



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Greater Cincinnati

FAMILY NEWS

You Kept a Family **TOGETHER**

At one month old, Rhaiden developed a rash and a very high fever. Tests showed a devastating disease known as HLH: his immune system cells were not working to destroy infected or damaged cells. To save his life, Rhaiden needed to leave his home in Hawaii for a bone marrow transplant in Cincinnati.

Rhaiden struggled through complications after his transplant. Big brother Izaiah stepped in and lifted Rhaiden's spirits. Since children are isolated while they recover from a bone marrow transplant, Rhaiden had to be separated from his brother. He became sad and longed to have Izaiah by his side. Doctors realized that the togetherness was beneficial and allowed Izaiah to visit Rhaiden. In no time, they were reunited brothers bouncing around together, filling a hospital room with laughter and healing.

There was one week when Izaiah came down with a cold. He was forced to miss his regular hospital visits to keep Rhaiden from catching germs that his body wouldn't be strong enough to fight. During this separation, when Izaiah and his dad would leave our House or go outside, they would call Rhaiden's hospital room and the brothers could wave to one another through windows. Even though they couldn't be in the same room, the ability to stay within waving distance made all the difference to these boys. With Izaiah's help, Rhaiden soon returned "home" to his room at our House.



While Rhaiden fought to get stronger during his transplant, his mom, Flordeliza, learned that she was expecting another baby boy. Unfortunately, she went into early labor and had to remain hospitalized and on bed rest until the baby was born. This meant leaving her husband to care for their sick child and his brother.

Weeks later, Ryder was born weighing only three pounds and needed help breathing. Even though Flordeliza could leave the hospital and join the rest of her family, it meant leaving without her son. Since Rhaiden's disease, HLH, is passed mother to son, the hospital did testing on Ryder to see if he was born with the same gene as his brother. The Lopez family was given the news that Ryder does have this same gene and would need to be monitored closely to see if HLH develops. Despite more bad news, they were happy to be together in our House to help Rhaiden recover from his transplant and to give Ryder the love he needed to grow and leave the hospital.

For 384 nights, the Lopez family lived in our House. While far from home, they endured a bone marrow transplant, a fetal care emergency, a baby in the neonatal intensive care unit and so many ups and downs. During this difficult time, they were met with comfort, support and togetherness despite being kept apart from each other. They stayed just 200 steps from the hospital in a room with soft beds; hot, nutritious meals; and enjoyed activities that brought fun back into their lives.

For over a year, they called our House "home."

"We have met so many families here also going through bone marrow transplants and many other illnesses. It helps to talk to them and feel support from other people who actually understand because they are going through the same situations we are going through."

"The House became our family. To my kids, this is home. It provided us with everything. I don't know where we would be without it, we can't thank you enough."



Thank You from our **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Do you remember when you were in grade school — or middle school, perhaps — and you first heard about measuring one's Intelligence Quotient, or IQ? It was a bit intimidating to realize that a number could pinpoint how smart we are. In the past 20 years or so, the focus has shifted to one's EQ, or Emotional Intelligence Quotient. This is defined as the capacity of individuals to recognize their own and other people's emotions, to discriminate between different feelings and label them appropriately, and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior. Many people think that EQ might actually be more important than IQ, as the ability to understand and express emotions can play an equal if not even more important role in how people fare in life.



But here at Ronald McDonald House, I think our success — including 99 percent guest satisfaction over the past three years — is due to attracting volunteers, staff and donors with a high CQ — or Compassion Quotient. (I thought I coined that term, but the internet tells me otherwise.) Our thousands of donors and volunteers (and that includes YOU) have a CQ that is off the charts.

Compassion involves the ability to see what needs doing right now and the willingness to do it right now. It means leading with your heart in addition to your head. Every single day as I walk through our magical House, I see our supporters' CQ in action.

Volunteers meticulously clean rooms to prepare for the next guest. They have a cup of coffee with a mom in the kitchen to hear about her day. Others answer the phone, make welcome bags or quilts, mop the floor or give directions to the pharmacy. Donors drop off checks, supplies, flowers, pull tabs, toys and auction items. Board and committee members spend countless hours sharing their talents with us, and staff listen to parents who may have received difficult news from the doctor that day.

It takes an abundance of compassion to care for over 250 guests a day and to maintain a 96,000-square-foot "home away from home." Compassion lives and thrives in every corner of our House, from our playful and well-tended garden to the company preparing a Taste of Hope meal to the volunteer telling the little girl undergoing chemo how beautiful she looks in her sparkly hat.

Our volunteers and donors realize that life is not measured by one's IQ — or, for that matter, the car they drive, the house they live in or the job they hold. They know that the things we do for ourselves die with us, but the things we do for others are immortal.

Our guest families remember our volunteers' and donors' kindness and take it home with them. It becomes part of who they are and something they often pay forward to others. We always welcome new volunteers and supporters to join our Ronald McDonald House family — those with a high CQ are encouraged to apply!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Goodin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "Jennifer" being a large, prominent "J".

Jennifer Goodin
Executive Director

Our annual **Golf Classic** and **Red Tie Gala** are so much more than a great time! Last year, proceeds from these two events raised nearly 14% of our operating budget.

A huge thank you to the nearly 300 golfers who joined us on June 20 at Kenwood Country Club for our 2016 Golf Classic.



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RED TIE GALA



SAVE THE DATE

October 1st, 2016 at 6 p.m.
Hyatt Regency • Cincinnati

For more information, contact Carrie Schroder

513.636.5551 • cshroder@rmhouse.org • www.rmhcincinnati.org

Families From AROUND THE WORLD

Thanks to you, we are able to welcome families from around the world who are in need of life-saving treatment for their critically-ill child. When faced with travel expenses on top of medical bills, our House offers a welcome respite so families can focus on what's most important: their child.



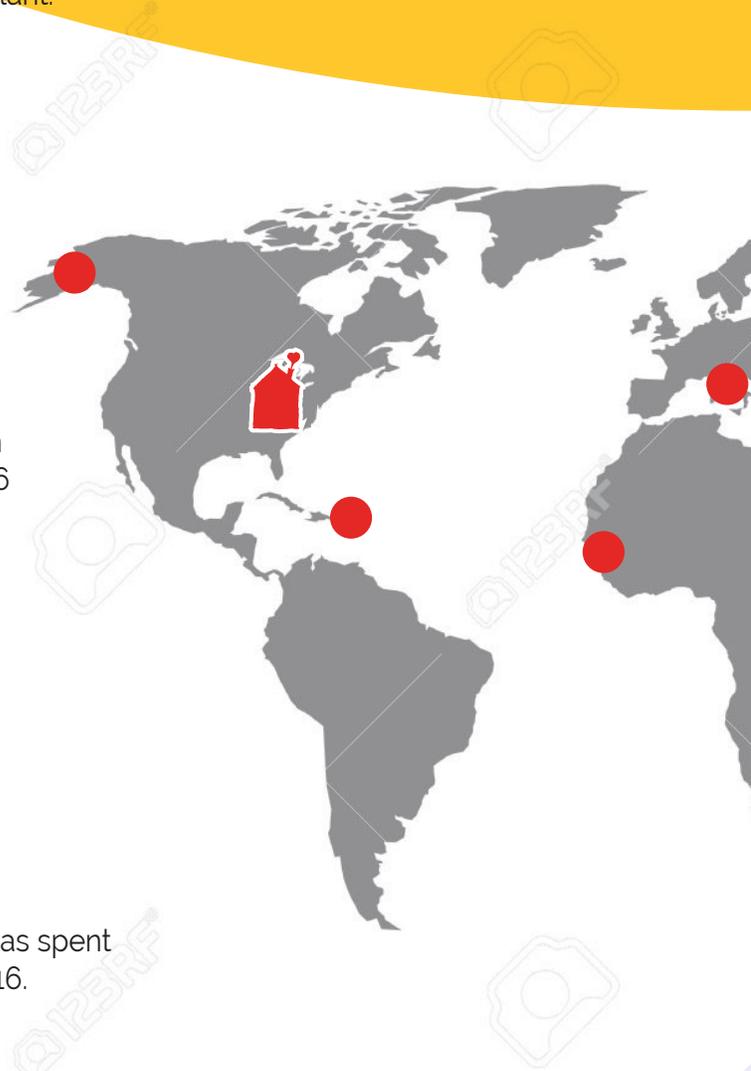
Nraisci Yang is from Norman, Alaska. She has stayed four times. She is here for a liver transplant.



Bryan Ortiz, from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, has stayed with us three times, including 226 nights in 2015.



Baidy Niang from Senegal has spent 635 nights as of June 16, 2016.



Kensley McCray was adopted from China. Her parents went to adopt her and rushed her right to Cincinnati from China on their way home. After a 24-night stay, they now utilize our short term rooms.



The Karaka family stayed with us for 354 nights. They are from Bursa, Turkey.



Sagi is from Israel. He stayed 55 nights with us. Sadly, his twin sister did not survive, but Sagi has returned home.



Rebecca Antonelli's family is from Terni, Italy. She stayed 30 days.



HEROES

Generous Heroes of the House Match Offered



For 151 nights, Audrey and her family made our House their "home away from home." Our Heroes of the House program gives families like Audrey's a place to stay when they need it most.

This exclusive group is invested in our families, our House, and the goal of turning a time of uncertainty and fear into comfort and support.

Now, the opportunity for you to make a difference as a hero has grown! In 2016, the H.B., E.W. and F. R. Luther Charitable Foundation will be matching the first \$75,000 in new commitments to the Heroes of the House program! Join us as a hero now and further YOUR impact for families like Audrey's!

For more information, please visit rmhcincinnati.org/heroesofthehouse or contact Tanya Cornejo, Director of Development, at 513.636.9679 or tcornejo@rmhouse.org.

HEART HERO
H.B., E.W., & F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation,
 Fifth Third Bank & Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees

WELCOME HOME HERO

HOME AWAY FROM HOME HERO

Bob & Lynn Stenger
 and

HEALTH HERO

ETHICON
PART OF THE JECHEM-ETHEM FAMILY OF COMPANIES

EDUCATION HERO
financially assisted by the
John Hauck Foundation,
 Fifth Third Bank, John W. Hauck and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees

STRESS RELIEF HERO

LOVE AND SUPPORT HERO

Peggy & Marvin Lewis

CONNECTION HERO



Outside Fundraisers are for anyone!

Our House is honored to be the beneficiary of community events organized by individuals, civic groups, schools and businesses. These fundraisers help us care for families while they focus on their seriously ill or injured children. In 2015, we were fortunate enough to have more than 70 outside fundraisers raise nearly \$100,000 for our House!

This year, for example, Coney Island unveiled their new attraction "Typhoon Tower" at a preview party with admissions benefitting our House. There are many ways to help! You can host a bake sale, talent show or rummage sale and donate the proceeds to our House. Or, you can run a marathon and have your friends and family sponsor you by making a tax-deductible gift to our House.

If you decide to host a fundraiser on our behalf, we are happy to help you in any way possible - from providing literature on our House to assisting with the use of our logo. Together we can work toward a successful and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Visit www.rmhcincinnati.org/events/host-event for more information.

Our Volunteers are the HEART OF OUR HOUSE

Our House would not exist without the more than 400 loyal volunteers who do everything they can to make this a "home away from home" for our guest families. This Spring, we held our annual Volunteer Recognition Event to honor everyone who gives so much of their time and talents to us. The event was held at Great American Ballpark and included lunch, awards, and a special tour.



Celebrate With Us

Each week, we welcome groups to our House who want to celebrate a special occasion in their lives by giving back. Whether it is a birthday, anniversary, retirement, or even just a girls' night out, gathering together to bring our families a Taste of Hope meal will make the occasion one to remember for you and our guest families.

With the guidance of a professional chef, your group will help prepare a delicious, healthy meal for our families. We are booking now for lunch, dinner and brunch times. We would love to celebrate your special day with you!

Visit rmhcincinnati.org/tasteofhope to learn more.





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If you receive an extra newsletter or if your name and address are incorrect, please let us know by contacting Shawnie Dukes at (513) 636-2046 or sdukes@rmhouse.org. Thank you.



Cincinnati's Ronald McDonald House provides a "home away from home" for families with critically ill children while they receive medical treatment. We surround families with hope and support and bring joy and a sense of normalcy to children as they heal.