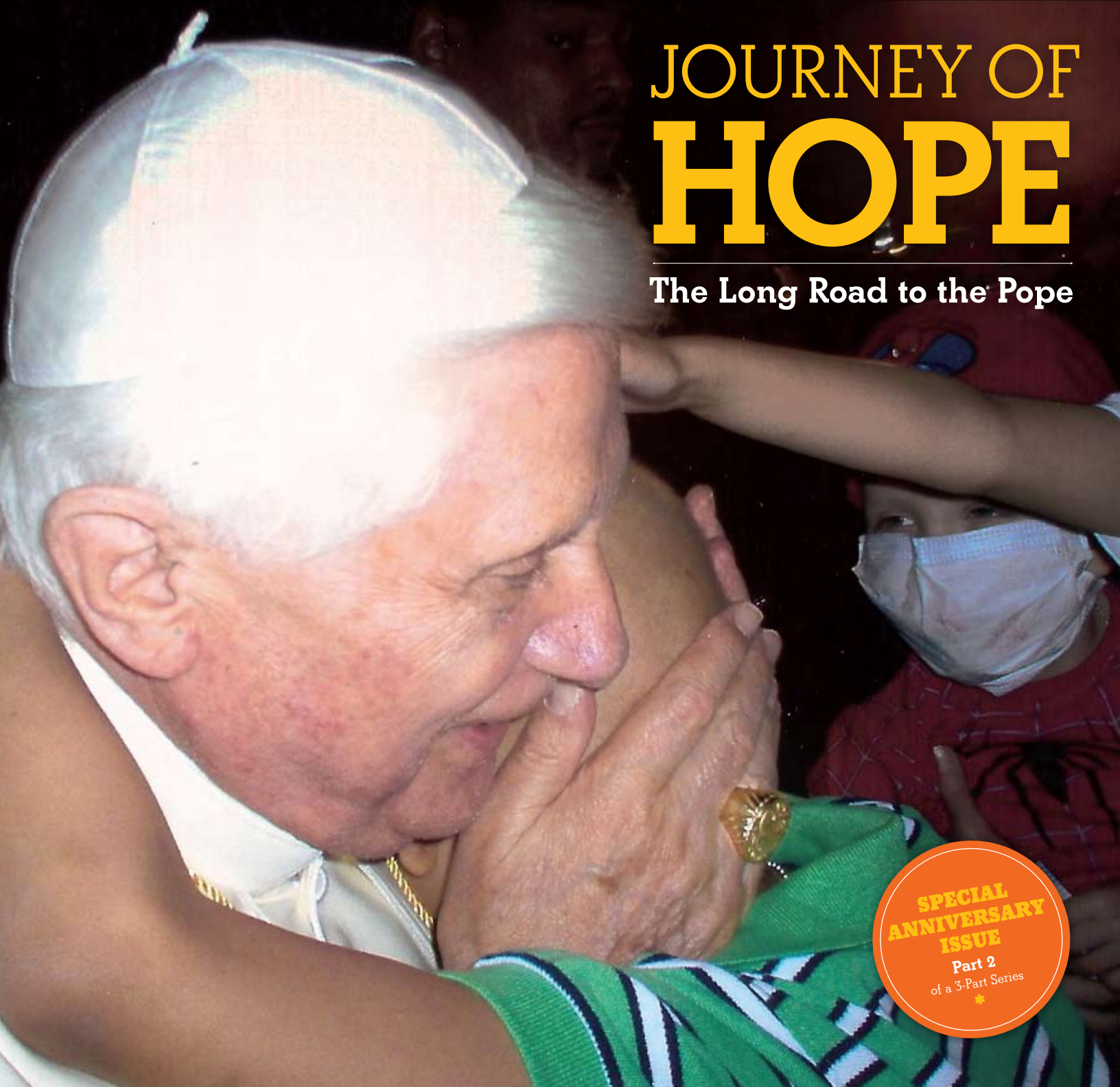




AROUND the HOUSE

The Magazine for Ronald McDonald House of New York, Inc.



JOURNEY OF HOPE

The Long Road to the Pope

**SPECIAL
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE**

Part 2
of a 3-Part Series





AROUND the HOUSE

VOL. 3, ISSUE 2 / **SPRING 2008**

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Your Ronald McDonald House has inaugurated a program to encourage you to remember us in your will.

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 LETTER



Left, Mrs. Niki Sideris
and Bill Sullivan

DEAR FRIENDS,

WELCOME TO SPRING! Here at the Ronald McDonald House of New York we celebrate a 30-year history of aid and comfort to over 25,000 families facing the heartbreak of pediatric cancer with a banner year of support from donors, volunteers, and staff who allow us to continue the good fight.

Every day of every week of every year, our House provides a home-away-from-home for 84 children and their families while facing the traumas of pediatric cancer. Some stay with us for a matter of days; some for a matter of a few weeks or months; others will be a part of us for a year or more.

Thirty years ago, our Ronald McDonald House began as a dream of our then President, Vivian Harris, who believed that if New York City was the world's center of cancer treatment, it demanded nothing less than a world class facility where families could feel secure in a supportive and caring environment. More importantly, she wanted to create a place where families could afford to stay together while getting the crucial treatment their child needed; one that, while never losing sight of the reason kids and their families were here, still allowed for the experience to approximate normalcy as much as humanly possible.

We have just celebrated National Volunteer Week here at the House. The Ronald McDonald House is blessed with over 250 core volunteers who continue to be the backbone of the organization and augment all the wonderful programs that make this facility a truly essential place for kids and families at the most difficult times in their lives.

In this issue of "Around the House", you'll learn about just some of the people who have made our House come to life over the last thirty years, including "The Greek Division" and its Chairman, Mrs. Niki Sideris, who has been a formidable leader and volunteer for over 23 years. The Greek Division's Walk-A-Thon on May 17th will attract over 1000 participants and raise in excess of \$100,000 from the Greek community in support of the House. You will also get to know Board Member, George Simeone, who serves as our Vice President of Finance and is the chief fiduciary officer of our charity.

There is a story about Eric Crowley who stayed at our House in 1994, and who is now 31 years old and enjoying a cancer-free life. Don't miss all the information on "Team Ronald McDonald" volunteer fundraiser at One Little West Twelfth Street on June 16th - an event not to be missed!

You will also read about the recent visit to New York City by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI illustrating how imperative our mission is. He not only conducted a healing service in which two of our young children were invited, but through our friends at the 19th Precinct we received an unscheduled unplanned request informing us that the Pontiff wanted to meet and pray with the families from our House. He reached out like a grandfather greeting his grandchildren to warmly embrace and bless each and every child with God's love. Over 40 of our most ill children were able to attend. As he blessed one of our young toddlers making the sign of the cross on his head, the toddler returned the blessing by making the sign of the cross on the Pope's forehead. The Pope's eyes sparkled as the corners of his mouth lifted in an incredible expression of love and joy. Our families had tears of Joy and most of all Hope.

We all wish that at some point the need for our House would disappear; that cures and treatments for diseases that rob kids of their childhood will be discovered and available to everyone who needs it, locally and affordably. This is something we must leave to the scientists and doctors who work so hard to find the cures. Until then, there will continue to be a need for the House and what we do. Through the support of our friends like you, there is happiness where there would only be sadness. There is joy where there might only be despair. There is a future that is bright, where there might only be shadows.

To all who make the Ronald McDonald House of New York a reality, I owe my personal debt of gratitude. You allow us to provide the important things we do.

Sincerely,

President and Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR HOUSE?



KIDS HELPING KIDS 2007 Charity Fun Run a Smashing Success

The Ronald McDonald House Charity Fun Run is all about kids helping kids. Our 2007 event, held last year on November 3rd, was a tremendous success on many levels thanks to the over 750 runners from local schools and all five boroughs. Everyone who participated in the event had a blast, including the cheering parents and our own RMDH kids. Congratulations and special thanks go out to our three top fundraisers – Lola Antognini, Max Shopkorn, and Ben Friedman – and to all who supported our kids and families at this marvelous event.

Front Left To Right: Ben Friedman from P.S. 183; Max Shopkorn from Horace Mann School; Lola Antognini from the New York Athletic Club. *Back Left to Right:* Michele Friedman; Tracy Shopkorn; Stanley Shopkorn, RMDH Board Chairman; Joan Stout; William T. Sullivan, RMDH President and CEO

RMDH OF NEW YORK AND PARENTSOCIETY FORM EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP Million Baby Board Project Launches

ParentSociety and Ronald McDonald House of New York are entering into an exciting new relationship to benefit children in need. By leveraging its marketing abilities and exposure to young families, ParentSociety will help generate interest and donations for RMDH of NY. ParentSociety will provide development and technological support for the Million Baby Board, a special online photo gallery where members can upload a picture to donate \$1 towards our charity. Additional contributions will of course be welcomed! One hundred percent of net proceeds from this initiative will go to RMDH of NY. Thank you ParentSociety!

TRIBUTE FUND A New Way to Honor Loved Ones

There are occasions when all of us may wish to express a special gratitude to someone in our lives, whether it is a parent, grandparent, or friend who has helped us through a difficult time. There are also occasions when we want to show our love – and honor the memory – of a loved one who has passed away. The Ronald McDonald House of New York has created a unique Tribute Fund to allow our supporters to recognize those who are most important in their lives. Your gift will not only communicate how much you care, but will also make a positive difference in the lives of children fighting cancer. For more information contact Patrick Lenz at plenz@rmdh.org or 212-639-0600.

CAMP RONALD McDONALD WISH LIST

For further information regarding the wish list, or to make a donation please contact Nelida Barreto, Program Director at (212) 639-0205 or send her an e-mail at nbarreto@rmdh.org.

- Outdoor water games:** Inflatable pools (for terrace), water guns (not too large or hard spraying), water balloons
- Water cooler** (for playroom and terrace) to fill up water bottles
- Dress-up clothes:** General costumes (doctors' lab coats, glasses, boas, etc.) and themed costumes (e.g., *Shrek*)
- First aid kits** for trips to the park and day trips
- Cooking supplies:** Food, bowls, spatulas, measuring spoons, cookie sheets, etc.
- Planting supplies:** Clay pots, seeds (vegetables and flowers), spades, gardening gloves
- Bubbles** ("Gazillion Bubbles" brand preferred)
- Overnight camping supplies:** Bug spray, flashlights, sunglasses with UV protection

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New items only please.

GEORGE SIMEONE IS KEEPING WATCH

IN 2002, THEN BOARD CHAIRMAN MICHAEL HAGGERTY CAME TO THE REALIZATION that there wasn't a single accountant on the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. He quickly reached out to Deloitte & Touche LLP, the world renowned financial services company, to remedy the issue. Deloitte recommended one of their own, George Simeone, a Senior Partner who was at that time looking to get involved on the Board of a health care non-profit. For both parties, it was a perfect fit.

Six years later, Simeone is a Board Vice President as well as the Finance Committee Chair, and has orchestrated a complete evolution in RMDH's financial picture.

"When I joined the financial team [on the House's Board]," Simeone said recently, "there was room for improvement. We've increased the transparency of the financial being of the organization, and also its operation. We've overseen a wholesale change in the pension provider, overhauled the investments, and tried to make sure there's the right level of governance and control." Simeone was also instrumental in recruiting Joseph Guidetti, the House's newly appointed Chief Financial Officer.

With 23 years of financial services experience at Deloitte, Simeone brings a lifetime's worth of financial expertise to the RMDH Board. Issues such as financial oversight and long-term

investing may not be the most glamorous part of the House, but these areas are the very foundation of what makes our work possible. Efficiency and financial intelligence allow Ronald McDonald House to provide better services to more families and the knowledge of Board Members like Simeone is absolutely integral to our success. While filling an important financial need for the House, Simeone's connection to our mission of helping sick children is deeply personal.

Simeone's wife, Maria, worked for years at the National Kidney Center at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. The couple has known two children in their family—a niece and a cousin—who've dealt with serious childhood illnesses. Blessed with the health of his own children, Simeone felt the need to get involved.

"I have two young children, Angelique and Andy," he says. "Children are very important to me, and when this came up, I knew it was a good fit. The work that's done at the House is tremendous, and something I wanted to be involved in."

In addition to his work at RMDH, Simeone is Chairman of the Board of "Friends of the Arts," a Long Island non-profit organization that puts on a summer concert series and develops art curriculum for Long Island schools. After the success of their programs in the Roosevelt School District, the



SPOTLIGHT ON
YOUR BOARD:
GEORGE SIMEONE

organization is now starting art programs for children with disabilities. Simeone gets excited talking about it, and at RMDH we know how lucky "Friends of the Arts" is – as we are also lucky – to have Simeone hard at work on their behalf. ✨

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

Double Your Contribution!

DOES YOUR COMPANY MATCH THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU MAKE TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NY? Many companies make this match in recognition of your wonderful commitment. Recently, we have received matching contributions from Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Pfizer, Moody's, PepsiCo, Prudential, GE, NYSE, UBS, Astoria Federal, Mobil, and many more organizations. In addition

to the dollar-for-dollar matches, some companies, such as Verizon and Microsoft, match volunteer hours given to a charity with a monetary contribution in recognition of the employee's service. Please contact your Human Resource Department for more information on your company's policy and procedures. ✨

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Hospital
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Montefiore Hospital
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Hospital of New York

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Medical Center
Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York Presbyterian Weill
Cornell Medical Center
New York University Hospital
Rusk Institute
St. Vincent's Hospital
Roosevelt Hospital

16TH & 30TH ANNUAL GALA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

at the WALDORF = ASTORIA

THE CHILDREN OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AND ALAN D. SCHWARTZ TO RECEIVE SPECIAL HONORS

THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR WILL MARK OUR SUPPORT for over 25,000 families in need. Every one of these families walked through our House's front door in a time of medical crisis, and they found here a "home-away-from-home" – full of life, laughter and hope – providing much more than just a temporary dwelling.

With each unique family there is, of course, a young person fighting for their lives against pediatric cancer. Their treatments are difficult. Their days as outpatients are long and all-too-often painful. We see, in every single child, that the human spirit is larger than the bodies in which it resides. We exist to make their days and nights a little easier, and to create a few memories for their families to share in the years to come – no matter the outcome of the treatment's course.

For the Board, the volunteers and the staff of the House, our greatest heroes are these young people, and for this reason we have chosen the children of Ronald McDonald House as our First Honoree at the Annual Gala. Every one of our kids is richly deserving of recognition in this special anniversary year.

Our Second Honoree is Alan D. Schwartz, who became the Chief Executive Officer, President and Director of The Bear Stearns Companies, Inc. on January 8, 2008. Schwartz graduated from Duke University, where he is now Chairman of the Board of Visitors at the Fuqua School of Business. Among his many interests, Alan finds time to serve on the boards of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, St. Vincent's Services, Mt. Sinai-NYU Medical Center, the New York Blood Center, and the National Mentoring Partnership.

Before this January, 2008, Schwartz was the Co-President and Co-Chief Operating Officer at Bear Stearns Companies Inc. He has also been a Director of Bear Stearns Companies Inc. since 1987 and a Member of its Executive Committee since June 25, 2001. Alan has also served as President and Co-Chief Operating Officer of Bear Stearns & Co., a subsidiary of Bear Stearns Companies Inc., since June 25, 2001. He served as an Executive Vice President and Head of the Investment Banking Department of Bear Stearns & Co. Inc. since 1989. He first joined the company in 1976.

For his outstanding service to the community over many years, and for his personal support of the mission of our House, Schwartz is selected to receive this honor from the Ronald McDonald House of New York.

The Annual Gala is always an extraordinary night for our community, and the 30th Anniversary Celebration combined with these distinctive Honorees will make this year's event truly spectacular. We'll see you there! *



Honoree Alan D. Schwartz

For his outstanding service to the community over many years, and for his personal support of the mission of our House, Schwartz is selected to receive this honor from the Ronald McDonald House of New York.

A NEW ROLE, A NEW FACE,

NELIDA BARRETO JOINS THE RMDH TEAM AND JOSEPH GUIDETTI BECOMES CFO

JOSEPH GUIDETTI, RMDH'S NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, grew up in New Jersey but spent twenty years in San Francisco working in corporate finance for a large food company. In 2002, he moved back to New York and interviewed with several corporations, but something didn't feel right. While he was feeling out the job market, Guidetti started volunteering at various non-profits around town. He realized that his financial skill-set was in dire demand in the non-profit sector, and he decided to change career paths.

After a few years at a senior citizen support organization called Visiting Neighbors, he joined the Ronald McDonald House team in 2006. Then, on January 1st 2008, Guidetti was promoted from RMDH's Controller to CFO.

"Bill [Sullivan, President and CEO] was a big reason I took the job at RMDH," Guidetti says. "I saw in him a good CEO with an understanding that the better this place is run, the more good we can do. If we're efficient, cost-effective and profitable, we can better serve the families."

"Working here in the House," Guidetti continues, "I'm here with the families every day. I eat lunch with them, I go to the events after work. This is part of my life. The work that I'm doing financially, I see the return every day in these kids doing great things." Besides helping families in need, Guidetti has a life-long love of theatre. In his spare time, Guidetti volunteers as the Managing Director of Personal Space Theatrics, an off-off-Broadway company producing theatre in New York City.

Congratulations Joe on your new role at the House!



AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, NELIDA BARRETO joined the RMDH team on November 19th 2007, as our first Director of Programs. At the Boy Scouts, Barreto was the Director of Learning for Life, a national education program she administered with another friend of RMDH, Tony Cardiello. Learning for Life is a Department of Education partnership program serving autistic, blind, and special needs children in public schools. Barreto brings to RMDH a contagious enthusiasm and a vast wealth of experience in helping children of all ages.

"My philosophy," Barreto says of her new role at the House, "is to have programs where kids can enjoy being themselves – being children and giggling and having fun with each other. Laughter is such an essential part of hope."

Barreto said recently that her few months at RMDH have already had a profound effect on her personally. "It's been incredible," she said. "I've always worked for non-profits, but here it's a different world. With the children here, you have your heart opened up in a new dimension. The kids are always smiling. You hear how much they want to live; you hear their passion, and you want to work that much harder."

Indeed, with her generous and joyful spirit, RMDH is fortunate to have Barreto in charge of programs for our special kids. Welcome Nelly to our House! ✨

Congratulations
JOE
and Welcome
NELIDA!

Joseph Guidetti and Nelida Barreto

SOARING

Former guest **Eric Crowley** achieves his dream



EVER SINCE HE WAS A LITTLE KID, Eric Crowley had a dream. He wanted to fly. The poet Langston Hughes once asked the question: "what happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Maybe it just sags like a heavy load."

FOR YEARS, CROWLEY SAW HIS DREAM OF FLYING DEFERRED.

One obstacle after another made even beginning the pursuit of his dream impossible. First, he was diagnosed with leukemia, and then, when he was a student at University of Southern Illinois, he was denied entrance into their highly selective Aviation program because of lower grades he had received during his battle with leukemia. But he never gave up, and in an astonishing display of determination and perseverance – the same he used to battle a life-threatening disease during his teenage years – Crowley has recently accepted a position as a commercial pilot for the regional affiliate of a major airline. At 30 years old, Crowley is now living his lifelong dream every day.

“We’re just so proud of him,” his mother, Linda, said recently. “It’s the same determination he had with the leukemia. He’s worked hard and achieved his goal. It’s not often that your kid teaches you a lesson, but Eric’s taught me a lot.”

Crowley was diagnosed with ALL at the age of twelve, and was treated in Chicago, where the family lived, until he achieved remission. When he was seventeen years old, the leukemia relapsed and his doctor in Chicago recommended the family seek treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. So, in 1994, the family moved into the Ronald McDonald House of New York.

“The Ronald McDonald House, with all the people and the families, made it a much easier time for what I was going through,” Crowley says. “And for my family also, they got to talk to other families going through the same thing. The volunteers were more than just people who gave their time; they were going through it with you. They were part of your family.”

Crowley has a lot of special memories from the year he spent at the House. He remembers the group dinners and the fieldtrips, but most of all he remembers the New York Rangers. Crowley grew up playing hockey and idolized the pros, and while at RMDH he met Wayne Gretzky and Mark Messier, and hung out in the Rangers locker room after the game four times. He remembers the day the Rangers’ legend, Brian Leetch, came and visited him in his room at the House. For an hour, the two of them chatted like a couple of regular guys. When the Rangers won the Stanley Cup that year, Crowley got to celebrate with the players.

“I can say that I touched the Cup,” Crowley says. “A lot of the pros can’t say that.” At this very moment in Crowley’s bedroom in Tuscon, Arizona, where he has worked as a flight instructor for the last three years, Crowley has a poster on the wall of himself posing with the Rangers players around the Stanley Cup.

“For what we were going through, it was a pretty good time,” Crowley says. “I made lots of lifelong friends from my time at the House.”

Crowley’s mother, Linda, echoes his comments. “I can’t say enough about the Ronald McDonald House. They were excellent. I truly believe my family survived because of the hospitals, the doctors, and Ronald McDonald House.”

Linda has a special memory of the New Year’s Eve her family spent at the House. Out on the street, people in cars were honking and whistling, but the mood inside the House was different. Another mother came up to Linda’s husband, Eric Sr., and asked him to say a prayer. A number of the families gathered in an impromptu circle, holding hands. Together, they said a prayer for every single child in the House.

“Remembering that New Year’s Eve keeps my priorities straight,” Linda says.

The Crowleys have kept in touch with many of the people they met at RMDH nearly 15 years ago. Adam, Eric’s younger brother, asked longtime RMDH staff member, Rich Block, to be his Confirmation sponsor. Linda flew from Chicago to New York for the First Communion of Valeria Paradiso, another Ronald McDonald House guest the Crowleys met during their year here. And when Eric made the decision five years ago to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot, former RMDH President, Vivian Harris, helped the Crowleys find loans and sponsors to pay for flight school.

“When there’s an illness,” Linda says, “you can always see the bad. It takes a little longer to see the good. Eric says that a lot of his positive attitude in pursuing the dream of flight came from the Ronald McDonald House. It’s a House made of love.” ❀



For what we were going through, it was a pretty good time,” Crowley says. “I made lots of lifelong friends from my time at the House

JOURNEY OF HOPE

Children reach out for a blessing as Pope Benedict embraces Anthony Leyba and Alexander, "Sasha" Romanov looks on.

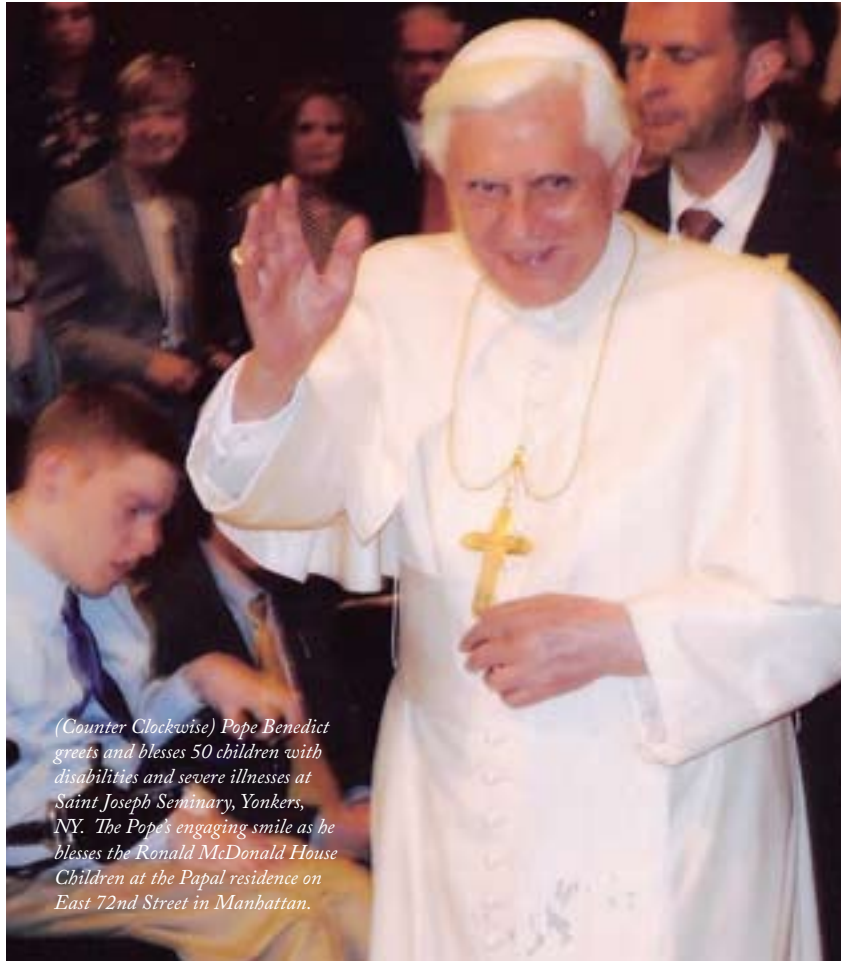


THE LONG ROAD

POPE

THE LONG ROAD TO MEET THE HOLY FATHER BEGAN MONTHS AGO WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD VISIT NEW YORK IN APRIL 2008. His universal standing as a symbol of hope and inspiration made it inevitable that there would be thousands of people hoping to catch even a passing glimpse of His Holiness during his visit.

(continued on following page)



(Counter Clockwise) Pope Benedict greets and blesses 50 children with disabilities and severe illnesses at Saint Joseph Seminary, Yonkers, NY. The Pope's engaging smile as he blesses the Ronald McDonald House Children at the Papal residence on East 72nd Street in Manhattan.

(continued from previous page)

But in this post-9/11 age, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the faithful to reach out and touch the cloak of the passing Pope, as they once did. Today, even small children suffering from cancer must have passports, government-issued identification and social security numbers registered with Homeland Security in order to be considered for an audience.

Ronald McDonald House of New York's journey to see the Pope began with our friendship with Monsignor Thomas Modugno of Saint Monica Parish. Monsignor Tom identifies himself as "priest, pastor and vicar of the Ronald McDonald House." To us, he has continuously proven himself worthy of those titles and much, much more. Over the past few years, Monsignor Tom has baptized, confirmed and given First Holy Communion to scores of Ronald McDonald House children. These are monumental celebrations of life and accomplishment for the children and their families from around the globe. But that is not the reason Monsignor Tom loves our House. He – and all of the priests that faithfully celebrate the Mass and Sacrament of the Sick each Thursday night – truly love our ministry to the sick and their families. They understand that our kids, who are battling cancer, are in the fight of their lives, and

they want to do all they can to help in those battles.

Several months ago, Monsignor Tom called with a hopeful query: "Would some of the kids like to meet the Pope?" The question was being asked in other places, too, of course, in anticipation of a special healing service for 50 children with disabilities and severe illnesses. The Ronald McDonald House of New York was invited to send two of their children and their caregivers to this special service. As hundreds of thousands of the faithful had been hoping for a chance just to see the Pope, we considered this to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these children. They would be representing all of the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House.

While several months in advance can seem like an eternity when you're battling a life-threatening disease for which there is not yet a cure, that day finally came. Our two children were there to bring our prayers and petitions to the Holy Father: nine-year-old Dylan Hartung and 11-year-old Andrea Saavedra were among the first children to welcome Pope Benedict XVI and receive his blessings at the special service held at Saint Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York on Saturday, April 20, 2008.

But there was more to come. That night, unexpectedly, six vans from the New York Police



Thanks to the 19th Precinct, Kenneth Calderon gets a special escort behind police barriers for a one-on-one visit with Pope Benedict.



IN HIGH SPIRITS
A happy Pope Benedict retreats back into the Papal residence after an engaging visit with the children and families of the Ronald McDonald House of NY.

Department's 19th Precinct—special friends of the House—pulled up in front of the Ronald McDonald House with instructions to load them up with children and their families and transport them to the Papal residence located mere blocks away on East 72nd Street for an unscheduled visit with the Holy Father. Staff began to canvass the floors of the House in search of those who may have wanted to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. In fifteen minutes, we managed to fill those vans with sick children, family members and staff and transport them to the residence.

After navigating through metal detectors, the Secret Service and Homeland Security checks, approximately two dozen of our children who are battling cancer came face-to-face with Pope Benedict XVI. Some were at the front of the crowd, and some were passed forward and presented over the metal barriers. But all of them received an individual embrace and blessing from the Holy Father. The unbridled joy on the faces will live on in the memories of all who were present to witness the emotional moment in time. And that would certainly include the Holy Father himself, who was noticeably moved by the spontaneous and heartfelt response of his flock.

There was no doubt to us that this was the unexpected and unscripted highlight of the Pope's visit to New York City. And the kids and families of the Ronald McDonald House were fortunate

enough to be right in the middle of it all.

The week's events culminated on Sunday evening with Pope Benedict's departure ceremony held at a remote hangar at John F. Kennedy Airport. More than 20 Ronald McDonald House families and staff members were invited by the Archdiocese of New York (which sent a charter bus to the House) to attend. Vice President, Richard Cheney, accompanied by his wife, served as Master of Ceremonies for this momentous occasion in front of more than 4,000 people gathered to give the Holy Father a warm sendoff.

Over the course of the week, our children and their family members who met the Pope were involved in interviews with print, radio and television media including; the New York Post, Newsday, Catholic News Service, Associated Press, Sirius Satellite radio, WCBS-TV, WNBC-TV, CW11-TV, FOX 5, Telemundo, Univision and Sunrise at 7 Australian News, among others. ✿

For more information, please contact
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PUBLIC RELATIONS at 212-445-8000

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

MAY

17



GREEK DIVISION ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

EXERCISE AND FUN FOR A CAUSE

OVER THE LAST TWENTY-THREE YEARS, RMDH OF NEW YORK'S GREEK DIVISION has been one of the most important and treasured parts of our community. Greek Division Chairman, Niki Sideris, has volunteered her time to help RMDH in countless ways and the Greek Division has raised nearly \$4 million in total funds for the House. Each year, Sideris and the Greek Division sponsor a fun and exciting Walk-a-Thon, which raises over \$100,000 for our House. This extraordinary event is open to everyone. Registration for the event will begin at 9am on Saturday, May 17th, and the walk will start promptly at 11am. Come join us for a fun day of friendship and exercise for a great cause!

May 17, 2008, 11am, Walk begins at 405 East 73rd Street (between 1st and York Avenues)



For more information please check the Ronald McDonald House website at www.rmdh.org.

ONE CHILD AT A TIME

TEAM RONALD MCDONALD'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Every year, our astonishing community of volunteers does something incredible: in a single evening, they raise all their own funds for events and programs at RMDH for the entire year. Once again, the catering for this fabulous night will be provided by one of the House's most cherished partners, the legendary NYC restaurant, Tony's Di Napoli. This year's Team Ronald McDonald Event will take place on June 16th, at the very elegant club-restaurant, ONE, in the Meatpacking District. Festivities include great door prizes and give-a-ways, raffles, surprise guests, a two-hour open bar and music by NYC's hottest DJs. "Last year's event was very successful," says Event Chair, Jef Campion, "but we can bring it to another level." Team Ronald McDonald and ONE invites you to a very special benefit for the children and families of Ronald McDonald House. Buy your tickets on line at www.rmdh.org.

Monday, June 16th at ONE, located at 1 Little West 12th Street, 6pm until Late. Price: \$100



For more information please contact Event Chair, Jef Campion, at 914-760-0611, or Volunteer Manager, Helen Stafford, at hstafford@rmdh.org or 212-639-0204.



JUNE

16

SAVE the DATE

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

Greek Division Walk-A-Thon

Date: Saturday, May 17, 2008

Location: Ronald McDonald House

Monday Night Football with the NY Giants

Date: October 20, 2008

Location: Chelsea Piers

"Billy Elliot"

Date: October 30, 2008

Time: 5:30 PM Cocktails & Dinner, 8:00 Theatre

Location: Dinner and Cocktails Marriott Marquis, Imperial Theatre

OCTOBER

20

HANG OUT WITH THE SUPER BOWL XLII CHAMPS!

MONDAY NIGHT WITH THE NY FOOTBALL GIANTS



WE ALL KNOW THIS PAST JANUARY MARKED A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT FOR OUR OWN NEW YORK GIANTS, TO PUT IT MILDLY!!! Join us for the Annual "Monday Night with the NY Giants," October 20, 2008 at the Chelsea Piers. The evening's festivities will include highlights of Super Bowl XLII, and plenty of opportunities to meet the Champions. If you thought last year was great, wait until this fall. The venue has been changed to accommodate the loyal Giant Fans in a more relaxed casual atmosphere. Bring it on as we salute our Super Bowl Friends who have given so much to our kids, families and House.



Contact Richard Martin, Director of Development, at 212-639-0206 or rmartin@rmdh.org.

OCTOBER

30

BILLY ELLIOT: RMDH'S FALL THEATRE BENEFIT

THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NY IS EXCITED TO RAISE THE CURTAIN ON OUR FALL THEATRE BENEFIT,



Billy Elliot. Based on the enormously popular film, this powerful new musical is a funny, heart-warming and feel-good celebration of one young boy's dream in a gripping tale of triumph over adversity. An unprecedented smash hit in the West End, Billy Elliot has been created by the film's director (Stephen Daldry), writer (Lee Hall) and choreographer (Peter Darling), who are joined by music legend Elton John, one of the most celebrated pop songwriters of the last 30 years. Our Theatre Benefit nights are always an occasion to remember, and this season's event will be no exception!

**October 30, 2008, 5:30 p.m. Cocktails & Dinner,
8 p.m. Performance, Imperial Theatre**



For more information please check our website: www.rmdh.org or contact Tony Cardiello. acardiello@rmdh.org, 212.639.0192.

Kids Charity Fun Run

Date: Saturday,
November 1, 2008

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Central Park, 7th Ave
at 59th St Entrance,
follow signs

2nd Annual Light A Light, Share A Night

Date: December 3, 2008

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Lobby and Living
Room of the Ronald
McDonald House

Jingle Ball

Date: Mid December 2008

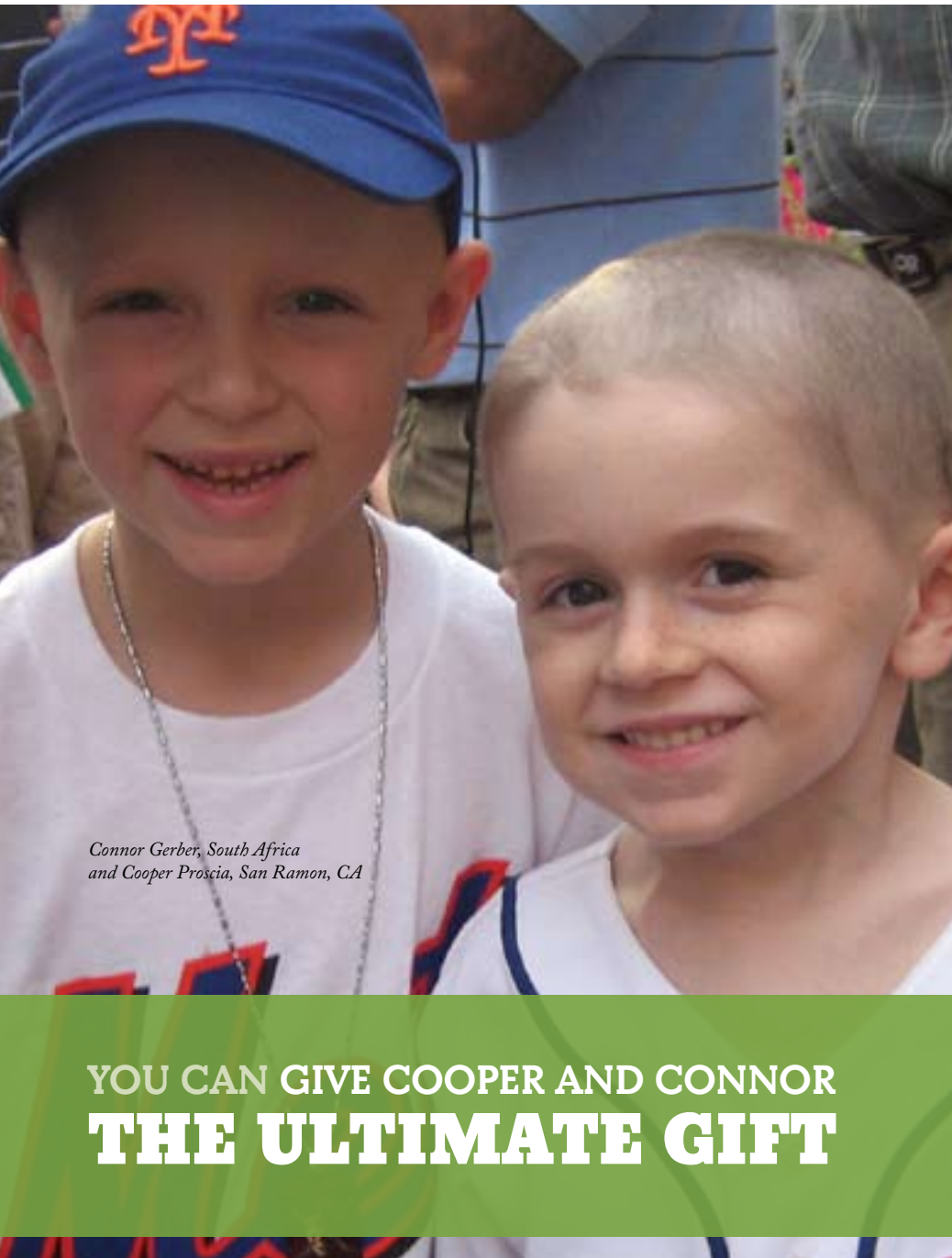
Time: 6:30 doors open,
7:30 Show

Location: Madison Square
Garden

Greek Division Holiday Party

Date: December 8, 2008

Location: Ronald McDonald
House



*Connor Gerber, South Africa
and Cooper Proscia, San Ramon, CA*

YOU CAN GIVE COOPER AND CONNOR
THE ULTIMATE GIFT



ESTATE PLANNING

SUPPORT THE HOUSE **NOW** . . .

Use appreciated stock to make a tax-savvy gift to Ronald McDonald House. No capital gain tax is paid—so the full value of your stock is put to use here. And you earn a charitable deduction for that full fair market value.

Make a gift from your IRA. If you are 71 or over, you can make a distribution to us directly from your IRA. Your gift counts against your required minimum distribution and gets excluded from your income—you don't pay tax on it. This works great if you are required to take more than you need from your IRA because it helps you meet your minimum distribution in a tax-free way.

AND IN THE **FUTURE**.

Your Ronald McDonald House has inaugurated a program to encourage you to remember us in your will. Perhaps a bequest in your will is the best way for you to make your ultimate gift to support our critical work with children and families away from home.

A bequest to us is simple. Have your attorney use our legal name, The Ronald McDonald House of New York, Inc. and our federal tax ID number, 13-2933654 when they prepare or revise your will.

For more information about these ways of giving, contact Patrick Lenz, Director of Major Gifts, at 212-639-0600 or plenz@rmdh.org.

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

30 YEARS **SPECIAL**
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE PART 3