



## Goings-On Around Our House...



### Calls For Kids a Huge Success!

The 25th annual Calls For Kids Telecast fundraiser exceeded its goal by raising more than \$126,000. The event, held Saturday, April 4, was broadcast live on Nashville's News 2, from 7–10 p.m. and streamed live on the News 2 website. Hosts Lisa Patton, Neil Orne, Dawn Davenport, Justin Bruce, Eric Egan and Cory Curtis introduced viewers to families who have stayed at the House and community organizations who support our mission of "Keeping Families Close." We look forward to another great Telecast in 2016 –

**SO STAY TUNED!**



Karen & Stephen Hackett, of The Jordan Hackett Foundation, present \$15,000 raised through a number of special events held in memory of their son, Jordan.



Chris Taylor, President and CEO of Parallon, presents a \$10,000 check to RMHC of Nashville Board President-Elect Marsi Shelton



The young women of high school sorority Delta Beta Sigma present a check for \$18,500 representing funds raised at many different fundraisers by the students.



Employees from the Dollar General Corporation headquarters prepared a Taco Tuesday dinner for our families this month and it was a huge success!



The Litchfield and Poe family delivered many wonderful goods for our pantry, and prepared lunch for our families.



Proud parents Amber Gipson & Justin Wetherbee stopped by with little Neylyn, who had a heart transplant and spent many weeks at ourHouse while she recovered.

## Mark Your Calendars for these Fall Fun Events for the Whole Family!

### Hustle For the House 5k & 1 Mile Fun Run

**Saturday, September 19:** Hundreds of runners and walkers will be hustling to the finish line – some with their four-legged friends in tow – to support our programs. Registration is \$25 for the 5K and \$15 for the 1 Mile Fun Run and you can register Fido for \$10! Hunt Brothers Pizza will provide breakfast for all runners and we'll have lots of post-race refreshments. Register today before prices increase!



**Monday, October 12:** At the 20th annual Golf Ball Tournament at Hillwood Country Club, golfers will enjoy a 12 p.m. shotgun start with breakfast, lunch, on-course refreshments, and the "19th Hole" dinner and silent auction following the round of play.

Plenty of on-course contests and games keep things interesting, including the (in)famous "Race Hole" on hole #10!

### D'VINE SELECTIONS

WINE TASTING &  
SILENT AUCTION

\*We are seeking sponsors, golfers, silent auction items and committee volunteers for these events.

For More Information and to Register: 615-343-4000 or [rmhcnnashville.com](http://rmhcnnashville.com)



RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES®  
NASHVILLE

# House Notes

SUMMER 2015

A Communicative Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, Tennessee, Inc.

## Sophia Nightingale Inspires Family Room Support

RMHC of Nashville has two core programs: the 32 bedroom Ronald McDonald House, and the Ronald McDonald Family Room on the 5th floor of Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. While the families we serve in our House are from outside of Nashville, the Family Room gives us the opportunity to serve all families facing the illness of a child. Each month, more than 2,500 visitors come through the Family Room seeking a place to step away from a child's hospital room for a few minutes to regroup, recharge and refuel. Thanks to the support of several private donors and foundations, we are able to stock the Family Room with supplies and provide regular meals for anyone with a child receiving treatment in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. One of these foundations is the Sophia Nightingale Foundation, and we're pleased to share a message from Tiffany, Sophia's mom, about why they chose to support the Family Room:



"My dearest, sweet Sophia Grace was born November 12, 2010. The morning after she was born, she had an apnea episode. I alerted the nurse and, once she realized she couldn't wake Sophia, she called a "code blue." The doctors were able to get her breathing and called in a neonatal specialist. The specialist said Sophia had a heart murmur that would gradually go away as she got older.

When I took Sophia to the pediatrician a couple of months later for her first set of shots, I told her doctor she was breathing funny. He told me it was acid reflux. Her symptoms continued, so I took her in to him the following week, and he said this time it was congestion. I still wasn't content with what he said and planned to make an appointment at the Children's Hospital get another opinion.

The night of March 6, 2011 I rushed Sophia to the hospital after changing her and noticing blood in her diaper. The doctor soon told

me that Sophia had Congestive Heart Failure. This news was a devastating blow. The doctor said she probably wouldn't make it to see six months. My sweet Sophia underwent two open heart surgeries and then a stent surgery after suffering a stroke on the bypass machine. I prayed to the Lord to let Sophia see her first birthday and, if he wanted to take her after, His will be done.

The Lord is amazing. He let Sophia see her first birthday, but he took her six days later on November 18, 2011. I started the Sophia Nightingale Foundation shortly

after that, to keep her memory alive. The foundation provides healthy meals to the families in the Ronald McDonald Family Room while their children are being treated in the hospital. There weren't resources like this regularly available when Sophia was in the hospital, but



Many friends and family of the Nightingale family now support the Sophia Nightingale Foundation, founded after Sophia's death in 2011 to keep her memory alive.

It's a stressful time that seems to drag on when you have a sick child in the hospital and you never leave their bedside because anything can happen in the blink of an eye. Knowing that the Sophia Nightingale Foundation is literally outside your door in the Ronald McDonald Family Room is comforting because it allows families to drop in and grab something to eat or drink, and head back to the child's room. It takes away the stress of wondering not where, but if you should eat today because your money is tight.

It's truly a blessing to be partnered with RMHC of Nashville, and the Monroe Carell Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt."



\$15 in '15  
Share a Night  
Keeping Families Close...  
\$15 at a Time.

Your \$15 donation will cover the cost of a family's lodging at our House for one night. Our goal is for 500 people to donate \$15 to "Share a Night" which will cover the costs of 500 room nights.

Donate online @ [www.rmhcnashville.com](http://www.rmhcnashville.com) or by phone @ 615-343-4000

## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
ALEX WADDEY  
President-Elect  
MARI SHELTON  
Secretary  
PAM ZIMMERMAN  
Treasurer  
PAUL STUMB

Jeff Banta  
Corinne Bergeron  
Janet Cross  
Don Birdwell  
Dr. Whitney Browning  
Frank Chalfont  
Andrea Cleeton  
Marlee Crankshaw  
Janet Cross  
Troy Dickens  
Tom Dodge  
Michelle Dube  
Joann Ettien  
Samantha Fisher  
Bob Flynn  
Dennis Green  
Karen Hackett  
Diane Hargrove  
Matthew Howlett  
Patricia Hunt  
Eric Kruse  
Dan Kuninsky  
Helen Lane  
Blake Mayes  
Don Miller  
James Pelletier  
Mike Ralston  
Bill Rochford  
Barbara Speller  
Chris Talbott  
August Washington  
Carol Ann Wilson  
Alice Yopp  
Stan York

ADVISORY BOARD  
Susan Andrews-Thompson  
Yvette Boyd  
Ian Burr, M.D.  
Newtonia Coleman  
Nicki J. Cook  
Julian Cornett  
Tom Doyle, M.D.  
Tim Farley  
William Farris  
Mary Fox  
Jerry Garrett  
Don Hancock  
Leslie Hough  
Bill Hudson  
Steve Lane  
Lawrence M. Lipman  
Larry Odom  
Eddie Phillips  
Wright Pinson, M.D.  
Barbara Speller  
Fred Turner  
Lucy Marshall White  
Tommy Wilson

STAFF  
Executive Director  
Elizabeth Miller Piercy  
House Manager  
Kaye Slater  
Development Director  
Heather Corum Powell  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Kirra Menees  
House Operations Coordinator  
Sarah Kimball  
Administrative Manager  
Paige Holman  
Maintenance  
Chris Curtis  
Housekeeping  
Paula Markham  
Resident Manager  
Yuliya Hassan



2144 Fairfax Avenue • Nashville, Tennessee 37212  
615-343-4000 • Fax: 615-343-4004  
rmhcnnashville.com

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Nashville  
is one of 349 Houses and 196 Family Rooms  
worldwide. The House provides shelter, emotional  
support, understanding and a home-like  
environment to families during their time of need.  
Please help continue the caring!

## IN MEMORIAM

APRIL 2015 – AUGUST 2015

Joseph Asher  
Madison Black  
Elijah England

Paige Hubbard  
Brenda Jones  
Brooklyn Jones

Summer Dawn Loop  
Zackary Mastre  
Brynn Grace McNally

Tiffany Smith  
Addy Lu Staton  
Ella Taylor

If you are interested in making a donation In Honor or In Memory of someone special, please visit our website:  
[www.rmhcnashville.com](http://www.rmhcnashville.com) and click the donate button near the top of the web page.

## The Power of Pull Tabs!

The 11th annual Pull Tab Collection Challenge Contest is underway! Experience the power and join in on the fun by registering your school or non-school (Girl or Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls, etc.) group today!

In 2014, more than 31,000 students from 83 schools in middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky and northern Alabama took on the challenge of collecting the most aluminum tabs from recyclable cans. Nearly \$13,000 was raised last year just by collecting and recycling tabs.

### Highlights From 2014

- **97,849 ounces or 6,115 lbs. of pull tabs were collected**
- **7,338,000 can tabs were recycled at \$0.75 per pound, raising \$4,586 raised just through this challenge!**

This year we need your help to make the challenge even bigger! Our program is simple, fun and will engage schools and students across middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky and northern Alabama. Here's how it works:

- From Monday, August 3 through Friday, November 13, participants collect pull tabs.
- On November 13th, weigh the pull tabs collected and divide the total weight in ounces by the number of participating students from your school or group. The total will be reported through a form provided by RMHC of Nashville.
- The winner will be announced on Friday, November 20 at the Ronald McDonald House during Pull Tab Drop day! We encourage representatives from participating schools to come to the House on November 20 to be a part of the Pull Tab Drop festivities.

**To register your school or group for the Pull Tab Collection Challenge, please sign up on our website or call us at 615-343-4000 for information. Let's make this the best year yet!**

## Why Your Donation Matters

Your gift to RMHC of Nashville allows us to "keep families close" by providing essential resources and a "home away from home" for families of critically ill children receiving inpatient or outpatient medical care at Nashville area hospitals.

Our annual budget is more than \$1,300,000 per year, and 100% of our program and operational funding is raised through the community from individuals, corporations, private foundations and organizations.

There are many ways you can help us help families in need, and we appreciate every donation! You can donate online to our various programs at [www.rmhcnashville.com](http://www.rmhcnashville.com) or by mail at **Ronald McDonald House Charities Nashville, 2144 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville, TN 27212**. If you have questions or want more information, feel free to contact us by phone, at **615-343-4000**, or via email at [info@rmhcnnashville.com](mailto:info@rmhcnnashville.com).

**Because there are so many ways to invest in our programs, we plan to highlight a few different ways to give in each of our upcoming House Notes newsletters, starting with these three options:**

### Planned Giving

There are many ways to leave a legacy. Have you considered including RMHC of Nashville in your estate plan? Planned gifts are important for the future of our programs because they help us plan ahead and know that we will be able to continue providing essential resources for families of children with critical illnesses. The benefits to our donors are equally important, and many planned giving vehicles offer ways to leave a treasured memory of you and your family for the children and families we will continue to serve.

### S.O.S. Sponsor

S.O.S. stands for "Stock Our Shelves." Sponsors support the Ronald McDonald Family Room outside the Pediatric Critical Care Unit at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt by providing a \$500 donation to underwrite one month of snacks, beverages, and supplies for the more than 2,500 individuals who visit our Family Room each month. As a sponsor, your name will be displayed in the Family Room as the "S.O.S. Sponsor of the Month."

### Share A Night

Did you know we subsidize all but \$15 of the \$83 cost per night, per family to stay in one of our rooms? In 2014 we served more than 574 families in our House and operated at 100% occupancy. More than 93% of families – that's 534 families – could not afford to pay anything toward their stay. Thanks to the Share a Night program, no one was turned away for their inability to pay. Your donations help us continue serving all families, whether or not they can contribute.

## RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF NASHVILLE House Notes

## Then & Now: Checking in with Andy Dunn



When four-year-old Andy Dunn of McMinnville, Tennessee first came to stay at the Nashville Ronald McDonald House, he was a little boy with a big fight on his hands. Following a diagnosis of stage 4 neuroblastoma, Andy and his family (mom, Dot; dad, Daryl, and big brother, Ray) called our House "home" for more than 112 nights from 2008 through 2010 when he was receiving treatment. During that time, Andy went through numerous rounds of chemo, a stem cell transplant and many rounds of radiation. To say that was a critical time for the Dunn family is an understatement.

Andy faced incredible odds, but the treatments were successful. The Dunns received report after report of "no evidence of disease," which is the news every family facing a fight against cancer hopes and prays for.

Now Andy is a 12-year-old rising seventh grader who recently stopped by to visit and catch up with the staff here at the House. Andy is a young man now and it's hard to believe that little boy who ran up and down the halls of our House is so grown up. He tells us he has many interests, like archery, tennis, reading and traveling to new places. The little boy who loved visiting the toy room at the House has grown up, but some things never change, like Andy's sweet smile and enthusiasm for life. Thanks to the Dunn family for being a part of our Ronald McDonald House family! ❤

## A Family Gives Back to RMHC of Nashville



Many families who make our House their home continue to support our mission long after they return to their home communities, including the Woods family from Crossville, Tennessee. Dylan Wood, 15, is organizing a 5K run/walk event on September 19 to benefit our programs and his inspiration is amazing.

On December 27, 1999, Jay and Amy Wood welcomed identical twin boys, Dylan and Derek. They knew within a few hours that something was wrong with Derek and he was soon sent to the East Tennessee Children's Hospital in Knoxville. Hours later they learned he had transposition of the great arteries. The next morning Derek was flown to Vanderbilt, where he underwent major heart surgery. After many

complications and a month in Vanderbilt, Derek was able to go home. However, just two months later, he was faced with a second heart surgery that he did not survive.

While Jay and Amy were in Nashville, they took turns showering and catching a couple hours of sleep at the Nashville RMH. They especially appreciated having a place to stay when Amy was hospitalized from complications of the delivery at the same time Derek was hospitalized, so Jay could remain close by his wife and sons. When Dylan came to his dad with the idea of organizing a 5k to benefit our programs, it made perfect sense to give back to an organization that helped their family, while also giving Dylan a chance to honor his late twin brother in the process!

If you live in the Crossville area, please take a moment to learn more about the Dash for Derek 5K and consider signing up to run, walk or sponsor the event. Thank you to the Wood family and best wishes for a successful event! ❤

## Our Playroom Gets a Facelift!



When the News 2 morning anchor and longtime House volunteer Neil Orne decided to take on the challenge of raising funds to help renovate our main floor playroom, he took the task seriously and wasted no time asking TV viewers, friends in the business community, civic organizations and social media followers to contribute. To date, more than \$15,000 has been raised through his efforts and that, combined with additional fundraising, paved the way for a total makeover.

Thanks to Neil's amazing awareness campaign, interior designer Leslie Ann Wilson and many other local professionals stepped up to the plate to offer either their donated or discounted services to help with the project. Ms. Wilson created a comprehensive design plan and design board (shown in photo), assisted the staff with making design decisions and will stage the room upon its completion – just in time to let eager families in to check out the incredible space. Please stay tuned to our digital media platforms and website for before and after pictures and lots of updates about the finished room coming soon! ❤



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF NASHVILLE  
PLAYROOM RENOVATION  
2014-2015

DESIGNER: LESLIE ANN WILSON, IDRA, INC.