



**Ronald McDonald House®**  
New York

2023 Q1 NEWSLETTER

## SEASON OF LOVE

During this season of love and friendship, we are so grateful to you for providing a safe harbor and wraparound care for families with children receiving treatment for serious illnesses in New York City. Because of you, Ronald McDonald House New York (RMH-NY) meets the needs of families with sick children by offering extensive and long-term, patient- and family-centered support. Thank you for making this happen.

Along with our in-house services, we implement programs directly in hospitals throughout NYC with the goal to build a future where any family with a sick child can have access to the best care regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location. We understand that a wide array of social factors impact a child's health and ability to access treatment. Without transportation or financial resources for a hotel, a family cannot easily travel to a recommended hospital; without access to proper nutrition or enrichment, the impact of medicine may be limited; when there are language barriers or a family lacks medical expertise, they can miss crucial information that may benefit them on their journey of care.

**Compassionate philanthropists like you make it possible for RMH-NY to step in and remove these barriers for families getting treated in New York City who live around the world, across the country and throughout the five boroughs.** We don't just provide a place to stay for families, we also offer meals, transportation, appointment accompaniment, resource navigation and more. By doing so, we are increasing access to wraparound care for all families—which is proven to enhance health outcomes.





## MEET ZOEY



Zoey was only four months old when her doctors shared the life-shattering news that she had cancer. Zoey was "blessed" with a Stage 4S Neuroblastoma diagnosis - meaning the cancer would essentially dissipate on its own without treatment. However, after a routine scan when she was two years old, her doctors delivered a devastating update that the cancer spread. Zoey went from needing no treatment to now needing aggressive, life-saving care that only innovative hospitals on the forefront of cancer treatment could provide.

To give Zoey the very best chance, her family was advised to seek treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in Manhattan because MSK specializes in Neuroblastoma cases and is home of the revolutionary 3f8 immunotherapy.

Zoey's family was living in Maryland and was initially concerned about the need to travel to New York. Fortunately, Zoey's social worker recommended Ronald McDonald House New York to her family as a close place to stay without having to worry about meals or transportation to treatments. With that in mind, Zoey's family packed and traveled to NYC.


Zoey's family remembers how incredibly simple RMH-NY made the transition from their hometown to New York City. **"It's just amazing," said Zoey's mom, Meyli. "The House made everything so easy and that allowed us to just focus on taking care of Zoey."**

Zoey loves to pet our therapy dogs and let them lick her face. They are at the top of her list of favorite things about the House!

Zoey's parents emphasized how the House staff and volunteers always went out of their way to create moments that made Zoey smile. **Through the hardship, the hospitals and the sickness, Ronald McDonald House New York did everything they could to make their life as easy as possible, so that they could focus on helping Zoey get better.**


## YOUR IMPACT IN 2022

  
**55,890**  
Meals Served

  
**591**  
Different Families Stayed at the House

  
**1,640**  
Children and Family Members Impacted

  
**18,792**  
Nights Provided

  
**10,085**  
Rides Utilized

  
**4,771**  
Enrichment Activities Delivered

  
**4,484**  
Nutritious Snacks and Drinks Distributed

  
**25**  
Musical Magic Concerts Hosted

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JACKIE SANDER, PROGRAM MANAGER

### What inspires you to work at the House?

It is a great honor to be able to get to know the families and try in whatever small way we can to make their experience a better one. We are not the ones providing the medical care but we are able to provide the space for kids to be kids first, and this inspires the work that I do.

### How does the Programs Team support families during hard times?

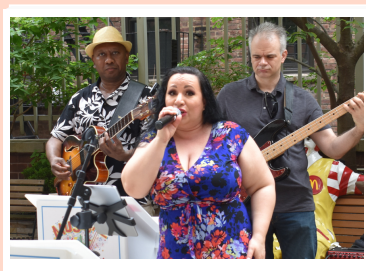
We provide spaces for families to be a family together, whether that is to create art, make slime, or build a tower around a sibling to watch it all fall down, we are able to get to know families in small but significant ways. Hopefully through that communication, we can help positively impact their experience. For example, in casual conversations with a father once, we heard that it had been difficult for him to plan quality family time. So, we worked with him to plan and surprise the mother with a family picnic in Central Park, and they expressed that this became one of their most treasured memories of their time in New York.

### In five years of working at RMH-NY, do you have a favorite program you've done?

Definitely our Hospital Outreach. When I started, our Hospitality at a Cart (then, Coffee Cart) was only at one hospital working hard to provide snacks to those families. We now partner with 10 Hospitals across NYC to deliver our "Programs to Go" every other week in addition to our 7 in-person Hospitality Carts. This initiative means so much to me because I love this city and community is the most important thing to me. So, to be able to do what we do for our families here at the House and also for families across this city is everything to me. While these programs may seem simple, they are very impactful because enjoying a moment away for a hot coffee or a snack, and conversing with a person about non-medical related topics provides a brief moment of normalcy for worried parents who have a child that is in-patient.



## MUSICAL MAGIC



Musical Magic began in order to provide fun festivities to families staying at the House. When we realized the benefits of the program, we began implementing Musical Magic in hospitals for pediatric patients, families, medical personnel and hospital staff. Studies show that exposure to music can be therapeutic and, in many ways, healing. Our Musical Magic group includes world-class musicians who travel to hospitals to perform festive and enriching songs for kids and families to enjoy. Each performance also includes interactive activities and a Q&A session with the artists. **In 2022, we hosted 25 Musical Magic concerts in hospitals.**





**"I believe your mission is both important and worthy of my support. I am inspired by the help you provide to families of children with cancer and other illnesses, especially the housing." - Ann Rosche, Supporter of RMH-NY Since 1993**



## SMARTER GIVING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Help keep families close while they are traveling to New York City for treatment for years to come by making a planned gift such as charitable bequests in your will, a gift of life insurance, life income gifts and/or pension gifts. In addition, if you are 73 or older you must take Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA each year. Instead of taking this distribution as income, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to RMH-NY which would be excluded from your taxable income. Consider making a planned gift or donating from your IRA to support families battling serious pediatric illnesses.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### Family Support Fund

The Family Support Fund provides families staying at RMH-NY with meals, transportation, wellness and enrichment activities, bereavement programs, therapy dogs and support group sessions, resource navigation and more so that medically complex families can be fully supported as they receive treatment in New York City.



### Health Equity Fund

The Health Equity Fund helps us maintain partnerships with private, public and safety-net hospitals in New York City to create RMH Family Rooms, help families access social programs, host enriching events or activities, survey families to identify their greatest needs, deliver nutritious snacks and help caregivers navigate hospital systems.

For more information about ways you can make a difference at the House, including through Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA or Planned Giving, contact Denean Paulik, Director of Major Gifts.

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