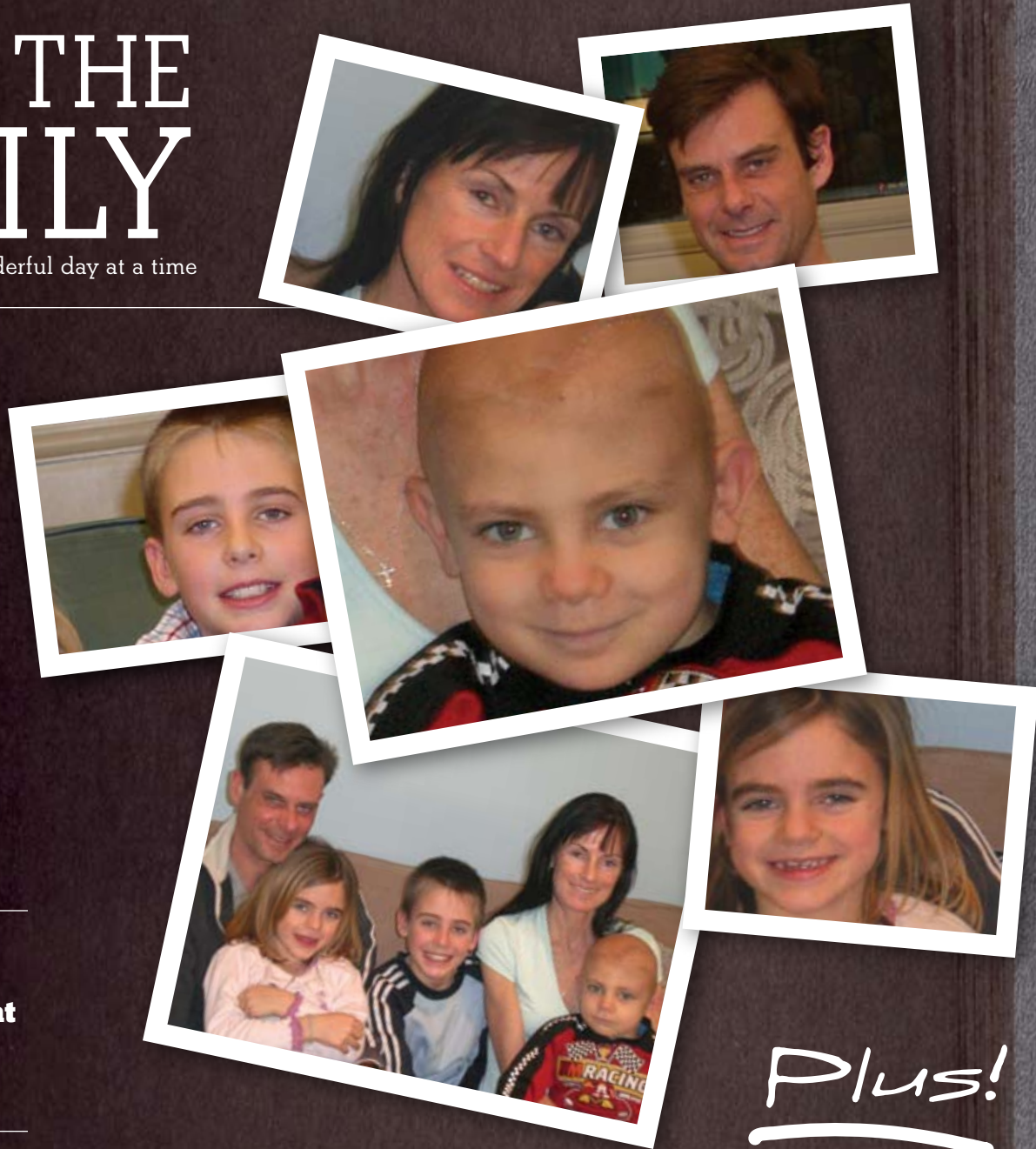


AROUND the HOUSE

The Volunteer magazine for Ronald McDonald House of New York, Inc.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

For the Browns, it's one wonderful day at a time



8 Fundraising events you won't want to miss

A new PR firm, head of development and two new board members!

✱ Yee Haw, It's Hee Haw!

Plus!

Spotlight on Marianne Gunther, Child Life Activities Manager at RMDH

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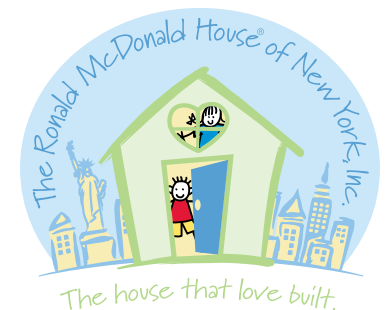
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Marianne Gunther and Ronald McDonald House were partners waiting to happen.

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THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

provides temporary housing "a home away from home" for pediatric cancer patients and their families. The House provides families a supportive and caring environment which encourages and nurtures the development of child-to-child and parent-to-parent support systems. Ronald McDonald House in New York City is the largest facility of its type in the world.



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO ACTION AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE!

That is our battle cry for 2007 as we continue with our mission of helping kids and their families with the devastating fight against cancer. I put forth this particular battle cry for one very simple reason: We never have enough volunteers. As we expand and add programs to support our families, we're also pursuing new ways to gain support for the House. So, needless to say, we're always looking for a few good men and women to roll up their sleeves and jump in.

Over the years, I have found two things to always be true: "Everybody has something to give" and "Where there's a volunteer, there's a way". Over the past year, our core 200 volunteers donated over 20,800 hours of service for a total value of over \$650,000.00. We've also had an equal amount of community, business, fraternal and service volunteers who've provided meals and produced events and activities. Volunteer support at the Ronald McDonald House is estimated to be worth well over \$1.5 million. This figure does not include the added role of the Board of Directors and volunteers involved with fund development and general support like capital efforts and donated labor.

While most of our core volunteers work with our kids and families — and the commitment is heavy — there are a number of other functions that we desperately need help with. There are opportunities for everyone from older teens to retirees and senior citizens. We are looking for folks with flexible schedules who can make a commitment to a project from the beginning to the end, as well as people who can make a weekly commitment working in the playroom, computer room, an evening program or weekend activity. Not only is volunteering the most effective way to solve everyday problems that occur in running the House, but it brings us together and strengthens us as a charity.

Here are some volunteer tips to help you gain the best experience possible:

- Use your talents and skills. Find a project that fits your particular interest.
- When you identify a project or program, talk with us and make sure it's a good fit.
- Think about how you'd like to serve. Are you more comfortable in large groups or working alone?
- Don't take on more than you can handle. You know your limitations. Only pledge the amount of time you are comfortable with.
- Be open to learning from the experience. Volunteering can open your eyes in too many ways to count.
- Consider whom you are helping and know how much they need you. Please come in and get acquainted with us and what we are doing.

If you have an interest in volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, please go online and review the current needs at www.rmdh.org. Email us your name and mailing address and we will send you a volunteer application packet. You can also email rvogel@rmdh.org or call our volunteer hotline at 212-639-0180. Remember, without volunteers, there would be no Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you for a great year of success and inspiration. Here's to a terrific 2007. We are so fortunate to have you as a friend and supporter. Thank you. Your involvement in our mission is a privileged opportunity!

Sincerely,

William T. Sullivan
President and Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S NEW **AT THE HOUSE?**

NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WEBER SHANDWICK WORLDWIDE, the largest Public Relations firm in the world, is now the PR firm handling the Ronald McDonald House and the good news doesn't stop there. Harris Diamond, who recently joined the RMDH Board of Directors, is the Global President of Weber-Shandwick and has offered their services to RMDH pro bono. Gail Heimann President of NYC Office has formed a team specifically to create our new PR campaign for 2007. Here's to a long and successful partnership! ✿



WEBER SHANDWICK WORLDWIDE ✿ 119 OFFICES IN 72 MARKETS ✿ WWW.WEBERSHANDWICK.COM

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

ON JANUARY 16, RICHARD H. MARTIN, JOINED THE STAFF AT RONALD MCDONALD House of New York, as the Director of Development. He joins us after a 21-year career with the Boy Scouts of America, where he supervised a Department of 50 persons and managed 8 Direct Reports. His Department was responsible for raising 3 million dollars annually in an overall budget of 15 million dollars.

Rick said, "I'm excited to be coming on board of one of the premier Ronald McDonald Houses in the nation. They have expanded their fund raising efforts and I plan to continue that as well as developing new funding sources."

Martin earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Massachusetts College of Art in 1984. In his spare time he manages to find a few moments to draw, paint and sculpt, and he is an avid camper. ✿



"I'm excited to be coming on board of one of the premier Ronald McDonald Houses in the nation. They have expanded their fund raising efforts and I plan to continue that as well as developing new funding sources."

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ON JANUARY 10TH, CLIFFORD A. STERLING AND SACHA

Lainovic joined the RMDH Board of Directors.

Clifford A. Sterling is Senior Managing Director, Mortgage Sales at Bear Stearns & Co., Inc. since 1985. He also serves on the board of the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation. He and his family have been financial supporters of UJA, Meals On Wheels, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Children's Fund For GSD Research and two Israeli organizations: Alyn Children's Hospital and Shalva. Cliff has a BA in Finance from Franklin Marshall and MBA in Finance from FDU, University of San Francisco and lives in New York City with his wife Kristen and their daughters Chandler and Kendal.

Sacha Lainovic is Co-founder and Senior Managing Partner of The Invus Group LLC, a New York based investment firm. Over its twenty-year history, Invus has made investments in over 80 portfolio companies in a range of industries including food, consumer services, specialty retailing, software, medical devices and biotechnology.

He is a director of Weight Watchers International and GoldenSource Corporation, a member of the management Board at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and a trustee of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in New York City. Sacha received an MBA from Stanford University and holds a M.S. in engineering from INSA de Lyon. *

RMDH WISH LIST

Since so many of you have been kind enough to come up to the house and drop off donated items, we thought we'd help by letting you know some of the things we always need. And thanks a lot for your generosity!

- Towels—hand and bath
- Pillows
- Pillow cases—white
- Blankets
- Tub stoppers
- Paper goods—cups, plates, napkins
- Paper towels
- Kitchen towels
- Dishware
- Glasses
- Cereal bowls
- Kitchen utensils
- Personal soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Strollers
- Baby diapers
- Baby lotion
- Baby shampoo
- Coffee
- Canned milk
- Sugar packets
- Laundry detergent
- Fabric softener
- Cascade
- Dishwashing liquid
- Clorox wipes
- Oreck vacuums
- Magazine subscriptions
- Art supplies:
 - Glue
 - Paper
 - Kid's paints (washable)
 - Brushes
 - Print paper



PARTNER HOSPITALS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bellevue Hospital | Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital |
| Beth Israel Hospital | Mount Sinai Medical Center |
| Hospital for Joint Diseases | NewYork-Presbyterian-Cornell Medical Center |
| Hospital for Special Surgery | New York University Hospital |
| Manhattan Eye & Ear Hospital | Rusk Institute |
| Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center | St. Vincent's Hospital |
| Montefiore Hospital | |

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- | | |
|--|--|
| William T. Sullivan
<i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i> | Marianne Gunther
<i>Child Life Activities Manager</i> |
| Ralph W. Vogel
<i>Director of Human Resource, Programs & Volunteers</i> | Cherilyn Frei
<i>Chaplain</i> |
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| Suzanna C. Houston
<i>Assistant to the President & Office Manager</i> | Eric Kornfeld
<i>Newsletter Editor</i> |

ALL THE FAMILY

● For Jack Brown and His Family, It's One **Wonderful** Day At A Time

NEUROBLASTOMA IS A FORM OF CANCER THAT OCCURS IN INFANTS and young children. It is rarely found in children older than 10 years. The cells of this cancer usually resemble very primitive developing nerve cells found in an embryo or fetus. The term neuro indicates “nerves,” while blastoma refers to a cancer that affects immature or developing cells.

Neuroblastoma is a word no parent ever wants to hear a doctor use in diagnosing their child. However, it was the word Yvonne and Richard Brown heard after months of tests endured by their 3-year-old son, Jack.

The Browns live in London, where both Yvonne and Richard were working as detectives on the London police force. Once Jack was diagnosed, he was admitted to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, where he received fifteen chemotherapy treatments, which had no effect on his cancer.

Jack was moved to the Middlesex Hospital where a pilot study in 131I MIBG radioactive therapy was being conducted. Over a three-week period in isolation, he received two massive doses of radioactive liquid combined with another chemotherapy drug. This removed most of the cancer from his bones but he still had to have the main tumor on his adrenal gland removed. The surgery was followed by high dose chemotherapy.

It took nine weeks for his small body to recover from the harsh drugs but at last, he was disease free. There was only one question — for how long? Relapses are highly possible with an aggressive cancer like Neuroblastoma. Unaware of the seriousness of his illness, Jack continued to grow into a happy child with an amazingly sweet nature.

The Browns learned about a new procedure at Memorial Sloan-Kettering; a clinical trial wherein children receive 3F8 antibodies with the intent that the immune system would learn to recognize and destroy

the Neuroblastoma cells. There were two problems. Sloan-Kettering was in New York City and the treatment was extremely expensive and although the Browns had national healthcare in England, it would not cover treatment in the U.S. They persevered and launched the www.jackbrownappeal.org website, where they raised 350,000 thousand dollars. Yvonne left work and in April of 2006, she and Jack, now 5 years old, came to the Ronald McDonald House for the first time. They stayed for two weeks of treatments. “The Ronald McDonald House is what made it possible for us to come here for the procedure”, Yvonne says, “and it’s so much more than just a place to stay. Every parent knows exactly what you’re going through because it’s what they’re going through. It’s comforting...it keeps you from getting caught up in feeling sorry for yourself. The house and the people in it have given us great strength.”

Jack returned in June, July and August. But after an eight-week break, it was discovered that he was no longer disease free. The cancer was back but there was one ray of hope. It wasn’t in his body. It was in his brain — the only area the antibodies couldn’t reach. The Browns were told they had to come to the U.S immediately, while Jack was healthy enough to fly. They threw some clothes in a bag and took the next flight to New York. They didn’t even have time to say goodbye to their other children.

Once they were settled back in Ronald McDonald House, the Browns brought their 10-year-old son, Conner and 7-year-old daughter, Rhian to New York. Sensing the severity of this situation, they wanted their family together. Conner and Rhian began school at PS 183, just down the street from Sloan-Kettering. Though uprooted with almost no preparation, the Brown kids rarely complain. They love being with Jack



THE BROWN FAMILY (Left to right) Yvonne, Rhian, Conner, Jack and Richard.

and they enjoy the house activities along with all the fascinating things that come with living in New York City. In fact, during his first weekend here, Conner found a twenty-pound note in Central Park. If there's such a thing as a good sign, that was surely one.

Back at Sloan-Kettering, Jack underwent brain surgery and the tumor was removed. They also added a reservoir where a radioactive antibody will be directed to the brain. This procedure has been done on ten children with a 100% success rate so far. That was followed by a low dose of chemotherapy and radiation therapy, during which he got an infection and came down with pneumonia. But with his family around him, and the support of everyone in the house, the Browns enjoyed what Rhian and Conner say is "the best Christmas they ever had".

Jack is expected to recover by early February and will continue with the antibodies treatment. In the meantime, his joy and charm continue to win the hearts of our entire staff as well as all of our guests. It's hard to believe that inside his body, this little boy is fighting such a big battle. But he's fighting to win and RMDH is right beside him to help. "If it weren't for the Ronald McDonald House", Yvonne says, with tears in her eyes, "we never could have embarked on this journey. There's no way we can ever thank them enough."

The Browns are all living in one toy filled room but that doesn't bother them. With both Richard and Yvonne on work leave, money is tight but they don't complain about that either. They are just thankful for every day with Jack and for being together. The love that binds this family is as inspiring as the hope they personify. They have just begun a campaign to raise 750,000 dollars for the continuing treatment Jack will need and

because of complications like his recent infection, it will cost even more.

That goal may seem impossible to you and me, but not this family. Or this amazing little boy who says his three favorite things about Ronald McDonald House are hotdogs, pizza and popcorn.

I recently spoke with Richard as he was waiting for the elevator. He recounted everything that brought his family to New York and the house. He said, "With Neuroblastoma, you're just happy to hear a hospital say there's something new. A pilot treatment ... something. At Sloan they said, 'We can do something'. He stepped into the elevator. "They're not saying they can promise ten years but maybe two or three! And that's enough for us!"

The elevator door closed and I stood there, amazed at the strength of this man, his wife and the three wonderful children they are raising. I was also struck by the irony that the Browns spend so much time in the hospital, when they may be the healthiest family I've ever met. ✨

WE RAISE FUNDS AND SPIRITS AT THE SAME TIME

From Pucks To Poppins, Our Winter Fundraisers Are Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

* MY BIG FAT GREEK DINNER

IF YOU'VE SPENT ANY TIME “around the house”—pun intended—then you’ve probably heard mention of something called the Greek Division. Contrary to popular belief, the Greek Division is not a new math technique, but rather an association within Ronald McDonald House. In fact, next time you’re here, if you walk to the back of the dining room, face the soda machine and turn right, you’ll find yourself right in front of the hidden office of the Greek Division and its founder, Niki Sideris.

Niki is an amazingly energetic woman who is passionate about at least two things: the Greek community in New York City and the Ronald McDonald House. Twenty years ago, Niki became a volunteer at our first house on East 86th Street and immediately brought our community to the attention of her community. Since then, she has raised over 3 million dollars for the Ronald McDonald House. Shortly after we moved to the 73rd Street location, 16 years ago, Niki began hosting the Greek Division Walk-a-thon and the incredible “Greek Dinner/Christmas Party”, which is held in the house every year during the holidays.

On December 11th, several hundred people filled our dining room for a fabulous Greek experience that began with a

formal Greek meal, prepared and donated by the exceptional Periyali restaurant. After dinner, guests were treated to authentic Greek music and dancing, performances by several opera singers and then Christmas carols, played on the piano by 7-year-old Stavros Chrysantou, a boy from Greece, who is currently staying with us at RMDH. In fact, Stavros learned to play piano, thanks to the lessons he takes here at the house.

Of course, the evening would not have been complete without a fabulous raffle, which included round trip tickets to, where else—Greece! There is only one word that truly describes the Greek Dinner, the Greek Division and the Greek herself, Niki Sideris. And that word is “Opa!” *



* JUST LIKE VEGAS — BUT CLOSER

ON JANUARY 10, RMDH VOLUNTEERS PRESENTED ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL casino night right here in the house living room. Representatives from twenty real estate companies sponsored the event with each rep inviting at least twenty guests. The gaming combined with the raffle, (which featured courtside Knicks tickets as well as other great prizes) produced over 22,000 dollars. Co-chairing the event were Robert Scheinman, principal, Lehr Construction Corporation and Sarah Currie, director of marketing, V.V.A. Project Managers and Consultants. That’s all we’re permitted to report because, as everyone knows, what happens at Casino Night, stays at Casino Night. *



*** FUN RUN'S NUMBER ONE**



ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2006, CHILDREN RANGING IN ages from 4 through 17 participated in our 8th Annual Ronald McDonald House “Kids Charity Fun Run” in Central Park. The Fun Run is a great opportunity for kids to have fun while raising money for other kids – the kids who stay with us. This event creates a lot of excitement as it takes place the day before Marathon Sunday and the park is crowded with runners and visitors from all over the world.

It was a cold day but our volunteers showed up in full force. There was music and plenty of snacks, provided by McDonald’s and Coca-Cola. We are completely grateful to these great companies as well as our proud event sponsor, the New York Athletic Club.

We are completely grateful to these great companies as well as our

BACK CHECK, BODY CHECK, CROSS CHECK, WRITE A CHECK!

DESPITE A LIGHT DRIZZLE OF RAIN THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 18th, the ice skating rink at Rockefeller Center was packed with New York Rangers, fans and lots of kids from the house for our thirteenth annual Skate With The Greats. Eight hundred people came out to meet and skate with Rangers (past and present) including Rod Gilbert, Ron Duguay, Brian Mullen, Dave Maloney, Pete Stemkowski, Patrick Hickey, Gilles Villemure, Ron Greschner, Ryan Hollweg, Darius Kasparaitis, Henrik Lundquist, Jed Ortmeyer and Petr Prucha.

Thanks to Chairman, Steve Bensinger (Executive Vice President and CFO of the American International Group, Inc., the event sponsor), board member and founder of Skate With The Greats, Jerry de St. Paer, Sam Rosen and the Rangers Organization, the event raised over 1.2 million dollars. Rod Gilbert, who’s been a dear friend to RMDH since

the first Rangers event in 1994, recalled they were when that initial Skate With The Greats brought in \$60,000 dollars. Just before hitting the ice, the Rangers presented a



special jersey to our own Austin Melgar, age 6, and named him the honorary Ranger of the night.

Not only did the crowd have a terrific time but so did the Rangers themselves. Jed Ortmeyer, the popular Right Wing, said, “Just to see the smiles on the kid’s faces – that’s better than anything! It’s great to be a part of that.” And fan favorite, Henrik Lundquist added, “This is my first time at Skate With The Greats but it’s great to see all these kids. It gives us perspective. What’s important, you know?” *

proud event sponsor, the New York Athletic Club.

Over seven hundred runners participated, raising over \$100,000 for RMDH. More than twenty schools, both private and public, participated. This was a first time we got such a huge response from so many local schools. Firefighters lined the course to cheer on the kids, especially our crew from Yonkers. Ronald McDonald, himself and Grete Waitz (nine time winner of the New York City Marathon) led the warm-up and later Ronald was at the finish line to congratulate the kids and present each of them with a ribbon.

All participants received a t-shirt and there were prizes for levels of fund raising. Those who raised \$250 received a RMDH Frisbee and water bottle. \$500 got a Fun Run Hooded Sweatshirt. \$1,000, a New York Giants Autographed Football and 2 tickets to a Knicks Game and kids who brought in \$2,500 received iPods. The top prizes were two Mountain bikes, which went to 8-year-old Kendal Sara Sterling (pictured with her father, Clifford A. Sterling, Senior Managing Director of Bear, Stearns & Co and a member of the RMDH Board of Directors). Kendal raised a record \$6,000. The other bike went to 10-year-old John David Kantakis, who raised over \$3,000. Congratulations to Kendal, John and every kid who helped us make a difference in the lives of our kids. You made us all proud! *



IT’S A JOLLY HOLIDAY WITH MARY

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2006 the families, kids and staff of the Ronald McDonald House of New York had a very special evening at our Second Annual Theatre Benefit. It began with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a lovely buffet dinner in the Broadway Lounge of the Marriott

Marquis Hotel in the very heart of the Great White Way. After dinner, the crowd headed over to the New Amsterdam Theater, where we spent a couple of hours with Jane and Michael Banks and their “practically perfect” nanny, MARY POPPINS.

The newest Disney musical is positively magical and the event raised \$85,000 – a real spoonful of sugar for RMDH. We thank our very generous supporters and donors who graciously donated the tickets. Eric Altmann, The Harry Silverman Foundation, Richard Cisneros of McDonald’s, the Bonnie Cashin Fund, the Benjamin Jacobson & Sons Foundation, Valerie Spencer of Wells Fargo Century, Susan B. Stearns Trust, Lisa Terry McConanth Corp., Mark Davies Family Foundation are the fine people who made this delightful event possible. *



SAVE THIS DATE!

Mark your calendar with these upcoming RMDH Fundraising Events you won't want to miss.

DUST OFF YOUR FORMAL ATTIRE BECAUSE OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR, THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE ANNUAL SPRING GALA is right around the corner. This year we're honoring two of our outstanding supporters Laurence D. Fink, Chairman and CEO of BlackRock, Inc. and Edward J. Malloy, President, Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, who is also a member of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. So join us on Monday, May 21, 2007, 6:30 pm at the Waldorf=Astoria.

MAY 21,
2007
6:30 PM

MONDAY,
APRIL 30

Event: New York Pops 24th Birthday
Gala Concert
Time: 6:00pm
Location: Carnegie Hall

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 9

Event: Spring Theatre Benefit
featuring the new Kander
& Ebb musical, CURTAINS,
starring David Hyde Pierce
Time: 5:30pm
Location: Al Hirschfeld Theatre

SATURDAY,
MAY 19

Event: Greek Division Walk-A-Thon
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Ronald McDonald House

MONDAY,
MAY 21

Event: Annual Spring Gala
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: The Waldorf=Astoria

MONDAY,
OCTOBER 1

Event: Winged Foot Golf Outing
Location: Winged Foot Golf Club,
Mamaroneck, NY

MONDAY,
OCTOBER
(TBD)

Event: Monday Night Football
with the New York Giants
Time: TBD
Location: New York Athletic Club

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 3

Event: Kids Charity Fun Run
Time: 12:00pm
Location: Central Park

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 17

Event: Rao's Dinner
Location: Rao's

YEE HAW, IT'S HEE HAW!



On the night of October 23, the playroom was transformed into the OK Corral and everybody in the house got to “get down” and “chow down” country-western style! While the Outlaw Country Band was busy churning out hits from Patsy, Garth and Tanya, kids and parents (all decked out in cowboy hats and bandanas) were diggin’ into an incredible barbeque dinner, including chicken, ribs, cactus salad, corn on the cob and oh, those Eureka cupcakes!

Shelly Talan, interior designer and RMDH volunteer extraordinaire, dreamed up and designed the party, thanks to a generous donation from Bob Olstein (the Olstein Fund) and his wife Karen. Inflatable cacti, cowhide balloons and “Wanted” posters helped create that good ole western atmosphere. Line dancing teachers got the crowd moving and grooving to Achy Breaky Heart as roving photographers captured every smile.

Like all perfect parties, the time flew by and suddenly it was time for everyone to ride off into the sunset. The next day, the playroom was once again a playroom but they say there was an odor of mesquite in the air, along with the distant sound of galloping horses.

It takes a village to raise a child and it took a tribe to throw this Pow Wow together. Rich Levoi, Michael Doetsch, Bruce Grenspan, Nate Martin, Teresa Metrullo, Donna Potorti, Puji Puhlajani, Karen Stasiak, Leslie Hughes, Sacheen Cicero and Pam Strazicic all helped to make this event fun and fantastic. *



(From top) The Hole In The Wall Gang; Conner Gerber, Jeshwaun Duncan and Adam Hitchings. Bob Olstein, William Sullivan, Karen Olstein, Shelly Talan. Zacary Nickerson and his mother, Michelle.



OUR DONORS

Due to space limitations, we regrettably cannot list donors below \$250. Please accept our sincere appreciation.

\$100,000+

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BALANCE SHEET

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK, INC.
 COMPARATIVE SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET
 DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND DECEMBER 31, 2006

	AUDITED DEC 31, 2005	UNAUDITED DEC 31, 2006
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$8,595	\$43,953
INTEREST RECEIVABLE	238,309	175,108
INVESTMENTS	26,705,682	26,892,064
DUE FROM McDONALD'S OWNER OPERATORS	1,200,000	1,200,000
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	282,763	525,010
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	28,435,349	28,836,134
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES RECEIVABLE	117,930	195,326
DUE FROM McDONALD'S OWNER OPERATORS GREATER THAN ONE YEAR	3,837,166	2,826,742
PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT - NET	27,960,169	30,249,737
OTHER ASSETS	207,389	178,937
TOTAL ASSETS	\$60,558,003	\$62,286,876
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$491,071	\$947,225
BONDS PAYABLE	12,300,000	11,600,000
NET ASSETS	47,766,932	49,739,650
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$60,558,003	\$62,286,876
The December 31, 2006 balances are unaudited and a representation of Management		

MEANT FOR EACH OTHER

Marianne Gunther and Ronald McDonald House Were Partners Waiting To Happen.



THERE IS AN ANCIENT BUDDHIST PROVERB, WHICH STATES, “When the student is ready, the teacher will appear” and that’s exactly what happened when Marianne Gunther applied for the job of Child Life Activities Manager at RMDH in November. Marianne not only comes with an impressive resume, she is a licensed Art Therapist with a BFA from Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts and a Masters in Creative Arts Therapy from Pratt Institute. She’s also had a 15 year career working with children and families in traumatic situations.

Her first job in New York was with a family service agency called Heartshare, in Redhook, Brooklyn, working with families at risk for foster care. In the early 90s, Redhook, an area primarily made up of housing projects, was known for being a dangerous neighborhood with a lot of drug trafficking. Marianne was actually working in the area the day beloved elementary school principal, Patrick Daly, was killed in the crossfire of rival gangs.

She moved to the Downstate Medical Center’s STAR (Special Treatment and Research) program as the coordinator of Project Hope, a psycho social support program for children of parents infected with HIV. She ran the program for 5 years and published an article about it in the Child Welfare League of America, Spring, 1998. By the year 2000, Marianne and her 3-year-old daughter, Simone, were attending Sunday Quaker meetings at the Brooklyn Friends Meeting House, where Marianne learned of an opening at the Brooklyn Friends School.

She fell in love with the school and took the position of summer camp and after school director. In 2005, she returned to the Downstate Medical Center’s Child Life Division as the weekend activities director.

Cut to 2006, when RMDH was busy moving forward with our Comprehensive Youth and Family Services program. Expanding our ability to meet the needs of not just the kids receiving cancer treatment but also their families. One aspect of the program was to specifically offer educational and emotional support for siblings. It was clear that someone with expertise in children’s psychology would be needed to run the playroom. Someone with experience in art and play therapy, who could show children and parents how to express their frustrations in a healthy and safe atmosphere and help “normalize” their very abnormal and traumatic experience.

Ralph Vogel, RMDH Director of Human Resources said, “This was a brand new program and I knew I needed someone who could make it take off. Marianne had the necessary skills and life experience but I was most struck by her great passion for her work. People who are passionate about what they do are always effective and I knew she’d be a good fit here at Ronald McDonald House.”

We are thrilled to welcome Marianne Gunther to our staff. Not only is she intelligent, experienced, kind, patient and loving, but as her resume boasts, she can charm any child into putting toys away! Now that’s a child life specialist! ✨

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF AROUND the **HOUSE**



Camp Ronald McDonald,
Our Newest Dream



Therapy Dogs: Why We Love
These Canine Caregivers



What Makes The Gala
So "Gala"?



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