

Around the House

The Magazine for Ronald McDonald House New York, Volume 4, Issue 4



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE NEW YORK




*Tom Riker, Project Manager for the Kitchen renovation,
preparing for convection oven installation*



Photo Neville Bean

Contents

- 1 **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**
- 2 **WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR HOUSE?**
Hercules to the Rescue!
Our 2008 30th Anniversary Brochure Wins a
2009 American Graphic Design Award
- 3 **SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR BOARD**
Tina Lundgren
WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS
Robert Grubert, David Preiser, Felicia Taylor and
Michael Weiner
- 4 **WISH LIST**
- 5 **Remembering Mr. Shand**
Partner Hospitals
Staff
- 6 **SPOTLIGHT**
Teen Philanthropy: Cole Jaeger
- 7 **SPOTLIGHT**
Education in the House
- 8 **FEATURE STORY**
Justin Gaudineer: Superboy!
- 11 **Remembering Patrick Joyce**
The 2010 Hope Awards
Cards for a Cause
- 12 **FEATURE STORY**
The Kitchen is the  of the House
- 15 **FUNDRAISING**
The Tree of Life
Where Hope Has a Home
- 16 **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
Light A Light! Share A Night!
Greek Division Christmas Party
New York Pops Gala

FRONT COVER

Justin Gaudineer, 5
From our 2008 Annual Report

BACK COVER

Sasha Romanov, 4
Photograph by Bob Ray

WRITER/EDITOR

Carol Toscano
ctoscano@rmdb.org

DESIGNER

Rafi Bernstein
rafi@rafib.com



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

OFFICERS

Stanley B. Shopkorn
Chairman of the Board
Milton R. Berlinski
Vice Chairman
Harris Diamond
Vice Chairman
Vivian Harris
President Emeritus
William T. Sullivan
President & Chief Executive Officer
Richard J. O'Reilly, MD
Vice President
Peter L. Samaha
Vice President
George Simeone
Vice President/Finance
Committee Chair
Shelly S. Friedman, Esq.
Secretary
Rick Richardson
Treasurer

DIRECTORS

John M. Angelo
Steven J. Bensinger
Terry Bovin
Bruce D. Colley
Jerry de St. Paer
Randel A. Falco
James E. Fitzgerald, Jr.
Casey Gard
Judy Gilbert
Joseph R. Gromek
Robert Grubert
James A. Jacobson
Theodore P. Janulis
Robert E. La Blanc
Sacha Lainovic
Kenneth G. Langone
Candace Leeds
Tina Lundgren
James P. MacGilvray
Timothy J. Mahoney, Jr.
Rocco J. Maggiotto
Edward J. Malloy
Joel Newman
Frank Pellegrino
David A. Preiser
Aaron R. Rausen, MD
Michael E. Roemer
Clifford A. Sterling
Felicia Taylor
Michael A. Weiner, MD

MEMBERS AT LARGE

R. Peter Altman, MD
Michael J. DeSola, Jr.
Barbara Eig
Michael A. Giunta
Michael Hegarty
George F. Mikes
J. E. Reeves, Jr.



Photo PJ Smith

Back row: President Bill Sullivan, Chairman Stanley Shopkorn, Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren, Board Member Tina Lundgren, House Guests Steve and Shirley Hewitt
Front row: House Guests Donna and Megan Przekurat, House Guest Chloe Hewitt

Dear Friends,

This fall marks 31 years that our charity has opened its doors to children and families battling pediatric cancer. While it has been a challenging year on many fronts, we have weathered the storm thanks to the ongoing support of our donors and friends who have faithfully stood by our side.

On the following pages, you'll read about the capital improvements that occurred at Ronald McDonald House New York over the summer. The Second Floor Dining Room and family Kitchens are beautiful and a delight to our guests. The fabulous and generous donation of 21 commercial washers and dryers from the Hercules Corporation is, likewise, a huge lifeline of support for our families' important laundry needs.

Tina Lundgren, one of our Board Members, is spotlighted for her significant contributions to our organization as well as her amazing "Tina 100" ING NYC Marathon run. In addition, you will meet our four newest Board Members who have heeded the call to serve on behalf of the House's mission.

In our ongoing effort to enhance programs at the House, you will learn about the educational element that supports the siblings of our cancer patients. We work to enhance their schooling during this difficult period in their lives. You will also see how teenagers can help raise money and support our programs, in particular, an amazing young man named Cole Jaeger.

Our feature story on our guest, Justin Gaudineer, is a sweet tale about one of our mini-heroes. Our Calendar of Events is chockfull with some Autumn and Spring events like the annual Light A Light! Share A Night! celebration, our Greek Division Christmas Party and our popular New York Pops Gala.

In this issue, sadly, we say goodbye and pay tribute to the passing of two members of our House family: staff member Claude ("Mr.") Shand and volunteer Patrick Joyce. Their absence is profound.

Finally, as we watch the world's financial crisis slowly improve, we thank you for your continued support. As you know, cancer doesn't care about a financial crisis - our children need help now, regardless of the economy.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving with your family and friends, as I will with mine, I'm sure each of us has many things for which we are grateful. I hold your support of our organization and your friendship as a very special blessing.

Very truly yours,

William T. Sullivan
President & Chief Executive Officer

Hercules to the Rescue!



Andrew May, President of the Hercules Corporation, likes to make the joke that the recent donation of 12 industrial-strength washers and 9 commercial-grade dryers to Ronald McDonald House New York is a product of their “Make a Wash Foundation.” As humorous as that may sound, the folks at Hercules are pretty serious about helping our families to live as cleanly and as hygienically as possible. This necessity, foremost in the minds of the caregivers of children with cancer, is especially crucial for children with challenged immune systems due to side effects from their treatment protocols.

The Hercules Corporation of Hicksville, NY, founded over 50 years ago, is a laundry-room service provider for both residential and commercial properties. The idea of donating the machines

was born during the annual Winged Foot Golf Tournament earlier in the year. Andrew May, who was introduced to the House by David Lipson of Century Management and Children’s Happy Faces Foundation, explained that the opportunity to provide the equipment, as well as lifetime service, to the House was, “Just one of those things that fit.”

The washers and dryers replace the residential equipment formerly available to guests. “Our needs have grown so much since the House first opened over 30 years ago,” says Wini Cudjoe, Director of House Operations. “We needed machines that could accommodate a higher volume of usage than what residential equipment could provide.” The current machines are 60% more efficient than their predecessors.

On September 17th, RMDH NY hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new Maytag equipment. The washers and dryers are environmentally friendly, high efficiency models rated Tier 3 by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency, the highest level available. On hand for the ribbon cutting was Bud Harrelson, former shortstop for the New York Mets and a member of the legendary 1969 World Series Champions as well as Mark Eisler, Hercules Sales VP and Barry Heller, Hercules Marketing VP.

During the ceremony, Andrew May emphasized customer care and a spirit of service as the utmost importance to Hercules.

RMDH NY thanks Hercules Corporation for making this important donation.

Pictured left to right: Hercules President Andrew May, Baseball Legend Bud Harrelson and Hercules Vice President Mark Eisler

Our 2008 30th Anniversary Brochure Wins a 2009 American Graphic Design Award

Ronald McDonald House New York is happy to announce that our 30th Anniversary Commemorative Brochure is a winner of the 2009 American Graphic Design Awards. The award, sponsored by Adobe Systems Incorporated, is one of the biggest and broadest awards in the industry and has been in place for over 40 years spotlighting excellence across all types of media, advertising, interactive design, packaging and a number of other creative categories. Of over 8,000 applicants each year, only about 15% are honored with a certificate of excellence. Our commemorative brochure included a foldout with a 30-year timeline of significant milestones and inserts highlighting our families, volunteers, staff and community since the House’s inception. Thanks to the many, many contributors over the past 30 years who have helped to make this possible!

Design Firm: hgDesign, Inc. NYC › Art Director: Hershell George › Designer: Rafi Bernstein
Project Manager: Wini Cudjoe › Writer: Carol Toscano



Spotlight on Your Board: Tina Lundgren

Tina Lundgren considers herself a competitive person, especially when it involves raising money to help families struggling with the effects of pediatric cancer. Tina is running races – lots of races – on behalf of the children and families of Ronald McDonald House New York in what is known as “The Tina 100.” At a Board meeting earlier this year, another Board Member made the comment that even in a bad economy, everyone could make a difference. At that moment, Tina, a runner already, got the idea to run 100 miles in a series of races and ask some friends to sponsor her. “I figured a logical donation amount would be \$100 or \$1 per mile and that this would be an easy way to raise some funds to support the House,” she says. “To my surprise I’ve had donations ranging from \$20 to \$25,000. It’s fantastic to have people step-up, regardless of the level, and say ‘I’ll support you.’”

Over the summer, Tina ran five half marathons, some 10-mile, 4-mile, and 10K races and an 8-mile race – any she could find – to hit the 100-mile mark. When she’d completed the original 100 miles and brought in a check for \$100,000, she felt like she could do more. One donor challenged her to run the ING NYC Marathon so she decided to raise another \$26,200 for the House, or an additional \$1,000 for each of the additional 26.2 miles. “I wanted to raise an amount that would essentially cover the House fees for about 10 families for an entire year. It was helpful to state my goal in a way my supporters could actually see the good their money would do.”

Tina joined the Board of Directors in 2008 after a visit to the House arranged by her husband, Terry Lundgren, CEO of Macy’s, Inc. “That was it,” she says. “Once you go through the House and see the kids, once you see everything in action, you can’t walk away and say no. Of course I said yes, I’m yours.”

Welcome New Board Members

Ronald McDonald House New York welcomed four new members to its Board of Directors this Fall.

Robert Grubert is a Managing Director and Head of U.S. Equities for RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) Capital Markets group. He comes to RMDH NY with many years of experience in the Financial Services Industry beginning his career as an energy trader for a Dallas-based firm eventually moving to New York with RBC. In addition to RMDH NY, Mr. Grubert is involved with Wings Over Wall Street, a charity supporting research to find a cure for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

David Preiser is a Senior Managing Director of Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin and has been with the firm since 1991. Mr. Preiser also comes to RMDH NY with an extensive background in the Financial Services Industry with substantial expertise in restructuring activities having led a number of major transactions involving financially distressed companies in the U.S. and across Europe. Currently, he sits on the Board of Directors for NVR, Inc. (AMEX: NVR) and some of the Houlihan Lokey portfolio companies.

“When you think of the families staying at the House, you might think of it as a quiet, sad place,” Tina says. “But it’s exactly the opposite. There are moments of sadness, but when you pair the nature of children with the nurturing environment of staff and volunteers, what you get is an energetic, happy place.

And, regardless of how much money someone has, they can come in and make a difference by reading or doing crafts with the kids. You’ll make a difference in their lives, but you’ll also make a difference in your own life.”

Tina has a special affinity for children having spent many years teaching figure skating in Columbus, Ohio. She began skating at the age of six, competed until the age of 15 and began teaching to support herself through college and graduate school. “I loved the teaching aspect because it was hands-on with the kids. I taught all ages, from young children to senior-level competition skaters. It was fantastic.” Recently, Tina traveled to Oberstdorf, Germany to complete the world exam to become a World and Olympic-level figure-skating judge. She was one of just two judges nominated by the U.S. Figure Skating Association in 2009 to take the exam and passed both written and live judging/oral pieces.

Tina holds both a BS in Business Administration and an MBA from Ohio State University.

RMDH NY congratulates and thanks Tina Lundgren for her enormous accomplishments and efforts on our behalf.

Felicia Taylor is an Anchor/Correspondent for CNN where she reports on business news and the U.S. markets for CNN International, Headline News and CNN.com. Ms. Taylor is a five-time Emmy Nominee for her outstanding coverage of breaking news stories. She sits on the Steering Committee of the Alzheimer’s Foundation, is a member of the Visionary Council at Lighthouse International and is the Executive Advisor of Communications for the Hope for Depression Research Fund. She is the President of the Taylor Foundation, her family’s charitable fund.

Michael Weiner, MD, is the Director of the Herbert Irving Child and Adolescent Oncology Center at the Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York Presbyterian Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Founder of the Hope & Heroes Children’s Cancer Fund. In addition, he serves on a number of committees and is a Physician Leader at Columbia University. He is a member of the American Society of Hematology, American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology.

Please join us in welcoming Robert Grubert, David Preiser, Felicia Taylor and Michael Weiner to our House.



Photo: Jerry Ruotolo

Staff

William T. Sullivan
President & Chief Executive Officer
wsullivan@rmdb.org

Winifred Cudjoe
Director of House Operations
wini@rmdb.org

Joseph Guidetti
Chief Financial Officer
jguidetti@rmdb.org

Richard H. Martin
Director of Development
rmartin@rmdb.org

Ralph W. Vogel
Director of Human Resources,
Volunteers & Programs
rvogel@rmdb.org

Daniel Badillo
Evening Manager
dbadillo@rmdb.org

Michael Ballew
Development Officer
mballew@rmdb.org

Nelida Barreto
Director of Programs
nbarreto@rmdb.org

Mel Farrell
Building Engineer
mf Farrell@rmdb.org

Cherilyn Frei
Director of Family Support
cfrei@rmdb.org

Suzanna C. Houston
Assistant to the President &
Office Manager
shouston@rmdb.org

Karen Kirk
Director of Special Events
kkirk@rmdb.org

Patrick Lenz
Director of Major Gifts
plenz@rmdb.org

Fordham Murdy
Evening Program Manager
fmurdy@rmdb.org

Jim Rooney
Evening Manager
jrooney@rmdb.org

Niki Sideris
Chairman, Greek Division
nikisideris@rmdb.org

Helen Stafford
Volunteer Manager
hstafford@rmdb.org

Stephen Yarri
Controller
syarri@rmdb.org

Remembering Mr. Shand



With sadness, Ronald McDonald House New York mourns the loss of its dear friend and colleague, Mr. Claude Shand. A dedicated, committed man whose belief in God and family was the core of his life, Mr. Shand had a strong yet quiet presence.

Mr. Shand came to work at RMDH NY 17 years ago at the request of Wini Cudjoe, Director of House Operations, who first made his acquaintance over 20 years ago when he was the doorman of the apartment building in which she resided in Brooklyn. "In many ways, Mr. Shand was like a father to me," she says. "He never met my father but I would often tell him that my father had sent him to watch over me. Mr. Shand whistled as he worked and it would remind me of my father whistling. He was there for me when my

parents passed away. When I got married. When I had my son. He was a beloved friend."

Over the years, Mr. Shand became the face of the House supporting volunteer Walter Lum at the daily Sidewalk Sales. He was well acquainted the local community and the Department of Sanitation. Everyone he met embraced his kindness and warm spirit. Inside the House, Mr. Shand was a trusted and loyal friend. He cared deeply for all of the children and families in our care and for those less fortunate. And, he always offered a generous smile to everyone he encountered.

Mr. Shand often spoke with former CFO Frank Volino about his days as an Oiler on large freighters. Mostly, Frank remembers how proud Mr. Shand was of his wife, Madge, and the care she took in raising their children during his long absences at sea. He was proud of all of his children and grandchildren. "Whenever I would see him, I'd ask how he was," Frank says. "He would always respond 'Good, man.' And when I would tell him that he never complained, he'd say, 'There's always someone worse off than me.' And he was very proud of the fact that he had recently become a U.S. Citizen."

On the evening Mr. Shand left us, he made his usual pass at the end of the day to say his final goodbyes. We didn't know it then but it was the last time we would have this opportunity. Mr. Shand chatted with everyone and we all looked forward to seeing him again. Though a profound loss of a cherished friend, we also celebrate our good fortune in having the gift of his presence in our lives for the time allotted to us. He was a man who loved people and impacted the lives of so many. His loyal and giving spirit will always be with us.

Partner Hospitals

Bellevue Hospital Center

Beth Israel Medical Center

NYU Hospital for Joint
Diseases

Hospital for Special Surgery

Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat
Institute

Memorial Sloan-Kettering
Cancer Center

Montefiore Medical Center

Morgan Stanley Children's
Hospital of New York
Presbyterian Columbia
Medical Center

The Mt. Sinai Medical Center

The New York-Presbyterian/
Weill Cornell Medical Center

NYU Langone Medical Center

Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation
Medicine

St. Vincent's Hospital
Manhattan

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
Center

Spotlight

Teen Philanthropy: Cole Jaeger



In recent years, there has been an increase in youth philanthropy in New York City and across the country. According to a research report in the *Volunteering In America* series by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the percentage of teenagers who volunteer more than doubled between 1989 and 2005 with most serving youth and educational organizations. This trend is due, in part, to community service requirements in schools around the city and elsewhere.

In 2008, Cole Jaeger, then a 16-year old high school student at Columbia Prep on Manhattan's West Side, needed to complete 60 hours of community service in order to graduate. "My family

has been pretty involved with Ronald McDonald House so I decided to volunteer there," Cole says. "I wasn't eligible to work with the children because of my age so I started as a volunteer in the Development Office over the summer break in 2008, filing and doing administrative work. But, I really wanted to do something that catered more to my interests."

Cole is interested in the hospitality industry, specifically restaurant management, which he hopes to make a career out of. During his time volunteering at the House, he had a front-line view of the stresses the families go through after a day of cancer treatment and saw a need for families to have a quiet hour or two away for a nice meal together. When school started again, he wanted to continue his service at the House. "I drafted a proposal and got some materials together. After school, I would go to restaurants during the off hours and talk with the management. It was tough with the economic downturn," he admits. "But, most of the time, I would get a gift certificate, on the spot, for lunch or dinner."

Over the past year, Cole has continued to petition for gift cards for our families, who always welcome a night off from their troubles. He has raised over \$5,000 in meals at some of the nicest restaurants in the city, including a substantial donation of 10 \$300 gift certificates from Nino's Restaurant on First Avenue. Although Cole has surely gone beyond his school's community service requirements, he shows no signs of slowing down in his last year of high school.

"There are so many ways to help," says Helen Stafford, RMDH NY's Volunteer Manager. "This highlights just one of the ways in which kids can contribute to the well-being of other kids. Cole is making a difference."

www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov reports that 61.8 million volunteers donated approximately 8 billion hours of service across the country despite the current economic crisis with a sharp increase in teen volunteers. They also report that as our nation continues to face this crisis, volunteers are, more than ever, a necessary resource for nonprofit organizations who face the challenge of increasing their services with diminished financial resources. Important research at www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov now shows that, despite the additional stresses of a difficult economy, volunteers are still serving while charitable giving has declined for the first time in over 20 years.

Spotlight

Education in the House

Pediatric cancer treatment is especially disruptive to the siblings of cancer patients. Aside from the unsettling circumstances of having to move far from home and away from cherished friends, activities and routines, many siblings find that keeping up with their schoolwork proves to be challenging during such a stressful time. Because we host families from across the country and around the world, some students are further challenged with the added component of having to transition from one culture's educational curriculum to another as well as learning a new language. While patients receive their education through the Department of Education at his or her respective hospital, Ronald McDonald House New York provides two programs specifically designed to assist siblings with their educational needs at different levels.

This September, we placed nine students in neighborhood schools with our Local School Placement Program. We have relationships with PS 158, Wagner Middle School and Roosevelt High School. All within walking distance of the House, these schools are happy to work with us and welcome our students for both short- or long-term placements depending upon each student's personal circumstances. Parents are required to submit their child's immunization records, last report card and some personal information so that a letter of residency can be prepared for enrollment.

To assist those children who require extra help, we also offer an After School Homework and Tutoring Program with qualified Board of Education teachers. Every weekday afternoon from 4:00-6:00 PM, our teachers are on hand to assist with homework or specific tutoring requirements based upon individual needs. Our teachers provide critical assistance at a time when children are at risk of falling behind. These sessions can increase a child's opportunities for successful learning in the future.

For more information on our Education Programs, please contact Nelida Barreto, Director of Programs, at 212.639.0205 or nbarreto@rmdh.org.

We are presently looking for two additional teachers: one for tutoring and the other for ESL (English as a Second Language).



Justin Gaudineer: Superboy!



Justin Gaudineer was just three-years old in June 2007 when he was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma. As is the case with so many pediatric cancer patients, Justin's symptoms – low-grade fevers and pain – mimicked those of other diseases. In Justin's case, his first diagnosis was Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. To alleviate Justin's pain, he was put on a regimen of high doses of Naprosyn, a heavy-duty anti-inflammatory drug used for arthritis and similar ailments. Had it not been for the stomach upset he experienced taking the Naprosyn, the Gaudineers – Robyn and John – might not have gotten the correct, though devastating, diagnosis of cancer. Because of Justin's upset stomach, his pediatrician decided to do an ultrasound. Though something appeared on the ultrasound, it wasn't clear. Their pediatrician sent them to the Emergency Room so Justin could have a CAT scan. The CAT scan revealed a mass on Justin's adrenal gland and by the next morning, he had had a bone marrow biopsy and the family learned that the cancer had metastasized to his bone marrow and throughout his skeletal system. The new

Justin loves coming to New York even though it means leaving his two older brothers

diagnosis was Stage 4 Neuroblastoma.

Though the Gaudineers had made contact with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center immediately after the diagnosis, Justin received his first five cycles of chemotherapy at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa, Florida. By October 2007, it was time for Justin's surgery and the family came to New York and checked into Ronald McDonald House New York for the first time. After Justin's surgery and treatment in New York, the Gaudineers took Justin home to Florida where he continued his treatments in Tampa until February 2008.

At that time, the Gaudineers returned to New York every month for Justin's 3F8 Antibody treatments, one of the standard treatment protocols for Neuroblastoma patients at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. By September 2008, Justin had become resistant to the antibodies although his cancer hadn't progressed. The doctors refer to Justin's case as Chronic Neuroblastoma, which means no progression and some regression of the disease.

When Robyn and John came to New York for the first time in October 2007, Robyn admits that she was full of anxiety and sick to her stomach. But, when she walked through the doors of the House, both she and John were blown away by the atmosphere. “Ronald McDonald House has been absolutely phenomenal,” Robyn says. “All of a sudden we were surrounded by so many other families with the same diagnosis. We didn’t know there were so many people just like us. In the two years we’ve been coming to New York every month, we’ve met the most amazing friends, not just for me as a parent but for Justin too. We’ve made lifelong friends here.”

Justin loves coming to New York even though it means leaving his two older brothers, Josh, 15 and Jordan, 11, home to go to school. John and Robyn were committed to keeping the two older boys’ lives as normal as possible during this crisis. Most of the time, Robyn comes to New York with Justin while John stays behind with Josh and Jordan unless there’s a school break. “We really wanted to keep their lives and activities in tact to the best of our abilities, but it’s hard,” Robyn says. “The boys are obviously upset by the situation. It’s particularly tough on my 11-year old to be without me so much.”

Robyn, a first grade teacher in Tampa, has taken a three-year leave to take care of Justin. “It’s hard sometimes being alone with Justin during his painful cancer treatments. Justin will tell me that it feels like his bones are crushing. It’s important to have a support system when you’re going through this. And we have that at the House.”

According to Robyn, Justin has a very distinctive personality. “He knows exactly what he wants and exactly what he likes. I think that’s why he responds so well to treatment,” Robyn says. “He might be difficult sometimes, but when it comes to treatment day and he knows he has to go to the hospital, he gets up, goes in and does what he has to do. These kids are amazing.”

Justin is a big fan of the Playroom and the friends he’s made through the House. In particular, he adores Althea, the Playroom Associate. “Althea is so giving to those kids,” Robyn says. “She will bend over backwards to get them anything they want, but she also holds them accountable with following the rules and cleaning up. This is so important for these kids because our kids, at a pre-school level with cancer, they can get spoiled. She treats them like normal children. As a parent, I really appreciate that.”

Justin is also a major sports fanatic – the Yankees “No. 1 Fan” – with a newly decorated Yankees bedroom at home in Florida. He, above all, likes the outings and trips to sporting events that the House offers although there is a bit of a downside. Robyn says she has to manage Justin’s expectations now whenever he attends





a Tampa Bay Rays game back home, especially when he doesn't approve of the seat he has. He's been known to ask questions like: What kind of seats are these? Where's my hotdog? Where's the lady that brings me my drink? "He's used to going first class with the House," Robyn laughs. "But now that he's getting older, he's starting to understand a little more."

Justin has started kindergarten this Fall and is doing remarkably well, considering the traveling and the treatment schedules. These days, he goes to school for three weeks, spends a week in New York and gets a scan every 10 weeks.

Robyn says the most important thing about living at RMDH NY is the opportunities Justin and the other kids have. "He's exposed to things at the House he may never have otherwise. When you have a child with cancer and you have these moments when you don't know if he'll ever have certain opportunities in his life – like skating on the ice with the New York Rangers – as a parent, there's nothing better than seeing your child, who has this deadly disease, smiling and getting to experience life. The House is giving us memories."



The 2010 Hope Awards

With the 2008 introduction of the distinguished Hope Awards, Ronald McDonald House New York established a way of honoring those men and women who help create Hope in the lives of children with cancer. The Hope Awards have been presented for the last two years and will, annually, honor and recognize those individuals with an outstanding commitment to RMDH NY.

The Third Annual Hope Awards ceremony will take place on April 28, 2010. The members of the selection committee who will review the award applications are: Neville Bean, Erin Byram, Jennifer Reilly, Jo Lowndes Sevely, Carol Toscano, Robert Vandeweghe and past Hope Award recipients.

Applications will be available beginning November 17, 2009 and are due no later than January 29, 2010.

For more information on the Hope Awards or to request an application, please contact Ralph Vogel, Director of Human Resources, Volunteers & Programs, at 212.639.0180 or rvogel@rmdh.org.

PAST RECIPIENTS:

2008

Jef Campion
Phyllis Hahn
Vivian Harris
Steven Petrillo
Niki Sideris

2009

Bruce Dimpflmaier
David Lipson
Steve Simon
Shelly Talan



Cards for a Cause

As the holiday season approaches, Ronald McDonald House New York offers a unique holiday card that brightens faces and saves lives. For just \$20, you can purchase a set of 12 cards, specially designed for RMDH NY, with over 75% of the proceeds directly benefiting our families. These collectible cards are a must-have for every friend, colleague and loved one on your list. Ask about our large quantity discount! To order, contact Lucrecia Ortiz at 212.639.0200 or lucy@rmdh.org.



Remembering Patrick Joyce



Ronald McDonald House New York has been blessed for many years with a most generous and supportive community. Tragically, a special member of that community has left us, suddenly and sadly, with an unfillable gap in our family.

Patrick Joyce, 39, was a member of Yonkers Fire Department, one of our most dedicated and longest-supporting groups. His sudden passing, in the line of duty, has had a direct and profound impact on the children and families of RMDH NY and on the many lives he has touched over the 10+ years he has been with us.

Our children will remember his smiling face at our annual Fun Run in Central Park. They will remember him as the man with hugs, the man who ran with them or perhaps the man who carried them across the finish line. They will remember the spectacular Yonkers Fire Department Christmas parties he created complete with personalized gifts for each child. Parents will remember his sensitivity and exacting attention to detail in bringing joy into the lives of their seriously (and sometimes, terminally) ill children and the memories he helped create for them.

Team Ronald McDonald will remember him as the man whose generosity in the offering of his restaurants, time and significant contributions to their fundraising events helped lay the foundations for the many successes Team Ronald McDonald has had each and every year since.

We will remember his huge heart and loyal service but mostly, the incredible kindness he offered so freely and so abundantly to our children and families, to his colleagues and our staff. He had an unusual and immeasurable capacity for giving.

Patrick was not a man who sought the spotlight. He expected nothing for his efforts. He lived his life quietly and yet, largely. He loved his family, treasured his friends and valued his place in the community without realizing the enormity of his accomplishments.

While our loss of this remarkable man is deep and profound, we cannot imagine the loss to his wife, Tara, and daughters Charlotte and Isabella. We can only be grateful for the extraordinary opportunity of counting him as a part of our family and for the love and care he offered so freely to our children.

The Kitchen is the ♥ of the House



When the first major renovation of Ronald McDonald House New York took place in 2006, the Kitchens and Dining Room were put on hold. This was due, in part, to the budget but also because the facilities had been constructed, originally, with the best equipment and materials available at the time. As the last few years marched on, however, and the House grew in the numbers of guests it served, it became clear that some dramatic changes were needed. In conjunction with the desire to create a more environmentally friendly space and the availability of newer, greener materials, the House took on the enormous job of planning, remodeling and rebuilding the Second Floor Kitchens and the large open Dining Room.

“When the Kitchens were originally built, no one could have imagined how much we were about to grow and the level of use the equipment was under on a daily basis,” says Wini Cudjoe, Director of House Operations. “The wear and tear and maintenance began to be a hardship on the House. We also took into consideration the number of community groups that have increasingly been coming in to prepare meals for the families.”

To give the families a space to sit and eat during the renovation period, the First Floor Macy’s Living Room was dismantled and refurbished with seating areas, refrigerators and microwave ovens. Because there was no way to facilitate the installation of cooking stations in the Living Room, the House took on the task of feeding the families three meals plus snacks each day during the entire renovation period. A huge debt of thanks and gratitude go out to the many community groups, volunteers, restaurants

and corporations who essentially helped us offset the tremendous cost of doing so.

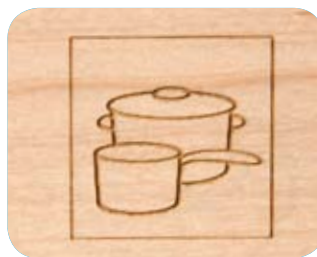
With the desire to create a friendlier space that really was a “home-away-from-home” for our guests and the profusion of commercial-grade, hygienically suitable materials and equipment that would hold up over time, construction to rebuild the Kitchens and Dining Room began on June 22, 2009.

When the initial planning began, the most critical element was to offer families a level of home life that began with a clean, comfortable kitchen equipped with all of the trimmings that one typically would find at home. “We purchased more sophisticated, heavy-grade, durable equipment with a homelike feel,” says Mel Farrell, RMDH NY’s Building Engineer. “The original four shared kitchens were already a great space but the needs had changed. We knew that the space could be better utilized with bigger cabinets and better placement of the stoves and dishwashers and refrigerators to maximize and make the rooms more comfortable and ergonomic for the users.”

The renovation began with a complete demolition of the old kitchens and the removal of unnecessary elements such as columns and other outdated, non-essential structures. Choosing cabinet materials was a crucial element in the design, to minimize – to the extent possible – the use of potentially toxic substances that might silently and adversely affect the children. We finally used only the lowest Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) 3/4” plywoods available. Neither particleboard nor composite material of any kind was considered or allowed. The cabinet doors,

in particular, are constructed of hard rock, natural maple with no veneers, stainless steel pulls and shelving throughout made of the lowest VOC 3/4" birch plywood.

Ease of use and access were also huge factors in creating a design that would meet the particular needs of our guests. The counter tops are constructed from Caesarstone, a manmade material that, unlike granite, is 80% quartz and nearly impervious to food and beverage residue. This ultra-clean, hygienic surface aids in food preparation and cleanup. Additionally, the perimeter and kitchen island countertops are equipped with cutouts for easy disposal of garbage and recyclables that feed directly into under-counter receptacles. We used deep, heavy-gauge stainless steel sinks with easy-use faucets equipped with pull-out spray spouts to aid in the cleaning of pots and pans. As it was impossible to provide separate food lockers for each family, we installed lockable pantry style cabinets that are shared along with the refrigerators. All cabinets are engraved with universal icons showing the specific home for kitchen utensils, cutlery, dishes, cookware and cleaning materials, thus helping to better accommodate families from across the globe.



Responsible use of energy was another major concern. All of the appliances are Energy Star Rated, the most efficient equipment on the market and the top shelf of their respective brands. Microwaves, stoves and dishwashers are by Kitchen Aide and refrigerators are by True. Aside from microwave ovens, each kitchen is equipped with standard convection ovens and high-quality cook tops ventilated with stainless steel exhausts to the outside air. The stainless steel dishwashers were located beside the sinks with a provision for handicapped use. The refrigerators are of high quality stainless steel with double doors designed for easy access, quick cleaning and service. Lighting throughout the Kitchens and Dining Room was changed to reduce energy consumption but, also, to enhance the feel and atmosphere with brilliant illumination on all countertops, temperature selected to simulate a warm, white incandescent glow.

The use of green cleaning products is always an ongoing concern. Although the families are responsible for cleaning and caring for their designated spaces, the House provides all of the cleaning products made with a single hydrogen peroxide-based solution.

When mixed in different formulations, the product corresponds to different applications. "The same product, for example, that is used to clean glass is also mixed in a different quantity to use as a degreaser," says Wini Cudjoe. "We formulate the water-based solution with a special machine that mixes the product to a variety of different uses."

Simultaneous to the kitchen remodel, the Dining Room received a dramatic facelift. One of the more striking features was the removal of carpeting and the installation of 3/8" Brazilian Teak flooring, pre-finished with a 50-year warranty that is specifically designed to resist the wear associated with heavy and continuous foot traffic. Finding the right Dining Room furniture proved to be a challenge but after long deliberations, tables of high-density surfaces were selected with no-drip urethane edging on stainless steel legs. The chairs are stackable and constructed of a tubular stainless steel framework with padded heavy-duty seats and steam bent plywood backs engraved with the RMDH NY logo via computer-driven laser equipment.

Finally, there is no higher concern than the safety and security of our guests. With that in mind, each Kitchen, as well as the

Dining Room, is equipped with pan tilt and zoom security cameras with "loudspeak" communication throughout. At all times, our front desk personnel have the ability to communicate with a guest in any kitchen or any part of the Dining Room without having to use a phone.

By September, construction was complete and our guests were invited back to inaugurate the new space. RMDH NY expects that the effect on our families will be remarkable not just in the process of cooking or sharing a meal but in the valuable time that will be made free for families to spend with each other while in treatment.

Staff, volunteers, designers, and the many friends of the House who contributed with funds, food, services and time have helped make these four state-of-the-art kitchens possible. Families under the stress of pediatric cancer treatment are now able to create and share meals in a comfortable, hygienic and pleasing environment for many years to come.

Photos Marian Goldman



The Dining Room will be dedicated in loving memory of Thomas Jay Riker, Jr. who lost his battle with pediatric cancer on March 27, 1998. Thomas Jr. is the son of Tom Riker, Sr., our Project Manager for the Kitchen and Dining Room renovation.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING THE RENOVATION*:

Joseph Abbe
 Al Electric
 Benjamin Moore
 Sol & Margaret Berger Fund
 The Heller Family Foundation
 LifeTime Brands
 Lumber Liquidators
 Thomas Luongo
 Don Marks, friends & family
 Judy Merten
 Pop-A-Lock
 Satellite Plumbing
 Sid Hurdis Foundation
 Ryan Sprole

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS FOR FEEDING OUR FAMILIES DURING THE RENOVATION:

Aeropostale
 Akamai Technologies
 Bloomberg
 Bovis Lend Lease
 Central Synagogue
 Children's Happy Faces Foundation
 Crowell and Moring
 Dallas BBQ
 Dominos
 Eli's
 GE Capital, Fleet Services
 Good News Church
 Grant Thorton
 Hard Rock Cafe
 Kiwanis Club
 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society - Society Ties
 Loews Hotel
 Neuman's Catering
 New York Athletic Club
 nycTies
 St. Stephen of Hungary
 St. Vincent De Paul
 Stamford Alumni
 Temple Emanu-El
 Tony's Di Napoli
 Trinity Grace Church
 Wolters Kluwer

**This list was compiled as of the date of publication. We will continue to update this list.*

The Tree of Life



Photo: Jerry Ruotolo

Visitors to Ronald McDonald House New York have noticed *The Tree of Life* wall sculpture has had a number of new leaf additions over the last few months. Several families have honored their Loved Ones with the installation of leaves and have gathered with friends and family to install each leaf on *The Tree of Life* with a special ceremony. This vibrant symbol of life and strength provides each family with an extraordinary way to memorialize and celebrate the life of someone special. As time goes by and more and more leaves are added, *The Tree of Life* will continue to refresh and support the House.

The financial support generated for Ronald McDonald House New York from *The Tree of Life* enables the House to offer more than just a place to sleep when families travel to New York City for their child's cancer treatment. Like a tree, the House provides shelter, has many branches of support and gives us strength in

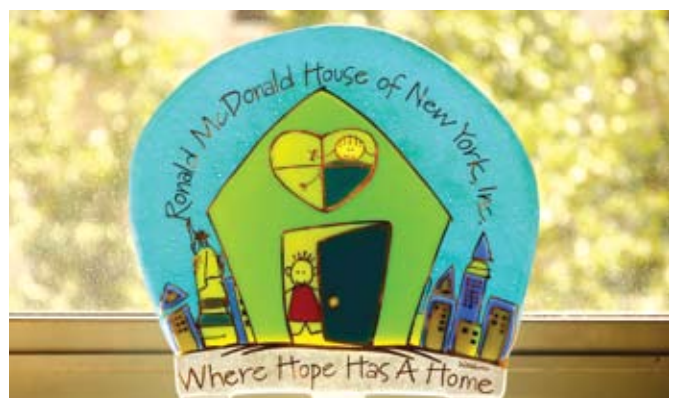
times of turmoil. The House is a home-away-from-home, a place with an extended family and life-long friendships with those who are there when you need them.

Leaves are engraved with a message and the name of the person being honored. Each leaf may be purchased for \$2,500. Your leaf will be placed on *The Tree of Life* and you will receive a beautiful glass tile to acknowledge the installation of the leaf in your Loved One's name. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help us continue to offer services to families arriving today, tomorrow and in the years ahead.

For more information or to purchase a leaf, please contact Patrick Lenz, Director of Major Gifts, at 212.639.0600 or plenz@rmdh.org.

Where Hope Has A Home

This unique recognition piece has been added as a component to our Gala program, presented annually to selected Honorees. Designed by friend of the House and acclaimed artist Nina Wallin, this distinctive glass piece encompasses the essence of the children and families staying at Ronald McDonald House New York. Each piece is individually hand-cut, ground to fit, hand-painted and fired. No two are exactly alike. To view other works designed by Nina Wallin, visit her website at www.sandywallin.com.



Calendar

Save the Date

DECEMBER 3, 2009

Light A Light! Share A Night!

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Lobby and Living Room of RMDH NY

DECEMBER 7, 2009

Greek Division Christmas Party

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Living Room of RMDH NY

DECEMBER 11, 2009

Jingle Ball

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Madison Square Garden

EARLY FEBRUARY 2010

Skate with the Greats

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Rockefeller Center

SPRING 2010

The Addams Family Musical

Pre-theatre cocktail reception and dinner:

Time: 5:30 PM Pre-theatre cocktail reception and dinner

Location: TBA

Show

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: The Lunt-Fontanne Theatre
205 West 46th Street

MAY 3, 2010

New York Pops Gala

Time: 5:30 PM Doors Open

Location: Carnegie Hall

MAY 17, 2010

18th Annual Gala

Time: 5:30 PM Doors open

Location: TBD



Photo Mark Jason

LIGHT A LIGHT! SHARE A NIGHT!

Please join us on December 3rd to kick-off the holiday season by attending our annual Light A Light! Share A Night! celebration. For every \$35 donation (the amount we ask each family to contribute each night), one light will be lit amidst our holiday decorations throughout the month of December. The lights represent Hope, the greatest gift we offer in support of our families.

It costs us \$270 to house each family, each night. We provide family rooms, state-of-the-art kitchens, a library,

computer rooms, a playroom, tutoring, professionally supervised activities and transportation services. The Light A Light! Share A Night! campaign is designed to help us sustain the services we provide year round.

With each donation, we can also send holiday wishes to your family, friends, clients and teachers to let them know you've made a gift in their name to RMDH NY.

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2009

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Lobby and Living Room of RMDH NY

For more information on this event, please contact Patrick Lenz, Director of Major Gifts, at 212.639.0600 or plenz@rmdh.org

This is the House where Hope lives.

Light A Light! Share A Night!

Happy Holidays from our families to yours!

of Events

GREEK DIVISION CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join RMDH NY's Greek Division for a traditional Greek Christmas celebration in our Macy's Living Room, which will be transformed into a festive Dining Room for the occasion.

The festivities will include an authentic Greek Christmas dinner of lamb, salmon, spanikopita (Greek spinach pie), tyropita (Greek cheese pie) and the classic Greek holiday sweets of melomakarona (a Greek Christmas cookie dipped in honey and sugar) and kourambiedes (a Greek almond cookie covered in powdered sugar).

You will be entertained by Greek dancers performing seasonal Greek folk dances and a children's choral group who will perform the classical Greek "Kalanda" (Christmas Carols).

The \$60 ticket price includes dinner and entertainment. Raffle tickets may be purchased for an additional \$60 to win one of 35 prizes ranging from hotel stays in Greece to gift certificates and electronics.

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2009

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Living Room of RMDH NY

For more information on this event, please contact Niki Sideris, Chairman of the Greek Division, at 212.639.0188 or nikisideris@rmdh.org.



NEW YORK POPS GALA

Save the date for our annual New York Pops Gala at Carnegie Hall. Always a popular event, this gala showcases the musical talents of our children, who study year-round as part of the New York Pops Education program under the direction of Dr. Sherrie Maricle and members of the New York Pops Orchestra. Over the course of the year, our children learn basic music composition and urban percussion techniques in preparation for this annual event. Their musical styling on the great stage at Carnegie Hall is not something you'll want to miss. Join us for a pre-show cocktail reception and presentation.

DATE: MAY 3, 2010

Time: 5:30 PM Pre-show cocktail reception

7:00 PM Show

Location: Carnegie Hall

For more information on this event, please contact Patrick Lenz, Director of Major Gifts, at 212.639.0600 or plenz@rmdh.org



Photo: Carol Toscano

Meet Sasha

Sasha is just one of thousands of Superheroes who have lived at Ronald McDonald House New York over the last 31 years. Mind you, our Superheroes are not typical. They fight the meanest, cruelest Villain of all: Pediatric Cancer.

The good news is thanks to the latest groundbreaking medical advances available in New York City at our 14 Partner Hospitals, our Superheroes are quickly and steadily defeating this Villain.

The bad news is a diagnosis of cancer is still a frightening experience – both emotionally and financially devastating – even for the family of a Superhero.

Ronald McDonald House New York offers a safe, clean and supportive environment for a nominal fee of \$35 per night, far less than the \$270 it costs to house each family, each night. We provide family rooms, newly renovated state-of-the-art kitchens, a library, computer rooms, a playroom, tutoring, professionally supervised activities, transportation services and hundreds of fun and helpful Sidekicks who volunteer their time on a weekly basis. More importantly, we provide a loving and compassionate environment where children are children first and foremost.

Ronald McDonald House New York is independently owned and operated. Through generous donations from individuals like you, we can continue to cover the majority of costs for these families.

Please make a donation today because even a Superhero needs a temporary home-away-from-home when fighting a Villain like cancer.

Ronald McDonald House New York is a 501 (c) 3 charity accredited by the Better Business Bureau.



Ronald McDonald House New York
405 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021
212.639.0100
www.rmdh.org