



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES®

Knoxville | 2025

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It was an absolutely perfect evening as guests gathered at Cherokee Country Club on April 25th to help us celebrate our 40th birthday. Over 200 people joined us & Lori Tucker from WATE-TV for the celebration as they enjoyed perusing the fifty-plus auction items, purchasing "mystery" bottles of vino for the wine pull, and watching vintage footage from March 8, 1985, our opening date, making it the first Ronald McDonald House in Tennessee.

Dinner started out with a "bang" as guests who purchased one of the 40 gold balloons, popped them simultaneously, revealing the prize within. While dining, attendees were deeply touched by the moving testimonial given by Brenda Sprinkle of Abingdon, VA, who along with husband Chuck, utilized our House over fifty times while their daughter Bailey, who was one of triplets, was being treated for health issues, including Cystic Fibrosis at a nearby hospital.

We're deeply grateful to our chairperson, Cindy Mayfield, for her inspired leadership and for gathering such caring and talented committee members who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's overwhelming success.

We were able to raise over \$200,000 and proceeds will help underwrite the expense to upgrade and update both of our exterior playgrounds and the playroom at the main House. We so dearly appreciate the myriad of sponsors, donors, and those in attendance for their loving support and hope they can envision little ones staying with us who will soon be able to enjoy the new & improved play spaces for years to come.

Special thanks to our wonderful event sponsors!

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McDonald's, Harold E. Elkins, CPA,
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Bronze Sponsors - Coca-Cola,
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Will & Becca Edwards.

Family Focus: The Clarks



The Smoky Mountain area of East Tennessee is a mecca for tourists seeking peace, relaxation, and the chance to enjoy Mother Nature's finery. And that's exactly what brought Randy and Mylene Clark to the area from Columbia, SC in January. Little did they know that their stay would be extended as the expectant Mother's water broke at only 26 weeks, necessitating a hospital stay. Social workers arranged for the proud papa-to-be to stay at our House while tending to his wife as medical staff were trying to postpone the baby's birth as long as possible. Then, at 30 weeks, a very handsome Justice W. Clark, who was obviously very anxious to meet his parents, was born on February 20.

Weighing in at only 3# 4oz, Mom & Dad realized they'd be in Knoxville awhile & began to settle into a comfortable routine. "The emotional distress, physical fatigue, and the financial obligations would have been unimaginable without the House. It was truly a blessing from God," said the Clarks.

One happy memory the couple shared was the ability to have a "virtual" baby shower here since the "in-person" one had to be cancelled due to baby Justice's unexpected arrival. In the meantime, the new parents have gotten into a daily pattern of hospital visits and making certain that Mom is getting the rest she needs. Meeting and having the chance to visit & share with other families in residence has also been one facet of life at the RMH that has proved to be valuable to the Clarks. They went on to say, "Our hearts are full & overjoyed with gratitude when we think about the House and the thoughtfulness of every aspect, especially the staff. It is rare to meet a staff that genuinely embodies the values and mission of the organization."

While everyone working at the House will greatly miss this very special family, we join them in keeping fingers crossed that they'll be home by May. Here's hoping that Justice's wardrobe will include a piece or two of "Big Orange" clothing as a memento of his time spent in the Volunteer state! (Note: Happily, the Clark family was able to return home on April 18th... But we miss them so!)

RMH Golf Tournament



Let us describe a perfect day... sunshine, great food, even better camaraderie, a beautiful golf course, AND more importantly, the opportunity of helping families in need. One hundred-thirty golfers got to experience that perfection on September 5th at Egwani Farms, raising over \$90,000 to support our House. The event wouldn't have happened without the caring support of.....

Platinum sponsors: Cochran Family McDonald's, E TN Children's Hospital, Eric & Emily Cochran, Martin Bower Co, Pilot Company, Scooter Foods, Tom Cochran, UT Medical Center; Silver sponsors: AFS Repairs, Broadway Carpets/Shaw Flooring, Burger Family McDonald's, Cumulus Media, First Horizon, Hailey Management, Knoxville Pediatric Assoc, La-Z-Boy, Pinnacle, Rice Buick, GMC, Texas Roadhouse, The Hudson Co; Bronze sponsors: Andy Huddleston, Brown Bag, Geoff Johnson, Joanne & Kirk Huddleston, John Sheridan, Ted Flickinger, Mayfield & Sons, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Proffitt & Sons, Rackley Roofing, Team Cates, Team O'Kelley; and our Patrons: Cherokee Distributing, Egwani Farms, Enterprise Print Group, Shoffner Kalthoff, MES, Superior Steel and 3 Rivers Radio Group.



You must not miss out on this year's fun, so please make plans to join us on September 4th once again at Egwani. Online registration will open in May.... And we hope to see you there!!



**Car
Donation
Program**

You know that aging car in your driveway that the kids don't want & is just taking up space? Well, there's a win-win scenario to help both you & our House. Just call 855/ 227-7435 or go to rmhc.careasy.org/home to donate that car, truck, motorcycle, or even a boat or trailer. Your vehicle will be towed away for free, and you will receive not only a tax receipt, but also the knowledge that your gift will help support families in need. It couldn't be easier!

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Thank you to Medic for making a donation of \$4,685, resulting from their "Skip The Gift" promotion. And in addition last year, they brought a bountiful meal for our families to enjoy!!

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Any thoughts of our dreary winter were dispelled the moment guests walked into Stanley's Greenhouse as they were met with the sights and fragrances of spring. A capacity crowd was on hand for the February 7th event that included a wide array of wines to sample, delectable food, and shopping... all while listening to live music. What could be better? Many thanks to the throngs of volunteers that helped execute the event, including the lovely ladies of Akima as nearly \$15,000 was raised during the 2-hour event.





Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau members from across the region have supported our House & our guests for years now, coming annually with truckloads of food to stock our pantry and fridges, gift cards to grocery stores, and even monetary donations. We are always happily overwhelmed with their generosity and this year was no exception as these kind-hearted friends blessed us with a bounty of over \$9,300 in goods on March 21st. A new family's second question upon check-in after asking, "Where is our room?" is "What's to eat?" And thanks to Farm Bureau, the answer is "Plenty!!"

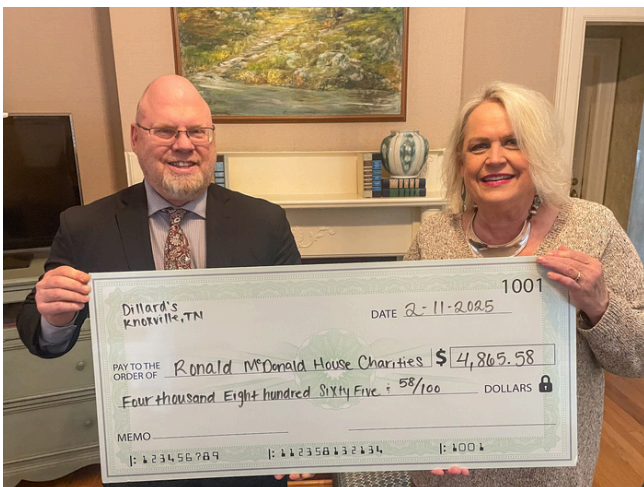
ChocolateFest

Chocolate in every shape, form, and fashion could be found at ChocolateFest, held on January 25 at the Jacob Building. Once again, Right Brain Productions "adopted" our House, giving us a percentage of the general admission, which was nearly \$2,100, and we couldn't be more grateful. Is there such a thing as too much chocolate?!! We think not!!!!



Dillard's

Dillard's is so much more than simply the premier place to shop in Knoxville... it's a store with a heart for helping. One way in which they give back to their community is by selling Southern Living Cookbooks each fall, with the proceeds benefiting our wonderful House. Shawn Ulrich, the store's GM, came to visit us recently, bringing a check for \$4,865. Many thanks to his staff for their diligence in selling them, and to the loyal, caring customers that purchase them each and every year.



Timken Foundation



We were happily overwhelmed when Tony Koesters and Mallory Hinchey from Timken approached us regarding a possible gift from The Timken Foundation to fund a capital expense.

For quite some time, we'd been considering the installation of wrought iron fencing along one-side of our property to quell illegal parking and trespassing. We were absolutely delighted to learn that we were approved, and thanks to their \$37,575 gift, we've had the fencing installed and have seen a huge reduction in issues we'd been having, while also knowing that our families & their vehicles were more secure. We are beyond grateful for the Foundation's caring support!!

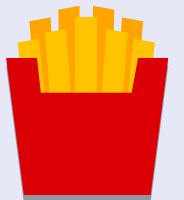


McDonald's Ongoing Support

Supporting our House while enjoying a meal at McDonald's has never been easier. In 2024, over \$381,527 was raised by initiatives such as the Round-Up program where customers could "round up" their purchase to the nearest dollar, or even just drop their spare change in the canisters.



To help us even more, McDonald's donates one cent from every Happy Meal sold and a penny for every pound of French fries, too? Can anyone resist those fries?? We think not!!



And as if that was not enough, from February 4th through March 23 this year, McDonald's throughout the U.S. sold Shamrock Shakes, with RMH's receiving 25 cents for each one purchased raising an incredible \$8,980 this year. There could never be enough "thank-yous" to ever thank the restaurants and their owners for all they have done & continue to do for us.



ADPI's Support

Oftentimes if you think of a sorority, it brings to mind a whirl of social gatherings, parties, & rush activities. But ADPI is so much more than that. Since the first Ronald McDonald House opened over 50 years ago in Philadelphia, this organization has so beautifully been involved with Houses throughout the U.S. and members have graciously given of their time and resources to support them. At our local House, we feel doubly blessed having not only the UT chapter involved with us, but the TN Tech chapter as well. From their weekly visits to cook & clean, to raising funds (which amounted to \$55,600 last year) as well as assisting with our fund-raisers, these dear girls are always there for us and we couldn't be more grateful.



KFI Event



This year, we're not only celebrating 40 years of service in our community, but 40 years of friendship as well. In 1985, Keys Fillauer and some of his college buddies, got together to play some golf and had a couple hundred dollars left in the "kitty" afterwards, which they donated to our newly opened House. Thankfully for us, it was just the beginning of a fruitful association that is still going strong!!

From that humble golf game sprang the idea to incorporate as a 501C-3 that would solely support our RMH, which was accomplished. They then created a signature event that evolved from a golf tournament with a cocktail party & dinner, into a fundraiser that also included a dinner, with an auction component along with live entertainment. Not only did the 2024 event raise a record-breaking \$52,090, but a phenomenal milestone was also reached as the KFI not only hit, but exceeded, the million dollar mark with a 39 year total of \$1,021,345... This year will be the final KFI event which will take place on August 2nd at the Doubletree in Oak Ridge, featuring the legendary Motowners. But not to fret as our dear supporters have another idea or two up their sleeves to continue their involvement with us. Thankfully, we've not heard the last from these devoted friends that have become like family!!



Parrothead Club Luau



What better way to spend a summer's day than listening to live trop-rock music, perhaps sipping a refreshing beverage or two, playing volleyball, while dining, and enjoying the company of fellow Parrotheads? Last year's event raised an amazing \$7,500 for us, a record that members of the East TN Parrothead Club would like to break in 2025. Please join the crowd on June 18th & 19th at the Little River Campground in Townsend, TN for some "fun in the sun!"

Kid's Helping Kids

Never under-estimate what young children can do to help others. The second-graders at Concord Christian School held another Christmas Bazaar, hand-crafting items for sale, raising an impressive \$3,880 for our benefit. Incredible, isn't it??!!



Equally incredible were the efforts of children attending Child Creations Child Care Center as owner, Debbie Snyder & her team, hosted a Trike-A-Thon for us last spring that made \$5,431. It just goes to show that children are never too young to help those in need!



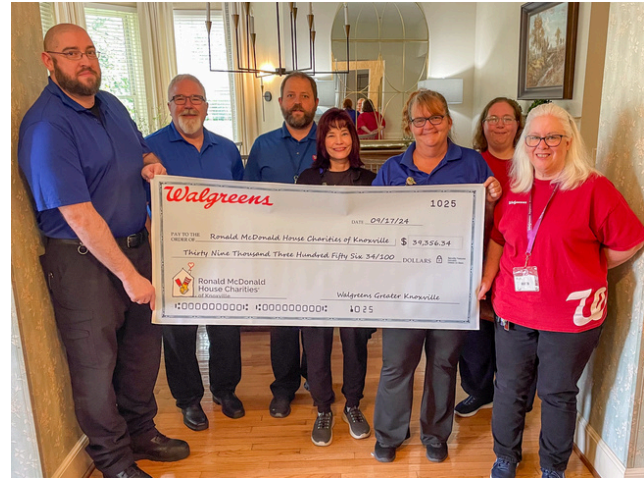
Somehow, in addition to keeping Knoxvilleians safe, the Knoxville Firefighters Association Local 65 also finds time to raise money to support local charities, with our House being one of the fortunate recipients for a number of years now. Last fall, association president, Larry McAfee, stopped by, bringing a check for \$10,000. Talk about a day brightener!!! We were & still are happily overcome not only by their member's bravery, but by their generosity & compassion as well.

Knoxville Firefighters Association



For the most part, requests to an area business for support is initiated by our staff or a Board member. Therefore, we were absolutely “over the moon” when Dan Walsh, a District Manager for Walgreen’s, reached out to us, asking if they could create a round-up program to benefit our House. The answer was a resounding, YES! For several weeks last June, customers were asked if they would like to “round-up” their purchase to benefit our RMH. They truly took our mission to heart as we were presented with a check for an astounding \$39,356, but that’s not all. Walgreen’s employees from various locations have been coming to the House to volunteer ever since the promotion. Such amazing new friends!!

Walgreens



Ice Bears

We're so very grateful to the Knoxville Ice Bears for initiating a can recycling program during their home games that has turned “trash into cash” for us.

Members of the Farragut Ladies Society honored our House by selecting us to be the focus of their volunteering and fundraising efforts last year, culminating with a formal dinner party at Fox Den Country Club on August 10th. Prior to the dinner, many members volunteered here with us, unafraid to tackle the formidable “honey-do” list we’d prepared. \$18,257 was raised much to our delight.... And their caring members have continued volunteering in 2025. FLS is a non-profit organization that was founded to recognize women involved and invested in the Farragut area, while supporting local charities, like ours.

Farragut Ladies Society



Local 102's Golf Event



What a happy surprise it was when Gabrielle Love, with Local 102 Plumbers & Pipefitters, called us last spring, saying that their organization was hosting a golf tournament and wanted to donate the proceeds to our House. She & her fellow employees, who worked tirelessly to make it all happen, soon became our new best friends! Scores of golfers, ready for a great day on the links, gathered at Three Rivers Golf Club with the end result being a check presented to us for an incredible \$33,025.

Key Club Support

We're especially delighted when organizations continue their association on an ongoing basis... like area Key Clubs. For 30 years now, clubs from across the region have adopted our cause as their own. For instance, they have prepared meals for our guests, come to clean and do yardwork (even during the summer months!), and assisted in fundraising, such as the Bearden Club that sells parking spaces at the House during UT home football games. What would we do without them??!!



Casual Pint

Casual Pint hosted a "Tap4Good" event at their Northshore location last fall, donating a portion of their sales from their 4th tap which raised an impressive \$1,945. These kind-hearted folks want to partner with us once again in June, so be on the lookout for updates on our website & social media.

