

Barbara M. Stern

Ensuring the Future

“It was easy. I needed to write my will, and my attorney asked which charities were important to me. It was natural to include Cincinnati’s Ronald McDonald House,” says Barbie Stern.

Always a generous supporter, Barbie’s relationship with the House took on new meaning in 2000, when Molly, her close friend from Ithaca, N.Y., learned her daughter, Ali, was in need of a liver transplant and was referred to Cincinnati Children’s. Our House then became their “home away from home” for many months while Ali was treated and, ultimately, received her life-saving transplant.

Having witnessed, day to day, what the House meant for Molly and Ali and for other families like theirs, Barbie began to see the bequest she had made in a different light. “What if you were in their shoes but didn’t know a soul in Cincinnati?” she says. “At Ronald McDonald House, no family is ever alone – they are always cared for, and they have a unique support network of families who know what they are going through.”

Barbie’s generosity and forethought in making a bequest to the House were recently honored at the 2011 Voices of Giving Awards which recognizes Greater Cincinnatians who have chosen to make a planned gift to a favorite charitable organization to ensure its future.

We are indebted to Barbie and to all our generous planned giving donors for their enduring commitment to the future of our House and our guest families.