

# HISTORY

- 1978** McDonald's introduces the idea of a Ronald McDonald House to All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg.
- 1980** Suncoast Ronald McDonald House opens in St. Petersburg with 11 bedrooms. It is the 17th House to open nationwide and *the first in Florida*.
- 1983** St. Pete Suncoast Ronald McDonald House opens a new 9-bedroom wing, library, second kitchen & dining room.
- 1988** St. Pete Suncoast Ronald McDonald House opens Annex containing four more bedrooms, four apartments for long-term families and additional common rooms.
- 1989** Board of Directors approves the concept of a new Ronald McDonald House at Tampa General Hospital.
- 1990** New Board of Trustees is created, comprised of members from both Tampa and St. Petersburg.
- 1992** Tampa Suncoast Ronald McDonald House opens with 14 bedrooms.
- 1996** St. Petersburg "East" House opens with 34 bedrooms, making it the largest single House in the country serving one hospital. A space re-allocation at the "West" House creates 18 bedrooms and the Annex is closed to consolidate the two Houses. "Suncoast Ronald McDonald House" name changed to "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay": cornerstone program - Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay.
- 2000** Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay celebrates 20 years of serving families (more than 18,000). The first annual Storybook Ball supporting RMHC operations premieres and serves to initiate the annual RMHC Tampa Bay Award of Excellence program.
- 2001** RMH of Tampa Bay has served nearly 22,000 families.
- 2002** RMH of Tampa Bay has served nearly 24,000 families.
- 2003** RMH of Tampa Bay has served more than 25,000 families.
- 2004** More than 27,000 families have been served since 1980. RMHC of Tampa Bay launched its first website. Charity Navigator, America's premiere independent charity evaluator awarded RMHC of Tampa Bay their four-star rating (Exceptional) which represents the highest rating a charity may receive.
- 2005** Year-end: 29,000 families served since 1980. Charity Navigator again awarded RMHC of Tampa Bay four stars.
- 2006** RMHC of Tampa Bay, in partnership with the University of South Florida's Department of Pediatrics, launched Tampa Bay's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to bring free educational and preventative medical and dental services to underserved children.
- 2007** RMH of Tampa Bay reaches a landmark of **30,000 families** served in its 27 year history. Construction of a new 14-bedroom Ronald McDonald House at the new All Children's Hospital campus is announced and fundraising for the capital campaign begins.