncie. Occasionally, Lori would babysit the children while the parents were at Riley. One day, Lori and Dave passed their local McDonald's and noticed a large crowd. Wondering what was happening, they stopped and



▲ Lori and daughter, Mandy.

went inside. It was Sunday, August 2, 1981, the now legendary 25 Cent Hamburger Day.

The Kleimans learned of the special day and then more about a Ronald McDonald House being planned to be built near Riley Children's Health. Because of Lori's experience, the cause resonated with them both and when they moved to Indianapolis, they signed-up to become one of the volunteer couples who would stay the weekend as House Managers. In the mid-1980's, House Managers volunteered from 5:30 PM Friday through Sunday evening

"People were Lori's passion," Dave shared. "She cared about everyone and everything. She had a special way of making everyone she encountered feel important. She was beautiful inside and out, empathetic, loving, and inclusive."

Shortly after they began volunteering, Lori became pregnant. Sadly, a short time later she was diagnosed with leukemia. Dave remembers her sharing the news of her cancer diagnosis with him in the RMH parking lot. The next six months were a race; pregnancy vs. Leukemia. Lori carried her baby, Mandy, full term, then began chemotherapy a week after giving birth. Lori lived until Mandy was just under two years old.

Founder, Judy Monnier remembers Lori's contributions. "When we first opened the House, we did not have rules and procedures in place. Lori helped us structure and craft them." To broaden the awareness across the state, volunteers reached out to churches to ask them to include the Ronald McDonald House in their summer vacation Bible school. "Lori stepped up and wrote the curriculum which we then sent with the request. We had a great response. She was always positive and helped whenever she was needed and was a great volunteer."

After Lori's passing, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana established an award honoring Lori's spirit, her love for everyone and her commitment to service. Annually, since 1990, special volunteers have been gifted the "Lori Kleiman Award," the highest award for service in our organization.

"People were Lori's passion. She cared about everyone and everything. She had a special way of making everyone she encountered feel important. She was beautiful inside and out, empathetic, loving, and inclusive."

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

On October 29, staff celebrated the wonderful volunteers that make it possible for the Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Rooms to provide families with a caring, comfortable experience. The 50+ volunteers in attendance had a chance to be on the receiving end of care for a change, with staff serving breakfast, recognizing anniversaries, celebrating milestones, and honoring those volunteers who go above and beyond with Lori Kleiman Awards:



GAIL BENNETT

Gail has volunteered with the House since 2015, taking it upon herself to always make sure our pantries are well organized and thoroughly stocked, even when resources are limited. Gail is known for her calm, kind demeanor and for having a patient ear with guests.



TERRI HAYNES

Terri joined the volunteer team in 2019, using her first years at the House to make a big impact. She served as an integral part of our volunteer engagement audit committee. Terri is always seeking additional ways to increase her impact in every shift.



PETE WOJTOWICZ

More than 35 years ago Pete took his love of golf and used it to fundraise for RMHCCIN. This year's Swing for Kids Golf Tournament raised \$210,000 for RMHCCIN. Pete was featured in our previous issue as part of our 40 From Our 40 interview initiative.



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JAMES ABBETT & IMCU

INTERVIEWED BY ROBIN CHALMERS

Indiana Members Credit Union (IMCU) is Indiana's largest credit union, and one Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana is lucky to call a partner. IMCU offers members the opportunity to obtain a Ronald McDonald House debit card to show their support for the organization.

When asked why IMCU partners with RMHCCIN, James Abbett, Business Development Officer said, "Ronald McDonald House Charities was the first big sponsorship I was given to work with when I started at Indiana Members Credit Union. I had never worked with a charity before, let alone such a largely recognizable one. I saw right away why this was such an important sponsorship. The work that RMHC does fits so perfectly into our own company's mantra of 'People Helping People.' At its core, RMHC staff, volunteers, and donors are all people helping people. RMHC truly puts people first and that's why at IMCU we've continued our support throughout the years. We want to continue our promise to be people helping people, and to support those that also champion that message!"



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MARY KLEIMAN

INTERVIEWED BY ADAM LOWE

For Mary Kleiman, the Ronald McDonald House is special "because it represents the love of the community coming together to create a special healing place for families going through some of the most traumatic times in their lives."

Mary became a volunteer at the still-young Ronald McDonald House in 1985 after Marie Shea and Janice Haak, two of Mary's coworkers who also volunteered at the House, shared their positive experiences, and recruited her to get involved.

The House is "a warm, safe space where love is personified in all the people who make (it) happen." The House represents a unique personification of love for Mary – she met her future husband, David Kleiman, when their volunteer shifts overlapped in 1990. They've now been married 31 years.

HEARTBITS



On September 22, RMHCCIN hosted a special reception to recognize the amazing work of our founders. From left to right: Jim Props, Judy Monnier, Cheri Forslund, Jim Forslund, Brenda Duncan, Karen Campbell, Cindy Frew (daughter of the late Gordon Durnil). House founders not pictured, Gerald Cassidy, who was unable to attend and Dr. Steven Beering and Charles Richmond, who have passed away.



Past House guest Liberty stops by after an appointment to visit Mac. Liberty stayed at the House with her family in 2020 while she received treatment for Classic Hodgkins Lymphoma.



The Kemplen family gets to go home after a 30 day stay. Best wishes to Morgyn, her mom (Cheryl) and aunt (Terri).



Ava, as Rapunzel, and Mac enjoy trick-or-treating around the House. Families had the opportunity to enjoy safe, indoor Halloween fun this year.



Dedicated volunteer, Andrea, passed out handmade cards from Cardz for Kidz to families to brighten their day.



Michael and Mac celebrated Michael going home with a photo-op in front of Michael's apartment.



Southport United Methodist Church has been providing dinner to the House for more than 20 years. Their signature meal, Ronald McDonald House Chicken, is a family favorite. We'll reveal the recipe in the next issue!

REMEMBERING DR. AUDREY EVANS



We're remembering Dr. Audrey Evans, founder of the Ronald McDonald House. Dr. Evans devoted her entire life to improving the human condition. She found her calling, caring for children, accepted it, and then didn't let anything get in her way. Despite learning disabilities and a field filled with mostly men, she persevered and excelled. She galvanized a community, engaged others, and the Ronald McDonald House movement was born. Her story is one to be admired. She was indeed a modern-day hero. Dr. Evans was featured in the Winter, 2021 issue of *Heart & Hearth*.

A Letter from Julia Fisher Farbman:

What a ride 2022 has been! After nearly five years of writing, fundraising, and producing the feature film "Audrey's Children," I'm thrilled to say we officially completed filming and we're now in post-production!

For those who are new to "Audrey's Children," it's the upcoming feature film about your iconic co-founder of Ronald McDonald House Charities and decorated pediatric oncologist, Dr. Audrey Evans. The film takes place in 1969 when Audrey arrives in Philadelphia as the first female Chief of Pediatric Oncology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) at a time when most of her patients didn't survive. Throughout the course of our film, we follow Audrey as she develops a revolutionary staging system that transforms survival rates of Neuroblastoma from 10% to nearly 90% now. The film culminates in 1974 at the grand opening of the first Ronald McDonald House in the world, in Philadelphia.

"Audrey's Children" stars the incredible Natalie Dormer (of "Game of Thrones"), with an all-star supporting cast that includes Jimmi Simpson (of "West World") and Clancy Brown (of "John Wick"). We filmed the entire movie in just twenty-three days across the Greater Philadelphia area, including filming (and closing to the public) Philadelphia's City Hall! It's my hope that we teleport viewers into another era through our immense research and attention to detail to recreate 1969 and 1974. We had dozens of period cars, custom costumes (with accompanying hair and makeup), period medical equipment, and our team transformed a vacant hospital to become our 1969 CHOP! The production was a magical whirlwind of overcoming obstacles to create something beautiful on screen that Audrey, and all of you, would be proud of. Sadly, during filming we lost our dear Audrey at the age of 97. As heartbreaking as it is that she won't be here physically to see the final product, Audrey was involved in every step of the way



▲ Audrey's Children cast and crew. Photo credit "Audrey's Children."

until the end, and even got to see some of the footage. I know for certain that we have gained the most incredible guardian angel who will be watching (and drinking fizzy wine) from above.

Now that filming is complete, we are in editing for the next few months and targeting top film festivals across the world for a 2023 premiere. If you would like to get involved in the film, there are many ways. I'm still fundraising to close a modest gap to get us through post-production, so please reach out if you're interested in contributing to the film. Also, and most importantly, when the film hits the screens, please tell everyone you know to follow "Audrey's Children" on social media and go see this special film!

Thank you all so much for going on this journey with me and the entire "Audrey's Children" team. I can't wait for you, and the world, to see the story of a woman who changed the lives of millions.

Julia Fisher Farbman

Writer and Producer of *Audrey's Children*
www.AudreysChildren.com

IN MEMORY



LARRY "THE CAN MAN" VANNESS

Larry was a good friend to the House for nearly 20 years. He was our most well-known and beloved pop tab collector and advocate, having collected more than 26 million tabs, every one of which he counted by hand. Larry may not have had children of his own, but he cared deeply about the mission of RMHCCIN and the people it served, and often shared that collecting pop tabs gave him purpose. Our team is working to properly memorialize Larry and will share more once those details are finalized.

GORDON DURNIL

We were saddened at the loss of founding board member and chief fundraiser of the Ronald McDonald House of Central Indiana Gordon K. Durnil who passed away August 11, 2022, at the age of 86. In addition to his legacy building the House, he was heavily engaged in public service. Fellow founders, Jim and Cheri Forslund told us, "Gordon and his wife Lynda shared the story of the House with so many movers and shakers; many doors were opened by their efforts. It would have been very difficult without them."



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MARSHA GORDON

INTERVIEWED BY MARY FRIEND



When George and Marsha Gordon's son came home from school, excited about 25 Cent Hamburger Day at McDonald's, which supported construction of a new Ronald McDonald House in Indianapolis, they had no idea of the journey it would inspire. Two years later, in April of 1983, Marsha and George became volunteers at the House, beginning what would turn out to be a family affair.

By 1984, Marsha and George were volunteering every other Friday night, as well as serving as House Managers. Eight-year-old daughter Jennifer spent her formative years living at the House on weekends with her mom and dad. When she grew up and eventually graduated college, she found herself back at the House, volunteering another five years. Marsha and George continued their Friday night shift until 2020, when the pandemic began. While George retired from his volunteering duties, Marsha later returned to the House as soon as volunteers were allowed back, to serve on the culinary crew.

The House is full of memories for the Gordon family. Marsha organized monthly birthday parties that helped remind siblings and family members they were loved and deserved to feel special too. All guests were invited, but Marsha went the extra mile to make anyone celebrating their birthday feel special. Years later, when the Gordons were being honored for 25 years of service at the annual volunteer celebration, a new volunteer asked to be introduced to Marsha. The new volunteer had stayed at the House as a child, while a sibling was being cared for at Riley Children's Health. She remembered Marsha from the birthday she celebrated at the House and wanted to thank her.

"My favorite experiences were giving House tours to families just checking in. They are often overwhelmed with worry for their child and then overwhelmed again, in a positive way with everything I shared they would have access to at the House. I also love helping families select gifts from Santa's Workshop. I recall many parents shedding tears in appreciation for being able to give gifts to their loved ones despite the heartbreak of having a child spending the holidays in the hospital," says Marsha.

Marsha recalls a funny situation from her early days at the House. Before phones were added to guest rooms, managers had to page families when they had a package arrive or when there was an incoming phone call on hold. One evening, a call came for a guest family – the All Family. Jennifer paged them, asking "will the All family please come to the office?" The All family showed up – and so did all of the other families in the House.



▲ Today, Marsha volunteers on the culinary crew.

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DR. JAMES B. LEMLER & THE ALLEN WHITEHILL CLOWES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

INTERVIEWED BY LEE ANN DEVINE

Allen Whitehill Clowes loved art, music, horticulture, and community. As a long-time resident of Indianapolis, Mr. Clowes was actively involved in the city's cultural and educational scene, serving on several community boards along with the positions of Treasurer and President of the Clowes Fund, the family's charitable organization. In 1990, he founded the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation which was fully funded by his estate after his death in 2000. The Foundation continues the legacy of Mr. Clowes, supporting non-profit organizations in Central Indiana focused on the arts and humanities.

Dr. James B. Lemler (Jim) was an integral part of the Foundation as a Board officer and director for sixteen years before assuming the role of president in 2019. Dr. Lemler is a consultant and teacher as well as an author of articles and books on leadership education and organizational development. As an ordained minister, Dr. Lemler served the Episcopal Church in various positions across four decades including Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis where Allen Whitehill Clowes was an active member.

Jim remembers the energy around the opening of the Ronald McDonald House on Limestone Street. At the time his wife, Sharon, worked as psychiatric clinical specialist in the Child Life department at Riley Children's Hospital (now operating as Riley Children's Health). As a result of her work, Jim became aware of the many burdens Riley families carry and how Ronald McDonald House can bring care and hope to these families.

To Jim, home is family, gathering, friends, hospitality, safety, and generosity. When asked what he would



▲ Dr. James B. Lemler

tell people about Ronald McDonald House, Jim replied, "You will be welcomed to a safe, respectful environment. You will have food and shelter for as long as you need it. The House will be a home to you."

The Foundation has been a generous supporter of RMHCCIN for more than 20 years. Domestic hospitality is a part of the Clowes tradition and Jim believes Mr. Clowes would appreciate the healing hospitality at Ronald McDonald House and how the House strives to make families whole.

40 VONDA TYLER

INTERVIEWED BY KARIN OGDEN

When the south wing of the House on Limestone Street opened in 1989, a new resident House manager, Vonda Tyler, was hired. Her role was to live at the Ronald McDonald House through the week and be on duty Sunday-Thursday from 5:00 PM through midnight and from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM the following mornings. "I met so many families and I've kept in touch with some over the years." She spent much of her evening in the front office and as moms came through to check in, they would stop and visit. "They just wanted to talk about what was happening in the world, celebrities, fashion, makeup, etc."

Vonda remembered Georgia, a woman staying at the House undergoing treatments while awaiting a liver transplant. In the early days of the House, guests would be paged to the front office for incoming phone calls. Vonda remembers calling Georgia to the phone and waiting nearby. After hearing Georgia get paged, other families gathered in the lobby hoping to hear good news. A liver was waiting, and she was to report to the hospital immediately. "It was wonderful, families were lining the hallways, cheering for Georgia and her husband as they left the House, excited about the chance at a new life."

Alone at 20 years old, Mark needed a bone marrow transplant to treat his testicular cancer. RMHCCIN was Mark's home for months. Vonda remembered how the House rallied around him during this time. Chuck Richmond, a founding board member of the House helped him with his resume. He also connected him to the Newman Center across the street from the House that was filled with students from IUPUI. It became a home and community for Mark. Sadly, Mark did pass away. A contingent of students from Indiana he had met while a Houseguest traveled to Pennsylvania, his home state, to say goodbye.

Families tend to spend their days at the hospital with their sick children and evenings at the House. Vonda was "the House" to many families. When a family didn't realize Vonda had the day off, they would ring her doorbell and she never turned them away. "I was so humbled when I learned what families were going through. Their stories gave me a lifelong appreciation of all things, big and small, in my life. I lived at the House for seven years. It was a wonderful experience."

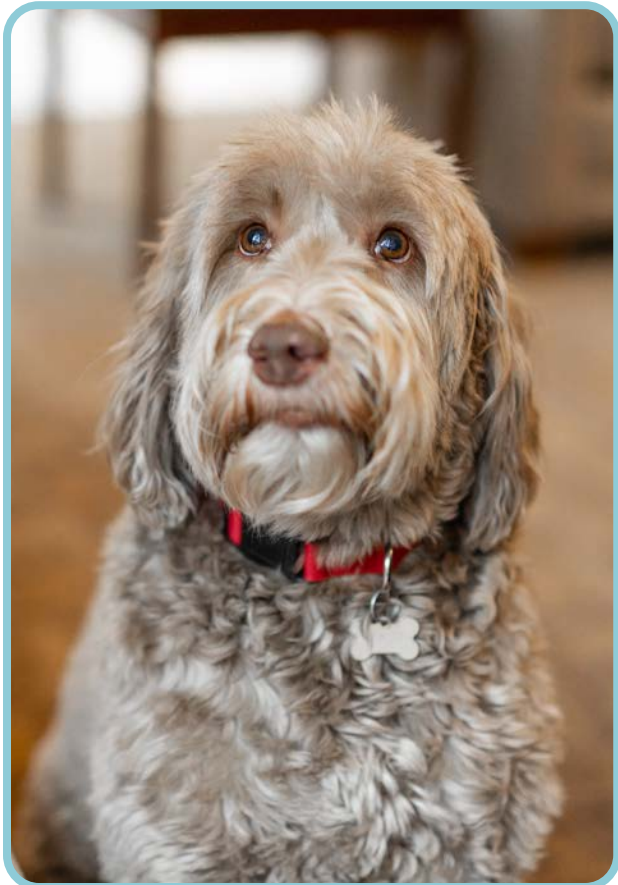


MEET BUTLER UNIVERSITY'S CONNOR TURNBULL

Student athletes from Butler University's men's basketball program signed the first name, image, and likeness (NIL) contracts with All Good Dawgs, Inc. These contracts will allow the new AGD Ambassadors to make meaningful impacts in the Indianapolis community. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana is proud to be one of 12 nonprofits paired with an AGD ambassador. Freshman Center, Connor Turnbull selected RMHCCIN because it aligns with his own passions and interests, having once called a RMH home.

"I'm super excited to represent the Ronald McDonald House because they do so much for kids and families. I know first-hand how much impact it has on families."

BONUS MAC, CHIEF CHEER OFFICER



The story of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana isn't complete without a word from one of the most popular and endearing "staff members" in our 40 year history – Mac, our very own Chief Cheer Officer. An Australian Labradoodle, Mac was born for the job. He spent the first six months of his life learning how to be a therapy dog at Ultimate Canine and has been a beloved staff member ever since. Having turned six years old in 2022, he also holds the title of Youngest Staff Member.

"I love making new friends, especially with kids! It's nice helping people with their big feelings," Mac said. "The treats and snuggles are great, too."



TOP TEN WISH LIST

Thanks to generous donors like you, thousands of families that stay at our House have access to free snack foods, cleaning supplies, toiletry items and more. We've listed our top 10 most used items here, but a full list can be found online at www.rmhccin.org/wishlist. If you are able to help donate the items on our list, we ask that you consider having them shipped directly to our Limestone House at **435 Limestone St. Indianapolis, IN**. In-person deliveries are still welcomed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

1. Liquid Laundry Detergent
2. Deodorant
3. Dish Soap
4. Disposable Menstrual Products
5. Aluminum Foil
6. Individual Sized Snacks
7. Compostable To-Go Containers
8. Zip-Lock Baggies
9. Regular-Size Hangers
10. Disposable Surgical Masks
(Adult & Child Sizes)

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

October 14, 2022 was officially proclaimed Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana Day by the Office of Mayor Hogsett of Indianapolis. As I read the proclamation, one passage particularly stands out:

***Whereas,** RMHCCIN has supported more than 100,000 families in its forty-year history, nurturing a community where children and their families embrace life and healing with a sense of hope, enthusiasm, courage, and joy. Their legacy and efforts are extended by admirable community partners, a compassionate team of staff and volunteers, and their Chief Cheer Officer, who doubles as the House's therapy dog, Mac. (Yes, even Mac was part of the official proclamation!)*



We came together at an event this autumn celebrating our living, founding board members, including Karen Campbell, Brenda Duncan, Jim and Cheri Forslund, Judy Monnier, and Jim Props. Cindy Frew, daughter of the late Gordon Durnill, also attended. Gerald Cassidy was unable to attend, and sadly both Dr. Steven Beering and Charles Richmond have passed away. As we connected, I was flooded with a sense of gratitude and astonishment for the extraordinary work they did across central Indiana 40 years ago to create our Ronald McDonald House.

This issue of *Heart & Hearth* contains the final 20 interviews from the 40 From Our 40 Initiative (with a bonus interview coming next year). This has been such an incredible undertaking. What was planned as a sharing of stories from our past has produced an incredible resource that will be used to educate staff, volunteers, friends, and partners on the legacy of hope and healing we carry forward for years to come.

'Tis the season to reflect on the gifts in our lives. I am grateful for: our volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to care for the families we serve; our primary hospital partner at Riley Children's Health who continuously champions the importance of our role in family-centered care; and our donors and partners whose generosity keeps our doors open and our lights on. I'm thankful for our founding board members and for Dr. Audrey Evans, Ronald McDonald House Founder, who we lost this year.

Most of all, I'm thankful for you. Your support and generosity mean we can provide a home away from home for families when they need it most. Thank you for your continued love and support of the House, and best wishes during this wonderful holiday season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karin Ogden".

KARIN OGDEN
Chief Executive Officer

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY
MARCH 11, 2023

BRUNCH &
blingo

PRESENTED BY



**WORLEY
ERHART-
GRAVES**

FINANCIAL ADVISORS



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Central Indiana

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WE'RE CELEBRATING TOGETHER, TOGETHER!

Forty years ago, Ronald McDonald House in Indianapolis opened its doors so families would have a safe, comfortable place to stay together near their hospitalized child.

- RMH is a home to more than **40** families every night.
- The average stay is **40** nights.
- Many families drive over **40** minutes to stay at Ronald McDonald House.
- Ronald McDonald Family Rooms provide meals to more than **40** families every day.

We look forward to the next **40** years, providing comfort and care to families when they need it the most. Your gift today will help families now and into the future.



SCAN QR TO DONATE

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION & MAKE A GIFT OF SUPPORT:

Scan the QR code or visit donate.rmhccin.org/together to make your gift online.

