

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE FACTS

PURPOSE	Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay (RMHTB) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a “home-away-from-home” for families with children receiving medical treatment in bay area hospitals. Each year, RMHTB provides more than 2,000 families a safe and affordable place to stay within walking distance to their hospitalized child. It is the cornerstone program of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay which also makes grants to other local not-for-profit organizations that help children in need.
LOCATION	There are four Houses in the Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay network, offering 80 bedrooms to pediatric families. St. Petersburg House “West” is located at 702 Eighth Avenue South, and the “East” House is located at 401 Seventh Avenue South. Both are within walking distance to All Children’s Hospital. The newest house, St. Pete Central, opened in February, 2010 inside the Outpatient Care Center at All Children’s Hospital to serve all families with critically ill children in the hospital. The Tampa House is located on Davis Island at 35 Columbia Drive adjacent to the Children’s Medical Center of Tampa General Hospital. It also serves St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital of Tampa and the Shriners Hospital for Children.
HISTORY	The 18-bedroom St. Petersburg “West” House, the first Ronald McDonald House in Florida, opened in 1980. The 14-bedroom Tampa House was developed with the assistance of the Junior League of Tampa, Inc. and adopted by the local McDonald’s Co-op. The House opened in 1992 with 14 bedrooms. St. Petersburg “East” opened March 12, 1996 with 34 bedrooms. In February 2010, the 14-bedroom St. Pete Central opened inside All Children’s Hospital. Since 1980, our Tampa Bay Houses have served more than 39,000 families.
COST	The House asks families to donate towards their stay, but payment is not a requirement. Families are provided their own room and a private bath. Everyone has access to the library, play room, patio, dining room and a well-stocked kitchen equipped with “help yourself” refrigerators and cabinets to store personal food items. Each room has a light chore assigned to the family to help offset operational costs.
SERVICES	Each House has a house manager on-call 24 hours. Meals are provided by individuals and organizations in the community when possible. Complimentary pagers are loaned to each family so they can be reached at a moment’s notice regarding any changes in their child’s condition. Also available are emergency toiletries, hospital transportation and a medical and music therapy library.
VOLUNTEERS	More than 250 volunteers are the backbone of the Houses. Volunteers work four-hour shifts at each of the Houses, from 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., seven days a week. They check families in and out, answer telephones, give House tours, perform light housekeeping, assist with clerical work and provide emotional support for the families.
PROGRAMS	The community meal program provides hot meals for our families several times per week, while the casserole program provides frozen meals that can be heated when a group is not preparing a meal. The pet therapy program brings dogs to the St. Pete East house to provide a distraction for the children and adults in residence. Other programs include arts & crafts, hairdressing and massage services.
FUNDING	The 2011 Operational Budget for the four Houses is \$2.4 million. More than 89 percent of this income comes from public support. Of 2010 expenses, 84 percent went directly to program services.