

# Around the House

The Magazine for Ronald McDonald House New York. Volume 9, Issue 1



RONALD MCDONALD  
HOUSE® NEW YORK



**Yuri Arroliga is here today because of faith. A family's faith that turned a life expectancy of nine months into four years in the fight against cancer.**

Winter 2014

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On the cover: Yuri Arroliga, 16, from Managua, Nicaragua. Photo by Natalie Greaves.



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



RMH-NY President & CEO Bill Sullivan with resident families at Skate with the Greats 2014.

## Dear Friends,

The New Year is already upon us and Ronald McDonald House New York is moving fast and furious to make 2014 its best ever! My mother once told me the hardest part of being on top is staying there. While 2013 was a tremendous year in so many respects, staff and volunteers must always remember that "Excellence is an attitude that says good can always be much better."

The holidays were exceptionally busy for us this year and the outpouring of generosity to our special kids and families was a sight to behold. Many thanks to The Company Store, Skanska, Macy's, American Girl, Children's Happy Faces Foundation, Yonkers Fire Department and the many other groups and individuals who created a bright

moment during what is often a sad time for the kids and families being away from home.

We dedicated the Barbara Walters Room on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor and welcomed two new committed board members to our ranks, Raymond M. Tierney, III and Mwaffak Kanjee. Volunteers continue to be our faithful ambassadors to our kids and families. AOL continues to lead the charge of support on many fronts, most recently during the NYC marathon and with our soon to be completed music room.

You will enjoy reading the story of 17-year-old Yuri Arroliga from Nicaragua. She and her family have endured through extraordinary circumstances and Ronald McDonald House New York has been with them through every step.

Our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Share-A-Night joint celebration was an extraordinary success filled with history and celebration and an outpouring of memories that will not be forgotten. Our fourth quarter fundraising events performed stronger than ever and as always, we continue to value you our friends, donors, volunteers, and staff for your unwavering support of our critical mission.

As always thanks for your support and friendship. It means the world to us!

Very truly yours,

William T. Sullivan  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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\*In Memoriam

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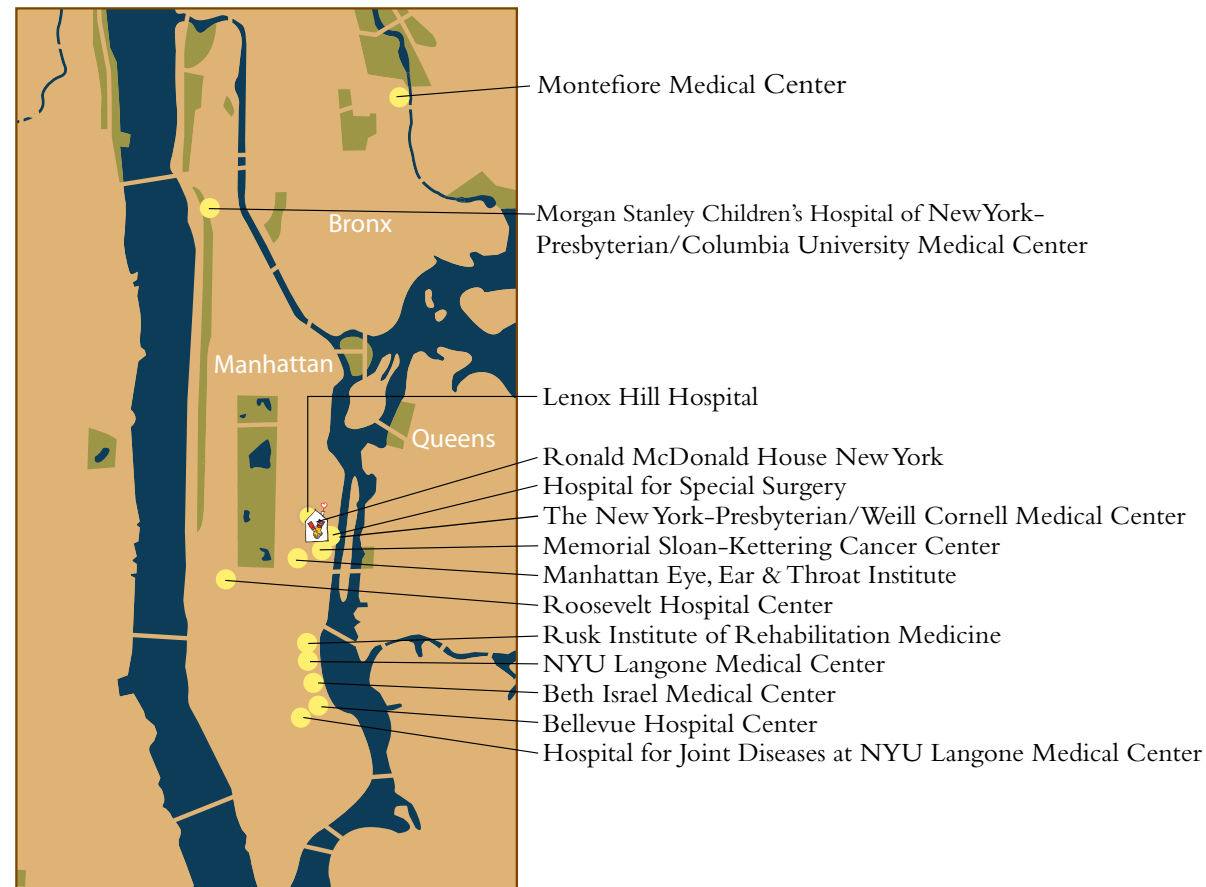
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# Thank You

## The Company Store® Sponsors National Family Pajama Night

The Company Store® hosted its third annual National Family Pajama Night charity promotion, selling pajama sets for the entire family with proceeds to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities. As part of the national promotion, 3,000 pairs of pajamas were distributed to 54 RMHC chapters throughout the U.S.

The New York chapter served as the site of a special pajama party, with "breakfast for dinner" provided and served by volunteers from the New York Athletic Club (NYAC). The November 2nd event was co-hosted by famed news anchor and media personality Harry Smith, and NBC sports anchor and commentator Andrea Joyce. Also in attendance was their lovable Golden Doodle, Reggie, an Angel on a Leash Therapy Dog volunteer. Our residents decorated pillowcases provided by The Company Store, while they enjoyed a gourmet meal prepared by the NYAC's Executive Chef Steven De Bruyn and Sous Chef Agustin Sanchez. The event was rounded out with a life-sized games of Candyland and Chutes & Ladders.

Last year's event raised more than \$25,000 on behalf of RMHC. We are grateful to The Company Store and their generous support of our mission.

We would also like to acknowledge many volunteer groups who have come in over the past few months to provide a day of service.

- AOL
- BDO Consulting
- Bloomingdale's
- Calvin Klein
- Citrin Cooperman
- Deloitte
- Dell
- JP Morgan Chase
- Kellwood
- Macy's
- Municipal Credit Union



Photos by Natalie Greaves

# 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. We've expanded our list to include special items needed to help support our new hospital expansion program. We are always grateful for your generosity in helping us to better accommodate our families during their stay.

For further information regarding House donations, please contact Wini Cudjoe, Director of Operations, at 212.639.0700 or wcudjoe@rmh-new-york.org.

### For the Children

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Strollers with rain covers
- Soft fleece blankets

### 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)
- Phone Cards
- Postage Stamps
- Winter Clothing
- Umbrellas
- Rain ponchos
- Rain boots (all sizes)

### For the House

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

**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.

### For the Playroom

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

### Arts & Crafts

- Glow in the dark lanyards
- Glitter glue sticks
- White oak tag
- Color oak tag
- Oil cloth for tables
- Archival glue
- Crayola color wonder paper and markers
- Drop cloths for tables
- Feathers
- Glitter glue
- Googly Eyes
- White drawing paper
- 8½ x 11 colored card stock
- Crayola Play-doh

### For the Game Room

- Hula hoops — all sizes
- Twister
- Monopoly Deal Cards
- Battleship
- Ping-pong balls and Paddles
- Games for Wii U

### 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 & PG)

# Ronald McDonald House New York Invests in \$1.2M Combined Heat and Power Plant

## Upper East Side Facility Switching to Green Energy Source to Reduce Carbon Footprint

Ronald McDonald House New York will complete installation of its Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system that will be housed on the roof of the organization's 79,000 square foot facility. The system would replace the building's current HVAC solution and add a cost savings of \$270,000 per year. Ronald McDonald House New York is a temporary housing facility for families battling pediatric cancer. The building has 84 guest rooms and is the largest facility of its kind.

"After twenty years of operation, we were looking for new options to replace our existing natural gas and oil-fired heating system that had come to the end of its useful economic life," said William T. Sullivan, president & CEO, Ronald McDonald House New York. "We determined that the best route would be to pursue an alternative energy source that would ultimately prove cost-effective for the organization in the long term. We expect that the power plant will essentially pay for itself within five years and allow us to focus our resources more effectively on helping our families fighting childhood cancer."

With a \$169,000 grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the net cost of the project is estimated at \$1.2 million. The CHP project was led by Integrated Geothermal and Integrated HVAC systems and Services of Islip, NY; Energy Concepts of Rochester, NY; and Intelligen Power Systems of Old Bethpage, NY. The organization's Building Engineer Mel Farrell handled on-site project management from inception to completion.

Via the process of cogeneration, the Ronald McDonald House will have the ability to use a single fuel source to create both electricity and heat. Once



up and running, the plant will produce more than 1,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, which will prove especially beneficial during peak demand times when brownouts and blackouts could occur. Waste heat produced by the process would be used to provide heat, hot water and cooled air in the summer to the facility's guest rooms, common areas

and administrative offices. While many multi-family residences are switching to CHP, the Ronald McDonald House in New York City will be the first pediatric cancer care facility to do so in the metropolitan area.

The organization intends to seek Energy Star certification within the next two years. ■



Photos by Vultaggio Studios

# Spotlight on Your Board

In October 2013, the nominating committee of the Board of Directors met to consider new candidates. It is our pleasure to welcome to our individuals to the board:



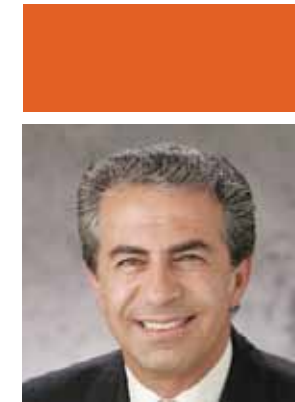
## Raymond M. Tierney, III

Chief Executive Officer and President, Bloomberg Tradebook, LLC.

Mr. Tierney is chief executive officer and president of Bloomberg Tradebook, LLC., an electronic agency broker for institutional traders, broker-dealers, hedge fund managers, plan sponsors, market makers, and portfolio managers worldwide. Prior to joining the firm, he held a number of positions at Morgan Stanley over 16 years including Global Head of Trading at Morgan Stanley Investment Management where he managed 35 people across five continents. At its peak, the group's assets under management totaled \$600 billion.

Mr. Tierney and his team at Bloomberg have been actively involved with Ronald McDonald House New York for more than two years, including the organization in its "Trick or Trade Charity Day" in 2012 and also serving as a major sponsor of our annual Skate with the Greats event.

Mr. Tierney received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University. In addition to Ronald McDonald House New York, he is also a supporter of Wings Over Wall Street and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



## Mwaffak Kanjee

Vice President and General Manager, New York Metro Region, McDonald's USA

Mr. Kanjee is the vice president and general manager of the New York Metro Region of McDonald's USA. Prior to beginning his position in early 2013, he served in the same role for the Pacific Region, earning awards during his tenure.

Mr. Kanjee rose through the ranks as a McDonald's employee, starting out as a crew member in the 1980s in the Los Angeles area. He eventually traveled to Turkey to expand the McDonald's infrastructure, ultimately launching 145 restaurants in the region before returning to the U.S. An avid supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities, especially its local chapters, Mr. Kanjee is also a supporter of the Salvation Army.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Team AOL

For the members of Team AOL, their service at Ronald McDonald House New York is more than a small commitment to a local charity. The company's Vice President of Sales, Christa Zambardino, and the many others who have visited the House and participated in events, consider their service to be a meaningful way of giving back in honor of Rory Wheeler, a teammate who lost his life after a diagnosis of desmoplastic small round cell tumor – an aggressive sarcoma.

"In 2010, it was when Rory was really sick. They gave him an award called The Courage Award and presented it to him while receiving treatment. It was new and it was given to somebody who displayed a significant amount of courage despite things going on personally," said Ms. Zambardino. The following year, Rory passed away. The award was subsequently renamed after him.

The members of Team AOL first came to the House during a company-wide charity event called "Monster Help Day" in May 2010. When AOL Chairman and CEO Tim Armstrong joined the company, he made the day of service a mandatory activity for staff. As the Team members got to know the Ronald McDonald House facility more

intimately while helping to clean the facility, new ideas began to sprout.

The House was still recovering from a recent fire and Ms. Zambardino floated the possibility of AOL sponsoring a new computer room in the space where the old one had been destroyed. Six months and \$108,000 (in cash and pro bono work) later, the AOL Media Lab was introduced to families.

The computer room experience soon led to Ms. Zambardino joining our Board of Associates. As part of the group's commitment to the House, members bring their organizations in to serve dinner for the families. They also rely on their internal networks for support of the group's fundraising activities. When the Board of Associates held their first "Masquerade" gala in 2012, JR Smith of the New York Knicks attended the event as Team AOL's guest.

### NYC Marathon

Several members of Team AOL including team members from the LA and Dulles, VA offices also signed up for the ING New York City marathon team in 2012. They committed to give of their time and to test their physical endurance in support of families

battling cancer. Though Hurricane Sandy delayed the team's ability to run in 2012, they ultimately raised \$120,000, and 20 runners ran triumphantly as part of last fall's event.

When the Rory Wheeler Courage Award was presented in 2011, Ms. Zambardino was the surprise recipient. To her, at least. To everyone else, it was apparent that she had a truly giving spirit. AOL was her first job out of college and over 17 years, she had worked her way up through the ranks. This was a public acknowledgment of her work on behalf of charitable causes; in addition to the House, Ms. Zambardino also works with Chemo Angels, a support group for cancer survivors, and her mother is also a cancer survivor, having successfully beat breast cancer twice, as well as lymphoma and lung cancer.

"I think the New York marathon meant a lot more to people this year," said Ms. Zambardino. "It was a way for people to show the idea of paying it forward."

After the marathon, Mr. Wheeler's father emailed the members of Team AOL to thank them and encourage them for their hard work in his son's memory. The note said that despite losing a son, the Wheelers still felt that they had a family at Team AOL and he was grateful to the members of the marathon team for their service.

### And the team's still going...

In addition to the ongoing nightly dinners, Team AOL is still contributing in a major way. The next project will be the renovation of the music room within the Lower Level Lounge.

To the members of Team AOL and the family of Rory Wheeler, we are ever so grateful for their gracious acts of paying it forward. ■



## Yuri Arroliga — A Study in Faith

For most people, the teenage years bring a host of heartfelt experiences that can leave lasting memories: new schools, hanging out with friends, dancing, sports, service projects, hormones (and their numerous mysterious effects), and finding your voice. For Yuri Arroliga, turning 13 began with many of those experiences. But on the night of her first school performance, the hopes of living like a normal teenager came tumbling down as she fainted before hitting the stage. That event was the first sign of what would later be diagnosed as an inoperable brain stem tumor. When her family was told that there was no hope of viable treatment available in Nicaragua, the family sought new options in New York City.

"The prognosis was bad because of the location of the tumor. In the hospital in my country, they couldn't do anything there. No surgery, no radiation therapy. And then the next day, Yuri got well and it was a miracle," said Rosa Arroliga, Yuri's mother. "We went to Costa Rica and she had an eight hour surgery, but they couldn't remove the tumor. They performed the biopsy and confirmed the diagnosis of a stage 2 astrocytoma brain stem cancer. They gave her nine months, maybe a year." Astrocytomas are cancer cells that affect the astrocytes, star-shaped cells that form the supportive tissue of the brain.

The doctors in Costa Rica advised the Arroliga family to take Yuri back home and make her comfortable during the time that she had left. That was in 2009. Today, Yuri is still fighting because her family wouldn't give up.

### Seeking Options in New York City

From their hometown in the capital city of Managua, Mrs. Arroliga, an administrator in the medical field, called multiple cancer centers with the hope that someone would consider their case. Finally, she figured that they would have a better chance if doctors could physically examine her daughter. They flew to New York City and the very next day went to the emergency room with the hopes of securing an appointment with a doctor at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

Doctors performed an MRI before immediately admitting Yuri and keeping her inpatient for 26 days. Yuri was eventually released and they stayed with family in the Bronx where she commuted five days per week to receive high dose radiation therapy. The Arroligas eventually stayed in Pennsylvania temporarily while Yuri convalesced after receiving the radiation. When she suddenly stopped breathing, the family rushed her to a nearby medical center where transportation was arranged for her to return to her doctors at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital.

"The social worker called the Ronald McDonald House and then we came here," said Mrs. Arroliga. "It was a blessing for us because it was like a home. Yuri got better rapidly because the activities, the food, the clean environment — everything was perfect for her. We were happy."

"Yuri is a happy and easy-going teenager who always greets you with a hug," said Chaplain Cheryl Frei, director of Family Support at Ronald McDonald House New York. "She has a warm and inviting countenance that instantly puts people at ease and draws you in."

Within a year, Yuri's tumor shrunk down from 9 centimeters (cm) to 3 cm and she was able to go home. For the next three years, the family would visit every three months for scans to monitor the tumor.

### The Relapse

In July 2013, while on what they thought would be a quick visit for scans, doctors discovered that Yuri's tumor had grown. The family would not be returning to Nicaragua as they thought. Her older sisters Rosemarie, 19, and Kathia, 21, were both at school in Gainesville, Florida. Understanding Yuri's situation, administrators at Marymount College allowed them to transfer and enroll at the last minute to be closer to help their mother and sister.

Initial attempts to attack the cancer with chemotherapy proved unsuccessful. Then in October 2013, while waiting for next steps in treatment, the family suffered another setback. In the middle of the night, Rosemary checked on Yuri around 4 a.m. and to her horror, she discovered that her baby sister was not breathing. Immediately, the family sprang into action. Mrs. Arroliga began



(L. to R.-Kathia, Rosemarie and Rosa Arroliga hold Yuri while having fun with family portraits during the 2013 Winter Wonderland)



Mom Rosa and Yuri step out during a RMH-NY formal event.

Courtesy of the Arroliga Family

performing CPR on her daughter while her older daughters called for help.

When the paramedics arrived, they worked to revive Yuri but they were unable to intubate her. It was crucial that they restore her oxygen supply.

“That day, I think Yuri died,” said Mrs. Arroliga. “Because they couldn’t resuscitate her and Yuri wasn’t breathing.”

They were rushed to the emergency room at Weill/Cornell Medical Center where Chaplain Frei met them to provide support. Once there, doctors were finally able to revive Yuri. The family was concerned that Yuri had suffered short term memory loss as a result of the episode. But eventually, their fears went away.

“Everything worked in concert that evening from Yuri’s family knowing exactly what to do in a crisis situation to the expert care she quickly received at nearby New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center Emergency Department,” said Chaplain Frei. “From her hospital bed in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, with her mother Rosa and sisters Kathia and Rosemarie by her side, Yuri communicated via sign language while being sedated and intubated. The first question she asked after regaining consciousness was of her big sister Kathia, ‘Where is my favorite t-shirt?’ She inquired about the shirt she



A recent photo of mom Rosa with daughter Yuri.

Natalie Greaves

had been wearing before coming to the hospital. Kathia laughed and reassured her that her favorite shirt was safe and that she had taken good care of it back at the Ronald McDonald House, to which Yuri responded with a “thumbs up” sign. This made the entire family smile and realize that there had been no memory loss or brain damage due to a potential lack of oxygen when Yuri had not been breathing on her own. This was a moment of immense joy and also a great relief to her entire family.”

**Hopeful New Discovery**

Though the episode proved to be the worst part of their journey, it led to a breakthrough. Yuri’s case caught the attention of Jeffrey Greenfield, M.D., Ph.D., a pediatric neurosurgeon at Weill Cornell Medical College. His clinical specialty includes pediatric head and neck tumors. After discussion with the Arroligas, the family has agreed to consider a surgical option that might help to save Yuri’s life. They will continue the current course of chemotherapy in hopes that it will help Yuri’s chances before they pursue the surgery.

In the meantime, there is hope as well as life at the Ronald McDonald House.

“If we weren’t here at the Ronald McDonald House, we couldn’t live here in New York because it’s too expensive for us. There are many things that we need. Food, soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, all of the little things,” said Mrs. Arroliga. “We are really thankful because this is a blessing for us — for every family living here.”

In the time that she was back in Nicaragua, Yuri regained her interest in school activities. When she transitioned back to the Ronald McDonald House, she began a homeschooling program that keeps her motivated. Today, she is in the



Yuri during a RMH-NY visit in 2010

Courtesy of the Arroliga Family

11<sup>th</sup> grade. One of her favorite activities is piano lessons in Monday with the New York Pops. On her initial visit to New York, Yuri yearned to go sightseeing and enjoy the splendors of the great city.

On her Make a Wish experience, Yuri wanted what every teenage girl dreams of; a visit to Central Park’s Apple Store and the American Girl store.

At night, Yuri sleeps with a CPAP machine for sleep apnea and a machine also monitors her breathing while family members take turns watching over her in three-to-four hour shifts. The tumor has affected Yuri’s ability to swallow, so she occasionally uses a gastronomy tube to supplement her nutrition. They also travel with an oxygen tank.

“We are always nervous because we don’t know when it will happen again,” said Mrs. Arroliga.

Until then, with her family and friends always nearby, Yuri is enjoying her life as a normal teenager at the Ronald McDonald House. ■



Yuri blows out the candles while celebrating her birthday in 2010.

Courtesy of the Arroliga Family

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.



Photos by Natalie Greaves

**Skanska Toy Giveaway**

With great anticipation, families lined up in the lobby to participate in a toy donation provided by Skanska USA. Led by 2013 Builders of Hope honoree Tom Webb, the Skanska team handed out smiles and joys to happy children.



Natalie Greaves

**Aster Degaro**

Aster Degaro is a 13-year-old girl from Ethiopia who recently traveled to New York City with her father Derebe. When they came to Ronald McDonald House New York, Aster had an eight pound tumor that growing on the side of her neck. She had been ostracized by some of her villagers for the mysterious growth and up to this time, Aster has not had an opportunity to play with children her own age or be a normal girl.

Their journey to New York has been three years in the making, but while the growth in Aster’s neck ultimately proven to be benign, it became life threatening because it displaced her carotid artery.

The Little Baby Face Foundation asked Ronald McDonald House New York to serve as a partner in helping while Aster awaited her surgery. After checking in to the Ronald McDonald House, Aster and her father saw water running through a faucet for the first time.

Thomas Romo, M.D., performed the surgery that would change her life and put Aster on the path to a new beginning. While staying with us, Aster celebrated her first-ever birthday party when she turned 13.



Natalie Greaves

**Nicole Wittleder**

At 8 years old, Nicole Wittleder was determined to make a difference. In anticipation of the celebration of her first communion, she wanted to use the occasion to help others. In lieu of gifts, Nicole asked for donations to help the families staying at Ronald McDonald House New York. She raised \$500.



**Macy's Christmas Party**

The holiday season hasn't truly gone into effect until we've had a visit from the Macy's Santa and his helpers. With hot cocoa and treats for the families, Santa gave a warm and entertaining reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Students from the Frank Sinatra school of the Arts in Astoria also sang carols.



**American Girl**

American Girl, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mattel, recently fulfilled many holiday wishes when associates from the New York City location donated wrapped "gifts of play" for our children. They donated gifts for girls and boys including Monster High Dolls, Hot Wheels Ballistiks and American Girl books.



**Children's Happy Faces Foundation Christmas Party**

If you don't know, a Children's Happy Faces Foundation (CHFF) party is an event not to be missed. That advice extends not just to the fundraisers, but also to programming events held for our families. This year's CHFF holiday party included a sumptuous spread of Dominican cuisine, a magic show and face painting. For more information about this year's CHFF golf outing, see page 14.



**RMH-NY at NYSE Euronext**

Executives from RBC Capital Markets, Zurich, Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., LLC, and Ronald McDonald House New York kicked off the new year with a bang (a loud one!) when they rang the opening bell at the NYSE Euronext. The bell ringing was in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Skate with the Greats.



Between the polar vortex and other weather phenomena, New York City's sidewalks have resembled scenes that could easily have leapt off of an artist's canvas. Despite their condition, children staying at this Ronald McDonald House also had an opportunity to enjoy a winter wonderland of their own,

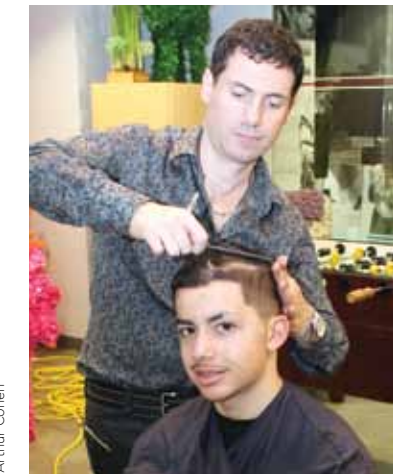
Held at the James Burden Mansion, families enjoyed a magical evening. Filled with dancing and a rare opportunity to let loose under the stars, the formal event provided a slice of life where cancer was forgotten, if only for a short time.

As the families primped and readied for the evening's festivities, the anticipation over what was to come was contagious. Thanks to Thursday night volunteer Chris Fields, stylists from Red Door Spas volunteered their time and manned temporary stations in the Playroom to provide glamorous make-over experiences for residents of all ages.

"When a child is diagnosed with cancer, all energy becomes focused on the treatment and very little else. Social activities get put on the back burner," said Nelida Barreto, director of Programs. "For our families, events like the Winter Wonderland provide a release as well as an opportunity to celebrate the good moments and memories of being together."

We would also like to acknowledge our other generous sponsors who helped to provide a night to remember for our families.

- Arthur Cohen
- Michael Davis, Cloth Connection
- Rachele Fialco
- Rebecca and Miki Lainovic
- Neuman's
- Dana Randall
- Mario Robles
- Jeanne Scungio



# Giving News: Barbara Walters Room Dedication



**Presentation of Room Plaque at 2013 Gala and Ribbon Cutting**

For more than three years, ABC News' legendary Barbara Walters has been a supporter of Ronald McDonald House New York. Lending her time and talents as emcee of our annual gala event, she has also starred in a public service announcement to help raise awareness about the plight of families battling pediatric cancer.

As our way of saying thank you to Ms. Walters for her commitment, we recently introduced "The Barbara Walters Room" in her honor. During a short ceremony led by Board Vice Chairman Tina Lundgren, Ms. Walters cut the ribbon to the room.

Also in attendance were Ronald McDonald House New York Board members Myron "Mike" Shevell (a first cousin of Ms. Walters'), Terry Bovin, Candace Leeds and Peter Samaha.

We are very grateful to Ms. Walters for her service to the House and thank her for her thoughtful giving.

To learn more about participation in our "Adopt the House" room naming program, please contact Nikki Margarites at (212) 639-0207 or nmargarites@rmh-newyork.org. ■



**Ms. Walters with RMH-NY Board members and a resident family**



Courtesy of the Shevell Family

## Jon Lawrence Shevell Bequest

In 2010, we announced the pledge of a \$1.8 million bequest from the estate of longtime volunteer Jon Lawrence Shevell. The bequest was the largest ever in the history of the organization.

At a time when we were recovering from a serious fire that had damaged the facility's lower level and our terrace roofs were worn down from, the bequest allowed us to open a fully functional facility in time for Camp Ronald, a summer camp experience for our resident children with cancer and siblings.

It is with great gratitude toward the Shevell family that we announce that we have received the final distribution of that pledge. Thank you for thinking of our families' futures and for helping to provide renewed spaces filled with love, hope and remembrance.



**Seventh Floor Terrace**



**Third Floor Terrace**

# Event Highlights

Photos by Natalie Greaves



**Event Chair Peter P. Corritori, Jr. with William T. Sullivan with NYC Proclamation**



**RMH-NY Board members**



**Eric Mandelblatt with Linda Dunham and Frank Pellegrino**



**Bobby Grubert with Diane and Ray Tierney**



**Norm Lewis with Ronald McDonald and attendees**



**Darlene Love**



**NYPD Deputy Chief James Murtaugh with Peter Samaha and family**



**RMH-NY resident with the Rockettes**

## Share a Night & 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This past December, Ronald McDonald House New York celebrated its annual "Light a Light, Share a Night" house lighting ceremony as well as its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was an open house to remember. With a nod to the city's generosity and its rich cultural roots, the evening kicked off with the lighting of the Christmas tree, Hanukah menorah, and Kwanzaa kinara. The invocation was given by Father Lee O'Donovan, former president of Georgetown University, and Rabbis Scott and Amy Bolton.

Rousing performances were given by Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Darlene Love and Michael McElroy with Broadway Inspirational Voices. Guests were also treated to a celebrity appearance actor/entertainer Norm Lewis.

Shortly after proclamations from both New York City and New York State were read in celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, guests surprised by appearance of the Radio City Music Hall Santa and the Rockettes.

We would like to thank the evening's sponsors: Anheuser-Busch and Brooklyn Brewery; Arthur Cohen Photography; Blackbird; Cloth Connection; Dylan's Candy Bar; Francois Payard Bakery; Gallo; Felicie; L'Altelier Rouge; Larry Poston; Luxe Event Rentals; Macy's - Holiday Foliage; Maison Kayser; Marea Ristorante; New York Athletic Club; RBC Capital Markets; Southern Wine & Spirits; and Sysco.

Share a Night raised \$200,000.



**RMH-NY residents cutting a rug in the Playroom**



## Event Highlights (continued)



Above: NY Pops Music Director Steven Reineke; below: Executive Director Anne Swanson and Board Chairman James Read.



### Cabaret

On Monday, September 23, 2013, at 54 Below, 254 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Laura Osnes and Santino Fontana performed an intimate benefit concert titled Remember When. The New York Pops' Music Director Steven Reineke hosted the evening beginning with a champagne reception followed by dinner and a performance. The evening was a joint benefit in support of The New York Pops Education Programs at Ronald McDonald House® New York, which provide creative outlets to the children and families in residence. Andy Einhorn (Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella, Evita) served as the pianist and musical director for the evening. The event raised \$66,000.



Patty Read and June Freemanzon with guests.



### Children's Happy Faces Foundation

This year's Children's Happy Faces Foundation charity golf outing was its most successful ever, raising \$450,000 for Ronald McDonald House New York and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Hudson Valley. The annual Sleepy Hollow Country Club event featured additional foursomes at Trump National Golf Club. Golfers at both clubs joined together at Sleepy Hollow for an after-party including live band, live and silent auctions.

While 23 foursomes teed off at Trump Golf Club nearby, 28 foursomes participated in the outing at Sleepy Hollow. Sleepy Hollow also offered a

dominos tournament, tennis and horseback riding. Both courses featured a hole-in-one winner with one of the winners scoring a 2014 Nissan Altima and two roundtrip airline tickets.

In addition to Title Sponsor Century Management Services, the fundraiser was also supported by a number of notable organizations that included Platinum Sponsor National Cooperative Bank, and Gold Sponsors Efficient Combustion & Cooling Corporation, Graphic Services Bureau, Hercules Corporation and Silver Sponsors Alex Dimitrief; Daniels, Norelli, Scully & Cecere LLP; Bargold Storage Systems; Bollinger Insurance; Hess Corporation; Morgan Stanley; N.Y. Plumbing & Heating; Zurich North

Above: Children's Happy Faces Foundation group members; below: Mitchell, Marilyn and Pam Barry



America, and the New York Association of Realty Managers also contributed to the day's success.



Event Chairman and honorees with William T. Sullivan

### Greek Division Christmas Party

Supporters of the Ronald McDonald House New York Greek Division came together at the New York Athletic Club, in a warm embrace of the season of giving. The event raised more than \$130,000 and was chaired by John P. Tavlarios, president & CEO of General Maritime Corporation.

Former event chair and Republican mayoral candidate John A. Catsimatidis was in attendance along with his wife Margo as the evening celebrated the works of honorees Spiros Voutsinas, President & CEO of Atlantic Bank, a division of New York Commercial Bank and Florentina Christodoulidou, MD, Private Practice and Internal Medicine.



Tracy Shopkorn with guest

### David Yurman In-Store Cocktail Reception

This year's David Yurman cocktail reception was once again chaired by Cynthia & Bob Knakal. Joining the committee with very special leadership was Tracy Shopkorn, Jena Berlinski, Amy Diamond, Sandra Ripert, Carol Staab, Jessica Fisher, Jackie Harris Hochberg, Alison Katz Wolfson and Heidi Wald. The event featured breathtaking pieces of the Yurmans' fine jewelry, raising \$48,000.



Masquerade event attendees in full regalia

### Masquerade

The Board of Associates hosted their second annual Masquerade gala event, raising \$400,000. The event was underwritten with sponsorship by RBC Capital Markets, Haute Hippie, Deutsch, Wheels Up, AOL and ITG. Décor and costumes were provided by Ricky's.

Masquerade offered a fun night of mystery and excitement in support of one of New York's most notable charitable causes. Special celebrity appearances included Donny Deutsch, the Route 29 Batman with a 1966 replica model Batmobile and US Olympic bobsled team pilot Jazmine Fenlator.



Ronald McDonald, Stanley Shopkorn, Route 29 Batman, William T. Sullivan and Richard Martin



Christa Zambardino



Trish Wescoat Pound and Jesse Cole



Jennifer Raines and Donny Deutsch with Ronald McDonald

## Event Highlights (continued)

### Kids Fun Run

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Fun Run in Central Park served as the site of a day of great fun and accomplishment as 1,000 children from the Tri-state area came out to help children battling pediatric cancer. Participants ranging in age from four to 17 gave their all and helped to raise more than \$275,000. We are grateful to The Blavatnik Family Foundation, Central Parking, the New York Athletic Club, the Strazzella family and the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation for their generous support of the event.

The Kids' Fun Run was organized and produced with the cooperation of: The City of New York, Mayor Michael Bloomberg & Adrian Benepe, the Central Park Conservancy and the Commissioner of Parks & Recreations.



Photos by Natalie Greaves

Board member Kathryn Beal



### ING New York City Marathon

This year's Team Ronald once again put their heart and soul into helping our families despite the frustration of Hurricane Sandy's effect on last year's race. With all eyes on their fantastic journey, these 33 runners raised more than \$100,000. Thank you to the members of Team Ronald.



Natalie Greaves

Team Ronald Pasta Dinner

## Calendar of Events

### Save the Date

#### CHFF Casino Night

March 14, 2014

Fino Wall Street  
1 Wall Street Court, Between  
Hanover Street & Pearl Street

#### ING NYC Half Marathon

March 16, 2014

7:30AM  
Manhattan

#### Hogs for Hope "Hope to Ride" Motorcycle Run

April 27, 2014

(Rain Date: May 4, 2014)

9:00AM Registration  
11:30AM kickstands up  
1:00 PM party  
Croton Gorge Park Police  
Escort Ride to JFK Marina  
on Hudson River

#### TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour

Sunday, May 4, 2014

6:30AM  
Battery Park

#### Greek Walk-A-Thon

Saturday, May 14, 2014

9:00AM  
Ronald McDonald House New York

#### 22nd Annual Gala

Monday, May 19, 2014

6:30PM – 9:30PM  
Waldorf=Astoria

### TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour

May 4, 2014

As the nation's largest cycling event, the TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour gives New Yorkers a unique opportunity to rule the road en masse in a tremendous show of pride for the places, people and charitable organizations that are most important to them.

Ronald McDonald House New York's team is actively seeking participants for its team. If you would like to join us as we cycle toward hope for our families, please contact Sue Houston at (212) 639-0500, or shouston@rmh-newyork.org.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala

May 19, 2014 • 6:30PM

It's one of the most important nights of the year for Ronald McDonald House New York, and a very special night for all who attend. Celebrating the evening's honorees, it will be a night to remember. Our annual gala event will feature live music provided courtesy of the New York Pops Orchestra and guest appearances by some of the resident families whose lives have been impacted by their stay, inspiring new hope in their battle against cancer.

For tickets or more information, contact Richard Martin at (212) 639-0206, or rmartin@rmh-newyork.org.



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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala May 19, 2014

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Waldorf Astoria Grand Ballroom

For more information,  
visit [www.rmh-newyork.org](http://www.rmh-newyork.org).

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