Ronald McDonald House New York

#### **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Season of Gratitude





# **HOUSE UPDATE**

As we near the holiday season, our mission of keeping families close is more critical than ever. Ronald McDonald House New York (RMH-NY) continues to meet the needs of families staying at the House by bringing meals and activities directly to families' rooms, creating virtual programs, supporting families through online groups, providing transportation to and from treatment, and more.

Additionally, we are reaching our hand out to support vulnerable New York City families. RMH-NY is expanding its mission to provide wraparound services to all low-income children with medically complex illnesses receiving treatment at public and safety-net hospitals and their families. By addressing the acute and long-term non-clinical needs of this population, RMH-NY aims to advance health equity for underserved New Yorkers and provide patient and family-centered support that can promote better health, lower costs, and reduce preventable hospitalizations.

As a major step toward this expansion, Ronald McDonald House New York has opened our newest Family Room at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. This establishment is especially significant as Elmhurst Hospital was the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City. This Family Room will be a unique space where families can find reprieve from the sterile and stressful environment of the hospital and have a place to recharge physically, mentally, and emotionally while staying close to their child in treatment.

Thank you for your unwavering support that helps us make an impact in the lives of more families than ever before.







## **GROWTH**



Ronald McDonald House New York is expanding our reach throughout the five boroughs to serve more vulnerable NYC families and extend a seamless circle of support.

## **OUR GREATEST NEED**

During the pandemic, a critical need for our families has been access to safe and reliable transportation to medical appointments, which is especially important for the immunocompromised children we serve. By sponsoring a ride, you can help break down access barriers and keep our children and families safe, solving one of the biggest challenges they face.

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT DENEAN PAULIK AT DPAULIK@RMH-NEWYORK.ORG OR CALL (212) 639-0215.



### **YOUR IMPACT IN 2021**



#### Alexa's Story

Alexa Bolton was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma at the age of 10. Ewing's is a rare type of cancerous tumor that grows in the bones or soft tissue around the bones.

Alexa stays at Ronald McDonald House New York while she is receiving treatment at a nearby hospital. In a recent conversation, she remembered the time when she first came to the House. She knew that RMH-NY was the kind of place that would provide a break from what she was going through.

She loved the friendly atmosphere of the House and thought that everyone was extremely welcoming. Her favorite memories from the House were movie nights in the playroom. She especially cherishes the volunteers who went out of their way to make sure everyone was having fun and enjoying their time.

Ronald McDonald House New York ensures children get the opportunity to be kids first and patients second. Our programs help provide children and their families with a sense of normalcy as they travel to New York City for treatment of pediatric cancer and other serious illnesses.



#### **DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

"As a volunteer, I had the opportunity to witness the positive impact Ronald McDonald House New York has on families with children dealing with illness. I just really wanted to make a difference...so I began volunteering my time and with my family's support, made gifts to the House. [We] could not be more satisfied and confident knowing that our gifts positively impact children's lives as they battle pediatric illness. For us, Ronald McDonald House New York is the ideal organization to help these vulnerable families and we are proud to donate several times every year."

#### - John Rohs

Thursday Night Volunteer since 2005, Volunteer Hope Award Recipient 2013

