

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 2,300 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 three Houses in the Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay network, offering 66 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 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. A fourth house will be built at the new All Children’s Hospital campus in 2010.
HISTORY	The 18-bedroom St. Petersburg “West” House, the first Ronald McDonald House in Florida, opened in 1980. The 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. The St. Petersburg “East” House opened March 12, 1996 with 34 bedrooms. Since 1980, our Tampa Bay Houses have served more than 30,000 families.
COST	The House requests \$10 per night per family to help cover expenses, although actual costs are \$60 per night. If payment is not possible, then the stay is free. 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. – 10:00 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 2008 Operational Budget for the three Houses is \$2.3 million. More than 86 percent of this income comes from public support. Of 2007 expenses, 85 percent went directly to program services.