

# HOUSE HAPPENINGS

*A Newsletter for the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston Family*



February in Galveston can be mild or cold or even colder. A January snowstorm brought blustery cold, windy weather to Galveston, but our House is always warmed by the love showered on it by our staff, volunteers and supporters. Thanks to our donors who contributed to our 2024 Annual Appeal, and to the Sullivan Brothers Companies who donated the printing costs. Thanks to all of you, our Ronald McDonald House Galveston Family, for bringing our children and families the warmth of your love and support!

## Happy Birthday

- 2/4 - Cynthia Tarr
- 2/13 - Dave Lewis
- 2/21 - Janie Puentes
- 2/28 - Kayle Rodriguez



## Around the House in January



The Temple Emanuel Christian Church COM (Community Outreach Ministry) above, under the direction of Director Marabel Bailon, provided and served dinner for our families. Our families were also treated to warm, comforting meals in January by El Nopalito Restaurant, the Cosmic Cookers, the Broadway Church of Christ, The Moore Sisters, Drs. Pat Lanier and Bill Posnick, Maryellen Leduc, the Galveston Rotary Club, United We Stand, the First Baptist Church, the Brick Family, Layers of Love, Vera Carmona, the Galveston Lions Club, and the National Charity League.

Santa Gonzalez worked her magic with haircuts and hair styles while the families were treated to Hot Cocoa and Dessert. The Galveston Art Center came several times bringing out the artistic talents of our children and families.



Bingo! The smiles tell it all and everyone's a winner as Paula Friesner and Lydia Polio hosted a Bingo session to start the New Year. Thanks to Sheryl and Michael Bridge for their gifts.



It's cold outside, but The Donnie Standley Legacy Foundation literally warmed our families in this cool weather by delivering gently used winter coats, pajamas, and slippers. Thanks to family members Donna Standley, daughters Crystal Almanza, husband Anthony and sons Case and Colt; Lindsey Fruge, husband Quinton and sons Kipp and Cooper. Our children and family guests, who often arrive in Galveston with only the clothes on their backs, were very grateful. Thanks to this loving family!





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Robert Wright is one of our newest volunteers. We are so pleased to have him! Here's his story.

Hello, my name is Robert Wright. I'm from Sugar Land, Texas, and I graduated from the University of Houston. Currently, I work as a rehabilitation aide for outpatient physical and occupational therapy at UTMB. In my free time, I'm also a part-time real estate

investor looking to one day take on the title full time in. As of right now I'm single and don't have a family, but I'm the oldest of three siblings back home. I don't have any pets, but if I were to get one, I'd probably choose a Rottweiler or Great Dane puppy.

Some of my favorite activities include exercising and golfing. I particularly enjoy golfing because I'm currently participating in amateur tournaments in Texas.

The reason I became involved with the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston was my grandma! One day, we were on the phone, and I mentioned that I wanted to get more involved in my community here. She told me that she volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House location near her church. That's when I remembered that there's a Ronald McDonald House here in Galveston too! I thought, "Why not?" I quickly applied and now I'm here!

One of the things I believe in is the importance of time. Time is one of our most valuable and non-renewable resources. It can't be saved or reclaimed; it can only be spent. So, it's crucial to spend it intentionally. Time should reflect our priorities, and the way we spend it is a direct expression of what truly matters to us. It's important to me that if I'm not using my time, I give it to someone who could really use it. What better place to give it than to the people of the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston?!

I love volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House because I get to meet everyone and see the compassion that everyone has for helping one another. It's truly a humbling experience. The staff, fellow volunteers, and donors all play a significant role in nurturing the families that they support. Every time I come in I look forward to seeing all the families happy, healthy, and functioning like never before!



Snow! Oh, what fun it is to play in the snow! The families staying in the House during our recent snowstorm are from Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Columbia. They had never seen snow before and were truly delighted to be able to play in it in our winter wonderland playground. One Mom said that making snow angels was just the therapy she needed.



Our congratulations to Steve LeBlanc VP of business operations and facilities at UTMB who is retiring. Steve and his crew have been a huge help in recovering from our maintenance issues and keeping our House facility in tiptop shape. Our best wishes for the next stage of your life!

This is Sara Martin, one of our new advisory board members. A big welcome to Sara! We're glad to have you join the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston family. Sara already has some fun ideas for fundraisers.



In 2024 House and Board members logged an impressive 3,600 volunteer hours. This includes speaking engagements, house tours, fundraising events and the dedicated weekly volunteers who support our House. We're excited about training some new volunteers and some new groups who have volunteered to do meals and special events in February for our families.



## A Year's Worth of Smiles

Our 2025 Calendar project was created to share the amazing talents of the children who stay at our "Home Away from Home" while they heal. Perfect for gifting or self-indulgence, this calendar is more than just a way to keep track of dates - it's a beautiful reminder that will definitely make you smile each day. Get yours today and start experiencing the magic of our children year-round and know you're contributing to a worthy cause—their recuperation. Our thanks to Pat Lanier and Lydia Polio for developing the project and helping with the artwork, and to Betsy by Design for donating the layout and design. They are available for \$20 at the House, or you can call 409/762-8770.



## Help Wanted - Donor & Data Manager



The Donor and Data Manager is responsible for the data entry of all donor gifts and the overall maintenance of the donor data base as well as maintaining social media

accounts and updating our website. The Ronald McDonald House is a not-for-profit Home Away From Home® where you can make a difference in the lives of seriously ill children and their families. We are seeking a caring individual experienced in data entry, social media and website management as well as general office work. The ideal candidate will maintain confidentiality regarding financial, donor, resident families and staff matters while efficiently managing donor gifts and maintaining and updating databases of donors and patient files. Duties include processing donations, preparing thank-you and tax deduction letters, QuickBooks, Excel, designing and pulling reports, maintaining social media accounts, updating the website,

answering phones, filing, word processing, spreadsheets, purchasing office supplies, and effectively communicating with and supporting the Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, other staff members, donors, volunteers, board members and resident families. The salary range is \$48,000.00 - \$55,000.00 depending upon experience. If you know someone who may be interested, please send resumes to [rmhg@rmhg.org](mailto:rmhg@rmhg.org).

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars to share in the fun. Everyone is welcome, and that means, YOU!!!

### February 15, 2025 Da Krewe du Roux Chicken Run

This is a really fun event at Tin Cup's Caddy Shack by Da Krewe du Roux open to all with fun chicken chasing, great Zydeco music and super delicious homemade gumbo. Proceeds come to our House and to Shriners Children's Texas Hospital.

- 11:15AM - Welcome and history of event
- 11:30AM - Begin hayride to facades
- 12:00PM - Live chicken chasing, divided by age groups
- 1:00PM - Gumbo served by Queens du Roux
- 2:00PM - Silent auction close



Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 10 AM

### Da Chicken Run 2025

Public · Event by Da Krewe du Roux and Amanda Keith

**April 16, 2025** - Mahjongg Fundraiser - stay tuned for more details.

**October 26, 2025** - Family Fun Event Fundraiser

We said we wouldn't do it again. But 2024's Family Fun Event at the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier was so much fun and so successful, it will be back by popular demand in 2025. **Hope to see you there on October 26<sup>th</sup>.**



**Happy Valentine's Day**