



Ronald  
McDonald  
House®  
New York

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

# Spring is Here



## A message from our CEO

As the vibrant colors of spring begin to bloom across our city, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for each and every one of you who continues to support our mission here at Ronald McDonald House New York.

Spring symbolizes a time of renewal and growth, and it is with this spirit in mind that I reflect on the incredible journey we've embarked upon together. Every day, your unwavering commitment to providing comfort and support to families facing the unimaginable challenges of childhood illness fills me with inspiration.

Because of you, Ronald McDonald House New York is not just a place to stay; we are a *home away from home* for families who find themselves navigating the difficult journey of childhood illness. Whether they stay with us for days, weeks, or even years, our doors are always open, providing a comforting refuge and essential services in the heart of the city.



As we look to the future, we are filled with excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. **This season, we are opening two new Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in hospitals and continuing to further expand our reach to help all families in New York with sick children.** With your generosity and support, we are confident that we can make a greater difference in the lives of those who rely on us.

Thank you for your dedication. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of families facing the challenges of childhood illness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ruth C. Browne  
President & CEO



# A Week at the House



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>English Second Language Class</b> Clase de inglés como segundo idioma Klasa drugiego języka angielskiego 英语第二语言班 فئة اللغة الإنجليزية الثانية 4:30 Living Room Sala de estar/Salon 客厅/المعيشة/غرفة	<b>English Second Language Class</b> Clase de inglés como segundo idioma Klasa drugiego języka angielskiego 英语第二语言班 فئة اللغة الإنجليزية الثانية 11:am Living Room Sala de estar/Salon 客厅/المعيشة/غرفة	<b>Reiki 12 pm</b> Wellness Center 11th Floor	<b>Manicure</b> Wellness Center 1 pm rm 1111	<b>WELLNESS CENTER</b> RECOVERY 2 - 4 PM TRAINING / STRETCHING 2 - 3 PM TRAINING / STRETCHING 3 - 4 PM 11th Floor	<b>GRUPO DE APOYO EN LA SALA</b> 10:30-11:30 am <b>SNACKS &amp; GAMES SATURDAY</b> 2nd Fl Play Space 2-4 pm <b>Caregivers</b> The 11th Floor Rm 1111 The Wellness Center is for your Open Monday - Friday 10 am - 9:30 pm <b>Play Space on the 2nd Floor!</b> Open Daily Sunday: 10:30 am-5:30pm Monday-Saturday: 10:00am-5:30pm Evening Hours! Monday-Thursday: 6:30pm-9pm
<b>Reflexology Reflexologia</b> Wellness Center 11th Floor 7:15PM	<b>CARDIO CLASS</b> Wellness Center 11th Fl 7:30 pm <b>Gentle Flow Yoga</b> Wellness Center 11th Floor 8:45PM	<b>Slime Squad with Nadia</b> 2nd Floor Play Space 3-4pm <b>Reflexology</b> 4:00PM Wellness Center 11th Floor <b>Sound Bath</b> Wellness Center RM 1111 7:30 pm <b>Teen Night</b> 2nd Floor Playspace 9-10pm	<b>Weird Science</b> 2nd Floor Play Space 3:30-5:30pm <b>CREATIVE CAREGIVERS</b> 4-6 pm 1st Floor Conference Room <b>Massages with Zeel</b> Wellness Center 11th Floor 7:30 pm	<b>CAREGIVER COFFEE BREAK</b> 5 pm-6 pm 1ST FLOOR LIVING ROOM	

Families battling pediatric illness should not have to stress about housing, food, transportation, and where to receive emotional support. In the first quarter of 2024, **215 different families stayed at "the House."** The services we provide them allow families to focus on what matters most: their child's health.



## Meals

Families enjoyed **14,058 meals**, including breakfast, lunch, and dinner in our dining hall during the first quarter of 2024. Offering meals encourages families to make bonds with each other, while easily accessing food to get them through the day.



## Youth Programs

Our Programs Team plans daily activities for all ages, holiday/ birthday celebrations, and special trips throughout NYC. Our kids **utilized the Play Space 1,591 times** so far in 2024. Youth programs create bright moments for families during uncertain times.



## Transportation

In Q1, our families **received 4,480 rides** to and from hospital appointments. Our transportation program removes stress, financial burdens, and safety risks surrounding traveling in NYC.

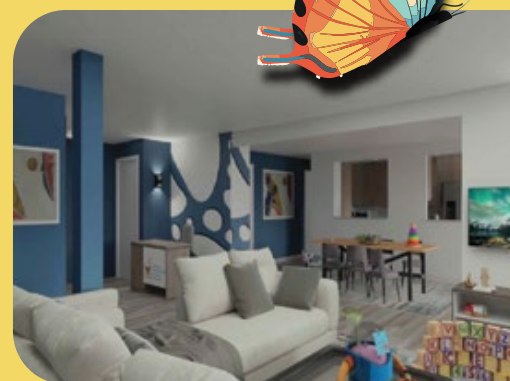


## Caregiver Support

Caregivers **attended restorative activities 1,974 times** in the Blavatnik Family Foundation Wellness Center including massages, stretching, sound baths, etc. Our Family Support Team also offers social workers and support groups.

When a child is diagnosed with an illness, either as a newborn premature baby or an older teenager with a rare cancer, they and their caregivers deserve easy access to support systems that lead to the best possible outcome. Our Hospital Programs offer families care-centered services directly in NYC Hospitals.

## Ronald McDonald Family Rooms



Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are spaces that we build and operate in hospitals to serve families with children in treatment. The family rooms we currently operate at NYC Health + Hospitals Kings County and Elmhurst were **visited 3,043 times** in the first quarter of 2024. Excitingly, we are building two more this year in the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and in NYC Health + Hospitals Metropolitan.

Families come to our rooms to access respite, moments of peace, food and drinks, laundry facilities, showers, and comfortable furniture to rest on. These spaces make it easier for families to stay close to their child, care for their own mental wellbeing, and ask our staff for resources to meet various needs.



## Hospitality Cart and Programs-to-Go



Staff and volunteers make rounds with a RMH-NY Hospitality Cart (pictured above). The cart is stocked with complimentary refreshments for patients and for caregivers who are reluctant to leave their child for even a moment. Additionally, our "Programs To-Go" initiative distributes thousands of fun, educational, and enriching activity packs to pediatric patients and their siblings.

Already in 2024, we have **distributed 5,157 items** to children and families in hospitals. We also organize events such as musical concerts, giveaways, sessions with Therapy Dogs, baby showers, visits from characters (e.g., the Care Bear), and more. All these activities provide moments of relief, fun, distraction, and emotional benefits that make time in the hospital more bearable.



## Happy Birthday Edith Dolowich



We would like to honor Edith Dolowich as our 'oldest' supporter, celebrating her 105th birthday on March 23rd. Edie is a founding member of the Guy M. Stewart Cancer Fund, which raised \$1.5 million for the House over 40 years. Most recently, they underwrote the cost of all active Hospitality Carts. Edie's no-nonsense attitude, irreplaceable memory, endless energy and enthusiasm have served her well during her years of fundraising.

**We say "Thank you, Edie, and Happy Birthday!"**

## Sonya is Honored at Skate with the Greats



Sonya with Henrik Lundqvist, who was also honored at the 30th Annual Skate with the Greats

Sonya, a brave little girl that stays at the House, shared her story with our supporters at our Skate with the Greats Event in April. Sonya was diagnosed with high-risk Neuroblastoma at 7-years-old and she was able to receive treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center because of Ronald McDonald House New York. She shared that from the moment they stepped through the House doors in July of 2023, her family was overwhelmed by the hospitality provided. Each day brings new opportunities for Sonya to find joy and companionship throughout her journey. They say that the staff and volunteers are an extended part of their family, providing comfort and support during dark moments. **Thank YOU for making it possible for us to serve children like Sonya.**

## Support Families like Sonya's



As we celebrate our 45th Anniversary, we are so grateful for your unwavering support. Loyal donors will be excited to be recognized in an exclusive 45-for-45 campaign. By pledging at least \$45,000 across 1-5 years, you will be invited to an exclusive celebration, receive recognition on our new donor wall, and most importantly, help raise over \$2 million to support the House



By donating to Ronald McDonald House New York, you are championing our mission to provide comprehensive care and wraparound support to families battling serious pediatric illnesses. Because of your contributions, we are able to offer several programs to hundreds of families staying at the House, and bring our services directly to thousands of children being treated in NYC Hospitals.

To receive information on making a gift, designating RMH-NY as a beneficiary in your will, or coming in for a tour please contact the Major Gifts Coordinator, Kelsey Zeller, at [kzeller@rmh-newyork.org](mailto:kzeller@rmh-newyork.org) or by calling (646) 483-5181.