



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Madison

Fall 2022

HEARTLINE



Parker and family



Red Shoe Soirée



Therapy dog visit



Volunteers packing Augie's Lunches with Love

2022: A Year of Hope and Inspiration

By Kelly Ruppel, Executive Director

RMHC-Madison has had a busy year supporting more children and families than ever in our 29-year history! We launched 2022 with a one-year strategic plan including two primary goals 1) solidifying our foundation with a newly renovated and expanded House and in light of the effect of COVID-19 on operations; and 2) increasing brand awareness and understanding in the community highlighting all of our programs.

In July, we fully opened the House to families, siblings, visitors, and tours again! For the first time since 2019, we are near full capacity most nights. At full capacity we now support 31 families in the House, four families in the Family Room at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Madison, and we continue to use partner hotels for families when our programs are full.

2022 has proven to be a year of hope and inspiration as we leaned into the continued uncertainty of COVID-19, allowing for innovation and resolve with new operational processes and procedures to better support our children and families. The mental strain of having a sick child during the uncertainty of COVID-19, coupled with the financial burden of having a child in the hospital has been hard for our families. Gas prices and inflation impact all families, but these are exponential challenges for families traveling long distances to care for their child. To meet this need, we formed numerous new partnerships within the business and nonprofit community to help provide support above and beyond the high quality night stay and meals.

Popular programs for families like "Dogs on Call" and "Art Therapy" are back, and our dinner program is booked with corporate and volunteer groups nearly seven nights a week. We relaunched and increased quality offerings for our Augie's Lunches with Love Program, providing on average 65 free lunches daily to families in the House and in AFCH, and restarted the van transportation program which now includes routes to Target and the grocery store. We have implemented a new front desk software system, recruited over 33 new volunteers, diversified the food selection, strengthened our communication and gift processing efforts with donors, translated all of our family communications into Spanish and so much more.

There is so much to be proud of this year. The Red Shoe Soiree & RMHC-Madison Golf Classic, and our Rock Valley Golf Classic both exceeded fundraising goals with record years! Our ability to provide high quality care is only made possible by all of you, our supporters. Thank you all for your resolve, perseverance, and innovation!



Connect with us!

Sign up for our **monthly e-newsletter** to read inspiring stories from our families and keep up to date with RMHC-Madison news.

Sign up at www.rmhcmadison.org or by checking the sign up box on the enclosed return envelope.

E-NEWS SIGN UP

Our Mission

The mission of RMHC is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. RMHC-Madison supports the critical needs of children through three core programs: Ronald McDonald House, Ronald McDonald Family Room and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

2021 Board of Directors

Board President:
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Wish List

Gift cards

Restaurants in our neighborhood (McDonald's, Subway, DQ, Panera, Noodles and Company, QDOBA, Pizza Hut, Glass Nickel Pizza)
Target
KwikTrip/BP/Shell/CITGO gas cards
Pick 'n Save
Walgreens

Cleaning Supplies

Disinfectant Wipes
Paper Towel Rolls
Liquid or Pod Laundry Detergent
Vinyl-Powder Free Gloves (XL Size)
Dishwashing Detergent (Finish Brand)
Swiffer Wet Jet (purple box) cleaning fluid and pads
Gallon/Quart/Sandwich/Snack Sized Ziploc Bags

Pantry Items

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Assorted Ind. Boxed Cereal | Spaghetti O's/Ravioli |
| Microwavable Soup Bowls | Planters NUT-rition Snack Packs |
| Kraft Easy Mac | Salty/Sweet Snack Packs |
| Ground Decaf and Regular Coffee | Reg. sized Peanut Butter |
| Granola Bars/Breakfast Bars | Reg. sized Jelly |
| Kraft Macaroni and Cheese | |
| Ind. serving sized bagged chips or pretzels | |

Travel Size Family Amenities

| | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Deodorant | Q-Tips |
| Toothpaste | Combs/Brushes |
| Floss | Hand Sanitizer |
| Kleenex | Shampoo and Conditioner |

Please deliver donated items to:
Ronald McDonald House, 2716 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705

Items in **red** are most needed. All donations must be new and in the original packaging. We cannot accept used or expired items. If you have a donation other than what is currently listed, please inquire before purchasing or donating by contacting us at 608-232-4660.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Scan QR code with
camera phone.



Wish List Drive

Cook a Meal

Donate

Host a Fundraiser

Volunteer

How to Help

www.rmhcmadison.org/get-involved

Contact Kristen Drake at kdrake@rmhcmadison.org
to get your fundraiser started.

FAMILY STORY: Beating the odds

Kingston was born in 2018, and after a 'bulge' appeared in his abdomen at three months old, his physician said they needed to go to American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. There, he was diagnosed with congenital nephrotic syndrome, a rare kidney disorder. That was the beginning of a long unpredictable journey for Tommy and Kingston with a nearly two-year stay in the hospital and the gift of a new kidney in June 2022.

"For nearly a year, I never left his side. I lived in the ICU and slept in a chair," said Tommy. The nurses tried to convince Tommy to stay at the Ronald McDonald House knowing that he needed to care for himself so that he could take care of Kingston. Tommy finally decided to visit the Ronald McDonald House when Kingston was moved out of the ICU into general care.

"The first time I laid down on the bed at the Ronald McDonald House I felt like I was falling," said Tommy. "I had to grab the bed. My equilibrium must have been off from not fully laying down for months. I did not realize the damage that had been done by not really sleeping in the hospital."

With a new kidney, Tommy and the medical team noticed remarkable changes in Kingston. He is getting stronger every day.

Read Kingston's full story: www.rmhcmadison.org/Kingston



Kingston and his dad Tommy

"The Ronald McDonald House feels like coming home. When you are there, they keep it simple."

- Tommy,
Kingston's dad

SUPPORTERS: 2022 Events

Rock Valley Golf Classic

Nearly a hundred golfers gathered for the 26th Rock Valley Golf Classic, many who have played for more than a decade. An estimated \$1 million has been raised since its inception, and this summer, Chuck Elliott – committee member since the beginning – saw his dream of raising \$100,000 in a single year realized.

Golfers listened to Christa Lehman of Edgerton, who shared their Family Room experience while her youngest daughter was in St. Mary's Hospital NICU for a month. That evening, golfers raised their paddles and hearts high to help reach an extraordinary milestone and teed us up for success.

Red Shoes Step Up

RMHC-Madison keeps its doors open for families through events like the 33rd Annual RMHC-Madison Golf Classic | Red Shoe Soirée, making it possible to offer comfortable rooms, warm meals, and caring staff and volunteers when families need it most.

The Red Shoe Soiree reached new heights this year raising more than \$275,000, with a weather-delayed golf outing yet to be played. Friends we have known for more than 30 years and others new to the family came out to keep our mission thriving.

The Hancocks' journey to find medical answers for their daughter has meant traveling more than 100,000 miles over the past 13 years. Since Lucy's diagnosis with Parry Romberg Syndrome (PRS) at birth, Jodie and Nick have searched the globe from their home in Australia to Madison for a cure. Parents and siblings will tell you that staying together, even celebrating birthdays and holidays at the House, is what makes it not only bearable, but an essential part of their recovery process.



Ronald McDonald Care Mobile at the Rock Valley Golf Classic



Lucy and family at Red Shoe Soirée



Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Madison

2716 Marshall Court, Madison, WI 53705
608-232-4660



Visit rmhcmadison.org to support our mission by donating, volunteering, or joining our online community.



Heart Wall Tiles

Honor your family, loved one
or friend and help create a

wall of love

featured in
Hope Park.



LEARN
MORE
Scan with
phone camera



Fill Hope Park with Love

Just steps from the Ronald McDonald House, Hope Park is a beautiful space for guest families to recharge. The Heart Wall features colorful tiles with messages of love and inspiration, honoring families, volunteers and friends of the mission.

Purchase your tile by Oct. 28 and help us fill the wall with goodness.