



AROUND the HOUSE

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



HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER:
THE HARTUNG BOYS Page 8



AROUND the HOUSE

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Carol Toscano, Magazine Writer/Editor ctoscano@rmdh.org

Peter Noah, Magazine Designer peternoah@gmail.com

Cover Photo: Dylan and Cain Hartung, Harriman State Park, NY, 2006

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK, INC. 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 of New York, Inc. is the largest facility of its type in the world.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Back Row: Brayden Kuhl, President Bill Sullivan, Dylan Hartung and Anthony Leyba; *Front Row:* Megan Przekurat, Mattie Powell and Hannah Davies

DEAR FRIENDS,

I AM OFTEN REMINDED (BEING A CHILD OF THE 60S) OF THE BEATLES AND THEIR WONDERFUL SONG *I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends*. So far, 2009 has been a challenge for us as we navigate through these tough economic times. Continuing to produce our special events, which are mostly corporate-financed, has been difficult but we've begun to see great progress as we forge ahead.

In this issue of *Around the House*, you'll meet Board Member Jim Jacobson, who keeps careful watch over our investments, giving sound stewardship to our precious endowment. You'll also hear about our friends from Bowne & Co. who printed our 2008 Annual Report through contributions, in-kind gifts and donated services at no cost to Ronald McDonald House of New York. And when you read the story of volunteer Patrick Dunne and his generous gesture of donating a brand-new Jeep Liberty to the House, you will be beyond amazed.

Our feature story "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" highlights our long-term guests, the Hartungs who hail from Australia – specifically brothers Cain and Dylan – and chronicles their long journey of Hope! Likewise, you'll get an update on our Angel on a Leash program and learn how the Greek Division keeps on giving. As always, our Fundraising Calendar will highlight ways in which you can continue to donate to our worthy organization either by attending one of our events (like the June Fundraiser *Imagine*, hosted by our many dedicated volunteers), donating your much-needed airline miles or inquiring about The Vivian Harris Society.

The following passage from our 2008 Annual Report best sums up the gratitude, priorities and spirit of the House as we move forward in 2009: *What we've learned over the past year is that our blessings are many and we'll continue to be grateful for the support we've amassed and the outpouring of love for our children and families. In some ways, the current economy has the awesome power to help us reprioritize those things that are most important: health, family and service to others. In bracing for the worst, we realized that it is during these times of uncertainty, the true spirit of generosity, resourcefulness and stewardship shines to light our way through difficult times. Of that we are certain.*

Gratefully,

William T. Sullivan
President and Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR HOUSE?



NOT JUST ANOTHER FURRY FACE



Left to right: Ralph W. Vogel, RMDH of NY Director of Human Resources, Volunteers & Programs, RMDH Therapy Dog Team Kristina Newman and Lilie, RMDH Therapy Dog Team Richard Tegtmeier and Tucker, RMDH guest Dylan Hartung with Therapy Dog Teigh, AOL guest Neil Furman and Therapy Dog Angel, Cheryl Frei, RMDH of NY Director of Family Support and Therapy Dog Belle, AOL Programs Director Greer Griffith and Therapy Dog Fauna, RMDH Therapy Dog Team Gay Cropper and Mr. Gruffyd Babayan and RMDH Therapy Dog Team Barbara Babikian and Lilly at the NASDAQ Closing Bell on March 10, 2009

IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST A CUTE FACE TO BE A CERTIFIED ANGEL ON A LEASH THERAPY DOG FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK. In fact, these dogs are smart, obedient and highly skilled at what they do, which is to make each child happier and healthier by providing their own special brand of support. Angel on a Leash teams have been visiting with children at RMDH of NY since 2006 as a charity of the Westminster Kennel Club. But before a dog can even step foot into the House, a long and stringent list of requirements must be met. First, a dog must be at least a year old and would have to pass a strict obedience test which includes adequately performing tasks such as sitting or staying for three minutes with an unfamiliar person (with his or her handler out of sight), healing on lead, not interacting with other dogs in the room, not reacting to loud, sudden noises and being bumped or startled. They are also trained to ignore food, medical equipment like wheelchairs,

canes, crutches, hospital beds and IV poles and can tolerate moderate pulling of their ears, tail, hard petting or being picked up (for toy dogs). Even then, dogs are required to have a year's experience in a healthcare facility and must pass extensive health certifications. Since the program began, hundreds of children at the House have benefited from the therapeutic touch of therapy dogs. It has become one of our most popular weekly programs and, in 2008, the program received Mutual of America's coveted Community Partnership Award highlighting "the important contributions that non-profit organizations, in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations, make to society." On March 9th, David Frei, President & CEO of Angel on a Leash (www.angelonaleash.org) presided over the ceremony along with Ralph Vogel, Director of Human Resources, Volunteers & Programs for RMDH of NY and Tom Moran, CEO of Mutual of America. On March 10th, seven

therapy dog teams from RMDH of NY's Angel on a Leash program rang the ceremonial Closing Bell for the NASDAQ Stock Market. The ceremony also helped celebrate the biggest one-day gains for stocks since mid-November with the NASDAQ Composite up 7.1% and the Dow up 5.8% for the day. 🌟

CURRENT THERAPY DOG TEAMS

Jason Alderman with Blue	Richard Tegtmeier with Tucker
Michelle Dunn with Butter and Serafina	Mary Mescher with Parker
Shelly Appell with Blackberry	Janet Weiss with Phoebe
David Frei with Teigh, Belle and Angel	Gay Cropper with Mr. Gruffyd Babayan
Andrea Joyce with Reggie	Elizabeth Weston with Theo
Kristina Newman with Lilie	Barbara Babikian with Lilly



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR BOARD: JIM JACOBSON

JIM JACOBSON FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK THROUGH THE HOUSE'S CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD STANLEY SHOPKORN. "I was originally involved in a dinner honoring Stanley," Jim remembers. "At that time, the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, where I've worked for my whole career, was a very easy place to raise money for philanthropic causes. People were extraordinarily charitable and Stanley was held in high regard and very well known by the floor community so I was able to raise a significant amount of money for that event." Around the same time, Jim had the opportunity to visit the House and to meet President Emeritus Vivian Harris. "Vivian took us on a tour and I was immediately struck by the incredible environment the House provides for these families. It was the afternoon so the kids were coming back from treatment and their spirit and their courage and their whole demeanor and how the people in the House responded to them – the interaction of both the volunteers and the staff with these kids – was incredible. I really can't describe it. It was a phenomenal feeling."

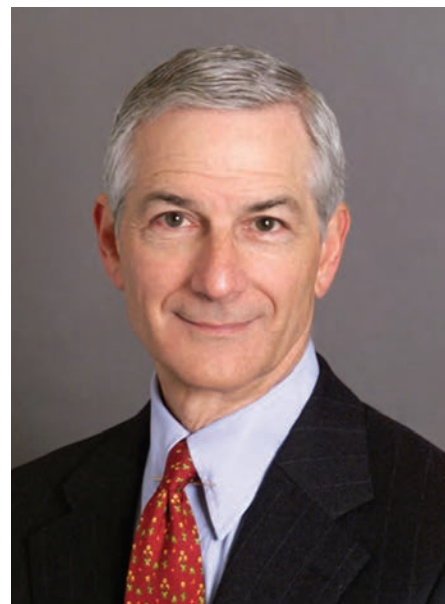
Not long after, Jim joined the RMDH of NY Board of Directors where he began as a member of the Foundation Committee and subsequently, the Finance Committee. Most recently, Jim became Chairman of the Investment Committee, which manages the endowment fund and now has the responsibility of working with the committee and the fund managers. "Fortunately we're a financially strong organization," he says. "I feel confident that we'll work through this very difficult period of time and

be stronger when it's over. The crisis, in a good sense, has forced us to take a closer look at how we manage expenses. It's made fundraising more difficult but we're fortunate to have the tremendous support we do have."

Jim's main concern is making sure that the House can continue to provide the best, safest, cleanest and most comfortable environment for families who find that the House is a place that fills their needs. "Really, I would like to see the House close someday – no more need for the House. It's a possibility but not a short-term possibility. I think people need to know that, in particular, the work the volunteers do is extraordinarily important and it needs all the support it can get."

Jim's expertise comes from a long and varied career in Finance, most recently as Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Spear, Leeds & Kellogg Specialists, LLC, a leading specialist firm on the NYSE. Jim has served two terms as a Director of the NYSE. His first term was from 1987 to 1993 (as Vice Chairman from 1992 to 1993). In 1996, Jim was selected to return to the Exchange's Board of Directors, serving as Vice Chairman until his term expired in June 1998. He has served on many of the Exchange's various executive committees, including Office of the Chairman, Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Personnel Policy and Compensation Committee.

Since leaving Wall Street, Jim dedicates his time to RMDH of NY and also to The Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut as a member of both their Board of Trustees and their Audit and Financial Risk Committee. In the past, Jim was involved as a Director



with the New York Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and was a former Trustee of the Monmouth Medical Center and the Monmouth Chemical Dependency Treatment Center, both in Long Branch, New Jersey.

Jim believes we'll recover from the current crisis, slowly, and over the long-term. "There are many lessons that will be learned from this time," he says. "But, it will definitely be challenging in the short-term."

RMDH of NY is grateful for Jim's leadership and thoughtful approach to financial management on behalf of all the children and families entrusted to our care, today, tomorrow and in the years ahead. ✿

PARTNER HOSPITALS

Bellevue Hospital Center	The Mt. Sinai Medical Center
Beth Israel Medical Center	The New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases	
Hospital for Special Surgery	NYU Langone Medical Center
Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Institute	Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center	St. Vincent's Hospital Manhattan
Montefiore Medical Center	St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian Columbia Medical Center	

STAFF LIST

William T. Sullivan <i>President & Chief Executive Officer</i> wsullivan@rmdh.org	Daniel Badillo <i>Evening Manager</i> dbadillo@rmdh.org	Suzanna C. Houston <i>Assistant to the President & Office Manager</i> shouston@rmdh.org	Niki Sideris <i>Chairman, Greek Division</i> nikisideris@rmdh.org
Winifred Cudjoe <i>Director of House Operations</i> wini@rmdh.org	Michael Ballew <i>Development Officer</i> mballew@rmdh.org	Karen Kirk <i>Director of Special Events</i> kkirk@rmdh.org	Helen Stafford <i>Volunteer Manager</i> hstafford@rmdh.org
Joseph Guidetti <i>Chief Financial Officer</i> jguidetti@rmdh.org	Nelida Barreto <i>Director of Programs</i> nbarreto@rmdh.org	Patrick Lenz <i>Director of Major Gifts</i> plenz@rmdh.org	Stephen Yarri <i>Controller</i> syarri@rmdh.org
Richard H. Martin <i>Director of Development</i> rmartin@rmdh.org	Mel Farrell <i>Building Engineer</i> mfarrell@rmdh.org	Fordham Murdy <i>Evening Program Manager</i> fmurdy@rmdh.org	
Ralph W. Vogel <i>Director of Human Resources, Volunteers & Programs</i> rvogel@rmdh.org	Cherilyn Frei <i>Director of Family Support</i> cfrei@rmdh.org	Jim Rooney <i>Evening Manager</i> jrooney@rmdh.org	

WISH LIST

FOR THE CHILDREN

- DVDs (movies)
- New clothing (seasonal, all sizes)
- Diapers (the bio "green" type)
- Baby wipes

FOR THE MOMS AND DADS

- Gift cards: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Target

FOR THE FAMILIES

- Toiletries (soap, toothpaste, hand and body lotion)
- Hand sanitizer bottles
- Postage stamps

FOR THE HOUSE

- Paper goods: cups, plates, napkins
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Clear shower curtain liners
- Wash cloths in white
- Pillows
- Plastic storage containers: large, medium and small
- Dishware: Corelle in plain white, plates, soup bowls, coffee mugs (no teacups or saucers)
- Toasters
- Blenders
- Coffee makers
- Cutlery
- Healthy snack items
- Cereal (individually sized)
- Assorted tea bags

For further information regarding this Wish List, or to make a donation (NEW items only), please contact Arlene Mirabel at 212.639.0191 or amirabel@rmdh.org.

If you, your community group or company would like to share bulk 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 wini@rmdh.org.

- "Green" laundry detergent
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- Copy paper
- Photo paper

FOR THE PLAYROOM

For further information regarding Playroom donations, please contact Nelida Barreto, Director of Programs, at 212.639.0205 or nbarreto@rmdh.org.

FOR ARTS & CRAFTS:

- Feathers
- Pipe cleaners
- Washable Crayola markers
- Washable Crayola crayons
- Crayola fabric markers
- Color-Me Tara cloth banner
- Color-Me flag
- Tissue paper
- Drop cloths for tables
- Oil cloth table cloths
- Crayola Model Magic
- Crayola Dough
- Crayola modeling clay
- Sculpey
- Play-Doh
- Balloons for summer camp and parties
- Glue guns and glue sticks
- Felt material (assorted colors 12- and 36-inch squares)

- Craft sticks
- Legos
- Craft foam sheets
- Plastic lacing for lanyards
- Pom poms
- Wiggly eyes
- Corobuff sheets
- Glue dots
- Glitter glue

FOR THE SPORTS SECTION

- Foosballs
- Ping-pong balls and paddles
- Wall-mounted basketball game with cabinet (from Hammacher Schlemmer or S&S Recreation)
- Fold-a-Hoop

FOR THE BABIES SECTION

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

TECHNOLOGY

- Camcorder
- Photo paper (4 x 6 and 5 x 7)
- Stereo/CD player
- Sony Snap Lab (UP CR20L)

FOR THE TEEN ROOM:

- New sofa and chair



Our Kid's Debut

TAKE A PIECE OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK HOME WITH YOU BY ORDERING A SET OF OUR MASCOT DOLLS – a simple yet fun way to put a smile on the face of someone you love! When you purchase a set of our colorful Mascot Dolls, your money goes directly to programming for our children and families.

For just \$20 (plus shipping and handling), you can purchase a set of our two Mascot Dolls (one girl and one boy, each approximately 7.5 inches tall), specially designed for RMDH of NY, with over 75% of the proceeds directly benefiting our families. These collectible dolls are a must-have for that special someone in your life.

To order a set of our Mascot Dolls, please contact Arlene Mirabel at 212.639.0191 or amirabel@rmdh.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER GIVING: **PATRICK DUNNE**

Left to right: John Egan, President of the Hibernia Provident Society, David Lipson, Children's Happy Faces Foundation, Des Beglin, Hibernia Provident Society, Volunteer Patrick Dunne and Mike Fishman, President of 32 BJ Building Workers' Union

FRIDAY NIGHT VOLUNTEER PATRICK DUNNE WAS INTRODUCED TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK through the Children's Happy Faces Foundation (CHFF) and Century Management back in 2005 when he volunteered to work at a party CHFF was throwing for the kids at the House. For Patrick, what drew him in after his first visit was seeing how the children handled their circumstances. Patrick, who lost his leg at age nine, and later, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis says, "The kids have helped me get through my own bad days. Just being there with them has given me, I think, more than I've given them. You get great strength from these kids and their parents. They leave everything behind – their homeland, their houses, jobs, everything – to fight the cancer. It's unbelievable."

At first, Patrick volunteered at all House events sponsored by CHFF, both the parties and the golf outings. Eventually, he became a regular Friday night volunteer. "I love my team," Patrick says. "We're a very like-minded, united group."

In his personal life, Patrick is both a Founding Member and a Board Member of the Hibernia Provident Society and also, a Resident Superintendent of a building on Madison Avenue. The idea to create the Hibernia Provident Society came from the notion that there was room for a Resident Superintendents' club that would take handymen as well. "We wanted a club that would help everyone in the Real Estate industry, not just superintendents or managers," he explains. "We felt the need to educate and help everyone at all levels move up in the ranks and give them more opportunities."

According to John Egan, the group's President, members get life

insurance and can receive emergency benefits through a Cobra Fund designed to help members in distress. There are meetings every month with speakers from all across the Real Estate industry with a network of people who can help each other.

At their Annual Gala in January, the Society held a raffle for a brand new Jeep Liberty purchased at a steep discount from Riverdale Motors in The Bronx (with special thanks to Sales Manager Mike Tilley). The funds generated from the jeep raffle (at \$100/ticket) supports the Cobra Fund for its members. Since Patrick wasn't eligible to win, he purchased raffle tickets in the House's name and won. "I've been touched by cancer in so many ways," he says. "Donating the jeep to the House was in honor of those members of my family who've been affected by cancer and for the children at the House, specifically. And now, whenever I buy a raffle ticket for myself, I always buy at least one more for the House."

On March 31st, a small reception was held at RMDH of NY to officially hand over the keys to the Jeep Liberty. "Pat Dunne is a good person, period," says President Bill Sullivan. "He really cares about the kids and is the type who does what needs to be done, not for notoriety but for the satisfaction he gets from helping others. Ronald McDonald House is lucky to have him as a true friend."

"You have to do things like this," Patrick says. "Especially if you see the smiles on the kids faces when you do the simplest thing like offering them a slice of pizza. They're so happy, despite everything. They say thank you and please and excuse me. It's incredible. When I say good-night for the evening and the kids run up and hug me, I walk out of the House feeling great. It's definitely worth it." 🌟

SPOTLIGHT ON IN-KIND GIVING: BOWNE & CO., INC.

OUR 2008 ANNUAL REPORT, THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS, IN-KIND GIFTS AND DONATED SERVICES was printed and bound at no cost to Ronald McDonald House of New York thanks to the generosity of Bowne & Co., Inc., Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc. and XPEDX International Paper.

"Kindness and inspiration come in many forms," says President Bill Sullivan. "For Bowne, it was their personal experience with pediatric cancer that touched a nerve."

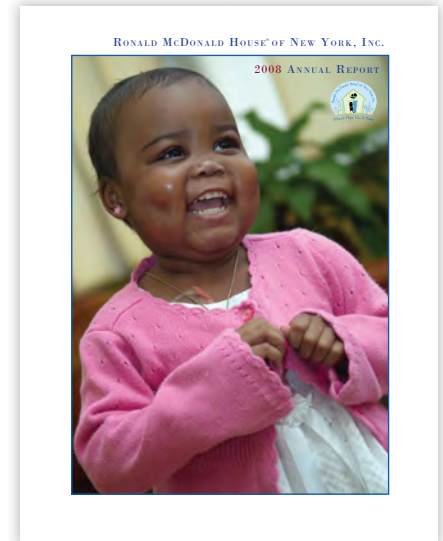
Erin Cahalin, the 11-year old daughter of long-time Bowne employee Peter Cahalin, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2007 at age 9. "It was the worst day of my life," Peter says. "She cried for a half hour when we told her and then she said 'Okay, what do we have to do?' I don't know where she gets her spirit from."

Although Erin is doing well now, the past two years have been difficult. "Every protocol gave her a bad reaction and at one point, she was in a body cast for close to a year," Peter explains. Erin also had a series of strokes – a rare side effect caused by some of the medications – spending over 100 consecutive days in Morristown Hospital. When she was in the Intensive Care Unit, Peter and his wife had the opportunity to stay in one of the Family Rooms provided by Ronald McDonald House Charities. "At the time, you don't think about it but after the dust settles, you start

to realize what it means to people when they face a 40-mile drive and they're on pins and needles, anxious and not focused on anything other than their sick child. I had clean clothes because there were laundry facilities. I had food and a place to shower and a place where we could rest in shifts so that Erin would always have one of us with her. When you benefit from something like that you never forget it. It's very simple – it's a place where you can close a door and just be quiet."

Jimmy Hughes, a 40-year Bowne employee also knows exactly what's involved when cancer strikes from watching his own family member, Vincent DeGaray, suffer through the trials of head and neck cancer diagnosed last May. Since then, Vincent has gone through several surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation through Mt. Sinai Medical Center, one of our 14 partner hospitals. "I have good days and bad days," Vincent says, "But mostly, I'm positive. I really like my doctors at Mt. Sinai." Jimmy, a supporter of RMDH of NY, wanted to give back by providing a service that would make a real difference to the House during these bad economic times.

According to Peter Cahalin, "You see the kindness of people when you have a catastrophic incident. You can never repay what's been done for you. You can only say thank you and try to give back. It's the worst experience but in many ways it's been the best



experience. I'm the lucky one who gets to see a very optimistic kid every day."

RMDH of NY thanks Bowne & Co., Inc., Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc. and XPEDX International Paper for their substantial donation. "We're grateful for their efforts on our behalf," says Bill Sullivan. "It was a significant gesture of generosity during difficult times."

Our Annual Report was printed on "Mohawk Windpower" Options recycled 80-lb text/100-lb cover. 🌱



SPOTLIGHT ON PINK SLIP PARTIES

SINCE NOVEMBER 2008, Ronald McDonald House of New York has been the beneficiary of three Wall Street Pink Slip Parties that have raised over \$10,000. Pink Slip Parties were started as a way to help laid-off Wall Streeters get together with recruiters, headhunters, performance coaches and other laid-off individuals as a means of social networking. Chairman Daniel Yu organized a fun and useful way to benefit charity while helping the many

displaced New Yorkers struggling through the recession. Attendees are asked to make a \$20 donation at the door (for RMDH of NY), which gets them face time with a number of helpful resources, \$4 cocktails and plenty of other people to network with. The bonus is that it helps our own RMDH of NY volunteers, many of whom have lost their own long-term Wall Street jobs, seek a fresh start with a new employer in Financial Services. Since charitable giving

usually dips during a recession, these types of events help fill the financial gaps we will face over the course of the next several years. Because the House's yearly budget of about \$13 million is funded almost entirely through donations, every penny counts! For more information on Wall Street Pink Slip Parties, please visit www.wallstreetpinkslip.com or contact Richard Martin, Director of Development, at 212.639.0206 or rmartin@rmdh.org. 🌱

SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2009 HOPE AWARDS



The 2009 Hope Award Recipients (left to right): Steve Simon, Bruce Dimpflmaier, Shelly Talan and David Lipson

ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH, THE LIVING ROOM OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK WAS FILLED TO CAPACITY honoring the four recipients of the 2009 Hope Awards. In only its second year, the Hope Award has become a symbol of pride and honor amongst our volunteers and communities. “We understand how very important their work is in supporting our children and families,” says Ralph Vogel, Director of Human Resources, Volunteers & Programs. “We felt that we had to recognize it in a special way.”

The 2009 Hope Award recipients – Bruce Dimpflmaier, David Lipson, Steve Simon and Shelly Talan – have all gone above and beyond to create Hope in the lives of children and families suffering through the trials of pediatric cancer treatment, according to their colleagues. All four recipients have found their own unique voice in giving with the one unifying trait amongst them in the simplicity of their desire to serve others, above themselves. For example, though Steve Simon is responsible for organizing events for the kids that are as huge as flying them to the

North Pole to meet Santa, he also delivers bouquets of flowers to his fellow volunteers, acknowledging the efforts and the importance of their work. Though David Lipson has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the House, he has been seen performing grunt work with his own three kids at House events and has also become a constant source of moral support for both staffers and volunteers. Shelly Talan’s many Monday night events – the Carnivals and Sock Hops – as well as her magical ability to bring in substantial in-kind support for the House pale in comparison to the infectious joy she radiates and the smiles and laughter her presence, alone, have brought to the children (as well as everyone else at the House). Bruce Dimpflmaier is best known for feeding our children and families delicious, beautiful and nutritious food, not just on a monthly basis but at events as large as the annual Team Ronald McDonald fundraiser and our yearly block party. But, he is also known as someone who feeds the spirit of the House in his own quiet and understated way by making each and every family a priority beginning with a single hot meal after a long

day of chemotherapy and ending with the gift of allowing each of those families precious time to just be together.

RMDH of NY is lucky to have hundreds of volunteers who possess the spirit of giving exemplified by our 2009 Hope Award recipients. It is important to note that, as an organization, the impact of the volunteers and the community and the work they do is extremely significant and affects the well being of every person touched by their generosity, loyalty and commitment to the mission of the House. It is with extreme gratitude that we thank them for the work they have already done and the work they will continue to do well into the future. ✨

THE 2009 SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Neville Bean, Erin Byram, Jennifer Reilly, Jo Lowndes Sevely, Carol Toscano, Robert Vandeweghe

THE 2008 HOPE AWARD WINNERS:

Jef Campion, Phyllis Hahn, Vivian Harris, Stephen Petrillo, Niki Sideris



HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER: The Hartung Boys

"We're like chalk and cheese," says 14-year old Cain Hartung, referring to his 10-year old brother Dylan. "We're opposites. We don't even look the same."

"If you put us together," Dylan adds, "We fight a lot. But, if we're apart, we need each other."

THE HARTUNG FAMILY'S LONG JOURNEY BEGAN IN 2004 WHEN DYLAN, THEN A TYPICAL FIVE-YEAR OLD SCHOOL BOY IN SKYE, AUSTRALIA, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE IV NEUROBLASTOMA.

“We had just been planning our very first family vacation together,” explains Melissa Hartung, the boys’ mom. “It was so devastating. Dylan had had about six months of treatment in Australia before we were told that there was nothing else, medically, that could be done for him there. By November 2004, we got the news that Dylan had no more than 12 months to live.” For Melissa and Tim Hartung, that kind of news was unacceptable. Melissa immediately searched the web for more information on Neuroblastoma and learned that the hub for treatment was in New York City at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. “All the gurus of that cancer were there,” she says. “When I made contact with them, they wanted to do surgery immediately.”

“We had to raise a lot of money quickly to get Dylan to the US and by some miracle, we actually came up with the money by going on TV and other fundraising,” says Melissa. “We arrived in New York on January 26, 2005.” Almost immediately, Dylan had an eight-hour surgery to remove the entire tumor.

Dylan was a typical Neuroblastoma case. His cancer started on the adrenal gland, wrapped around his aorta and metastasized to the bones in his neck, skull, spine, hips, pelvis, ribs, femur and shoulder. At first, Melissa and Dylan came to New York alone and Tim remained in Aus-

tralia with Cain, visiting whenever possible. “It was a traumatic period of time,” Melissa says. “Eventually we had to say enough is enough. We sold everything we had back home and Tim and Cain joined us in New York. It was a hard transition, especially for Cain, with moving and the differences in school and everything that was going on with Dylan.”

Currently, Dylan is left with cancer in the bones of his hips, pelvis, femur and spine, which the doctors continue to work on through clinical trials and studies. “His quality of life right now is great,” Melissa says. “And he’s going to regular school for the first time.”

These days, Dylan attends PS 183 and Cain attends Wagner Middle School. “School is great,” Dylan says. “I have good days and bad days but I like it.” At the same time, Dylan is enrolled in a clinical trial for the remaining cancer in his bones. “I used to go to the hospital almost every day,” he explains, “But then it went from every day to twice a week and then once a week and then once a month and now back to once a week with my new trial. I go in every Tuesday for the doctor to check my counts and medications just to be on the safe side. And my hair is growing back but it’s still a bit patchy.”

“This kid is amazing,” Cain says. “He takes 18 pills at once – a record. I struggle to take two at once. It’s unbelievable.”

“It’s weird taking 18 pills every morning,” Dylan laughs.

“He has to take one really big horse pill,”

Cain says. “I don’t know how he does it. That’s his real talent.”

“I’m not free of cancer,” Dylan says. “But I feel like it. And, of course, sometimes, Cain and me are rivals.”

“Dylan idolizes Cain but the two are like oil and water,” Melissa says. “Very much so,” adds Tim. “Cain will put Dylan in his place the minute he pushes the boundaries too far.”

“I don’t let him get away with a lot,” Cain insists. “Sometimes it’s stupid stuff like he gets on my nerves and then pushes it. It happens.”

“When you pull us apart, we can’t be separated. When you put us together, we can’t stand each other, do you know what I mean?” Dylan asks. “But, I really don’t care how much we fight as long as we’re together and we’re not apart. Then I’m happy and no matter what happens, I love my brother. No matter what,” says Dylan.

“I’d have to say the same thing,” Cain agrees. “We’re like magnets. It’s positive and negative. We don’t go together but you can’t separate us.”

According to Melissa, Cain is thoughtful, a thinker and quiet, but once you get him started, watch out. Dylan is the adventurous one and likes to be the center of attention. “People say I’m a bit of a charmer,” Dylan explains. “And very modest,” says Cain.

Melissa and Tim say that living at Ronald McDonald House of New York has been fantastic. “We couldn’t be in Manhattan with Dylan having these treatments without the House. It’s provided us with a roof over our heads and a support system. We’ve been

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through the ringer and the House has always been there for us. Always. I wouldn't change it for the world," says Melissa. "Dylan is not cancer free but he's had four more years of life and memories and it's been four more years of us having our son, thanks to the House and the team at Sloan-Kettering."

"I think we could speak for any family that has been through this House," Tim adds. "If not for the House, a lot of these kids wouldn't be here today, especially the kids with Neuroblastoma. It's very expensive to live in Manhattan. None of us would be able to pay for an apartment or hotel room while our child is treated anywhere from a week to years, as it's

been in our case. And the volunteers that come in and spend their time preparing meals for us, outings for the kids – everything they do – it's tremendous and makes our life closer to what it should be. It's really fantastic."

"Just the extracurricular activities that we would never be able to afford," says Melissa. "Like karate for Dylan and the music program that's changed Cain's life."

Last September, Cain began participating in a music program at the House led by Dr. Sherrie Maricle of the New York Pops. "My dad taught me to play the bass first and I played for about six months before I started lessons with Bob Sabin from the New York Pops,"

Cain says. "We made a little rock band and it came together naturally. We call ourselves Bad Habit. I wrote a song – *I'm a Rock Star* – and we made it into a proper song."

"Music for anybody is an incredible creative outlet," says Sherrie Maricle. "When people allow themselves to freely tap into that part of themselves, music can help in both good and bad emotional situations in ways that can't be expressed with simple words. That's why it's so powerful. Cain has the natural ability of being self-taught on the bass and also having creative ideas about becoming a composer. We could see the transformation in him from almost the second class."



"We couldn't be in Manhattan with Dylan having these treatments without the House. It's provided us with a roof over our heads and a support system. We've been through the ringer and the House has always been there for us. Always."

Meanwhile, Izzy Gold Records had approached the House wanting to offer their support. "Izzy Gold hooked the band up with a recording studio," Cain says. "It was fun to go and record *I'm a Rock Star* and another song about cancer. We spent a long time there, which was awesome and very successful, and they amazed us with how the songs were perfected."

"I didn't expect them to sing a song about cancer," Izzy Gold confesses. "I have so much respect for their courage. Cain is a very gifted kid and spiritually mature. He really is the head of his group. He has extraordinary ability with a gift for music and writing and he undoubtedly has the extraordinary ability to deal with things most kids his age can't. To actually

be in a nurturing environment like Ronald McDonald House where these kids can make creative pieces that can be shared by so many other people – that was really the joy in recording them. The cause of Ronald McDonald House – I don't think it could be actualized without people like Cain as living proof that this Home provides an atmosphere where children can have healthy outlets for the stress they're going through and not rebel or fall behind in their studies or have to worry about where their next meal is coming from or how they're going to take care of their parents."

On April 27th, Cain and the band performed on the great stage at Carnegie Hall

Tim and Melissa are grateful for everything that's been done to help Dylan in his fight against Neuroblastoma. "We can't pay it back but we certainly want to pay it forward, to help someone else down the line."



with The New York Pops Orchestra one of Bob Dorough's Schoolhouse Rock classics. "It was so much fun interacting with the kids from Ronald McDonald House when we performed with The New York Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall," says Bob Dorough. "The kids sang along with me to my Schoolhouse Rock hit song *Conjunction Junction*."

"I'm really enjoying it here because of the music and of course, my family and friends," Cain says. "Music is my life. Without music, I don't know what I'd do. It's the only thing I'm really good at – it's my one talent – something I can do naturally. Music is my main passion but I like to chill out with the guys and whatever chance we get, we play music." Cain's favorite

band of all time is AC/DC. "I always felt like I was born in the wrong era – I should have been born in the 60s or 70s." But, Dylan, of course, doesn't agree. "I don't like heavy metal," he says.

"Since he's found music and the bass guitar, Cain has done a complete flip. He loves it here. He loves his music. He's doing fantastic and I couldn't ask for a more well adjusted and more fantastic son," says Melissa. "He's very good."

Tim and Melissa are grateful for everything that's been done to help Dylan in his fight against Neuroblastoma. "We can't pay it back but we certainly want to pay it forward, to help someone else down the line. If we can help give someone else a kick-start in getting their child wherever it is they need to get someday –

wherever it is in the world – we'd like to help. We've met a lot of people here that are now our US family. And when it's time to leave, it'll be hard."

Cain and Dylan say what they miss most about home, aside from their extended family, is the food. "I like a home-cooked meal above everything but Dylan's a junk food person," Cain laughs. "I miss meat pies and Australian chocolate the most. Australian chocolate is amazing. It'll be hard not to eat everything in sight when I go back home."

"I like white chocolate," Dylan says. "But I really don't care what we eat or where we live as long as I have my brother and my family." ❁

The GREEK DIVISION KEEPS ON GIVING



Niki Sideris and the Greek Division have earned a reputation as somewhat of an institution at Ronald McDonald House of New York. It began innocently enough, many years ago, through Niki's volunteer work as a translator for Greek and French families receiving medical care in New York City.



Niki Sideris at the 2008 Hope Awards

Through her work, she had become acquainted with Vivian Harris and before long, their friendship became a partnership. "I love Vivian," Niki says. "She's so wonderful, really wonderful." Soon, momentum took hold and that momentum has continued to grow into a little Division that makes a huge impact, year after year.

Volunteer work and helping others was always what Niki felt was her true calling. "Everyone is born with a natural inclination. I have a natural sympathy towards the poor and the sick," Niki asserts. For the past 30 years, Niki has worked tirelessly as a volunteer and has raised desperately needed funds – to the tune of over \$4 million dollars. "Whatever money we raise is for everyone. Cancer doesn't care if a child is Greek or American or any other nationality or color or religion. I love all the children," Niki says. "I don't separate them. How can you?"

At first, Niki began with translation ser-

vices for Greek families with sick children. She also started fundraising in the Greek communities and the Greek churches, focusing her energies between her contacts in New York and back home in Greece. She was raising money but she was also making people aware of the House and making it accessible to the many Greek and Cyprian families who desperately needed a place to bring their own children for the best cancer treatment. The Greek Division was a godsend for the House, especially when the current House on East 73rd Street was under construction and needed those extra dollars to get by. By the time construction had begun, Niki had raised at least \$300,000 for the 9th Floor Atrium and later another \$250,000 for the Board Conference Room, now named in honor of the Greek Division.

"What makes Niki so successful is her per-

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Clockwise from top left: Traditional Greek Dancers perform in front of RMDH of NY at the annual Greek Division Walk-a-Thon; Niki and Vivian Harris cut the House's 20th Anniversary celebration cake; Angels entertain guests at the annual Greek Division Christmas Party



Clockwise from top left: Niki with Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, at a celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day; Children in the Greek community participate in the annual Greek Walk-a-Thon festivities; Walkers hit the street at the annual Greek Division Walk-a-Thon

sonal touch. She acknowledges every donation that comes in with a thank you note, even if it's only for a few dollars," explains Spiridoula Katchis, Niki's assistant. "She makes the calls personally and she always has a team spirit. She's very much loved and respected in the community. Of course, we still help Greek families with translating letters and paperwork and have the Greek newspaper on hand. We also secure donations of traditional Greek foods from the community to share with all the families," she adds. "It's the little things. They share their pain and triumphs with us and they become our friends even after they've gone back home. These are the people who eventually support us going forward."

According to Niki, RMDH of NY's Greek Division remains one of the foremost charities amongst the Greek community. "Even the poorest people in the Greek community are willing to give me a single dollar," she explains. "They respect the cause. I've had the same community following me for over 25 years."

Most of the money raised comes from two big fundraising events during the year – the annual Greek Division Walk-a-Thon and the annual Greek Division Christmas Party – two events that require a massive amount of work and advance planning. "The Walk-a-Thon is a beautiful event," Spiridoula says. "You really see the philanthropic aspects. We have a lot of kids helping us each year and in turn, they get the experience of learning how to help others at a

"Even the poorest people in the Greek community are willing to give me a single dollar," she explains. "They respect the cause. I've had the same community following me for over 25 years."

young age. Everyone has fun. We serve food – all donated – and have Greek dancers entertaining the crowd. It really is a beautiful day."

Julia Betzios, a long-time friend and House volunteer says that people expect Niki's events to be successful and they always are. "The Greek Division Christmas party is a wonderful event. Everything is donated – the food, the wine, the fruit and desserts – every year, the same people, and more donate whatever is needed and all of the money we make goes to the House. Not much has changed over time – donations come in even when people can't attend."

In 2008, Niki became one of the first recipients of the RMDH of NY Hope Awards, an honor that recognizes four individuals, each year, who create Hope in the lives of children and families battling pediatric cancer. However, 2009 should prove to be even more historic for Niki and the Greek Division. In March 2009, the Greek-American newspaper, *The National Herald*, named Niki Woman of the Month calling her "the symbol of humanitarianism and philanthropy." 2009 also marks the 30th year of Niki's affiliation with the House as a volunteer and 20 years as Chairman of the Greek Division.

It is with great pleasure that RMDH of NY recognizes and honors the work of Niki Sideris and the Greek Division over the decades. "Very rarely do you meet a person like Niki," Julia Betzios says. "She's given her life to the House and she loves the kids. She's fantastic – nobody can beat her." ❁

The Vivian Harris Society



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK HAS INAUGURATED its *Vivian Harris Society* to honor our President Emeritus Vivian Harris. During her 26-year tenure as our founding President, Vivian nurtured our families and inspired staff. She was a tireless and gracious leader with uncommon vision.

The members of our *Vivian Harris Society* embody Vivian's triumphant spirit by recognizing the House in their Estate Plans. We invite you to join our *Vivian Harris Society* by making a gift to the House in your Estate or Retirement Plan.

If you are moved by the idea of becoming a member of our *Vivian Harris Society*, please contact Patrick Lenz, Director of Major Gifts, at 212.639.0600 or plenz@rmdh.org, to set up time to discuss how to arrange a gift that best fits the needs of your own beneficiaries, your goals for asset protection, generational wealth transfer along with the tax-saving implications and a gift to the House. A discussion never places you under obligation.

ELIGIBLE GIFTS FOR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

Charitable Bequest: A gift in your Will is the simplest way to remember our House in your Estate Plan. There is no lifetime cost and your estate may qualify for a charitable deduction.

Life Insurance: A life insurance policy you no longer need makes an excellent gift to the House. You may either designate the House as a beneficiary or grant us ownership of the policy.

Retirement and Pension Plans: RMDH of NY can be the beneficiary—or partial beneficiary—of your IRA, other retirement plans or pension plans. By using percentages that add up to 100, you have the ability to name the House as a recipient of funds from these plans after providing for your loved ones.

Life Income Gifts: There are several varieties of charitable trusts that pay lifetime income to you alone, or to you and a loved one. At your passing, what remains is a gift to the House.

Donate Your Airline Miles

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK NEEDS YOUR AIRLINE MILES!

As many of you know, most of the major airlines have now made it possible to donate your frequent flyer miles to recognized 501 (c) 3 organizations such as RMDH of NY.

When you donate your miles to us, you help support and maintain the programs of the House.

To donate your miles to RMDH of NY, please contact your airline's frequent flyer Program Manager. For other questions regarding your donation of miles to the House, please contact Joseph Guidetti, Chief Financial Officer, at 212.639.0900 or jguidetti@rmdh.org.



EVENTS

IMAGINE: TEAM RONALD MCDONALD FUNDRAISER



Image courtesy of The Central Park Conservancy

SPONSORED BY TEAM RONALD MCDONALD To purchase tickets, go to www.rmdh.org. Ticket price (\$100) includes Benefit admittance, food, open bar from 7:00 – 9:00 PM, special drinks, a silent auction, raffle and door prizes and a special gift bag for each attendee. Ticket price is fully tax deductible.

JUNE

16

IMAGINE

Our Children Without Cancer

A fundraiser to benefit Ronald McDonald House of New York

Union Square Ballroom
27 Union Square West
New York, NY 10003

Date: Tuesday,
June 16, 2009

Time: 6:30 – 11:00 PM

Location: Union Square
Ballroom



For more information on this event, please contact Helen Stafford,

Volunteer Manager,

at 212.639.0204 or

hstafford@rmdh.org and/or

Jef Campion, Event

Chairperson, at 914.760.0611

or camp303@aol.com.

SAVE
the DATE

Mark your calendar with these upcoming RMDH fundraising events you won't want to miss.

Imagine: Team Ronald McDonald Fundraiser

Date: June 16, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Union Square
Ballroom

RMDH of NY Second Annual Block Party

Date: Autumn 2009

Time: 11 AM

Location: East 73rd Street between
1st and York Avenues

Monday Night Football with the New York Giants

Date: Autumn 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Giants' Stadium
(Tentative)

OCTOBER

6

CHILDREN'S HAPPY FACES FOUNDATION ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

FOR THE THIRD YEAR, THE CHILDREN'S HAPPY FACES FOUNDATION PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK. The day includes Brunch, Golf (two shotguns: 12:00 Noon and 1:00 PM), Tennis, Squash, Dominoes, a Golf Clinic, Cocktails, Dinner, Auctions and Awards. The Children's Happy Faces Foundation's mission is to assist the families of sick children during the difficult and challenging times they are faced with. "We strive to help create an atmosphere to allow for some happy moments and smiling faces to soften these stressful times."

To register, go to www.happyfacesgroup.com.

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Time: 9:30 AM Golf
Registration

Location: Sleepy Hollow
Country Club,
Sleepy Hollow, NY



For more information on this event, please contact Richard Martin, Director of Development, at 212.639.0206 or rmartin@rmdh.org.



ING NEW YORK CITY MARATHON



IF YOU SIGN UP TO RUN AS A FUNDRAISER FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF NEW YORK, NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE RUNNING IN ONE OF THE GREATEST RACES ON EARTH, you will be funding one of the most

important charities in New York City. When you sign up, you will be invited to a pasta dinner the evening before the event to meet the families that you will be running for. Your friends and family will have the opportunity to staff the RMDH of NY water stop at 73rd Street and First Avenue. You will also have access to our restrooms on race day and refreshments on our Third Floor Terrace. Our top fundraisers will also be invited to a bagel breakfast and will receive transportation to the starting point on the morning of the race.

Visit our website, www.rmdh.org, to sign up to be a fundraiser for the House.

If you are already registered to run in the Marathon, please visit www.rmdh.org and click on the Marathon fundraiser link to create your own personal fundraising page. From there you can invite your friends and family to support you and RMDH of NY.

NOVEMBER

1

Date: Sunday, November 1, 2009

Time: 6:00 AM through afternoon

Location: Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island and RMDH of NY



For more information on this event, please contact Michael Ballew, Development Officer, at 212.639.0209 or mballew@rmdh.org.

Children's Happy Faces Foundation Golf Outing

Date: October 6, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM Registration

Location: Sleepy Hollow
Country Club, Sleepy
Hollow, NY

Wine, Women & Shoes

Date: Mid-October 2009

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: TBA

ING New York City Marathon, Team Ronald McDonald

Date: November 1, 2009

Time: 6:00 AM

Location: Meet at RMDH of NY

Kids' Charity Fun Run

Date: November 7, 2009

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Central Park,
7th Avenue at
59th Street



Meet Ber

The bad news is Ber is battling Neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer of the sympathetic nervous system. In the past 18 months, Ber has received chemotherapy, radiation, surgery and a number of harrowing antibody treatments. The good news is he's recovering.

The force behind Ber's recovery is his top-notch team of doctors in New York City. Thanks to Ronald McDonald House of New York, Ber and his family can live in a safe, clean and affordable home-away-from-home whenever he needs to be close to his medical team. Being so close to that cool Star Wars game in the House's playroom doesn't hurt, either.

Ronald McDonald House of New York is independently owned and operated. We ask families to pay a nominal fee of \$35 per night, far less than the \$270 it costs us to house each family, each night. We provide family rooms, kitchens, a library, computer rooms, a playroom, tutoring, professionally supervised activities and transportation services. More importantly, we provide a loving and compassionate environment where children are children first and foremost. Besides, that Star Wars game won't play itself!



**RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE NEW YORK**

With your help, we can continue to provide services to Ber and all of the other children and families who need us during one of the most stressful and frightening experiences of their lives.

Ronald McDonald House is a 501 (c) 3 charity accredited by the Better Business Bureau. Through generous donations from individuals like you, we can continue to cover the majority of costs for these families.

Please help Ber and all of our children in their recovery! Make a donation today.

www.rmdh.org/donations.htm or call 212.639.0100

Ronald McDonald House of New York, Inc. 405 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021