

SUMMER 2026

HEART & HEARTH

STORIES FROM OUR HOUSE



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House Charities®
Central Indiana

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CONTENTS

04 A Legacy of Care

Honoring Nanci Likens through comfort for families



06 A Day in the Life of a Family Room

How we serve families within the hospital



08 How the House Helped

Ways we helped ease the burden of the Whetstone Family



10 2025 Annual Report

See how your help makes a difference



14 Events

We love having fun and making a difference with you



26 Heart Bits

More heartwarming moments throughout the year



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Central Indiana

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana

MISSION

We provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare.

HEART & HEARTH 2026

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

Please send your comments, questions, story ideas or address changes to:

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A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



Arun Murali
Board President

Dear Friends of RMHCCIN,

As I reflect on the incredible work we accomplish together, my overwhelming feeling is profound gratitude. Because of your unwavering support, we are able to fulfill our core mission: providing essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. Last year alone, your generosity allowed us to provide 16,363 overnight stays and serve 70,422 meals to families facing unimaginable crises. You are the true heroes who make this possible, giving parents the space to rest while their children receive life-saving care.

In this edition of Heart and Hearth, you will see exactly how your contributions come to life. We are thrilled to share updates on recent "gifts at work" within our walls, including all new furniture in our three sleeping rooms located within the Ronald McDonald House Family Room, ensuring our all our spaces feel like a true home away from home.

You will also get a glimpse into a day in the life of our Family Room. We recently piloted extending our operating hours until 8:00 PM on Mondays and Tuesdays, providing hundreds of individuals with more coffee, meals, and a quiet place to breathe. The impact of this space is immeasurable; as one grateful parent recently shared with us, "You being open has given me space to rest while my child rests upstairs."

“You being open has given me space to rest while my child rests upstairs.”

Additionally, this issue highlights the power of community partnerships within our Meals that Heal Program, ensuring parents have nourishing food after long days at the bedside. Finally, we share a powerful family story that perfectly captures why our mission matters so much.

As we look to the future, we are filled with hope and a renewed commitment to our strategic priority of Serving More Families Better. Our vision is to continuously adapt our programs to meet unmet needs so that we can embrace and support even more families in the years ahead.

Whether you are providing a meal, helping to upgrade our spaces, or simply walking alongside us, you are making a difference. Thank you for funding our future and always keeping families close.

With deep gratitude,

Arun Murali
Board President
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana



New furnishings inside one of the RMHCCIN Family Room sleeping rooms at Riley Children's Health



A Legacy of Care

Honoring Nanci Likens Through Comfort for Families

Some legacies are written in headlines or monuments. Others are written quietly — in kindness, generosity, and the lives made gentler because someone cared. For Nanci Likens, that legacy lives on in places where children heal and families gather strength.

Nanci passed away at the end of 2024, leaving behind a life defined by compassion, family, and a deep belief in helping others. In the months since, her husband Carney has worked to ensure that her wishes continue to make an impact through gifts made possible by her estate.

Nanci is supporting several organizations that mattered to her, including Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana.

One of those gifts will bring renewed comfort to families staying inside the Ronald McDonald First Floor Family Room at Riley Children's Health, where new furniture now fills all three sleeping rooms.

The current pieces have served families for more than a decade. They have held tired parents after long nights, welcomed siblings needing rest, and offered a soft landing during some of life's hardest moments.

Now, because of Nanci and her bequest, those rooms will be refreshed for the next generation of families who need them most.



A Connection that Began Decades Ago

Nanci's relationship with Ronald McDonald House Charities stretches back to the beginning. When efforts were underway in the early 1980s to establish our Ronald McDonald House, Nanci became involved in fundraising and awareness efforts. Families with hospitalized children often had nowhere nearby to stay.

Working alongside local McDonald's Owner-Operators and community leaders, Nanci volunteered at fundraising events and helped rally support for what was then a new and hopeful idea: a place where families could stay close to their hospitalized children.

"She heard about what the House was going to be and thought that would be great for families," Carney says.

That instinct — to see a need and want to meet it — was central to who Nanci was.

Called to Help Children

Nanci spent 15 years at home raising their children before serving as an educator for 17 years. Caring for children, advocating for them, and investing in their futures shaped much of her life.

"It was part of what got her into teaching," Carney says. "Helping children."

Her charitable plans reflected those same values. Along with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana, Nanci chose to support organizations focused on health, shelter, and hope — including Riley Children's Health, Franciscan Health, and Wheeler Misson for Women and Children.

Carney says the couple talked openly over the years about how they wanted to structure their estate. They decided they would take care of their own children during their lives, while allocating any excess estate funds to helping others.

"We decided a long time ago," he says. "We did a lot for our kids in their lives. We'd leave them something, but the bulk of whatever we had would go to places that could help others."



If you'd like more information about how to leave your legacy with the Ronald McDonald House through a gift in your estate, you can reach out to Katie Prine, our Chief Advancement Officer at kprine@rmhccin.org or 317-267-0605 x209.

Why Furniture Matters

When House staff shared the need for updated furnishings in the sleeping rooms, Carney immediately understood its importance.

Knowing Nanci wanted to continue helping the House, he appreciated the chance to give in a way that families would feel every day.

"It's tangible," he says. "And everyone knows she did it." That mattered to him — not for attention, but for remembrance.

"When I think about donating her money, knowing where it's going and knowing that it's recognized... There she is, right there."

Soon, families stepping into those rooms after difficult diagnoses, surgeries, or sleepless nights will find welcoming spaces renewed in Nanci's honor. They may never know her story in full, but they will feel the comfort her generosity created.

Love, Laughter, and Lasting Impact

Carney smiles when he tells the story of how they met — through a photography supply shop, a bit of persistence, and a request for her phone number after she was unexpectedly absent one day. They were engaged within three months and married six months after meeting.

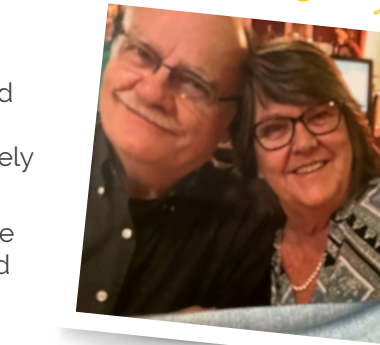
Their marriage was marked by humor, loyalty, and shared purpose. Even in planning for the future, they chose together how they could bless others.

Today, that decision is becoming a reality.

For Future Generations

There is something profoundly beautiful about a gift that keeps caring long after someone is gone.

Because of Nanci Likens, families inside the Ronald McDonald House Family Room will rest in comfort. Parents will gather themselves before returning upstairs. Loved ones will exhale for a moment in a room made softer by her kindness. And in those quiet moments, Nanci's legacy will live on.



A Day in the Life

of a Ronald McDonald Family Room

By Barb Lewis



The Ronald McDonald Family Room on the First Floor of Riley Children's Health is available at no cost to any family with a patient in the hospital. The space includes coffee, hot meals, grab-and-go options, and three sleeping rooms that provide overnight accommodations for select families with immediate needs. It is by far our most used space.

In the relative quiet of early morning, Natalie Oslund, Guest Services Manager, unlocks the doors and begins preparing the space for the day. By the time the doors open at 8:00 a.m. and the welcome sign goes out, the aroma of fresh-brewed coffee welcomes the first guests. You can often find families who've slept at the hospital waiting for the doors to open

to grab a much-needed coffee and breakfast. A continental breakfast of yogurt, fresh fruit, hard-boiled eggs, cereal, and oatmeal provide easy options for stressed caregivers, and the bagels and pastries are always a popular choice. Breakfast items are available to families seven days a week.

Throughout the morning, familiar faces drop in for food and respite, and new families come for their first experience with Ronald McDonald House. When a new family finds their way to the Family Room, they check in at the front desk with a team member completing the registration process and getting a quick tour of the space.

Soon after, it is time for the kitchen team to begin preparations for the hot lunch that is served each weekday. Scott Woods, Kitchen Assistant, gets the kitchen open around 10:00 a.m. and is joined by culinary volunteers at 11:00 a.m. The main dish is often provided by Second Helpings, while Scott and his team are busy making his signature side dishes, baking fresh cookies, making salads to stock our grab-and-go cooler, packaging to-go meals, and otherwise ensuring we are ready for meal service. On a typical day, over 100 lunches will be served.

Lori McCall, a mother from Nineveh, Indiana, especially appreciates the convenience saying "I don't have to leave the hospital, and I don't have to spend a lot of money eating out. I'm so grateful for this place. The meals and the staff are great. I come to sit and relax, enjoy a snack and just take a break and breathe." At any time of day, there are grab-and-go options for meals, sandwiches, salads, milk, and snacks such as granola bars and chips.

One partnership that helps make much of this possible is McDonald's supplier Martin Brower. The coffee, creamer, milk, cookies, and condiments are all provided through them at an estimated savings of \$26,000 in 2025. Second Helpings provides the entree for our hot lunches and often supplements with snack items or desserts at no cost.

Twice a week we receive donations from Panera Bread so we can offer pastries, breads, and bagels. Various sponsors also help to fund our snack bar. All items within the Family Room are provided to the families at no cost. Families are welcome to visit as frequently as they'd like, take what they need.

Throughout the day, volunteers continue to ensure that families are greeted and get what they need, items are refreshed and restocked, tables are cleared, and fresh coffee is brewed continuously. Before the doors close at 2:00 p.m., some families stop by to grab a late lunch, an additional cup of coffee, or a meal to re-heat for dinner.

The Family Room is vital to the mission of Ronald McDonald House "of removing barriers and strengthening families when they need it most."

Family Room by the Numbers

36,306
visits

60,110
meals

22,000
chocolate chip cookies

10,000
hard-boiled eggs

*2025 data

The Whetstone Family

The Whetstone family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House for ten weeks last winter while their newborn daughter, Hope, fought through some of the most critical months of her life. Born with a serious heart condition and several additional medical complications—including her trachea and esophagus being connected—Hope faced significant challenges from the very beginning.

In just her first few months, she underwent two major surgeries and a Gastrostomy tube (G-tube) placement. Today, Hope is home with her family where she belongs, though her journey is far from over. More surgeries and continued treatment await in the months and years ahead.

Throughout their stay, Hope's mother, Katie, took time to write heartfelt thank-you notes to staff, volunteers, and donors—small gestures of gratitude during one of the hardest seasons of her family's life.

"Ronald McDonald House meant that my husband and I could stop sleeping bedside after 20 days in Hope's tiny NICU room," Katie shared. "It meant we had somewhere to bring our two-and-a-half-year-old son, who had been three hours away with his grandparents, so we didn't have to choose which of our children to prioritize anymore. It meant we had somewhere to go to step away from the stress of the hospital and truly rest. It meant we could be a family again."

For the Whetstones, the House became more than a place to stay—it became a source of comfort, connection, and normalcy during a season that felt anything but normal.



“

The House took so much stress and sadness off our shoulders,” Katie said. “It helped us create fun holiday memories with our son while still being close to our daughter at the hospital.”

Katie also reflected on the many small moments that made such a lasting impact—from having a private place to pump or take virtual therapy sessions, to free laundry services and thoughtful holiday surprises throughout the season.

"The day after Thanksgiving, we received free tickets to Winterlights, and it was beautiful," she said. "There was a fancy Christmas party at the House with live music that we all loved. We had a free shopping day where we could pick out Christmas gifts for our kids and ourselves. There was even cookie decorating—one of my favorite holiday traditions—and two visits from Santa with gifts. Thank you for making our Christmas one we remember fondly instead of with disappointment."

Stories like the Whetstones' are a reminder that Ronald McDonald House is about far more than lodging and meals. It's about showing up for families every day of the year—offering comfort, community, and moments of joy when they are needed most.

fresh Thyme's Monthly Gift of Care

On a winter day in 2024, Brandi noticed a sign during one of her son's appointments at Riley Children's Health. It was a simple invitation: families and community members could help by providing meals at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. For Brandi, the message landed close to home.

Her 17-year-old son has received care at Riley since he was just 2 years old. He's medically complex and sees six specialists. "We're lucky," Brandi says. "All of our doctors are right here." Living in Avon means her family can make the drive and still return home at the end of the day. But she knows many families don't have the same ease. She has watched parents travel hours for appointments, carrying the weight of long drives, uncertainty, and time away from home.

As the Deli Manager at Fresh Thyme Market in Avon, Brandi asked if the store would consider participating in the Meals that Heal program by preparing a meal for families at the House. The answer from her boss, Nick Eagle, was an immediate 'yes,' followed by an even bigger commitment, "Let's do it every month," he said.

Since then, Fresh Thyme has become a diligent and valuable partner in the Meals that Heal program, showing up month after month with warm dinners, generous hearts, and the kind of fresh, high-quality ingredients that make a meal feel special.

The team went all in. Their debut meal featured a chili contest, with coworkers competing for bragging rights and the winning recipe earning a place on the menu. The champion then made seven gallons of chili for House guests. It was ambitious, fun, and brought team members from across the store together to cook and serve.

What mattered most was simply showing up.

Now, Fresh Thyme's monthly service has become a rhythm of care. Brandi is there every time. Coworkers from different departments pitch in, whether they're chopping vegetables, shopping for ingredients, baking bread, or serving dinner.

"We really try to focus on quality food because we're Fresh Thyme," Brandi says. "We want to bring the kinds of things we would want if we were stuck at the hospital." From chicken and veggie kabobs on the grill in the summer to five cheese grilled cheese sandwiches with comforting soup in the winter, Fresh Thyme always brings creative and high-quality meals. That thoughtfulness is felt by every family that gathers in the dining room after a long day. A fresh meal can offer comfort, dignity, and one less thing to worry about.

Brandi believes many businesses want to give back — they simply need a connection point to make it happen. For Fresh Thyme in Avon, Brandi became that spark.

Because of her leadership, what began as one idea has grown into a lasting tradition of compassion. Every month, Brandi and her team remind families at the House that community that care can be as simple and as meaningful as dinner.



Get cooking at
rmhccin.org/get-involved/meals-that-heal/

2025 Annual Report



Karin Ogden, CEO

Letter from our CEO Karin Ogden

Last week, I had the privilege of visiting with a family as they prepared a meal for everyone staying in the House. Less than a week before they would finally return home, and they wanted to give back to the place and the people who supported them along the way.

Their journey brought them to our House for a month, and before that, they found comfort in our First Floor Family Room inside Riley Children's Health. During some of their most difficult days, they leaned on the simple but meaningful things we strive to provide: warm meals, a quiet place to rest, resources when they needed them, and even just a cup of coffee to get through another long day of treatment.

That evening, the patient's mom and sister poured their hearts into cooking a beautiful meal as a thank-you. It was delicious, and gone almost as quickly as it was served, but what stayed with me wasn't the food. It was what the gesture represented.

When families are facing some of the hardest moments of their lives, far from home, carrying unimaginable stress, giving back is no small thing.

It's one thing to give when life feels steady. It's something entirely different to give when you're still in the midst of uncertainty and challenge. And yet, that's exactly what they did.

Moments like this are a powerful reminder of what this House means to the families we serve. It's more than a place to stay; it's a community, built on care, compassion, and connection.

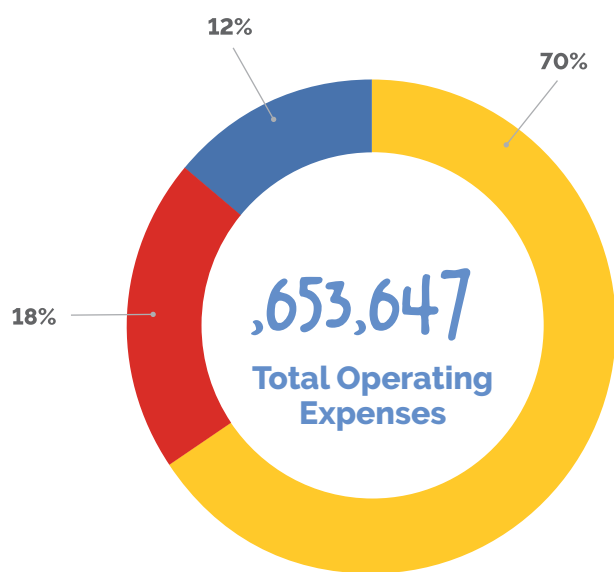
Families count on us every single day of the year for the big moments, the milestones, and all the quiet, in-between days. We are here to meet them where they are, in as many ways as we can.

And none of it would be possible without you.

Thank you for making it possible for thousands of families to find comfort, support, and a sense of home when they need it most.

Karin Ogden
RMHCCIN CEO

2025 Financial Summary



TOTAL ASSETS	\$18,168,123
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$205,225
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$17,962,898
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$4,524,036.00
Contributions	\$3,409,885
Grants	\$277,160
Special Events (Net)	\$348,128
Value of Non-Financial Assets	\$503,491
Total Revenue (Total income includes investment gains & losses)	\$6,082,138
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$3,653,647
Administration & Management	\$437,213
Community Relations, Awareness, & Fundraising	\$657,803
Family Services & Programs	\$2,558,631

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FOUNDER

\$20,000+

MB Martin Brower

RLMF
Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation

BUCKEYE
FOUNDATION

McDonald's® of Central Indiana

Second Helpings

Eagles for Children
Helping Children One Eagle At A Time

Mike's Fest

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Riley Children's Health
Indiana University Health

TEMPUR-PEDIC®

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Ronald McDonald House®

THE DR. DANE AND MARY
LOUISE MILLER FOUNDATION

LEADER

\$10,000-\$19,999

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BackSwing Golf Events • Book Pillows of Hope • CARS Inc • Farmers Insurance: Damon Houston Agency • Hansbrough Financial Services • Holiday World & Splashin' Safari • Huston-Lynn Enterprises • Kappa Kappa Kappa • OmniSource • OSI Industries, Inc. • Phi Beta Psi — Theta Alpha Gamma Chapter • Safelite • Sani-Bright • South Central IN Corvette Club • Sweet Pea Foundation • The Jet Vet • S/B Ricks Family Foundation • Toys for Tots • Walt Disney World • XL Industrial Services

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\$2,500-\$4,599

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Impact by the Numbers

Our 2025 Impact

6,398

total number of families served

36,306

total visits to our family rooms

16,363

total nights of stay

70,422

total meals served

1,389

adults & children

Served through our Comfort Cart at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, IN

42.5+

nights

Average length of stay for families at the House

46

families

Number of families who stayed for 100 nights or more.

1,152

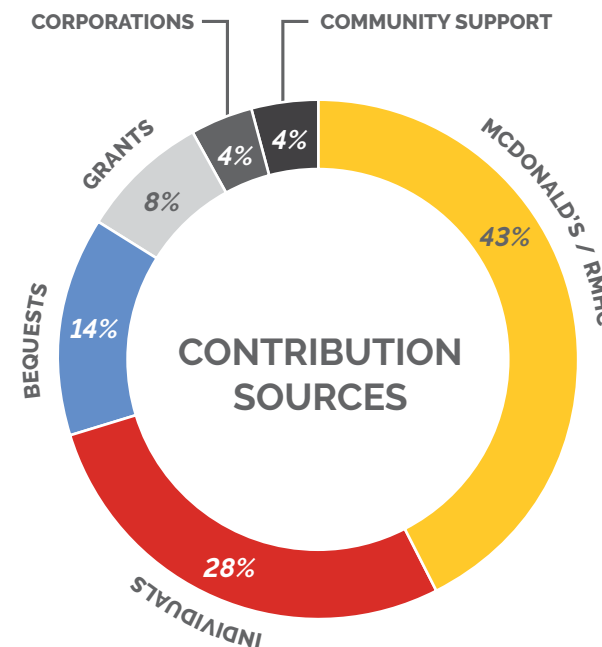
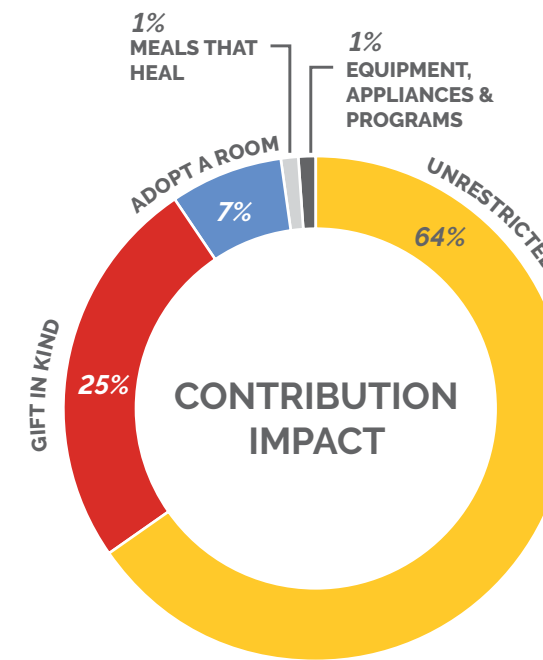
Lyft rides

Provided for House families

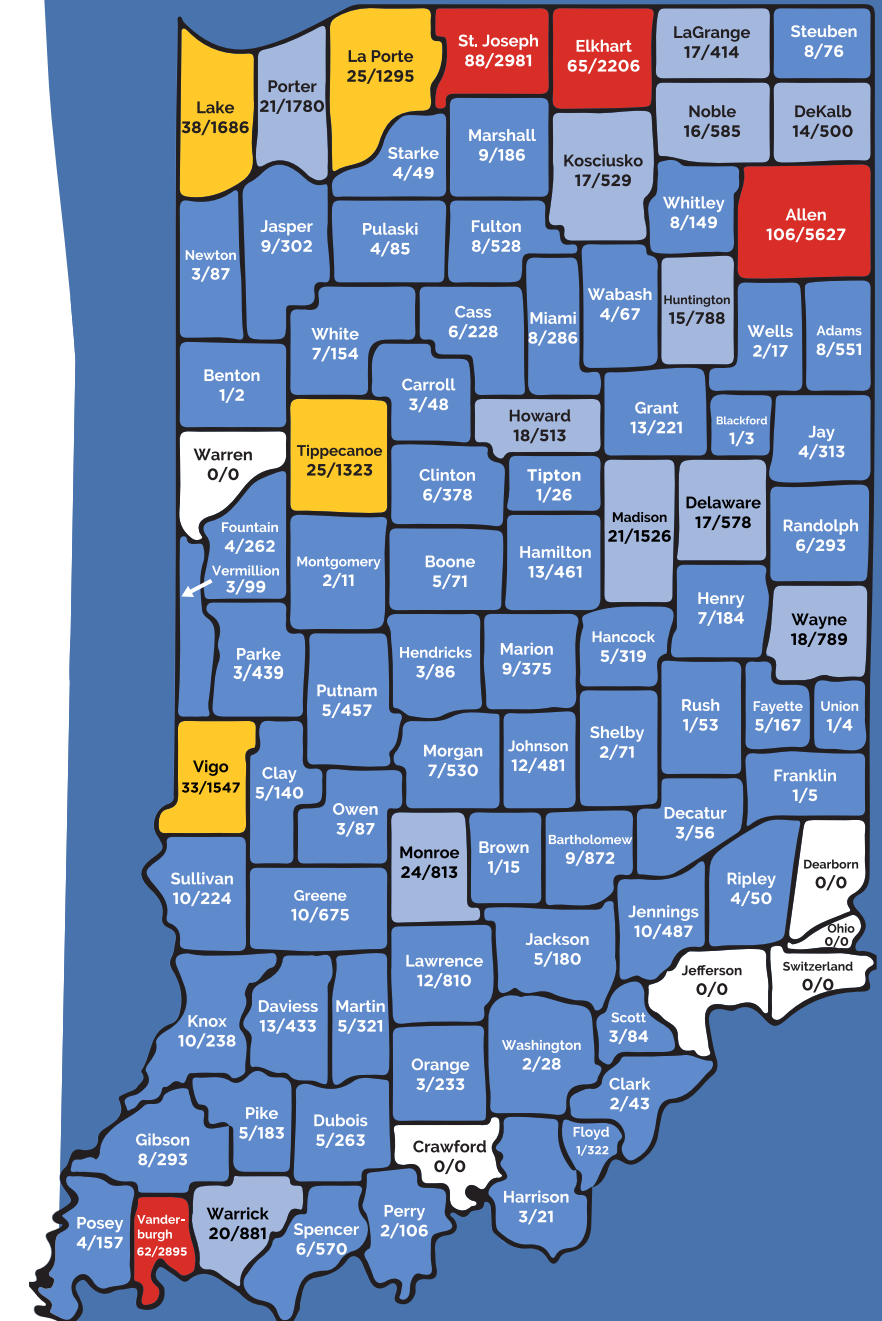
128

miles

Average distance traveled by families staying at the House



Where Families Call Home 2023-2025



Total Families / Total Nights of Lodging

- 0 Families
- 1-13 Families
- 14-24 Families
- 25-60 Families
- 65+ Families



Our Donors Make the Difference – Thank you!

\$10,000+ Individual

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Loraine Vetter
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MJ Wheatley
Ralph Wilhelm

*deceased

\$1,000-\$2,499 Organization

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Bonefish Grill	First Meridian Heights Church	Old Order Amish Church – Springfield District	The Brave Heart Foundation
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Cork Medical, LLC	HATCH, Inc.	Parkside Animal Hospital	The Stable Tailgate
Covia Foundation	Indiana Pediatrics, Inc.	Pine Creek Church of the Brethren	West Spencerville District
Degree of Honor Service Club 500	J. Street, LLC.		
	Kroger		
	Liberty Baptist Church		
	LPL Financial		

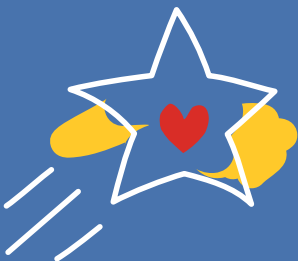
\$500-\$999 Individual

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\$500-\$999 Organization

Amish Old Order Church 2	Kiwanis Club of Richmond
Amrize	Knowles Auction Service, LLC
ARC Fitness	Mallow Run Winery
Boeing	Mays Chemical
Boone REMC	Milestone Contractors
Brave Like Me Foundation	National Beef
Buckingham Foundation, Inc.	NCAA
Business Furniture	New Palestine High School Service Learning
Central Supply Company	North Hurshtown Road Amish Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	North Manchester FFA
Cocktails and Caregivers	Peter S Graber Church
Cole Hardwood	Pins Mechanical Company
Crestwood Tubulars, Inc.	PKA, LLC
Dallara Indycar Factory	PLS Logistic Service
Daniel M. Schwartz Church	Pulaski County Scrappy Sewers
Daviess-Martin County REMC	Rejuve Salon Spa
Dillard's	Schmucker Church Northeast District
Evergreen Roadworks Company, LLC	Shelbyville Presbyterian
First Baptist Church	South Central Indiana REMC
Flaherty & Collins Properties	State Farm - Kwiatkowski Insurance Agency Inc
Girl Scout Troop 2308	The Jester & Pharley Phund
Hebron Middle School	Tipsy Trailer of Indy
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	Titos Handmade Vodka
Hoosier 56ers	Topfer Family Foundation
Hotel Carmichael	Total Wine and More
Indiana Apartment Association	Tri Kappa - Center Grove - Zeta Lambda
Indiana Department of Health - Trauma and Injury System	West Scipio Old Order Amish Church
Indianapolis Zoo	Wines for Humanity
Johnson County REMC	Wooten Hoy, LLCnc
Kankakee Valley REMC	
Keating Legal, LLC	



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George Bowman

Mary Bowman

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Laura Yenerich

Richard and Barbara Yoho

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Paul Young

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Pam Zorger

Maryann Zubryckii

\$250-\$499 Organization

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American Legion Post 208

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Bartholomew County REMC

Beech Grove High School

Boggstown Presbyterian Church

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Central Indiana Communications Inc.

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Crane Bay

Crum & Forster Insurance

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Dogtopia Greenwood

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Foundations Pilates and Wellness Studio

Fulton County REMC

Gecko Hospitality

Girl Scout Troop #4351

Giving with Gratitude, Inc

Harrison County REMC

Heartland REMC

Hendricks Power Cooperative

Henry County REMC

Indiana University School of Optometry

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

Indy Film Fest

Jasper County REMC

Jay County REMC

Kappa Kappa Kappa - Fowler Omicron Chapter

Kappa Kappa Kappa - Zeta Upsilon Chapter

Kiwanis Club of Lafayette Harrison

La Grange County REMC
- Lewis Salvage Corporation

Linton-Stockton Elementary School

Market District

Marriott Indianapolis - Downtown

Marshall County REMC

Messiah Lutheran Church

Miracles for Mister

Newton County REMC

Orange County Rural Electric Community Fund, Inc.

Order of Eastern Star Englewood Chapter

Papa Curl Ice Cream

Park Elementary School

Parke County REMC

Paulding Putnam REMC

Petite G Jewelers

Phi Beta Psi - Theta Zeta Chapter

Prime 47

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Robertson Machine Company, Inc.

Roche Diagnostics

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Rush Shelby Energy

Schwartz Church

Sons of the American Squadron 20

Southeastern Indiana REMC

Southern Indiana Power

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Steuben County REMC

Studio 317 Fitness & Cycling

The Fort Golf Course

The Hartford

Tipmont REMC

University of Southern Indiana

Vincennes Moose Lodge #281

VOYA Financial

Warren County REMC

Win Energy REMC

WSI Technologies

Zillow Group



Our Swing for Kids Golf Tournament marked its 40th Anniversary this year — four decades of supporting our families while enjoying a meaningful day on the green.

A special thanks to Pete Wojtowicz, who founded the event and continues to be a driving force behind one of our largest fundraising events. "Pete and Melissa's unwavering commitment has made a lasting impact on countless lives in 40 years," said Taylor Ogden, Event and Corporate Relations Manager. "We are deeply grateful for the legacy the Wojtowicz Family has built and the difference they continue to make for the Ronald McDonald House."

This year's tournament was held on Monday, May 18th at The Hawthorns Golf and Country Club in Fishers and raised over \$250,000 in support of the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. The anniversary event brought together community leaders, corporate partners and supporters from all over Indiana for a memorable day of golf, connection, and philanthropy all helping ensure families stay close to their ill or injured child.

We are incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors, enthusiastic golfers, and the dedicated staff and volunteers who make this event both fun and impactful year after year. We look forward to another great day on the green—mark your calendar for May 17, 2027, at The Hawthorns.

Email Taylor Ogden at togden@rmhccin.org to make an impact at our 2027 Tournament.



Thank You TO OUR SPONSORS

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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR 2026 SWING
FOR KIDS WINNERS!**

LOW GROSS

- 1ST Prairie Farms
- 2ND Colts/Lippert
- 3RD Barnes and Thornburg

LOW NET

- 1ST H+K
- 2ND Coca Cola
- 3RD Aflac



The 2025 Taste of Home Gala, presented by Riley Children's Health, offered a fresh take on one of our signature events. With a new venue and an updated concept, the evening brought fresh energy while staying rooted in our mission of serving families across Indiana and beyond.

The 2025 event embraced a uniquely Ronald McDonald House culinary theme, inviting local chefs to reimagine iconic McDonald's ingredients into creative, elevated dishes. Guests enjoyed an impressive range of flavors—from playful favorites like McGriddle Bread Pudding and Big Mac Egg Rolls to inventive creations such as Jambalaya and the evening's winning dish, Kimchi Fried Rice.

The gala raised more than \$260,000 to support the families we serve. Energy remained high throughout the night, thanks in part to our engaging auctioneer and entertaining emcee. VIP guests enjoyed a special chocolate tasting and wine pairing from DeBrand Fine Chocolates, along with custom DeBrand chocolate favors.

The silent auction featured exclusive, one-of-a-kind experiences, and many attendees shared that it was the best Taste of Home Gala yet.

Throughout the evening, guests were reminded of the impact their generosity makes. Our impact map highlighted the number of families we served across Indiana, while this year's mission moment offered a glimpse into a day in the life of a family staying at the House and how we help make difficult days a little easier.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, chefs, attendees, and volunteers who made this unforgettable evening possible. Your support creates comfort, care, and hope for families when they need it most.



Get your tickets for the **2026 Taste of Home Gala – Friday, October 2, 2026** at rmhccin.org/events



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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HJ Thomas Consulting, LLC

Zack Wojtowicz
Owner/Operator
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Get Involved Today



SERVE A MEAL. Spend an evening serving a meal and connecting with our families. Worried you're not a chef? We love catered options too, or we can help you brainstorm other fun ideas.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER. Make an impact regularly as an individual volunteer at the House or in our Family Rooms. Have a group? Small groups are perfect for our nutritious snack programs that provide quick, healthy options for our families.



MAKE A DONATION. Donations big and small keep our House running. Give a monetary gift via cash, card, DAF, stocks, and more. Want to make a bigger impact? Consider our Adopt a Room program or include us in your legacy planning.



SUPPORT OUR WISH LISTS. From snacks and immediate needs, to holiday gifts and our comfort cart serving Terre Haute's Union Hospital. We have several Wish Lists to help in a variety of ways.



FOLLOW US ONLINE. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, or sign up for our monthly e-newsletter to make sure you never miss a moment at the House.



GET INVOLVED.
Serve. Volunteer. Donate.
Support. Follow.

Visit rmhccin.org/get-involved/



HEART BITS



EXPANDING MEALS — THANKS TO LEGACY GROUPS

In 2026, the number of meals served each week at the House increased from three nights to four—adding 52 additional meals for families staying with us throughout the year. This expansion would not be possible without the incredible dedication of our Legacy Meal Groups, whose members have committed to serving at least one meal each month all year long. We are deeply grateful to our 12 Legacy Groups and four quarterly meal groups who provide comfort, nourishment, and care to families when they need it most.

MIDWEST SUMMIT

This year, RMHCCIN and the three other Indiana chapters, and the city of Indianapolis are proud to host the Ronald McDonald House Midwest Summit, welcoming sister chapters from across the country to our city. The Summit provides an opportunity for collaboration, idea-sharing, and learning as chapters come together to exchange resources, solutions, and best practices. We're excited to showcase the work being done here in Central Indiana and celebrate the collective impact RMHC chapters make for families everywhere.



NEW LOOK, SAME HEART

This October, our chapter will join Ronald McDonald House chapters worldwide in a global brand modernization rollout. The refreshed look and unified naming structure are designed to strengthen recognition and create greater consistency across all chapters worldwide. By coming together under one cohesive brand, we hope to increase awareness of our mission and inspire even more support for the families we serve, both here in Central Indiana and across the globe.



KARAOKE NIGHT

Our Operations team is constantly working to create moments of joy at the House for our families one of those moments earlier this year was a kid's karaoke night full of Disney songs. We had one little boy sing his heart out song after song in addition to other kids and siblings dancing around, enjoying the bubbles, and the nice weather. Everyone there could feel the joy!

NEW FLOORS MAKE FOR BRIGHTER SPACES

After years of carpeting in our guest rooms, we have upgraded to luxury vinyl plank flooring. The new flooring is easier to clean, helps reduce dust and allergens, is easier to maneuver for wheelchair users, and offers greater durability for the hundreds of families who call the House home each year. Families have already shared how much brighter and fresher the rooms feel thanks to the update—creating spaces that are not only more functional, but also more welcoming and comforting during their stay.

ISO BRINGS MUSIC AND STORYTELLING TO THE HOUSE

Earlier this spring, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra brought its beloved Storytime program to the House for our families to enjoy. Partnering with local Indianapolis historian Sampson Levingston, the group shared a special baseball-themed story accompanied by live violin music. After the story, children were invited to explore music up close with a hands-on opportunity to touch and play real violins themselves. We love when the ISO comes and fills the House with music.

SHAMROCK SHAKES RAISE SWEET SUPPORT

Thanks to our generous partners at McDonald's, Shamrock Shake and Oreo Shamrock McFlurry sales earlier this year raised an incredible \$51,000 for our House. Each year, local McDonald's Owner/Operators vote to support this special fundraising campaign, with 25 cents from every Shamrock Shake and Shamrock McFlurry sold in our area benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. We are so grateful to our McDonald's partners and to every customer who enjoyed a seasonal sweet treat while helping support families staying at our House.

RINGING THE BELL

After nearly 300 nights at the House, Marie and Sarah rang our celebration bell to mark their journey home. When a family spends the majority of a year at the House, they become part of the fabric of this place. Over the course of their stay, nearly every member of our staff and many volunteers shared moments with Sarah—playing games, sharing laughs, and watching her grow each day.

Saying goodbye to families after such a long journey is always bittersweet. We are overjoyed when families to head home, but there's no denying how much we miss seeing them each day.



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