2020 = Hope

BENEFITING

Ronald McDonald House
Houston

Keeping families close

SPIRIT OF HOPE LUNCHEON IS NOW VIRTUAL

connect with us

BEGINNING MAY 6TH AT 11:30 A.M.

VISIT OUR EVENT SITE RMHHOUSTON.ORG/SPRITOFHOPE

VIA PHONE, TABLET OR DESKTOP

Thank you to Hilton Americas - Houston for working with us in a time of need.
We would like to thank you all for joining us for this virtual Spirit of Hope Luncheon. In the midst of the Coronavirus crisis, Ronald McDonald House Houston’s mission of “offering a home away from home providing care, compassion and hope to families with seriously ill children being treated in Texas Medical Center member institutions” is more important than ever.

In 2019, Ronald McDonald House Houston helped thousands of families across its various Houston locations. Today we celebrate and congratulate the dedicated volunteers who have made that possible: Trafigura, Friendswood Development Company, and Houston Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi.

Even – or perhaps especially! – in the midst of this pandemic, we are pleased to report that thanks to the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our donors far and wide, the time and talents of our volunteers, and support from all of you, the Spirit of Hope is alive and well.

Again, thank you to all of you for everything you do to support this great cause. We hope you will take a few minutes to check out the virtual luncheon and listen to the inspiring message from our speaker, Cole Dawson.

ERIN AND SHANE KIMZEY
SPIRIT OF HOPE CHAIRS
Even at age 57, Cole Dawson knows what it feels like to be a young adult who is sick. He remembers the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual rollercoaster that accompanies serious illnesses. When he was 23, in April 1986, he was diagnosed with acute lymphocyte leukemia (ALL). He was treated with a bone marrow transplant and chemotherapy at MD Anderson. He was cured. Thirty-two years later, the impact of his chemo treatment caused his heart to enlarge and impair its pumping function. He moved into Methodist Hospital on June 27, 2018 and waited to receive a donor heart. His faith, his positivity, his family and his friends supported him on this journey. He is back chasing a schedule he has not known in over 25 years. He is a real Ronald McDonald House hero.

Reflecting on not one critical health journey, but two, Cole will share his story about being sick and then waiting for the donor heart. This is a story about an invincible support system and his relentless optimism. This is a story our Ronald McDonald House Houston families live every day.

For seven years in the 1990’s, Cole served on the RMH Houston Board of Directors. Today, Cole is an investment advisor, a real estate investor and making up for lost time with golf, tennis and skiing. Earlier in his career, he was with Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and Salomon Brothers. Cole founded the Gulf States Chapter of Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO) and is active in his community.

Cole graduated from Stanford Business School, and Washington & Lee University, where he was President of the Student Body and Chairman of the Honor System. He is a third-generation Houstonian, graduated from St. John’s.
Often, the strongest partnerships with Ronald McDonald House Houston are forged because a critically ill child and his family need immediate support. This is, indeed, how Trafigura and later, the Trafigura Foundation, became one of our most significant supporters. In 2009, an employee from Trafigura’s Houston office had a newborn who needed emergency care at Texas Children’s Hospital. The Trafigura team rallied around the family, brought them meals and supported them while they stayed inside the hospital. Ronald McDonald House Houston’s staff and volunteers inside the hospital were pivotal sources of comfort. Mom and Dad needed to stay close to their son during his most critical days.

After the crisis, Trafigura asked how they could give back to the House. It was a natural fit to start a fun run! The first committee included Trafigura staff and others who benefited from the House. Since the initial Trafigura Run for the House in 2010, over $4.6 million has been raised, thanks to the generous matching funds from the Trafigura Foundation. In addition to helping plan our annual Trafigura Run for the House, their staff has served meals and hosts family activities at our 70 bedroom Holcombe House.

Trafigura is an independent, employee-owned physical trading and logistics business. Today, Trafigura continues to have a lasting impact on Ronald McDonald House Houston. We are grateful for the generosity of Trafigura’s support, and the continued commitment of their employees to support our children and families.

Friendswood Development Company has faithfully supported RMH Houston since 2008. They exemplify the RMH Houston mission to offer a home away from home providing care, compassion and hope to families with seriously ill children being treated in Texas Medical Center member institutions, as demonstrated by their loyal commitment to our families. When given the opportunity to get involved with RMH Houston, it was an easy choice for Friendswood, considering one of their colleagues used the house as a child.

Being able to personally connect with families and children, see them smile and brighten their day inspires these loyal and dedicated volunteers. In 2017, Friendswood Development Company participated in the RMH Houston inaugural Spirit of Hope Luncheon. In addition to their generous financial support, the Friendswood team hosts monthly activities including meals, craft activities, mini carnivals, and even hot chocolate bars. Friendswood Development Company plays an integral role in keeping families close.

For more than 57 years, Friendswood Development Company has been creating and perfecting the concept of the master-planned community. Today, Friendswood Development Company offers communities spanning from the north to the south areas of the Houston market, with prices ranging from the high $100,000s to more than $1 million.
The Houston Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi has been committed to serving their international charity, Ronald McDonald House Charities, by working with our Houston chapter since 1982. They have supported Ronald McDonald House Houston at Texas Children’s Hospital with breakfast monthly, brought the holiday spirit by decorating Holcombe House during the Christmas season, volunteered at the Santa Store, and served meals to our families.

Houston Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi contributed $105,000 to our Behind Every Door Capital Campaign in 2017. They are very committed to helping us provide a home away from home. Over the years, these women have given their time, talent and money to support the children and their families at RMH Houston.

The Houston Alumnae Association of Alpha Delta Pi strives to provide an atmosphere where friendships develop, grow and mature; where service to the community is valued; and where personal development for alumnae as well as collegians is enhanced.

Every day, corporations, organizations and individual donors bring hope and happiness to Ronald McDonald House Houston through their direct service to our children and families. Volunteers help set the tone for the compassionate support our children and families experience. We applaud the 573 individual volunteers who contributed 27,687 hours of service in 2019. In addition, 314 unique group volunteers sponsored 612 activities and provided 747 meals to the families. Baking cookies, greeting families at check-in, hosting meals and activities: these acts of compassion and love truly make our House a home away from home. THANK YOU to all of our volunteers for being an integral part of our team!

Please take a minute to click the donate button on our Spirit of Hope webpage or text2give. Text2give is easy. Text RMHH2020 to 243725. After sending, you will receive a link to make a secure donation to the Ronald McDonald House Houston.
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