Annual Report 2013

TOGETHER
TO GET HER
Ronald McDonald House Houston offers a home away from home providing care, compassion and hope to families with seriously ill children being treated in Texas Medical Center member institutions.
Dear Friends:

When your child becomes critically ill, finding a cure becomes your primary focus. Things like where to sleep and eat fall by the wayside. Every year, thousands of families come through our doors seeking a quiet respite from childhood illness, and we are proud to offer them a home away from home. Since welcoming our first family 32 years ago, we have received help from many caring and compassionate supporters. Thank you all for all you do for the families at RMH Houston!

Our programs include three Houses and five Family Rooms. At each of our locations throughout the Texas Medical Center, families find not only rest, snacks and meals, but other families with whom they can share their journey through childhood illness.

“I never fully understood all that RMH Houston did until spending one month at Texas Children’s Hospital. Thank you for being there!!” said one mom at a Texas Children’s Family Room.

In 2013, we added our first Family Room inside MD Anderson Children’s Cancer Hospital which includes two bedrooms. Through our now five existing Family Rooms we touched the lives of over 28,760 families. Additionally, our three House programs, totaling 84 bedrooms, provided 27,820 night stays to 4,474 families in 2013.

Without your support, we wouldn’t have been able to touch so many lives last year. We would not have been able to provide a home away from home for so many, and we would not have been able to help so many families seek a healthy future for their child. Thank you for making our mission a reality!

Sincerely,

Greg Looser
Board President
Ronald McDonald House Houston

“The RMH is an absolute blessing! Not only the staff, but the other families that stayed here, treated us like family. It was an experience we will never forget and forever be grateful for!”

- Holcombe House family
"Thank you!
You made it easy to
stay close to our child."
- TCH parents

For more than three decades, Ronald McDonald House Houston has provided
a home away from home for families as they seek a cure for their child’s
life threatening illness. The families we serve come from all walks of
life and represent different cultural and economic backgrounds, but all
share the common bond of having a seriously ill child. RMH Houston
offers welcoming, home-like environments for them at several locations.
HOLCOMBE HOUSE
A 50-bedroom house located in the Texas Medical Center provides a welcome place to stay, often for extended periods, for families and children.

- Private rooms with two queen-sized beds and a private bathroom, some rooms with a handicap accessible bathroom
- Shared kitchens, special needs kitchen, dining room, living areas, play areas and a laundry facility
- An HISD-accredited one-room school
- Activities for children and parents provided by local corporations and organizations
- Transportation to hospitals and grocery stores
- 16,583 nights of lodging to more than 519 different families in 2013

THE HOUSE INSIDE CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL (CMHH)
Offers a short-term home for families with children being treated in either the Neonatal Intensive Care or the Pediatric Intensive Care Units at the hospital.

- 14 private sleep/nap rooms with bathrooms
- Communal kitchens and laundry facility
- Family lounge on the 8th floor serving the Neonatal Special Care Unit and the Pediatric Wing
- In partnership with CMHH and its Care By Parent Program, families that qualify room-in with their infant for several days prior to release in order to learn the child’s special care needs before going home
- 4,124 night stays to 1,399 families in 2013

OUR FAMILY ROOMS
Is our newest addition to the RMH Houston network, located on the pediatric floor

- 16 private sleep/nap rooms with bathrooms
- Communal kitchens and laundry facility
- Family lounge on the 8th floor serving the Neonatal Special Care Unit and the Pediatric Wing
- In partnership with CMHH and its Care By Parent Program, families that qualify room-in with their infant for several days prior to release in order to learn the child’s special care needs before going home
- 4,124 night stays to 1,399 families in 2013

At Ronald McDonald House Houston, families find comfort, encouragement and support from volunteers, staff and other families who share similar experiences during an unimaginably difficult time in their lives. RMH Houston is able to provide these services because of the generous gifts of time and financial support provided by individuals, companies, and foundations throughout the Houston community.
75% of Ronald McDonald Holcombe House expenses come from programs to support families through a variety of activities.

75% of RMH Houston’s Holcombe House revenue comes from families staying at the House. The House relies on generous help from individuals, corporations and foundations to help cover the costs of providing a home away from home for the children and families we serve.

Almost half of the Holcombe House families are from outside of the state, while our hospital facilities lodge primarily Houston and Texas residents.

Almost half of the Holcombe House provides, on average, 43 night stays per family while most other similar facilities only average of 20 night stays per family.

Holcombe House
Children’s Diagnosis

Almost half

45%
Hematology/Oncology

12%
Heart

5%
Transplant

10%
Antepartum

6%
Premature

22%
Other Diagnosis

of the families staying at the Holcombe House have children who are fighting cancer.
THE FAMILIES

Families come from all over the world to seek treatment in the Texas Medical Center. We are proud to offer a safe and loving environment to all families of children facing a life threatening condition.

“Thank you for providing shelter, food, and fellowship during the most difficult time of our lives. We have cherished the friends we met during our stay here. That support and friendship has helped us through. Thanks to the RMH employees and volunteers for all you do for children.”

– Holcombe House mom
MEET
Noadiah.

Her infectious laughter rings throughout the play room at the Holcombe House. “Come look at the Barbie dress I made for you!” exclaims Noadiah, with a big grin on her face. She’s often seen around the House drawing on her iPad and playing with the other children.

Noadiah is five years old and just walked for the first time in March of 2013. She, her mother Michelle, and her grandmother came to Ronald McDonald House Houston from Jamaica, seeking help for her club foot. For reasons unknown to her doctors, Noadiah was born with defects to her hands and feet. She has only two fingers on one hand, and a small nub where her other hand should be. Between her two feet, she had only six toes.

While she stayed at RMH Houston, Noadiah had one leg amputated to the knee, was fitted with a prosthetic leg, and had surgery on her club foot. She learned to walk for the first time with the use of her new leg, and became friends with all the other families here. She is a special little girl that can brighten anyone’s day.

Noadiah and her family returned home to Jamaica at the beginning of April 2013. Before leaving, her mother told us how thankful she was for RMH Houston, and how comforting it was to have other families with whom she could talk and pray. “Before leaving, her mother told us how thankful she was for RMH Houston, and how comforting it was to have other families with whom she could talk and pray.”

To help Noadiah and other families like hers, donate now.
Hundreds of children and families come through the doors of our Texas Children’s Hospital locations each year. We hear many stories about how our House and four Family Rooms there provide the comforts of home for the worried parents and friends. One family decided they wanted to give back to these programs that they used when their 18-year-old son was diagnosed with leukemia.

In September of 2007, David was a freshman on a baseball scholarship at the University of Houston. He was actively volunteering with his team for Dr. ZoAnn Dryer at Texas Children’s Hospital when he himself received the bad news. David overcame leukemia and has been in remission since January 2011. He is active in the Snowdrop Foundation and Young Texans Against Cancer, and his family continues to give back to the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Texas Children’s Hospital.

In the words of David’s mom, Ellen, “The Family Room at TCH made a huge difference for our family whenever David needed to be admitted or was there for a check-up. It was not only a place to get coffee, tea, and snacks, but also a place where we met other families who were going through the same thing.” When David was first diagnosed, this was a big comfort for them. The Family Room is “absolutely wonderful,” says Ellen. Without it, she isn’t sure she would have ever met other families at the hospital, some of whom she is still friends with today.

To help other families like David’s, donate now.
“Words cannot describe the load that was lifted because of RMH.”
- TCH family

The donors listed above have contributed $5,000 or more.

*Thank you so much to all of our donors who have helped make our mission possible.

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“The thing that we love most about RMH is we were never treated as a stranger. It has and always will be our HOME AWAY FROM HOME.”

– TCH family

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We are so thankful for everything RMH Houston provided us. A beautiful home, delicious food, and warm friendship! We will forever be appreciative for the love and support shown to us while here.

- Holcombe House family