

# LOVE NOTES

A Publication of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Tampa Bay, Inc.



## Family ties for 25 years

Twenty-five years ago, Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay began providing comfort and care to families with children being treated at All Children’s Hospital. Two early families, who began their journeys with ACH and RMH, are offering their stories to help others understand the significance of The House that love built® and its continuation of quality service. During that time, we’ve grown from one House to three, from serving 100 families a year at All Children’s Hospital to nearly 2,400 families from ACH, Tampa General Hospital, St. Joseph’s Hospital for Children and Shriners Hospital.

### Kimberlea’s Story

Kimberlea Shelton, born July 2, 1982, is today a relatively healthy 23-year-old Clearwater resident. She is the third child of Charles and Ann Shelton, Tennessee natives who met while working at Opryland and later moved to Clearwater for their careers.

Kim’s family story involving All Children’s Hospital and Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay began in April 1983, when the nine-month-old was diagnosed with the aggressive childhood cancer neuroblastoma. The family’s connection continues today with Ann working as a senior financial analyst at ACH, and Kim as an ACH registered nurse serving children in intermediate care, some of whose families are current RMH residents.

Ann Shelton remembers that until early 1983, her Kim was “a happy, easy-going baby.” She and her husband congratulated themselves that somehow their youngest had skipped the colic and repeated ear infections that affected their older two children, Greg and Katrina.

Kim’s development seemed normal at nine months, until suddenly she was not sleeping through the night. At her well-baby visit, Kimberlea’s pediatrician found a very large abdominal mass. This started their family’s two-year stressful journey through pediatric cancer treatment.

The following Monday found them in the office of All Children’s Hospital Pediatric Oncologist Dr. Jerry Barbosa. Within days, as the doctors and hospital staff supported them through the fog of tests and surgery, Kim was diagnosed with neuroblastoma.

A relatively rare cancer of the sympathetic nervous system, neuroblastoma affects the network that transmits messages from the brain throughout the body. Nationwide, about 600 children a year develop this cancer which accounts for half of all malignancies in infants. Isolated neuroblastoma tumors are treated with surgery. But nearly half spread quickly to the bone and bone marrow and require chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiation therapy and bone marrow transplantation.

The Sheltons suddenly found themselves in that crisis mode where primary parental focus, regardless of other family, career or events, is concentrated on a critically ill child.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

*continued on page 4*



Dear Friends,

It was 25 years ago when our doors opened as the first Ronald McDonald House in Florida – number 17 in the world. Now there are 155 Houses in the U.S. and 96 in 26 countries. Services to families now reach beyond the walls of the Houses to include grants to other children’s charities, college scholarships, Family Rooms in hospitals, Mobile Medical Vans, and more.

Locally, we’ve grown from one House to three, yet have never wavered from our mission to make life easier for our families during a most difficult time. In addition to our unique three-House program, our new initiatives annually include college scholarships to 45 students, multiple hospital grants for pediatric medical technology, an Award of Excellence to a community role model and a local children’s charity grant. Our new Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will soon hit the road to provide underserved children with medical and dental care.

As you read this issue filled with family stories, House events and fundraising activities like our annual “Light a Light” holiday campaign and the building of our endowment fund, I want to thank you for helping us in our first quarter century. It was your hands that elevated us to a broader vision, while all along, fluffing the pillows for our families’ weary heads. Rest assured that, with your support, RMH will continue to provide comfort and care for pediatric families in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

*Janice Davis*

Janice Davis  
Executive Director



Nearly 850 attendees from 24 countries around the world (including three local staff) attended the June International Conference in Chicago. Keynote speakers Dr. Louis Sullivan, RMHC Global Board Member and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Sarah Ferguson, The Duchess of York, spoke on issues affecting children’s health care around the world.

June 21-25, 2005



Southwest Airlines is recognized for their many contributions to RMHC

The Duchess spoke at length about her travels that have brought her into contact with needy children. Her sense of humor was apparent when she joked about some passages from her children’s book *Little Red*.

Southwest Airlines, who graciously donated airline tickets for all of this year’s U.S. attendees, was presented with a large banner signed by hundreds of participants at the Donor Recognition Lunch.



The Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson with Ronald

### Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay Upcoming events

- Sept. 24 Kimal Lumber “Building to a Cure” Golf Tournament Venice
- Oct. 1 St. Pete House Picnic East House
- Oct. 8 6th Annual Taylor Golf Tournament Port Charlotte
- Nov. 18 and 19 RMH 17th Annual Golf Classic Westin Innisbrook Resort Tarpon Springs

- Dec. 13 Holiday Open House Tampa House

### 2006 EVENTS

- Feb. 11 Suncoast Classic Run for Kids St. Pete BayWalk
- May 20 Storybook Ball “Sleeping Beauty” A La Carte Event Pavilion Tampa

Love Notes is published two times per year for families and friends of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Tampa Bay, a not-for-profit organization that provides comfort and care to children and their families by supporting local Ronald McDonald Houses, its cornerstone program, and by making grants to other local not-for-profit organizations that help children in need. The Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay provides a home-away-from-home for families of pediatric patients at area hospitals.

RMHC of Tampa Bay  
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www.rmhc-tampabay.com

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702 8th Ave. South - St. Petersburg West (727) 821-8961  
401 7th Ave. South - St. Petersburg East (727) 821-8961  
35 Columbia Dr. - Davis Islands, Tampa (813) 254-2398

# Light A Light

*A child's illness is a family affair.*

As the lungs of premature Nina Ferguson learned to work right at Tampa General Hospital, her Oldsmar family stayed at the Tampa Ronald McDonald House for nearly a month. While Pedro Casuso's leg was mended by Shriners Hospital surgeons, the young Peruvian's mother stayed at the House for 10 days.



*Nina Ferguson*

When Nairobi, Kenya resident Francis Muchangi needed cleft palate surgery at All Children's Hospital, his dad stayed at the St. Pete House for a month. Both Kim Shelton and Joey Carter's families stayed for more than six months (see stories in this issue).



*Francis Muchangi*

Help us light up the holidays this year for hospitalized children like Nina, Pedro, Francis, Kim and Joey. Their illnesses are a family affair. By helping to underwrite the costs incurred while their moms, dads and grandparents temporarily call our House their home, you not only light up their lives but you light up the place where they lay their heads at night.



*Pedro Casuso*

As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year of serving pediatric families, nearly 2,400 families now stay with us to be within minutes of their child's hospital bed. Now, as in

the past, our families come from close by and far away, many with limited or exhausted finances.

In this time of rising costs, we still only request \$10 per night from our families. We never turn them away because they cannot pay, even though our actual costs are \$50 per night.

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union through its Suncoast for Kaid's Foundation, continues its leadership support for our holiday campaign. In the true spirit of the season, we ask you to follow their example and give generously.

Each \$25 donation underwrites half of the cost for a family's one night stay, while adding a holiday light to our House. A gift of \$50 completely pays for that stay, while a gift of \$350 will pay for an entire week's stay.

As a special thanks, donors will receive a paper ornament to hang on their own holiday tree, and donors of \$50 or more will receive a keepsake brass ornament. Gifts may also be given in honor of a loved one or as a memorial to others. Please call (813) 258-6430 for more information.

**November 18-20, 2005**



Help children around the world by enjoying an Extra Value Meal®, Happy Meal® or Mighty Kids Meal® on **November 18-20, 2005.**

It's the fourth annual **World Children's Day** at McDonald's all over the globe - when McDonald's restaurants donate \$\$\$ for select items ordered by their wonderful customers. Or help us out further by purchasing a "Give a Hand" between **November 11-20.**

Round up your neighbors, friends and family and eat up for a great cause!

## 17TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

*November 18 & 19, 2005*



**Westin Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club  
Tarpon Springs, Florida**

**Two-day team sponsorships with lodging begin at \$1,750. One-day individual play begins at \$300.**

*"This is one of our most popular events because companies bring their employees & clients to enjoy some great golf while supporting RMH families."*

*Edward Ameen, RMHC Chairman & Tournament Director*

**Presented by  
Tampa General Hospital**

**For more information and to reserve your sponsorship, contact Janice Davis at (813)258-6430 or [jdprmh@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jdprmh@tampabay.rr.com)**

# FAMILY TIES - KIM'S STORY (CONTINUED)

Being near Kim was paramount; their well-being was secondary.

"Following her first surgery, Kim entered intensive care," remembers Ann Shelton. "Suddenly, we couldn't spend the night with her."

Hospital staff persuaded the mentally and physically exhausted couple to walk across the back parking lot to a place called the Ronald McDonald House. On the first of many visits to RMH, they remember being warmly greeted by House Director Donna Young.

Ann Shelton recalls the aroma of home-cooked food in the air and feeling hungry for the first time in a week. Charles Shelton, now a Risk Control Specialist for CNA Insurance Companies, recalls how financially strapped his young family was and how they were assured that they "didn't have to worry" about paying the minimal room cost.

"The following weeks and months of our life revolved around blood counts, chemotherapy cycles, doctor visits and endless hours in the hospital," states Shelton. "Words that we initially struggled to pronounce became part of everyday conversation."

Over time, their room at RMH held various family members. Sometimes it was Ann and her mom; other times it was one parent and the two other Shelton kids. Charlie Shelton was traveling a lot throughout Florida as an insurance safety specialist and stayed when he was in town.

Because the cancer had been discovered relatively early and Kim was responding to treatment, her doctors and family grew optimistic. As treatment concluded, Kim learned to walk for the second time in her short life. Her tiny bald head grew hair. Follow-up tests continued to come back normal.

But a few days after Kim's second birthday, Dr. Barbosa

discovered another mass. Optimism turned to despair because they were told that this tumor was inoperable and unresponsive to chemo.

"We were really desperate," recalls Kim's mom. "But then an experimental protocol became available." After the first round of treatment, the tumor seemed to be smaller. Subsequent CT scans showed that the drugs were working.

"We rejoiced when surgery again became possible, even though we were cautioned that it would not likely be curative," she continues. "It was then that bone marrow transplant entered our vocabulary."

There was no match available for Kim at that time so surgery was followed by radiation, more chemo and more surgery. Right about that time, Kim announced that she wanted to be a nurse when she grew up and take care of kids at All Children's.

When a job transfer for Charlie required them to move to Ohio, Kim's treatments continued at the Children's Hospital of Cincinnati. There, in 1985, she had a series of seven chemotherapy sessions and surgery.

Slowly, the bad news turned to good. According to Ann Shelton, weeks turned to months and then years. Kim had entered permanent remission.

Kimberlea Shelton is now a happy, relatively healthy young woman who enjoys playing with her yellow lab Daisy, when not spending time with her boyfriend, family and friends. She enjoys reading, camping and spending time outdoors.

According to Kim, it was when she was a junior at Clearwater High School that she knew she really wanted to become a nurse. That was the year she was part of the All Children's Medical Explorers, a scouting program centering on healthcare that promotes volunteering and healthcare professions. Last December, at age 22, Kim Shelton did indeed graduate from St. Petersburg College in nursing. She passed her boards and, after several months as an ACH patient care technician, is now a registered nurse working in intermediate care. She is also taking prerequisite courses to attain a future Bachelor of Science at the University of North Florida.

"I know that my parents went through some really tough times when I was so sick," explains Kim Shelton. "I had always heard how wonderful it was to have the Ronald McDonald House there to call home when I was in the hospital."

"I know that every day, I work toward making a difference in my patients' stays and care," she continues. She also knows that every day, the Ronald McDonald House makes a difference for her patients and their families.



*Kimberlea Shelton tries to coax a smile from four-year old*

*heart transplant patient Jake Holliday – with encouragement from his mom who is staying at the East RMH with her Orlando family. Shelton is also pictured on our front cover with heart patient Braeden Fernette.*

# CARTER FAMILY SUPPORTS RMH FROM 1983 TO TODAY

The Carter family's long-time relationship with All Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House began with the premature birth of Ralph and Laura's only child Joseph, in Lakeland on July 29, 1983. Within a few days, a serious heart murmur had the infant's pediatrician on the phone to All Children's and an ambulance on the way. His anxious parents, along with Laura's mom and his godmother, followed behind.

Starting in early August, the Carters stayed at RMH for six months while their son, tagged with the nickname "Cricket" by the ACH NICU staff, had heart and other surgeries.

Their connections with RMH continues through 2005 with more surgeries at ACH, their family's ten years as Weekend Managers (at all three Tampa Bay Houses) and because of Laura's 12 years as an RMH Speakers Bureau volunteer.

Looking back, Laura Carter recalls how overwhelming it was to finally conceive a child after several years of trying, and then to have him born with serious health problems. Among their hardest times was the hour it took ACH cardiologist Dr. Jorge Giroud to evaluate Joey. But, the doctor's news was good. Joey's condition was serious but could be treated.

"They also told us that Joey's early arrival may have saved his life," she explains. The stress of labor on his unknown heart problem might have been too much.

Joey was diagnosed with a hole between the lower heart chambers, an opening in the heart that should have closed at birth, and a closing aorta.

Surgeries from October to March closed the hole, repaired double hernias and created an aortic bypass. His health began to greatly improve and the lower hole closed on its own.

Joey also needed ear surgeries to insert tubes, fix his left mastoid and graft a new right ear drum. In first

grade, a diagnosis of ADHD was successfully treated with medication.

Although "Cricket" started out his life with more challenges than many kids, his mom says that he was "involved in things we never dreamed he would be able to do." From early speech therapy and special classes, he eventually played horn and drum in the band; sang in the chorus; made the wrestling team and in his senior year, was city champ of his weightlifting class. "Cricket" was on his letter jacket and his lifting friends called him "Buff Cricket."

Joey graduated from Kathleen High School in May 2002. His mom says that "it took a lot of work, but he did it!" His health is good and he now works full-time for the same firm as his dad, Linder Industrial Machinery in Plant City.

Laura says that she and her family continue to enjoy a close relationship with a number of the great ACH staff, especially Barbara Keller, now a transport nurse for ACH. "Joey had been at the hospital for just a few days when someone told us about the Ronald McDonald House," explains Laura Carter.

"At that time, there was only the West House and it became our second home. The minute we walked through the door, we felt welcomed," she continues. "It was so wonderful having a place so close to rest while we focused on helping with Joey's care."

It was during a trip for Joey's annual check-up when Ralph Carter commented that he wished there was a way to help RMH. They returned the following weekend for training as Weekend Managers, a relationship



*The Carter Family today*

that lasted 10 years and spanned all three Tampa Bay Houses.

"Over the years, RMH has meant a lot to us. Joey did a lot of growing up there as we worked weekends, holidays and vacations," she reveals. "We loved every minute of it. And when Joey wasn't entertaining the families with his dancing or clowning around, he was Uncle John's (John Modaff, Maintenance) shadow."

Laura, a Lakeland native, and Ralph, met through mutual friends in a CB (Citizen's Band) club and were married in March 1977. Ralph was already working at Linder Machinery. Laura's career is varied, from retail to her current position with Kathleen High - a result of all the volunteering that she and Ralph did at Joey's schools.

In 1992, at the grand opening of the Tampa House, Laura spoke as a representative of RMH families. Since then, she has served on the RMH Speakers Bureau, helping to cover the Lakeland and Plant City requests.

"Joey turned 22 on July 29," says Laura Carter. "We are very proud of how far he has come - and thank everyone at All Children's and Ronald McDonald House for their help!"



*Joey Carter at 7 years*

## Ronald McDonald House Needs List

While out shopping, why not pick up a couple of much-needed items for the House. Some of the items needed are:

### FOOD

Fresh meats (chicken, beef, ham)  
 Breakfast & lunch meats  
 Dairy (milk, cheese, butter, cream)  
 Fresh fruits & vegetables  
 Instant oatmeal, grits, cocoa mix  
 Canned tuna, soups, meats & pastas  
 Canned chicken broth  
 Ramen noodles  
 Vegetable oil & salad dressings  
 Sugar, coffee creamer & instant tea  
 Dried onions, herbs & spices  
 Mayo, mustard & pickle relish  
 Snacks: chips, cookies, crackers,  
 individual puddings, Jello & fruit

### KITCHEN & CLEANING

Aluminum foil & plastic wrap  
 Cookie sheets & non-stick fry pans  
 Stainless/plastic forks & spoons  
 Dish towels, cloths & scrubbies  
 Dishwasher powder & dish soap  
 Hot & cold 12 oz. cups  
 Paper plates, towels & toilet tissue  
 Self-sealing freezer bags (qt. & gal.)  
 Heavy duty (33 gallon) trash bags  
 60 watt & 4' fluorescent light bulbs  
 Clorox Ready Mop pads & floor cleaner  
 Duct tape & masking tape  
 Dryer fabric softener sheets  
 Lysol Disinfectant Spray  
 Soft Scrub & Dow Scrubbing Bubbles  
 Clorox Disinfectant Wipes  
 Bleach & X14 cleaner  
 Furniture polish  
 Windfresh Laundry Detergent (Sam's)

### MISCELLANEOUS

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste  
 Milk Fund (\$60 per week)  
 Sam's Club/grocery store certificates  
 Copy paper (white & colors)  
 Black Sharpies & Whiteout  
 Clock radios & disposable cameras  
 White sheet sets (twin & full)  
 White wash cloths  
 Packing tape

### AUDIO VISUAL

Photo printer  
 SVGA projector (for presentations)

# ST. PETE HAPPENINGS

## Love Fest at the Hippie Cafe

There's a little hippie in all of us, as shown by the 125 volunteers and staff who attended the April St. Pete Volunteer Recognition and Celebration of 25 Years of Love. In addition to honoring 77 volunteers for their service, a special presentation also honored House Director Donna Young and West House Manager Judy Glass for their 25 years of dedication. Entertainment highlights included a wonderful meal, again donated by The Texas Cattle Company, classic songs offered by "Sonny & Cher" (staff Carla Sibilia and Anna-Marie Pellett), "Tiny Tim" (Lise Fields), and a sing-a-long featuring "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing."



Do you recognize these hippies?



## AAA Pitches In

AAA Auto Club South, one of many community groups who provide the wonderful meals so important to RMH families, went patriotic for their July meal at the East House. Regular donors of other supplies, their recent gifts include a much-needed digital camera and printer dock.



## Kids Who Care

St. Pete's Amanda McAllister is one of a growing number of kids who care about RMH families. For her tenth birthday, she requested donations to the House instead of the usual gifts. Some very generous family and friends helped her collect \$300 . . . way to go, Amanda!



## Have chairs will travel

A father visiting the East House to view a plaque in memory of his teenage daughter noticed that our Needs List included patio furniture. He called his friend at Carter Grandel in Sarasota for help. We ended up with 15 chairs and 7 tables, in the style and pattern of our choice, valued at \$7,000! The Canterbury Teens shown here were happy to help unload our new furniture.



## The Upside of Hurricanes

Last year's hurricanes also wreaked havoc on Toys R Us whose staff decided to donate four truckloads of toys to RMH from damaged stores. On April 7, Store Manager Monica Perrego brought toys which will bring smiles to many families for months to come.



# TAMPA HAPPENINGS



## Tampa Volunteer Recognition

The Tampa House annual Volunteer Recognition Brunch, February 19 at Tampa Yacht & Country Club, featured a cameo appearance by Ronald McDonald and the honoring of 81 volunteers. Those with more than 1,000 hours include (l to r): Lee Smith, Emily Parmer, Barbara Wolfe, Nancy Sjoberg, Jinnie Edson, Janice Williams and Jana Kaney.

## Tab Glass Saves The Day

Tab Glass (pictured right with Tampa House Volunteer Coordinator Russ Hassell) generously donated \$10,000 worth of services to seal all Tampa House windows, ending 10 long years of leaks. They also persuaded H.E. Electric Lift Co. to donate a lift and Coastal Construction to donate product so that no costs were incurred by RMH. We can't imagine life without such generous donors. Thank you!



## 400 Quilts and Counting

Making quilts for RMH families in their spare time since 1999, The Three Sisters (Dorothy Hamilton, Arlene Mishler and Letty Horner – two shown with Ronald) were recently highlighted on Tampa's WTVT Fox 13. The Sisters have donated more than 400 quilts and show no indication of slowing down in their gifts that comfort new moms. We are grateful for their wonderful handiwork dedicated to RMH families.

## Everything's Coming Up...Flowers!

The Tampa House backyard grows more beautiful by the day with gardens that offer peace and quiet to our families, thanks to organizations and individuals. Home Depot employee Valerie Bailey (pictured right with coworkers Nate Tanger and Loretta Clark) chose RMH to benefit from funds designated for charity and the three created a beautiful back-corner meditation garden. Jeffrey Schneel, in memory of his son Nicholas, created a lovely butterfly garden (see below) along the patio, complete with the soothing sounds of water from a small fountain.



Nate Tanger, Valerie Bailey & Loretta Clark



## Who Doesn't Love BBQ?

In July, House volunteer Emily Parmer brought all the food while the Nall family from Virginia cooked for the entire House. Yummy!



# House Support Needed

## Sponsor a Meal

- ♥ Create a casserole supper, cook on our gas grill, order in pizza, make breakfast, stew, soup or chili.
- ♥ Bring in a prepared meal for RMH volunteers to set up and serve; prepare and serve the meal yourself or "break bread" with our families after your "chef" work.
- ♥ Contract with a restaurant to deliver meals, pizza, sub sandwiches or send a restaurant or grocery store gift certificate.

## Sponsor Fresh Meat, Dairy & Fruit -

help fund weekly bulk deliveries of fresh beef, chicken, milk and fruit for the children and new mothers who need the nutrition.

## Update our Medical Library -

provide up-to-date books, magazines and CDs to help families get information on their children's diagnoses and treatments.

**Share a Night Program** - help underwrite a family's stay for \$10 per night, \$70 a week or more (no family is ever turned away because of inability to pay).

**Hold a Pantry Drive** - collect canned goods, paper products, cleaning and other household supplies - we've got 66 bedrooms, 70 bathrooms & four kitchens!

**Be a Volunteer** - Do you have some spare days, evenings or weekends to share? All three Houses need volunteers for four-hour shifts, once a week or twice a month, to help support this "home-away-from-home" for families with children in area hospitals. We also desperately need Spanish speaking volunteers. Training is provided. Please call **Lise Fields in St. Petersburg** (727) 821-8961 ext. 7679 or **Russ Hassell in Tampa** (813) 254-2398 ext. 317.

# Storybook Ball 2005 “The Jungle



*The Klingel Family of TSE Industries, Inc./The Klingel Family Foundation*



*Title Sponsor Tampa General Hospital*



*Mowgli the Boy Sponsor  
St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa*

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! Guests of this year's annual Storybook Ball "The Jungle Book" on Saturday, May 21 at Tampa's A La Carte Event Pavilion got a taste of things to come as they were greeted by the sight of live jungle animals in cages positioned outside the venue. This was no ordinary fundraiser, they soon realized, as they glimpsed a ballroom that had been transformed into a jungle with the help of RMHC board member Vickii Block and her event production company, Spellbound, Inc.

Swaths of netting, vines, an abundance of fresh flowers and jungle-print made the room feel decidedly tropical in the truest sense of the word. Entertainers from Busch Gardens wandered through the crowds, delighting them with close-ups of smaller exotic animals like a monkey, snake, baby alligator, hirox and flamingo. Many of the guests posed for pictures with the critters, while others posed for photos with the prestigious Stanley Cup and Tampa Bay Lightning Head Coach John Tortorella.

More than 450 guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they bid on exciting silent auction packages including a \$65,000 diamond ring, a safari trip to Africa, sports memorabilia and a host of vacation packages. Following the auction, guests dined on exotic food in keeping with the jungle theme, and then worked it off by dancing to "Hologram."

**"The Jungle Book" Title Sponsor**  
Tampa General Hospital

**Mowgli the Boy Sponsor**  
St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa

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St. Petersburg Times  
Southwest Airlines  
Tampa Bay Lightning

# Book” was an exotic adventure



*The Casper family and friends*



*Award of Excellence Recipient & Tampa Bay Lightning Coach John Tortorella and his wife Chris with Busch Gardens Entertainers*

*RMHC President Jeff Harring with wife Jeanice and baby tiger*

The evening’s presentations focused on this year’s RMHC Award of Excellence recipient, Coach John Tortorella, for his work with area children’s charities. Coach Tortorella is the sixth recipient of this prestigious award, presented each year to an outstanding role model and community leader in children’s causes. Recipients are given the honor of identifying a local children’s charity to which they present a Community Grant that results from funds raised by local McDonald’s Restaurants and the National RMHC designated for programs other than Ronald McDonald House. This year, Tortorella elected to present the accompanying Community Grant to two worthy area children’s charities, The Children’s Home and Child Abuse Council, for special programs within their organizations.

“It is our generous table sponsors, their guests and in-kind donors who made it possible to gross more than \$400,000 for our sixth annual gala,” explains RMHC of Tampa Bay Executive Director Janice L. Davis. “Add the great work of our Board of Trustees and valuable assistance of our wonderful volunteers to the mix,” she continues, “and the outcomes include a memorable evening that brings participants back each year and important funding that supports Tampa Bay pediatric families. This gala grows annually in popularity, because guests know they are in for a great time. This ball has truly become one of the most anticipated events in Tampa Bay.”

## Bagheera the Panther Sponsors

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Colonial Bank	Melitta USA, Inc.
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*Special Sponsors: Caspers Company, Dr Pepper/Seven-Up, Inc., Tampa Bay Buccaneers*



# FRIENDS HELPING FAMILIES



The Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay is a not-for-profit-organization that provides a "home-away-from-home" for families whose children are undergoing medical treatment at bay-area hospitals. The House relies on the support of individuals and organizations in the community to provide services to families in need. We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and groups who have demonstrated their support in many ways. This list represents contributions received from **January 1, 2005 through July 31, 2005**. If we have erred or omitted anyone, we apologize.

## CORPORATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

**\$94,622**  
World Children's Day 2004

**\$75,000**  
RMHC National Local Scholarships Grant

**\$33,321**  
Estate of Ruby Davis Bortz

**\$30,000**  
St. Petersburg Leadership Project 9SERIES, Inc.  
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*Kimal Lumber employees continue their wonderful "Building to a Cure" fundraising efforts. The April 3 Classic Car Show held in Venice included attendees*



*Ronald McDonald and McDonald's Owner/Operator Brenda Symons with her son Alan. Kimal recently presented checks exceeding \$26,000 each to RMH and All Children's Hospital, combined proceeds from their September 2004 golf and 2005 car show events. Many thanks to all Kimal employees and their event sponsors that include friends and vendors!*

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# THIRD ANNUAL RUN FOR KIDS<sup>SM</sup>

On Saturday, February 26, Pediatric Services of Florida held their 3rd annual "Run For Kids" road race. More than 1,000 runners participated in the USATF certified 5K, 10K, 1 Mile Pelican Run and Kids Fun Run at BayWalk in St. Petersburg. Each year this race continues to grow in popularity, and was larger than ever this year by the addition of a 10K race.

Pediatric Services of Florida is an association of more than 300 pediatricians and pediatric specialists serving children's health care needs. One of the objectives of the "Run for Kids" program is to help teach high school and middle school students about volunteerism, leadership, and the importance of community service involvement. Their goal is to provide students the opportunity to develop a charitable effort to benefit other less fortunate children in our community. Since its inception, more than \$63,000 has been raised through this race to benefit RMH.

Next year's race is scheduled for February 11, 2006. For more information, call 727-892-8221 or go online to [www.runforkids.com](http://www.runforkids.com).



*Executive Director Janice Davis running her heart out*

*(L-R) Race Manager Conchetta Sawyer & daughter Alyshia, with RMH staff Alison Barrick, Janice Davis, RMHC Chairman Ed Ameen & Ronald*



*Crowds gathered early to register and have breakfast before their run*

## Your legacy plan needs to be about more than just the money

Yes, it's true that half of all Americans do not have a will. Yes, economists say that the baby-boom generation will soon receive the largest transfer of wealth in history - by some estimates, \$25 trillion or more.

But recent surveys also show that only about one-third of families talk about inheritance issues. It is often the most important topics such as wealth transfer, that are difficult and rife with potential family conflict. How do we share with the future generation what we have now? How do we make sure that our decisions reflect what we believe in? The distribution of our monetary and non-monetary assets is determined by some underlying principles, like our ethics, passions and the setting of an example for the next generation.

For estate planning preparedness, it is critical for professionals to evaluate our assets and to create a plan which follows our wishes. But surveys show that it is important to talk about this plan with our family ahead of time - about where the money is going and about other important details, like the handing-down of personal keepsakes and the importance of supporting charitable organizations in which we believe.

As we enter the second 25 years of helping pediatric families, we hope that you will include Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay in your estate plan. We are fiscally sound, financially responsible and highly rated by *Charity Navigator* and *Worth Magazine*. We need your help to accomplish the continuation of our mission - and to set an example for the next generation to give to our cause.

Through careful and professional estate planning, you can help yourself, Ronald McDonald House and others for whom you care. Be sure that your estate plan includes: a will; a "sentimental asset" distribution list; a durable power of attorney; a healthcare proxy; and where appropriate, a trust. And, please talk about your plan with your family.

To help with any questions you may have in regards to your will, we are offering a free brochure, "Increase the Value of Your Estate with an Up-to-Date Will." To receive your copy, contact RMHC of Tampa Bay Executive Director Janice Davis at (813) 258-6430 or [www.rmhc-tampabay.com](http://www.rmhc-tampabay.com).

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**Alison Jones**  
Nancy Jones  
**Patricia Ladd's High School Graduation**  
Jack & Erin Russell  
**Marla Laufenberg**  
Dottie Hicks  
Cindi Rhodes  
Mary Ann Walker  
Deanne Young  
**Mark C. Lennox, Jr.**  
Sharon Lennox  
**Melinda Lopez**  
Lissitte & Maria  
**Kennedy Martin**  
Kerri & Scott Martin  
**Ryan Canada McConnaghy**  
Barbara Brosius  
**Nicole Milhelm**  
Karen Kiburz  
**Dr. Ken Guidera**  
Erin Orgel  
**Jean Peterson**  
Pilgrim Congregational Church  
**Raysway McDonald's & The Moulton Family**  
Dr. John M. Jonesco/Physicians in Family Practice, Inc.  
**Alexa P. Ruiz**  
Maria Amoedo  
Alex Awad  
Caroline Carpenter  
Grace Casper  
Katherine Gabler  
Sarah & Rachel Herlong  
McKinley Musco  
Emily Tanner  
Alexandra Taylor  
Katy Ann Thaxton  
**The Ryan Ryckley Family**  
Coral Gables Police Dept.  
**Bjug Schmidt**  
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit

**Joshua & Nathan Smith**  
Ruth Cooper  
Norma Jean Smith  
**Evelyn Spitcaufsky**  
Beverly Spitcaufsky  
**Fran Stevens**  
Robert M. Franklin  
**Mr. & Mrs. Wofford Stidham**  
Doris & Bob Trohn  
**Reece Tappan's 4th Birthday**  
Donna & Peter Bridge  
Jeff & Valerie Bynum  
Scott & Sandra Gale  
Michele & Charles A. Leistl  
Sandy Y. McGinn  
Jennifer D. Mimbs  
Irene P. Norton  
Lisa & Joseph Pasateri  
Gertrude M. Perez  
Alejandra Sanderson  
Marc Yonker  
**TGH & St. Joseph's PICU Staff**  
Patricia B. Riggs  
**Cameron & Katelyn Tinsley**  
Clara Black  
**Isabella Walters**  
Rafael & Miriam Blanco  
Mary Audrey Boston  
Donald & Judith Doran  
Jennifer Forness  
Robert & Kelly Fox  
Doris Pastor  
Kenneth & Maggie Robinson  
Cora Walters  
Michael & Patricia Walters  
Sharon & Aaron White  
**Ryder Williams**  
Trisha Williams

## MAJOR IN-KIND

Bank of America  
Bayfront Central, Inc.  
Benjamin Moore & Co.  
Bissell, Inc.  
H.E. Electric Lift Co.  
Manitowoc Ice, Inc.  
MetLife  
Robby's Pancake House  
Southwest Airlines  
Tab Glass  
Toys R Us  
The Yerrid Foundation

## ONGOING IN-KIND

American Paging  
Americold Logistics  
Atlanta Bread  
BrightHouse Networks  
Caspers Company  
Children's Wish Foundation Int'l  
CJ Publishers, Inc.  
The Coca-Cola Company  
Warren E. Conley Corporation  
Foelgner, Ronz & Straw, P.A.  
Anthony Georgio  
Hyde Park Storage  
Alene Latnik  
The Martin-Brower Company  
Metrocall  
Meyer's Bakeries  
S & D Coffee

7-Eleven, Davis Islands  
Starbucks  
Terminex  
Three Sisters Quilters  
Time Warner Tampa  
Toymakers  
TruGreen ChemLawn  
United Online, Inc.  
US LEC Corporation  
Verizon  
Wendt Productions, Inc.  
Whitehall Plastics  
Zephyr Eggs

## ON-GOING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

Cal Albritton  
All Children's Hospital Guilds  
Beach Branch  
Evening Branch  
Seminole Branch  
Archer Family  
AutoTrader.com  
Bank of Tampa  
Blake High School Key Club, Tampa  
Breakfast Optimist Club, St. Pete  
Community Health Solutions  
Irene Copley & Peg Fay  
Davis Islands Baptist Church  
The Don CeSar Beach Resort & Spa  
Downtown Optimist Club, St. Pete  
Brenda & Dan Edwards  
Florida Council on Crime & Delinquency  
Sherry & Jeff Forbes  
Glad Tidings Assembly of God  
Gorrie Elementary School, Tampa  
Helen Graham & Peggy Flatley  
Gulf Beach Kiwanis  
Hands on Tampa / Tampa Bay  
Hillsborough High School RMH  
Charities Club  
Ellie Hunt  
The Hunter Family  
Kiwanis of the Gulf Beaches  
Lackey & Denney Families  
Maximo Presbyterian Church  
Kay Murphy  
Northeast Presbyterian Church  
Oakhurst United Methodist Church  
Emily Parmer  
Pathway Community Church  
Premier Group Realty, Inc.  
Publix Facility Services  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Seminole Junior Women's Club  
Seminole United Methodist Church,  
Jayden's Gang  
Skycrest United Methodist Church,  
Eve's Circle  
Lee Smith & Jinnie Edsen  
Suncoast Auto Builders  
Sunshine City Kiwanis  
Tampa West Rotary Club  
U.S. Probation Office  
USF Alpha Delta Pi  
USF St. Pete Campus Student Affairs  
"We Feed the Hungry" Barbara & Donnie McClendon  
Vitality Foods Services, Inc.  
Volunteer USF  
Barbara Wolfe  
Edie & D.C. Woodson & The Casserole Club

## IN-KIND

Due to space and cost considerations, we are no longer able to print our lengthy list of In-Kind Donations in our newsletter. That list may be found posted in each of our Houses. Thank you.

## LEADERSHIP SP GIVES "WEST" A FACELIFT



The 25-year old St. Pete West House recently underwent some well-earned and extensive interior upgrades, thanks to the hard work and generosity of the Leadership St. Pete Class of 2005, a program of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce. On April 30, more than 30 energetic and creative volunteers (see photo above) gave 11 House bedrooms a facelift that included new paint, furniture, pictures and linens. More than \$33,000 of in-kind and cash donations was raised for this project. Thank you, LSP 2005, for choosing RMH and giving our West families newly decorated rooms in which to rest as they support their hospitalized children. And thanks to the nearly 75 St. Pete community businesses and individuals who contributed to the project, especially the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay for its \$10,000 gift.



## A BOOST OF YOUTHFUL ENERGY

This summer's Teen Program wrapped up on July 27 with an appreciation lunch. Our 36 teens had a great summer while focusing their efforts on doing chores for the families, baking goodies, preparing meals and holding a free car wash. For the little ones, they had story time, bingo, yoga, colored t-shirts, performed card tricks and serenaded them on the guitar. The families were so impressed with the dedication and giving hearts of our wonderful "Volunteens."

Tampa House resident Keyton Reyes was an eager helper on the Home Depot garden project. Both Keyton & his sister Arisia have undergone heart surgeries, and Arisia was in the hospital when this photo was taken.



## CARING REALTORS

For over five years, Premier Group Realty of Clearwater has been a strong supporter of our St. Pete Houses. In addition to their ongoing meals, their donations include a large amount of toys, books, equipment, and even a playhouse! We're very grateful to Premier Group and all the other groups like theirs who help us out from month to month and year to year. We can't do it without you.



Brownie & Girl Scout groups are a great source of cookies for our Houses.



# 2005 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward Ameen, *Chairman*

Jeff Harring, *President*

Dan Honegger, *Vice-President*

Claudia Straw, *Treasurer*

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*Honorary Board Members*



35 Columbia Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33606

## GIFTS THAT GO A LONG WAY

We'll all breathe a sigh of relief when hurricane season comes to an end and fall begins, with the rustle of leaves and the promise of cooler and calmer weather. Before we know it, the holidays will be here.

As you find yourself getting caught up in holiday plans, we hope that each day you take the time to give thanks for the many blessings in your life. We also ask that you remember the families staying at "The House that Love built<sup>®</sup>", near their hospitalized children. Contributions of time, treasure and talents will help assure an ongoing haven for families to find comfort and care; a place where they can feel at home and discover the value of friendships at a dark time in their lives.

**Light a Light & Share a Night Gifts** - can help underwrite family stays at the Ronald McDonald House, during the holidays and all year long.

**"In Memory of" and "In Honor of" Gifts** - can be a most gratifying and thoughtful way to show your love and respect for a special person in your life.

**Matched Gifts** - can grow your contribution. Check with your employer to see if they offer gift matching or grants for volunteer hours served.

**Planned Gifts** - can be made by naming RMHC of Tampa Bay in your will or trust, resulting in gifts that benefit you and RMH families.

NL05-2

**YES**, I would like to help pediatric families at the Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay through:

Light a Light & Share a Night

(\$25) (\$50) (\$350) (Other \_\_\_\_\_)

Memory & Honor Gifts

(see enclosed envelope)

Planned Gifts

Contact Executive Director Janice L. Davis at

(813) 258-6430

Volunteering/Preparing a Meal

Call St. Pete at (727) 821-8961 ext. 7694

Call Tampa at (813) 254-2398 ext. 316

Please complete the envelope (in the center of this publication) and the above form.

Mail with your check, if appropriate, made payable to

*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay*. Thank you for your generosity.



OF TAMPA BAY

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