

Around the House

The Magazine for Ronald McDonald House New York. Volume 8, Issue 3



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE® NEW YORK



The Stanchi family's war against neuroblastoma began when their youngest child Danika was just an infant.



Summer 2013



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On the cover: Danika and Day Stanchi, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Photo by Charles Manley



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.

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President's Letter



Charles Manley

Dear Friends,

We have just come off of one of our busiest fundraising stretches in recent memory, and summer appears to not be slowing down one bit. Our annual gala on May 20th was a tremendous success, raising over \$6 million with a record attendance of over 2,000 people. The Gala is our cornerstone fundraising event in

support of the special kids and families who stay with us at Ronald McDonald House New York. We are most grateful to our honorees and the benefit committee for their hard work and commitment to making this an historic accomplishment for Ronald McDonald House New York.

You will be pleased to learn of the progress of one of our guests, Danika Stanchi. A resident of the House since she was an infant, Danika and her family's sustained and aggressive battle against neuroblastoma has been a continued source of inspiration for us all. This little girl and her entire family's courageous strides are a testament to how the right kind of support can make a big difference in a child's very difficult fight. Board Member Louise Camuto will tell us about her involvement and the commitment of her company to help our charity.

The Team Ronald volunteers at Ronald McDonald House New York continue to be the backbone of our organization. Their annual event at Guastavino's boasted a Heroes theme this year and served as a further testament to the theory of strength in numbers as witnessed by how they work tirelessly to support our programs year round. Speaking of programs, High Tea was recently held at the House as part of our ongoing

Hospital Outreach efforts to include New York City kids and their families.

Our Summer Day Camp started a few weeks back where our kids are getting some respite from school and are enjoying an amazing experience. By the time you read this, the last floor of the guest room renovations will have been completed, signaling the culmination of a two-year, extensive renovation of our 84 guest rooms. The rooms are both functional and aesthetically pleasing for our families.

With the fall almost upon us, please check out our calendar of events which I hope you will participate in. If you think this issue is exciting to read, you'll be thrilled with what we have in store for you through the end of the year.

Here's hoping that your summer is both relaxing and enjoyable. We continue to value your ongoing support of our mission of keeping families together while they continue their brave battle against pediatric cancer.

My thanks again for your ongoing support and friendship!

Sincerely,

William T. Sullivan
President and Chief Executive Officer

Ronald McDonald House New York

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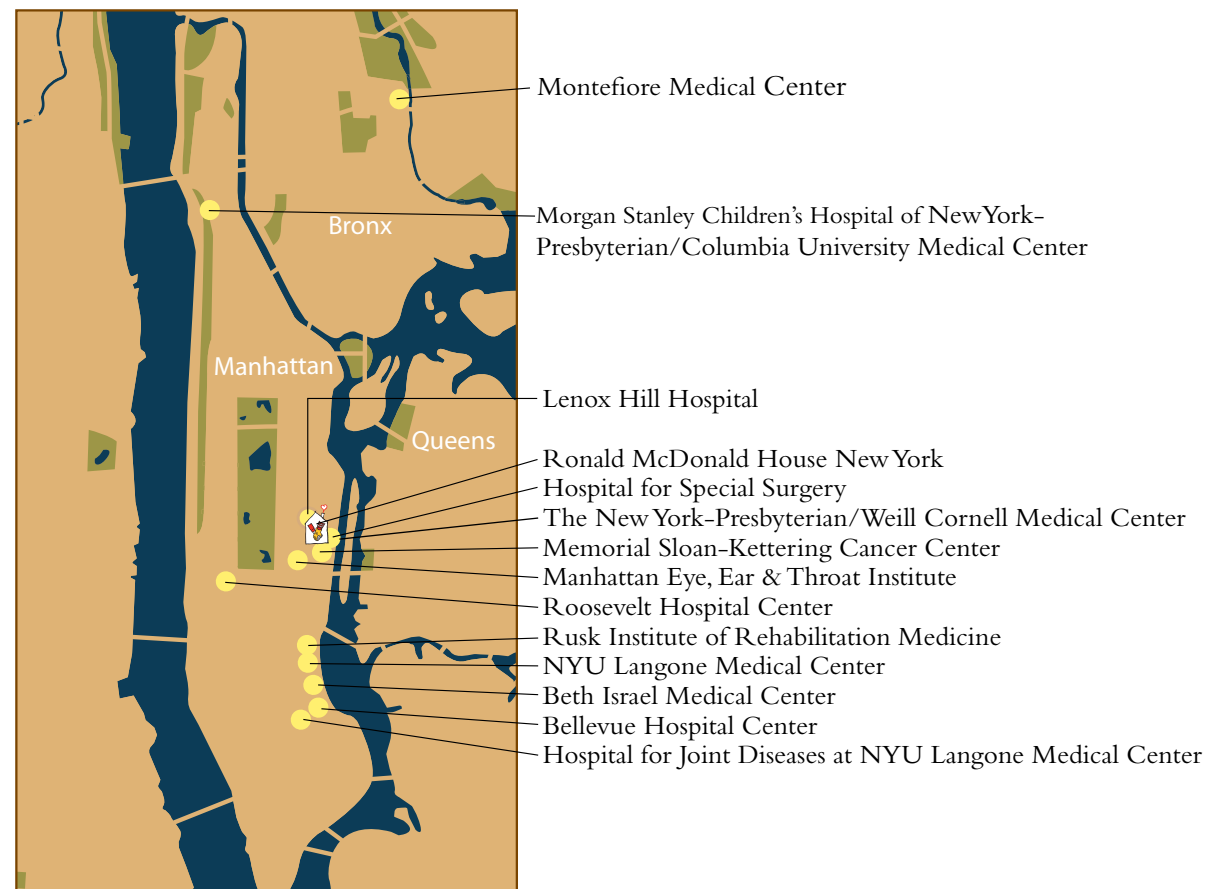
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September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month!

Every year, thousands of children are diagnosed with childhood cancer. While we've come a long way in the development of new treatments and lifesaving options, much more needs to be done. Please join us in helping to spread awareness about the devastating effects of pediatric cancer. Join us on Facebook and Twitter as we share the stories of how are families are working to beat cancer.



Wish List

Thank you for your thoughtful donation of items that help make the transition a little easier for families staying at Ronald McDonald House New York. Following is a list of items that are urgently needed.

For the Children

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Strollers
- Plastic Stroller Covers
- Summer clothing

For the Teens

- Gift cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express
- Movie passes
- Winter clothing

For the Moms and Dads

- Gift cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express
- Metro Cards (\$10 increments)
- Postage Stamps
- Phone Cards
- Umbrellas

For Beach and Pool

- Sunblock
- Flip Flops
- White T-shirts (for the pool)
- Sunglasses
- Large cooler for trips
- First Aid Kits for trips
- Baseball caps
- Soft cotton blankets
- For the Moms and Dads
- Gift cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express
- Metro Cards (\$10 increments)
- Postage Stamps
- Phone Cards
- Summer Clothing
- Umbrellas
- Rain ponchos
- Rain boots (all sizes)

For the House-Annual

- 50 Irons
- 25 Ironing boards with covers
- 50 Hair dryers

For the House-Ongoing

- Paper goods: cups, plates, napkins
- 100 Swiffer's and dry replacement pads
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- Copy paper
- Oven mitts
- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D)

Help a Family Today with a Special Gift!

- Sponsor a room night payment (\$35/night)
- Sponsor a birthday party or special program party

Bulk Donations:

If you, your community group or company would like to share donations of new goods, seasonal surplus merchandise or other large-scale contributions, please contact Wini Cudjoe, director of House Operations, at 212.639.0400 or wcudjoe@rmh-newyork.org.

Supporting the Playroom

For further information regarding Playroom donations, please contact Nelida Barreto, director of Programs, at 212.639.0205 or nbarreto@rmh-newyork.org.

For Beach and Pool

- Sun block
- Sunglasses
- Large cooler for trips
- First Aid Kits for trips
- Cool baseball caps
- Hand sanitizers

Nap Time

- Soft fleece blankets

Arts & Crafts

- Glow in the dark lanyards
- Glitter glue sticks
- White oak tag
- Color oak tag
- Crayola Color Wonder paper and markers
- Glitter glue

- Glue guns and glue sticks
- Glue dots
- Googly Eyes
- LEGO blocks, people and BIONICLE sets
- Scissors (blunt and sharp)
- Small Elmer's Glue
- Washing paint
- White drawing paper

For the Game Room

- Hula hoops — all sizes
- Twister
- Monopoly Deal Cards
- Battleship
- Ping-pong balls and Paddles
- New Wii U
- Games for Wii U
- iTunes Gift Cards (for our new iPad Programs)

For the Tot Section

- Baby dolls
- Baby doll clothing and accessories
- Soft foam building blocks in assorted colors, shapes and sizes

For the Teens

- Blu-Ray DVDs (Rated G AND PG)
- Sony Snap Lab (UP CR20L)

Family Wellness Activities

For further information regarding Family Support and Wellness donations, please contact Cherilyn Frei, Director of Family Support, at 212.639.0100 or cfrei@rmh-newyork.org.

- Gift certificates from local spas & cosmetic companies for makeovers, massage, manicures and other services.

- Massage Chair
- Folding tray tables
- Salon/Spa equipment
- Skin & hair care products
- Professional or spa quality blow dryers, curling irons & flat irons
- Spa robes, slippers, shower sandals, and hairbands

What's New at Your House?

Room Renovation Project Complete

We are pleased to announce the completion of our guest room renovation project! The work originally began in April 2012 and was conducted in stages, gutting and renovating two floors at a time. The feedback from our families has been overwhelmingly positive in that the new rooms provide a fresh, soothing and spacious new feel — very much appreciated after a long day spent in treatment!

The renovation project called for a full replacement of all 84 guest rooms including the bathrooms, flooring, closets, lighting and furnishings. In a space that previously held wall-to-wall carpet squares and was sparsely decorated to minimize the possibility of dust accumulation that might contribute to illness, residents are checking in to rooms that greet them with gorgeous plank vinyl flooring (almost indistinguishable from wood plank flooring) provided by Lumber Liquidators.

“We’re wanted to maximize space for our families and introduce materials that were durable, easy to maintain and safe for our children,” said building engineer Mel Farrell.

All furnishings were custom made to our Operations department’s specifications, even down to the convertible, leather-upholstered sofas that are exceptionally durable and much easier to clean. The sofa mattresses have also been specially constructed to be much more comfortable and thicker than usually found in convertible sofas. The transformation has been dramatic and it’s made a big difference.

We would like to acknowledge the following vendors who provided goods and services to assist us in the renovation project. As a result of their generosity, we were able to keep the capital outlay per room to \$43,000.

- Antiques and Interiors (High Point, NC): Case goods (Leather sofa loveseats/full sleepers, dresser/chests, bedside tables and two headboards)
- Atlantic Furniture (NJ): 50 accent chairs
- Benjamin Moore: Paint
- Delta Faucet Company: Brizo line bathroom lighting
- Delta Faucet Company: Brizo line tub and shower valve & trim set
- Hilton Worldwide: 106 lumbar pillows
- MS International (Hayward, CA): Tiles and vanity counter
- New York Drapery Care: Cleaning service for the blinds
- Restoration Hardware: Nolan double & single sconces



Before



Photos by Marian Goldman

Spotlight on Your Board



Louise Camuto

Creative Director and President of Marketing, Camuto Group

As the marketing mastermind behind the success of the Camuto brand, Louise Camuto’s schedule keeps her on the go. Joining our board of directors in 2010, Mrs. Camuto and her husband have been strong supporters of our annual gala, as well as hosting their annual Mother’s Day-themed day of pampering and product giveaway.

How were you introduced to Ronald McDonald House New York and its mission?

I am a good friend of Board Vice Chairman Tina Lundgren and her husband, Terry Lundgren, and Tina brought me on board. During the walk-through, it was really moving to me to see what a great opportunity it is to provide a comfortable, supportive place to stay for parents and families who have children with cancer. It’s so devastating and I can only imagine that those families are probably in a great state of shock trying to cope with everything. It’s amazing what is being done at the House each day and I’m just happy to help.

Tell us about your work with our families.

For the last few years, we’ve hosted Mother’s Day events at the House where we’ve given Vince Camuto shoes to caregiver moms, and sometimes daughters and siblings if they’re old enough. It’s just heartbreaking, but also a humbling experience because I realize that I am very lucky today — but I might learn news about a loved one tomorrow. Cancer does not discriminate. So for those people that I have met, and for my family, we help with fundraising and hosting events, such as the one on Mother’s Day.

Your staff at Camuto Group has played a major role in the production of the Mother’s Day events for the families. Can you tell us a little more about what it means to you and them to give back?

A lot of my staff wants to be involved because they know the Ronald McDonald House is a really great organization. My whole PR team, as well as some of the people from the marketing team, gather as a group and put their ideas together to make this event happen and ensure that it’s extra special each year. It’s fun, you can see the mothers and children smiling and everyone feels very good.

What is your number one wish for the House and its families?

My wish for the families is that there would be good outcomes and that the children would be healed and able to go home. I also wish for longevity of the charity. There is no doubt in my mind, since there are so many great people backing this organization that I’m confident it’s going to continue to flourish. ■



Aidan Chopra

Caregivers and their children appreciate the pampering that they receive from the Camuto Group.

Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight: Team Ronald

For families checking into Ronald McDonald House® New York for the first time, there can be great anxiety over what to expect. While volunteers are a vital part of every Ronald McDonald House, the volunteers of Team Ronald in New York City lend their own special touch to the giving experience.

Team Ronald includes a combination of volunteers who visit during the day to assist with cleaning and other tasks, and nighttime volunteers broken up into teams that commit to serve one night per week.

For families seeking a warm smile and a comforting hug at the end of a long day of treatment, the love and concern of our volunteers can be just what the doctor ordered. At night, the volunteers work with community groups to serve meals and coordinate recreational activities for the children while caregiver parents have an opportunity to commune with each other and provide mutual support.

Recreational activities can include bingo, sock hop dances, picnics in Central Park and an occasional activity in the Playroom. On nights that the House's Programs department hosts a special event just for the families, Team Ronald volunteers also participate off-site and help to ensure the families' utmost comfort.

Another facet of Team Ronald is its incomparable fundraising ability. The annual Team Ronald fundraising event, each year boasting a new theme, is held at Guastavino's under the 59th Street Bridge. Under the leadership of event Chairman Bruce Dimpflmaier, Director of Operations of Tony's DiNapoli and Dallas BBQ, this year's "Heroes" event saw 804 attendees and raised \$480,000 through combined ticket sales, in-kind donation and an aggressive raffle ticket campaign. We are very grateful to Mr. Dimpflmaier, as well as committee members who included Thursday night Team Ronald Volunteers Jef Campion, Clemencia Colon-Neyland and Mike Conti, Helena Russo, Jim Molloy, Phil Paparella, Matt Littman, Dorothy Billings, Amy Bjork, Bernie Gutierrez, Kendall Carter, Ben Willig, and Barbara Duemesi. We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Herb, Greg and Stuart Wetanson for their thoughtful consideration and support of many Ronald McDonald House New York events such as the Team Ronald fundraiser.

With entertainment provided by DJ Mr. Biggs and catering provided by Tony's DiNapoli, this party with a purpose was a resounding success!



Team Ronald
2012 event

Monday
night



Tuesday
night



Wednesday
night



Thursday
night



Friday
night



Saturday
night



Sunday
night



Top photo by
Natalie Greaves.
All other photos
by Nina Friedman.

Danika Stanichi: A Fighter's Inspiration



Danika Stanichi, age 4.

Sara Jaye Weiss

It's hard to fathom what a parent could be thinking when their infant child is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. When Danika Grace Stanichi was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma at 7-months-old, the family was told that there was no hope for her. Together, Danika, her mother Danielle, father Don and older sister Day, have so far beat the odds against cancer with the support and love of relatives and many others. At 4½ years old today, this little girl's story is one of hope, inspiration and continuing the fight when you feel like giving up.

"We were afraid. Down here, we were given zero hope," said Ms. Stanichi. "This was very much almost like an adrenaline ride. There was zero time. When we brought her to the hospital, never in a million years did I think cancer. And that's because there's a lack of awareness. Danika had telltale signs: the bruising under her eyes, above everything else; her fussiness; and her tummy being so hot on one side — sort of swollen almost. It wasn't until all of those symptoms showed up together, I never for a second thought my baby

had cancer. Everything happened very quickly from the moment that we brought her to our local hospital. We had to make arrangements for my other daughter and figure out how were we even going to be able to pay for the air ambulance. We didn't know how to coordinate any of those things."

The Stanichis knew they had to travel to help Danika, but where the help would come from and how was the mystery. Hearing the dramatic story of how this family mobilized at the time of Danika's diagnosis is very telling of how they've kept up their courage through the ups and downs of battling cancer.

"In that moment, you're so scared. I called my sister, she called my mom, we called some friends and some family, and word spread very quickly," added Mrs. Stanichi. "We came to realize that Sloan Kettering was where she needed to be and I didn't know anyone who was affected this closely by childhood cancer. I didn't know what it meant and I didn't know where I was going to be sleeping."

Mrs. Stanichi's sister, Dinine, her brother, John, and other family and friends jumped onto the Internet and researched options for treatment, air ambulance travel, and also accommodations local to the hospital in NYC. At the time of diagnosis the children's grandmother, Fran, was driving to New York and had made it about halfway when she got the call and turned around to drive back to Florida.

Transitioning to New York City

From the emergency room, Danika was whisked to the intensive care unit. Her case was considered unusual because at just seven months, the cancer was so advanced that she was going blind and her eyes couldn't focus on anything in tandem. Doctors were confounded by how aggressively Danika's cancer had spread throughout her body and the family saw a steady stream of medical professionals who arrived to review the case.

In June 2009, just days after the diagnosis, Mrs. Stanichi and her mother arrived in New York City with Danika while Day and her father stayed behind



Sara Jaye Weiss

Danika, Danielle, Day Stanichi and grandma Fran reunited with family in NYC during a recent checkup.

in Florida. They arrived at the hospital in the middle of the night and from that moment, the family saw a steady stream of medical professionals who came to ask questions and review the case.

Danika stayed inpatient for almost three months. This included not only the inpatient floor and step-down unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), but also spending 3½ weeks recovering from the severe effects of high-dose chemotherapy across the street in the pediatric intensive care unit at NY Presbyterian Hospital. Her condition became so critical within a week of starting her first round of high-dose chemo that the doctors and nurses at MSKCC decided it was best to transfer Danika to NY Presbyterian to recover under close observation in the PICU. Once it was safe, she was transferred back to MSKCC. After her initial release a few months later, Danika and her mother would be in and out of MSKCC for various reasons as her little body went through treatment. Coming to the Ronald McDonald House just five blocks away was a welcome respite to what seemed like an endless battle. But the rest would be short-lived as the family was only at the House for a short time before Danika, once again, stopped breathing and her mother literally ran her back to the medical center for treatment.

Coming Out of Their Shell

Overwhelmed with their circumstances, Mrs. Stanichi realized that she had inadvertently cut herself and Danika off from many of the other families at the Ronald McDonald House. But it was the love and support of other parents in similar situations that drew them out and into the House's small community.

Danika Stanchi (continued)

"I had to isolate for a time, I felt like that's what I had to do," said Mrs. Stanchi. "I would take Danika in the stroller from the door into the hallway just to get to the elevator. As soon as we got out into the hallway, she would smile. My mom would take her for walks to give me a break, or to allow me to take a nap, update on the computer, or work on paperwork... Danika loved it, loved the sights and sounds of the city, *loved* being in the dining room... hearing all of these people speaking to her in different languages!"

"Being here at the Ronald McDonald House fosters interaction with people who are actually walking in your shoes and they're able to empathize with your struggles where the rest of us can try to understand, but we really can't know as closely how hard you're fighting for your child's life," said Chaplain Cheryl Frei. "That peer support allows our parents to open up at a deeper level."

"For Danielle and her mother, Ronald McDonald House New York was a safe place where they could come home and let their guard down and deal with emotional turmoil, as opposed to having to suppress everything while trying to be strong in the hospital in front of Danika," Chaplain Frei continued.

Keeping the Family Together

"There are few things along the journey that are markedly the most difficult. Being separated from Day was absolutely the most difficult. It was our intention to move her up and have her be with us as long as we needed to be there," said Mrs. Stanchi about her eldest daughter, who is only 20 months older than Danika. While Danika and her mom spent their first few weeks in New York City, family and friends took turns helping Mr. Stanchi, a teacher, back home with Day. When permissible, Mrs. Stanchi would also travel to Florida for two days at a time to see the child that she was separated from. Bit by bit, they moved Day's items up to New York City. But during the process, it became apparent that Danika would be blind and that she would rely on a feeding tube. After weeks of trying, the family abandoned the idea and enrolled Day into the preschool that sat on the same cam-



Sara Jaye Weiss

A family portrait of the Stanchi family taken in 2010

pus as the high school where her father taught so they could be close together.

"That absolutely ripped us apart. We came to that decision together in the absolute best interest of Day," recalled Mrs. Stanchi. "I spent very little time with Day that summer and it was in a lot of ways much more difficult than what was happening with Danika."

Toward the end of the family's stay, Day returned to New York and would stay with her mother, grandmother and sister until it was time to go home for good. The family ultimately stayed for 13 months at Ronald McDonald House New York. During their stay, Mrs. Stanchi's sister and brother-in-law would always be on standby to assist with immediate needs, and her brother in Virginia would also assist by coming up to New York and being a rock for his sister.

The New Normal

Within the week after Danika's first birthday, in October 2009, doctors had conducted a surgery to remove a tumor above her right kidney and also place her feeding tube. In January 2010, Danika received her tenth and final round of chemotherapy. Since that time, she has maintained an intense rehabilitation schedule, attends regular full-time preschool, all while adjusting to being blind. The family continues to travel to New York City for regular scans, and they occasionally still use her feeding tube. When the time is right, the Stanchi's will consider seeking a limb-lengthening surgery to even out her legs as they recently discovered one is approximately one-inch longer than the other. Another concern will be maxillofacial reconstruction to address the vast amounts of tumor present around

Danika's mouth that causes it to appear to have a condition akin to a cleft palate.

The Stanchis are back in Florida adjusting to life devoid of the excitement of recent years. In just a few months, Danika will be celebrating a milestone birthday, reminding her brave family about all of the things that their faith and dogged dedication to her fight has helped to make possible. Taking one day at a time, little personal milestones make the difference; for instance, Danika recently mastered sipping water through a straw, jumping up with both feet off the ground at the same time, and also riding a tricycle on the school playground.

Although this little girl is a picture of renewed health, she's not yet out of the woods as cancer still remains throughout most of her body.

As the family rebuilds, Mrs. Stanchi has put her focus on building awareness in hopes of helping other parents.

"People need to not be afraid to spread the word that September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness month. That the gold ribbon is a representation of childhood cancer and that there are so many more families affected than people know," said Mrs. Stanchi. "We all drown in a sea of pink in October and it's paved the way for a lot more treatments. The same thing needs to be said for these kids."

When asked what is her greatest resource to help people understand the resilience and strength of a child fighting cancer? Mrs. Stanchi lovingly refers to her youngest daughter: "I tend to think of her as more than this blind child who battles cancer. She's so much more. I know she touches people." ■

Community Snapshots

At the home-away-from-home for families coming from all over the world in their battle against cancer, our "community" is a broad one. Here are a few highlights of some of the people who have recently touched our hearts at Ronald McDonald House New York.

Hope Awards

In a ceremony held on April 23, Ronald McDonald House® New York's community of families, volunteers and staff came together to celebrate the 2013 Hope Award. **Bernice "Bunny" Barb, Lynda Lamonte-Garmong, John Rohs** and **Kenneth Schulman** were each recognized for their dedicated commitment to helping to families battling pediatric cancer.



Photos by Joe Martinez



Toy Industry Foundation

This year's visit from the **Toy Industry Foundation** brought a wild safari night for our families to remember. Held on the Third Floor Terrace, the outdoor event kicked off with a fun BBQ, toy giveaways and face painting. By the end of the night, our young residents had many stories to share about their adventure.



Loris First Baptist Ensemble

When the **Loris First Baptist Ensemble** brought their heavenly voices to New York from South Carolina, we were overwhelmed with the joy as the sound filled our lobby and brought smiles to our families' faces.



Natalie Greaves

Community Snapshots (continued)

Board of Associates Dinner

Board of Associates member Guy Weltsch and his team at **TOMS Capital LLC** visited in June to provide a delicious meal for families staying at Ronald McDonald House New York. Working together with our Wednesday night Team Ronald volunteers, the TOMS Capital team was on-hand to help our young residents as they decorated flower pots and enjoyed the summer weather.



Fourth of July Celebration

Our families had a front row seat to the Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks thanks to the generosity of the **NYPD** and the **Yonkers Fire Department**. As we watched a gorgeous sunset over the Hudson River, our hosts treated us to an evening of fun games and activities before the main event.



In Memoriam: Joan O'Maggio

On June 14, 2013 beloved friend and volunteer Joan O'Maggio passed away after a long illness. Joan loved the house and her volunteer work here and put her heart and soul into everything she did. She was a Wednesday volunteer, she helped out in the chapel, and was always first in line when it came to helping with special projects. She eagerly looked forward to her "Teddy Bear" Christmas party. Joan will be sadly missed.



Programs

High Tea

Our Programs department introduced a unique special event that brought a bit of fun and flair on a Saturday afternoon. During our High Tea, attendees were dressed to the nines and ready for a great time spent with fellow residents, as well as participants in our Hospital Outreach program. As part of our Outreach program, children battling cancer at local partner hospitals have an opportunity to participate in programming activities alongside Ronald McDonald House New York families.

Young ladies wore fascinators and all manner of interesting millinery, while young men were equally as impressive in their sartorial splendor.

Catering was provided by Baked by Melissa and Maison Kayser.

For entertainment, the DIVA Jazz orchestra played to a very stylish audience that was captivated by the music. The talented dancers of from Paul Pellicoro's Dancesport dance studio were also a part of the program, providing a riveting performance for our guests.



Join the Vivian Harris Society



A moment in time, the picture of total health. Help us to make this a reality for all of our children.

Since its founding in 1978, Ronald McDonald House® New York and its nearly 30,000 guests — children who are battling pediatric cancer and their caregivers — have been the grateful beneficiaries of generous giving, which is one of the most powerful acts on earth.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported the House and our guests through financial contributions, in-kind donations, time, energy and love.

Now, as we move forward, we invite you to please consider supporting our programs, services and operations, all of which benefit our guests. There are many ways you can help. We welcome direct financial donations, which provide shelter, compassion and assistance that nurture hope and recovery.

“The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving.” — Albert Einstein

Individuals and corporations are invited to join the Adopt-the-House Program as a means to make a greater impact at Ronald McDonald House New York. This initiative offers a unique way to honor, recognize or memorialize loved ones, friends or businesses on a beautiful room plaque and bring hope to the families staying at Ronald McDonald House New York. Donations through the Adopt-the-House Program support the refurbishment, furnishings and programs projects of the House. Your gift will improve the atmosphere created for these special kids and their families. One of the most profoundly meaningful ways to celebrate the life of a loved one is to honor him or her with a leaf on The Tree of Life wall sculpture, a vibrant symbol of life, strength and the endurance of love. Each purchased leaf is engraved with the loved one’s name as well as a message and placed on the tree. We also present a beautiful glass tile to the appropriate person or their family, acknowledging The Tree of Life gift.

An immeasurably important part of Ronald McDonald House New York’s success lies in the extraordinary generosity of people like the late Vivian Harris, our founder, and others who have sought to ensure that their legacy of giving would continue to help families in need for years to come.

The Vivian Harris Society was established to honor and thank Mrs. Harris and all the others who made a planned gift of a charitable bequest in their will, a gift of life insurance, life income gifts, or retirement and pension gifts. We invite you to join the Vivian Harris Society by making a gift to the House in your estate or retirement planning.

For information about these and other ways to support Ronald McDonald House New York, please contact Nikki Soteropoulos Margarites, Director of Major Gifts, at (212) 639-0207 or nmargarites@rmh-newyork.org or visit www.rmh-newyork.org. ■

Hogs for Hope

For the 200 motorcycles participating in this year’s scenic 43-mile ride from Croton Gorge Park to JFK Marina, we couldn’t have been chosen a better day to host the annual Hogs for Hope ride. Led by a police escort, the riders made their way south to an afternoon of fun, relaxation and delicious food. The Yonkers Fire Department once again sponsored a pig roast and chili cook-off where attendees sampled and voted for their favorite of 12 different chili recipes. Johnny’s Smokehouse BBQ’s truck was on-site to feed hungry riders with piping hot BBQ chicken and ribs, and live entertainment was provided by The Nightriders. Additional sponsorship was provided by BBQ Aces, Connecticut Cruise News, Contees, Genesis Jewelers, Genuine Motorworks, Haymond Law, Shoprite, and Yonkers Motorcycle Club. With heartfelt gratitude, we would like to acknowledge event Chairman Ken Geiger for providing his dedicated leadership and raising \$19,052.10.



Natalie Greaves



Drive For Hope at Hudson National Golf Club

The eighth annual Marsh Golf Tournament at Hudson National Golf Club raised more than \$340,000 in support of families battling pediatric cancer. Once again led by Event Chairman and Ronald McDonald House New York Board member Tim Mahoney, chief client officer for the U.S. and Canada Division for Marsh Inc., the event committee also included Tim Bunt, CBRE; James Burke, Jr., J. Burke Capital Partners; Margaret Ditola, Marsh, Inc.; Robert Howe, Marsh, Inc.; Tom Leahy, Jr., Marsh, Inc.; David Liston, Marsh, Inc.; Tim MacDougald, Marsh, Inc.; Philip Meyers, Morgan Stanley; Kristine Novak, CBRE.



Natalie Greaves

Graphic Arts Industry Reception

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Event Chairpersons Valerie Merone of Limited Brands; Laura C. Reid of Hearst Corporation; Diane Romano of HudsonYards and RMH-NY Board Member Kathy Presto of Williams Lea North America for their leadership hosting the second annual Graphic Arts Industry Reception. With nearly 100 people in attendance, the event raised more than \$40,000.



Natalie Greaves

Greek Walkathon “Marathon of Love”

This year’s Greek Walkathon, held in memory of Greek Division Founder and Chairman Niki Sideris, raised a record amount of money while helping to spread awareness of Ronald McDonald House New York’s designation as a home away from home for European families, especially those from Greece and Cyprus. Joining us for the walk were former American Idol and Broadway performer Constantine Maroulis; businessman and mayoral candidate John Catsimatidis, Georgios Iliopoulos, consul general of Greece; Koula Sophianou, consul general of the Republic of Cyprus; and Evangelos Kyriakopoulos, consul of Greece.

Under the leadership of James & Stella Pantelidis, this year’s Walkathon raised \$89,000. We are very grateful to the supporters of our Greek Division who came together to make this year’s “Marathon of Love” a success!



Anthony Manoleas

Event Highlights (continued)

21st Annual Gala

New York City's brightest stars in the retail and financial industries turned out in record numbers to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Ronald McDonald House New York. Held at the Waldorf Astoria New York, the event raised more than \$6 million — the highest amount raised at a gala in the organization's history. For the third consecutive year, ABC News Anchor, author and talk show host Barbara Walters served as master of ceremonies, while the event honored Macy's Inc.'s Chief Merchandising Officer Jeff Gennette; Diana DiMenna, noted philanthropist and her husband Joseph DiMenna, managing director of Zweig-DiMenna Associates Inc. also served.

The evening led off with an invocation by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan of the New York Archdiocese. Special attendees included Ronald McDonald House New York Board Chairman Stanley B. Shopkorn; Terry Lundgren, chairman & president of Macy's Inc.; Tina Lundgren, Ronald McDonald House New York board vice chairman; Harris Diamond, chairman & CEO of McCann Worldwide and board vice chairman; Emanuel Chirico, chairman and CEO of PVH Corp.; Kenneth G. Langone, president & CEO of Invemed Associates Inc.; Board Member Judy Gilbert & New York Rangers legend Rod Gilbert; Dave Davis, president of WABC-TV; CNN's Felicia Taylor.

Esteemed guests who were also in attendance included Louise and Vince Camuto of the Camuto Group; Brenda Earl; Board member Dr. Kathryn Beal and Mr. Bruce Beal, president of Related Companies; Lee Perlman, president of GNYHA Ventures, Inc.; Thomas Moran, chairman of Mutual of America with Board member Joan Squires; and Myron "Mike" Shevell of the Shevell Group.

The 21st annual gala received additional musical support from the cast of "Motown: The Musical," featuring a special rendition of "Reach Out and Touch" by actress and singer Valisia LeKae, who performs as Diana Ross in the Broadway musical. "Motown" Associate Producer Schele Williams served as show director for the 21st annual gala. Forty performers representing Broadway Inspirational Voices were also on-hand to provide a heavenly musical accompaniment to the event, led by Founder and Musical Director Michael McElroy.



Introducing the Barbara Walters Room



Honorees Diana & Joe DiMenna with RMH-NY residents



Honoree Jeff Gennette



Terry & Tina Lundgren



Tracy & Stanley B. Shopkorn



Kenneth G. Langone



Timothy Cardinal Dolan



Myron "Mike" Shevell and Janice Worth



Robert Grubert with Deborah Freer and Judy & Rod Gilbert



Lynda & Tom Murry



Joan Squires & Thomas Moran



Trish Wescoat Pound and Jesse Cole



Amy & Harris Diamond



"Motown: The Musical" star Valisia LeKae



Felicia Taylor & Ali Velshi



Geri Cuile & Danielle DiFernando



Milton Berlinski



Ronald McDonald House New York Residents Singing "Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand"

Event Highlights (continued)

Thank you to all of the generous donors who supported our 21st Annual Gala. We would especially like to acknowledge these two very thoughtful supporters.

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Calendar of Events

Save the Date

Second Annual "Angel on a Leash" Family Fun Dog Walk
Saturday, September 21, 2013
10:00AM to 12:00PM
Carl Schulz Park, New York

An Evening of Cabaret at 54 Below
Monday, September 23, 2013
6:30PM
54 Below, 254 W 54th St., New York

Sixth Annual Block Party
Saturday, September 28, 2013
11:00AM to 5:00PM
East 73rd St., New York

Children's Happy Faces Foundation Annual Golf Outing and Drive for Hope Golf Outing at Trump National
Tuesday, October 1, 2013
9:00AM Golf Registration
Sleepy Hollow Country Club and Trump National Golf Club
Westchester, New York

Child's Champion Award Dinner
Thursday, October 3, 2013
6:30PM
Ronald McDonald House New York
405 E. 73rd Street, New York

Board of Associates Masquerade
Wednesday, October 30, 2013
7:00PM to 11:00PM
Apella, 450 E 29th St., New York

ING NYC Marathon
Sunday, November 3, 2013
6:00AM
All Five Boroughs, New York

Kids Charity Fun Run
Saturday, November 9, 2013
10:00AM
Central Park, New York

Sixth Annual Block Party

Saturday, September 28, 2013 · 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Our annual block party fundraiser is part-street fair, and part-festival, offering an experience like no other in New York City. Enjoy, games, rides, great shopping and great fun with the families, volunteers and staff of Ronald McDonald House New York.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.rmh-newyork.org, or call (212) 639-0100.

Board of Associates Masquerade

Wednesday, October 30, 2013 · 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Join our Ronald McDonald House New York Board of Associates during its second annual gala event, "Masquerade," at the East Side's sleek and sexy new venue, Apella. Bring the mystery and we'll provide the masks on Wednesday, October 30th as we raise funds to help families battling childhood cancer. The fun begins at 7 p.m. and tickets start at \$300. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 212-639-0206, or visit www.rmh-newyork.org.

Kids Charity Fun Run

Saturday, November 9, 2013 · 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday, November 9th, children from public and parochial schools throughout the tri-state area will participate in the 15th Annual Kids' Fun Run, with proceeds from the event to benefit Ronald McDonald House New York.

The Kids' Fun Run provides New York City-area youth with an opportunity to help children who are just like them, but are battling cancer. Kicking off with warm-ups by Ronald McDonald, 4-year-olds are the starting "heat" with a 500-yard run followed by other age groups ending with teenagers at the half-mile. To find out more about participating, contact Anthony Cardillo at (212) 639-0100, or acardiello@rmh-newyork.org.



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Ronald McDonald House® New York Celebrates Share a Night — Keeping Families Together



For a child who is critically ill, nothing is scarier than not having your family with you.

The **Share a Night — 35th Anniversary Campaign** helps share the cost of an entire family's stay at Ronald McDonald House New York. For just \$35 a night, your contribution can make a big difference in a world of uncertainty. Please support the House by sponsoring a family's stay.

For more information please contact Nikki Margarites, Director of Major Gifts at 212-639-0207 or nmargarites@rmh-newyork.org, or www.rmh-newyork.org/share-a-night.



Save the Date!

Join us on Thursday, December 5, 2013, for a special celebration when we “light the Holiday lights” and honor the 35th Anniversary of Ronald McDonald House New York.