

LOVE NOTES

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

ONE FAMILY'S MIRACLE

It was just another typical Wednesday morning for 18-year old Andrew Skafec and his 14-year old brother Jeremiah when they headed off to school at the Sarasota Military Academy in Andrew's pride and joy – his new Toyota Celica. Andrew had just returned from basic training for the National Guard at Fort Benning, Georgia and was going through his last year of high school before going into the military. He could not have foreseen the next chain of events that would forever change their lives: a vehicle cut them off, forcing Andrew's car to jump the median and hit a truck head on.

Simultaneously, their mother Shirley's intuition sensed that something was wrong. She did not receive her daily text message from Andrew and upon calling the school, learned of a nearby accident. Jumping in her car she headed to the school. Nothing prepared her for what she found upon her arrival. Her two precious boys were severely injured and taken to Bayfront Hospital. Shirley's journey to the hospital seemed to take forever with fear and panic threatening to overtake her. It was there that she learned the terrible news...Jeremiah's leg, arm, head and the right side of his face had been crushed in the accident. Andrew fared only slightly better, suffering a head injury and broken leg.

Thus began Shirley Skafec's horrifying journey into the world of hospitals, medical terminology and perilous surgeries. With Andrew at Bayfront for treatment, Jeremiah was transferred to All Children's Hospital (ACH) where he underwent 13 hours of surgery to repair his severe head injury. An

exhausted Shirley and her brother Jeff were told to prepare themselves for the worst, as Jeremiah might not survive surgery. If he did, there was much more surgery required to repair the rest of his battered body. Her heart wrenched as she faced an awful dilemma, should she leave the waiting room to be with Andrew, who was in the ICU with hundreds of stitches all over his body? Or should she stay to be near her younger son, who might not survive.

Against all odds, Jeremiah survived the surgery and was put into a medically-induced coma, a common procedure with severely injured

patients to give the body a chance to recuperate. Surgeons had removed part of his frontal lobe, placed 27 titanium plates in his face, and a rod each in his femur, tibia and arm.

Meanwhile, Andrew remained in Bayfront ICU for ten days with a head injury, an orbital (eye socket) fracture and a subdural hematoma which occurs when a blood vessel ruptures and blood builds up between the brain and the brain's tough outer lining. His shattered leg required seven screws and a rod to repair while the rest of his body was covered with lacerations. After his release from the hospital, Andrew stayed with Shirley and Jeff at the St. Pete East Ronald McDonald House to keep watch over his younger brother Jeremiah.

Doctors informed them that Jeremiah might not wake up from his coma. Even if he did, there was no way to know the extent of his brain damage. Jeremiah was in for the fight of his life. Then, twenty days into his coma, the doctors told Shirley that Jeremiah needed a tracheotomy to replace the ventilator, as well as a feeding tube. However, the

ICU doctor wanted to "push" Jeremiah to breathe on his own and turned the ventilator to low. Jeremiah put up a good fight and by the next day began breathing over the ventilator. With a sigh of relief,
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REGULAR FEATURES

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Dear Friends,

During the holidays many families sent us cards and pictures of their children, now older and healthier. They sent messages of gratitude and kindness, inspiration and wisdom, to let us know how much our program helped them during a difficult time. Many of these families return to visit the Houses, making meals or collecting items from our Needs List. Others hold fundraising events and those who can, send donations in honor or in memory of a loved one. We are touched by these heartfelt messages and updates on children we've come to know and love.

This newsletter tells of two such families who came into our Houses as many families do - uncertain and fearful, forced to navigate a complicated medical world. What they found in our special "home-away-from-home" was the support of other families who share their hope, sorrow and joy that is so constant on the road to a child's recovery.

It is comforting for us to open the mail with a card, photo or contribution from a family or individual who is giving on behalf of a family who has stayed at the House. Each message tells us that the Ronald McDonald House is fulfilling its mission. Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Janice L. Davis

Janice L. Davis
Executive Director



The King of the Jungle is coming to Tampa

THE LION KING
Storybook Ball 2007
Saturday, May 19
A La Carte Event Pavilion

One of the best events in Tampa Bay is gearing up for a roaring good time.

The Storybook Ball has become a favorite among corporate and individual supporters of RMH because they have fun! There are exciting auction items, delicious and exotic food, lively dancing and a prestigious guest of honor.

"Each year, this event allows us the opportunity to present our annual

Award of Excellence to an outstanding role model and community leader in Tampa Bay children's causes," notes Ball Chair Theresa Klingel. Past recipients include Buccaneers Linebacker Derrick Brooks, Tampa Bay Lightning Head Coach John Tortorella, actors Patrick Wilson and Angela Basset, Yankees Owner George Steinbrenner and USA (Ret.) General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. This event raises significant funds to cover the costs of keeping our doors open at the three Ronald McDonald Houses open to families, year after year.

In addition to Title Sponsor TSE Industries Inc./The Klingel Family Foundation, sponsorships for tables of ten range from \$3,000 to \$25,000. For more information contact Janice Davis at 813.258.6430 or by email at jdprmh@tampabay.rr.com.

calendar of events	Feb. 24	St. Pete Volunteer Luncheon ACH Education Center	May 19	Storybook Ball, Tampa A La Carte, Tampa
	March 24	Tampa RMH Volunteer Luncheon Tampa Yacht Club	Oct. 9	Cowboy Bunco-St. Pete ACH Education Center
	April 15	Kimal "Building to a Cure" Classic Car Show, Venice	Nov. 16-17	RMH 19th Annual Golf Classic Westin Innisbrook

For more information, visit our website at www.rmhtampabay.com

Love Notes is published twice 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.

Comments and questions may be mailed to:
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay, Inc.
28 Columbia Drive, Tampa, FL 33606
www.rmhtampabay.com

Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay's three locations:
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

18TH ANNUAL RMH GOLF CLASSIC A BIG HIT

A crisp and sunny day greeted over 140 players for another wonderful day of golf at Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club on November 18 and 19. Tampa General Hospital, title sponsor for the sixth year, led more than 35 sponsors in the 18th annual event that net more than \$100,000 for local House operations.

"I can't believe it's been 18 years," exclaimed long-time event director and Board of Trustees chairman Edward Ameen. "It's been a pleasure greeting both our returning sponsors and new supporters – and seeing what great results our hard-working board, volunteers and staff produce for our pediatric families."

The successful two-day tournament hosted Friday's Kinzel Scramble and Saturday's Casper Challenge, along with an awards dinner and casino night on Friday evening.

The annual tradition of a live auction for a Super Bowl package of tickets, sponsored once again by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers was won (for the second year in a row) by Shani Davis of Roberts Printing. Golf Classic Chairman Bob Sanders extended thanks to the Bucs along with all other donors and the many day and evening volunteers.

For the complete list of winners and photos of the event, visit our website at www.rmhc Tampabay.com/events.

Keith Robinson of Smith Barney celebrates a great shot



Tournament Chair Bob Sanders with RMHC Board Members Carla Saavedra & Tom Powers



GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS

TITLE SPONSOR

Tampa General Hospital

PLATINUM SPONSORS

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DEX Imaging, Inc.
TSE Industries

GOLDEN SPONSORS

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The Martin-Brower Company
Taylor Farms Florida, Inc.

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North Side Foods
Robert Drywall Co., Inc.
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Sunway Restaurants
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Hole Sponsors
All Children's Hospital
Darling International
Derby Lane
Foelgner, Ronz & Straw, P.A.
Northern Trust Bank of Florida
S & D Coffee, Inc.
Schwans Food Service

CASINO NIGHT

McDonald's Tampa Bay Marketing Association
Special Sponsors
Jack Beatty, CFP/Raymond James
FKQ Advertising - Friday Luncheon
Jeff Harring, CFP & Jeanice Harring, FA,
Raymond James & Associates, Inc. - Trophy Sponsor
Edward Kuehne II
Travel Saver Guides
Warren E. Conley Corporation

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS

Autoway Chevrolet, Clearwater (2)
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Bill Currie Ford
Reeves Import Motor Cars, Tampa (3)

MAJOR IN-KIND

Memorabilia Magic - Awards Sponsor
VF Imagewear, Inc. - Shirt Sponsor

FAMILY MIRACLE - CONTINUED.....

relief, they cancelled the tracheotomy and the feeding tube. Shirley believes Jeremiah must have heard them, even in his comatose state. After five days of careful monitoring they celebrated as the ventilator tubes were removed. By the following week Jeremiah was moved out of ICU, a huge step in his recovery.

Soon Jeremiah was being weaned off strong painkillers and re-learning to stand and walk. Although his speech returned, he lost his short term memory. Looking back, Shirley revels in his progress and is amazed by the changes that occurred. Jeremiah's grades at school greatly improved, from 3.7 to 4.0, but more importantly, his outlook on life dramatically changed ... for the better! Before the accident he was a very serious and factual child. Now he's incredibly outgoing, friendly and loving – an extremely rare side effect of a head injury. As Shirley explains, "With frontal lobe damage, it changes executive decisions, as well as artistic values in music and art. Jeremiah was very artistic before the accident, now he no longer draws, but has a new appreciation for music and is taking up the guitar."

Jeremiah also lost his sense of smell and taste, although he swears that he can taste very spicy food. He is gradually gaining back the 40 lbs he lost. He's finished physical therapy and now works out with a personal trainer at the gym twice a week. He loves it so much he's interested in becoming a fitness trainer, instead of law enforcement, where his options will be limited by his injuries.

Andrew's personality and career expectations also took a radical turn after the accident. Before, he was more like Jeremiah is now – happy, loving, outgoing, athletic and physically fit. Now he is more introverted, and very hard on himself. He has headaches, anxiety and depression, all caused by his head injury. He's lost half of his sense of smell and many foods he used to love now taste horrible. Most heartbreaking was his discharge, due to his injuries, from the National Guard and giving up his lifelong dream to serve in the military. Andrew completed basic training at the age of 17 and with only one more year of school left he was to go into Special Operations, followed by mechanized training in Germany. All is not lost though; he received a special grant to study Marine Mechanics Technology at the Sarasota County Technical Institute. Now 19 years

old, he's doing extremely well in his second semester and loves his studies.

Shirley says life is still very difficult, as most people do not realize the consequences of head injuries. Traumatic brain injury is known as "The Silent Epidemic" because it is often unseen and is usually not accompanied

Head injuries often change personality and behavior.

by physical symptoms. In most instances the person you knew no longer exists. This person is different and will likely never be the person you once knew.

There are also the ongoing complications from the other injuries, which are not yet fully repaired. Jeremiah had



the rod in his arm removed in September, and returned to additional facial reconstruction to rebuild his forehead and correct his eye socket placement. They are still waiting for the results to see what impact this will have on his vision.

Andrew

underwent a second surgery on his leg this past October.

Shirley credits her brother Jeff and RMH for helping her get through this past year. She was completely unaware of what the RMH program offers, much less the loving support of staff and volunteers stating, "To go to your own room and have a space to reflect or grieve, just to figure out the next step is so important. If you need to be around others, you just have to go to the common areas." People cope with trauma in different ways. In Shirley's case she enjoyed more solitude at RMH, often doing her chores in the middle of the night when it was quiet after spending all day at the hospital. Her brother Jeff and son Andrew enjoyed the camaraderie of others, getting to know families, volunteers and staff during their long two and half month stay.

This past December the Skafec family once again stayed at RMH while Jeremiah underwent more surgery. It was the first time the staff finally was able to meet Jeremiah. They were excited to finally hug this "miracle" boy, now almost 16 years old.

The family's return visit to RMH was an emotional one, bringing back so many memories. Shirley explains that it is overwhelming to contemplate all that has happened to her close-knit family.

The future looks good for both boys and their mother is quick to tell you that she counts her blessings. Each of her sons lived through a horrific accident that could easily have ended one or both of their lives. She now believes first-hand in miracles.

Andrew Skafec (Above L) Jeremiah in his Venice Police Explorer Uniform (R) Left-the Skafec family today



BABY ZOEY'S STRUGGLE



Katrina Bogert and John Bordwell were young and in love, with a baby on the way. They were very excited to see their baby's first ultrasound pictures and were overjoyed to learn it was a girl! Excitement soon turned to fear, however, when the doctors diagnosed their unborn baby, Zoey Renee, with gastroschisis, a rare condition in which an opening in the abdominal wall causes the intestines to be exposed externally. Zoey would need surgery after delivery, but until then, Katrina could continue with her normal routine.

Around 18 weeks into her pregnancy, Katrina was referred for treatment at the Genesis Clinic in Tampa, as well as TGH for delivery. Katrina and John toured the TGH maternity ward and RMH to reassure themselves of the medical treatment they would receive. Impressed with the facilities they looked forward to the care and support available to them.

Soon after their visit, Katrina was diagnosed with edema, a condition in which fluids accumulate in certain body tissues. She was forced to quit work in order to prevent complications with her pregnancy. Meanwhile, John, working on a road crew to cut down foliage on I-75, was struck by a falling tree that broke his leg. After being airlifted to TGH and having a titanium rod and screws inserted into his femur, he was sent home to recuperate with a now very pregnant Katrina.

A few weeks later, Katrina experienced what she thought was her water breaking. She and John rushed to TGH anticipating Zoey's arrival, but the doctors told her

conditions were likely a result of the edema, not her water breaking. Before her discharge however, her water did break and she went into labor, four weeks ahead of her December 8th due date. Zoey was born the next day weighing just 4lbs 3oz.

Immediately after birth, warm, moist, sterile bandages were put over the exposed organs outside of Zoey's body to protect



them. She was then intubated with a nasogastric tube to remove air and decompress her intestines. Surgery was scheduled that evening to partially close the opening, and preserve the portion of herniated intestines that would gradually be pushed back into her abdomen over the next few days. That night, Katrina and John, who was still on crutches, were finally able to see their beautiful baby girl. Other than the small amount of organ tissue that was still exposed, she was perfect in every way.

Zoey was a fighter and gradually overcame her health condition while her anxious young parents cared for

her day and night. Though she was small at birth Zoey Renee, (Zoey, which is Greek for Life, and Renee which is Latin for Reborn) built strength and improved each day. Although there still may be future intestinal complications, Katrina and John hope their baby girl will live a long and healthy life.

Katrina and John were impressed with RMH's services, and expressed surprise at how many generous people donate to RMH in the form of food and in-kind items. When they ran low on money they were able to stay at no cost. During their stressful 32-day stay, they bonded with other families dealing with much more difficult situations. They realized that Zoey's prognosis could have been much worse.

Things continue to look up for this courageous family. Katrina and John will be married in May, a recent Pell grant will allow her to attend community college and John is healed and ready to go back to work. They are very fortunate to have a strong network of family support, including Katrina's mother Deb, who was diligent about keeping their Care Pages updated so family members could stay current with baby Zoey's progress.

According to Katrina, Zoey's health continues to improve although regular follow-ups on her condition will be required.



According to research, Gastroschisis occurs in approximately 1 in 5,000 live births, usually to mothers under the age of 20. There is no specific known cause. Although this is not considered a common condition, Katrina learned there were seven other babies born with Gastroschisis during the month of August at TGH.

RMH NEEDS LIST

While out shopping, why not pick up a few much-needed items for the House. They include but are not limited to:

Chicken, beef, ham, hamburgers & hot dogs
Breakfast & lunch meats
Dairy (butter, cream, margarine, cheese)
Cereal & grits - single servings
Canned goods: Soups, meats, pastas, tomato sauce, vegetables, instant meals
Vegetable oil & salad dressings
Sugar, sugar substitute, coffee creamer
Mayo, mustard & pickle relish
Snacks: chips, cookies, crackers, individual puddings, jello, fruit juice

Pop Tarts
Icing & paper baking cups
Fruit juice - individual size
Spaghetti sauce & BBQ sauce
Instant tea, hot cocoa, Koolaid
Jams & jellies
Cakes & pies

Kitchen & Cleaning

Aluminum foil & plastic wrap
Non-stick fry pans - all sizes
Stainless steel & plastic forks & spoons
Coffee stir sticks
Hot & cold 12 oz. cups
Paper plates & bowls
Paper towels & toilet paper
Ziploc freezer bags (1 & 2 gallon)
Heavy duty (33 gallon) trash bags
Clorox Ready Mop pads & floor cleaner
Clorox Disinfectant Wipes
Lysol Disinfectant Spray
Bleach and X14 cleaner
Dryer fabric softener sheets
Lysol spray/liquid
Powdered laundry detergent
Scotch Brite scour pads & scrub sponges
Dreft baby soap
Soft Scrub, tub & basin aerosol cleaner
Food saver packing rolls, 11 inch

Miscellaneous

Black felt-tip markers & Whiteout
Copy paper - colored, photo paper
Scissors
Postage stamps
Masking tape & clear packing tape
Clock radios
Port-a-crib sheets
Large citrus juicer
Dish cloths
White pillowcases (standard)
White towels (bath, hand, washcloths)
Small artificial plants in baskets
DVD movies
4 ft. fluorescent bulbs
60 watt light bulbs
Prepaid phone & gas cards
Gift cards for: Home Depot, WalMart, Target, Publix/groceries, Sam's Club

Please check our website for updated lists for the individual houses.
www.rmhctampabay.com

ST. PETE HAPPENINGS

Devil Rays Cook Too!

Folks from the Devil Rays organization do more than just play great baseball. They gathered a big group in October to prepare a wonderful meal for our families.



Pop Tabs Really Add Up

Kids from the St. Patrick Catholic School collected 389 pounds of tabs and purchased a washer for the St. Pete House with the proceeds.



Unilever Pitches In

Employees from Unilever were a great help to RMH over the holidays. They cleaned, decorated, baked and sorted food during the month-long ACH Employee Food Drive for RMH. A few of them are shown here with a cooler of goodies they donated for use during the holidays, stocking it four times throughout the season.



Giving Back to RMH

The Rutkowski family of Dunedin came by to prepare a wonderful meal for our families. They stayed at RMH East for a month while Baby Oscar was in ACH.



TAMPA HAPPENINGS

Seminole Electric's Holiday Spirit

The employees from this Tampa Company held a charity auction and raffle to raise more than \$3,000 for RMH. They also donated a huge amount of items from our Needs List, including toys, appliances and yard tools. Shown left to right are Betsy Wilkinson, Tampa House Manager, Wendi Cummings, Seminole Electric, Janice Davis, RMHC Executive Director and Julie Ludwig, Seminole Electric.



BINGO

The stormy weather didn't keep the 20+ volunteers away from Tampa RMH on Bingo Night. Everyone enjoyed the potluck dinner and the camaraderie while playing for prizes. Shown at left are Weekend Manager Kurt Kuhlman and House Operations Committee Member Jerri Buchanan.



Tampa Bay Storm Kicks It Up A Notch

It was an exciting day when Head Quarterback for the AFL's Tampa Bay Storm John Kaleo and Lightning Bug arrived with bagged lunches from McDonald's, much to the delight of our families. John signed autographs and visited with the families, including John Bordwell and Katrina Bogert (see Zoey's Struggle). Head Coach and General Manager Tim Marcum is shown at right.



Montero Family Thanksgiving

On a day when most families are spending the day watching football and eating turkey, Lisa Montero and her family are making last minute preparations and loading up their car to bring dinner to Tampa RMH. For the past three years the Monteros have prepared an entire Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings to make the day a little brighter for our families in residence. Pictured from top to bottom are Lisa Montero with her children Olivia, Katie, Andrew and Matthew.



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 Foods - help fund weekly deliveries of fresh fruit or meat to prepare meals 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 child's diagnosis and treatments.

Share a Night Program - help underwrite a family stay for \$10 per night, \$70 a week or more (no family is ever turned away because of an inability to pay). Our actual costs are \$50 per night per family.

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 - Looking for a new way to show your community how much you care? Have some spare days, evenings or weekends? 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. Training is provided. Please call...

Lise Fields in St. Petersburg at
(727) 821-8961 ext. 7679 or
Kathy Robinson in Tampa at
(813) 254-2398 ext. 317.

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

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 August 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. If we have erred or omitted anyone, we apologize.

Corporations, Organizations & Foundations

\$64,000+

Disney Worldwide Services, Inc.

\$15,000

Eleanor M. Beyer Foundation

Rotary Club of Seminole

\$10,000

Hobbs Foundation

\$7,000+

St. Petersburg Times

\$6,000+

7th Annual Taylor Golf Tournament

\$5,000+

Hunt Construction Group, Inc.

Stratonet, Inc.

United Way Combined Federal Campaign

\$2,500

Ann Payne Edson Family Foundation

Ryan & Company Charity Golf

Tournament:

Steven R. Brantley

Stephen M. Carlton

Daniel & Michelle Cloutier

Charles & Kimberley Evans

C. Andrew & Geneva Gossett

Prometheus Global Consulting, LLC

Edwin L. Williamson III

\$2,000+

Euro American Advisors

Dr. William Kochenour, Dr. Donna

Nichols & Staff

McDonald's "Bubbler" Promotion

\$1,000

Bakery Chef, LLC

Francis & Gertrude Levett Foundation

JP Morgan Chase Foundation

Manny & Ruthy Cohen Foundation, Inc.

MetLife Foundation

\$100 - \$999

ACH Guild Seminole-Largo

ACH Pathology & Clinical Lab

ACH Sertoma Therapy Center of Citrus Cty

Aetna Giving Campaign

Albertsons

Allstate Giving Campaign

America's Charities

Benefactor Realty, Inc.

Borders, Inc.

Clearwater Endoscopy Center Nursing

Staff

Don CeSar Beach Resort

Florida Bermuda Moose Association

District 20

Grace Community Church VBS

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Orient Road Jail

HubOne Logistics, Ltd.

Hyde Park United Methodist Church,

Keystone/Wesley Sunday School

Kay Chemical Company

Krewe of Pandora

Merrill Lynch Lodesterre Group

N.O.A.C. Rat Trap #349Pinellas County

Office of Human Rights

- Pfizer United Way Campaign
- Phi Theta Kappa, Beta Theta Omega Chapter
- Professional Communications Systems
- Progress Energy Service Co.
- Raymond James Financial Security Audit Dept.
- Red Hat Ladies, Tarpon Springs
- Sam's Club #6387
- St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
- St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church
- St. Vincent De Paul Church Ladies Guild
- Starbucks
- Suncoast Autobuilders, Inc.
- Tennessee Bun Company
- The Morris Foundation, Inc.
- Windflight Surf Shop

Up to \$99

- ACH Guild
- ACH Guild, Palm Harbor Branch
- ACH Guild, St. Petersburg
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit K-11
- AT&T Community Giving Program
- Bayshore Baptist Church J.O.Y. Sunday School Class
- Bethel Baptist Church
- Betmar Acres Park
- Boley Oaks
- Cassandra's Dream/Elks & Moose Lodges
- Don Cesar Beach Resort
- First United Methodist Church of Seffner VBS
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- Knights of Columbus, Council 6476
- Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
- Park Oaks RV/Park Escapees Club
- Rotary of West Tampa
- Signature Décor Interiors, Inc.
- Tampa Bay Porcelain Artists
- VFW Ladies Auxiliary #8713

INDIVIDUALS

\$25,000

Dorothy F. Flaum Trust

\$5,000

Heidi Hess-Haas (Dr. Gary Haas Heart Fund)

\$1,000+

- Dr. & Mrs. Eric Arias
- Bertha De Fazio
- Michael & Carol Sirota
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Ronald Skipper
- William & Paula Van Law

\$100 - \$999

- Irene & John Alfano
- Tom & Betsy Berdis
- Mike Bracewell
- Melissa Bryant
- Helen Buck
- Paul & Sally Busker
- Connie Cavaleri
- Laurie Crofutt
- Reinhardt Damm
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- Chad Douglas
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- James & Carrie Fales
- Deborah Gambino

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- Kathleen & Lloyd Stevenson
- Ashley Strickland
- Pedro Torres
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- John W. Wright

Up to \$99

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- John & Juliann Aguilar
- Sam Altajar
- Jen & Greg Albright
- Nancy Amore
- Chris Angilella
- Barbara Armstrong
- John Barrett
- Lori Bell
- Vincent & Carmela Berte
- Brian & Bethany Bidwell
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- Shari Cessna
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- Enick Clermont
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- Mrs. Vincent DeSalvo

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- Theodore Keyesen
- Sandra Krout
- Frederick Lee
- Alana Lewis
- Karen Loeffler
- Rocio Lunski
- Joan Maher
- Marigayle Marti
- Elizabeth Mauck
- Ralph McClair
- Ginger McCord
- Patrick & Susan McDuffie
- Cathy Meade
- Pauline Messier-Philips
- Bob Monaco
- Judy Moon
- Richard Moss
- Patricia Mulryan
- Peter & Janis Murray
- Joan Muscara
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- Sadie Danforth
- **Kennedy Martin**

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- Virginia McNally
- **Avery Grace McMillan's Birth**
- Barbara Judd
- **Virginia McNally**
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- James & Maria Quirke
- **Porter & Louise Reed**
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2-Year Old Haley Mereness loves Rudolph

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- ACH Guild Seminole Branch
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- Glad Tidings Assembly of God
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- Hands On Tampa Bay (H.O.T.)
- Heritage United Methodist Church
- Ellie Hunt
- Kiwanis Club of the Gulf Beaches
- Maximo Presbyterian Church
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- New Journey Fellowship
- Northeast Presbyterian Church
- Pathways Community Church
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- Premier Group Realty
- Publix Facilities
- Seminole Junior Women's Club
- Seminole United Methodist Church
- Skycrest United Methodist Church
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- St. Pete College Nursing Students
- Suncoast Autobuilders
- Suncoast Cathedral
- Sunshine City Kiwanis
- Tampa Rotary West
- Thieves of San Lorenzo
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- Young Republicans



KIMAL LUMBER

Up until five years ago, Kimal Lumber was probably like most companies: they would get almost daily requests from organizations for funding. Kimal was always responsive and generous; however, it occurred to them that writing checks for \$10, \$20 and other various amounts was not only time-consuming, but each separate check could not have a large impact by itself. Enter the "Building to a Cure" committee (volunteer associates at Kimal Lumber) who work very hard at making each year's fundraiser(s) as successful as possible to raise funds for RMH and All Children's Hospital.



Building to a Cure 4th Annual Classic Car Show April 23, 2006

Kimal's annual car show, held in downtown Venice, continues to build in size and revenues. This year's event, sponsored by Bill Buck Chevrolet, featured 85 registered cars.

Kimal also raised money through raffles, a pie walk, T-shirt and food sales. Diamond sponsors Hamsher Homes, Dewey-Noller Builders, Caithness Construction and Mi Pueblo Restaurant were integral to the effort, helping to bring the net proceeds to more than \$18,000.



Building to a Cure Golf Tournament September 16, 2006

32 foursomes turned out for a wonderful day of golf at the Capri Isles Golf Course in Venice to support RMH and All Children's Hospital. Thanks to the many volunteers and corporate sponsors, Kimal Lumber raised over \$10,000. Even the players who won first, second, third and fourth prize donated their winnings to the cause.



Golf Event Chairman Wally Maybury (R) and sponsor Hamsher Homes

Sylvia and Ed Ameen, RMHC Chairman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RONALD MCDONALD CARE MOBILE™!

Each time the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM) hits the streets the medical team on board wonder what the day will bring. RMCM Medical Director Dr. Lynn Ringenberg is passionate about the critical need for their service. She cites

Dr. Ringenberg and her team have plans to expand their services, especially when they see such dramatic results. She also recalls another teen whose teeth had been broken during a fall. Although the girl had initially been treated by a dental clinic, she suffered pain and disfigurement which led to depression, weightloss and low self esteem. The medical team contacted a Periodontist who agreed to fix the girl's teeth free of charge. She is once again eating normally and has improved self esteem.

In the past year the (RMCM) visited 109 sites and treated 1,205 children. Currently the van visits 31 schools in Hillsborough County areas that include large medically underserved populations and has recently expanded into Pasco County.

In addition to providing quality care to underserved children and youth in the Tampa Bay area the RMCM ensures that pediatric residents, medical students and nursing students are actively engaged in providing care on the Care Mobile. A major objective is to educate and improve attitudes of pediatric medical residents toward children with special health care needs. During the past year, 75% of the 68 residents in the USF Pediatric and Medicine-Pediatric residencies were active participants in the program. They are gaining valuable insight into the many complex issues facing children and families with limited access to health care, especially those with special health care needs. Nursing students from USF's College of Nursing begin their Community Health rotation on the Care Mobile in early 2007.

USF Pediatrics also works with the HCC Dental Program, the Hillsborough County Dental Association, and the West Coast District Dental Association for dental services. These are performed by volunteer community dentists, assisted by HCC dental assistants and dental hygienist students. All children with significant dental disease are referred to Medicaid dental providers.

"Asthma Care Day" will soon be added on a quarterly basis to selected schools, based on increased numbers of kids with asthma. A Children's Medical Services (CMS) nurse coordinator will join the van team in early March to enroll eligible kids in CMS. CMS provides a medical home for kids up to 21 years of age suffering from chronic medical and emotional health needs to ensure they receive the required subspecialty care to which they are entitled.

The RMCM is rolling along providing invaluable medical and dental attention to those who need it most, the disadvantaged children and youth in our community who need our help.



an example of two teenage girls, both presenting with a long history of abdominal pain. Neither girl had insurance or options for treatment. Both were diagnosed with severe chronic pelvic inflammatory disease. One girl was treated in the emergency room and released, while the other required hospitalization and surgery. Without treatment both had the potential to become infertile.



46 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HONORED



Our annual Scholarship Luncheon was held on November 15 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay to honor 46 high school students from our 11-county Tampa Bay area. Each year scholarships are presented to promising sophomore students who desire a college education. Eligibility is based on academic performance, drug-free record and community service. Each scholarship is a pre-paid two-year Florida community college tuition (60 credit hours).

Veronica Alfaro-Young, WQYK radio personality emceed the luncheon which was attended by a number of McDonald's Owner Operators and special guest and Keynote speaker Dave Andreychuk of the Tampa Bay Lightning. Dave entertained guests with tales of his rise to stardom from a small town in Ontario, Canada. He spoke about the importance of dreams, perseverance and hard work to obtain his goals and encouraged the students to follow their own dreams.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2006

\$41,000

Tampa General Hospital

\$10,000

Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union

\$5,000

Allen Hargest, honoring

God's Blessings

\$3,000+

Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.

\$2,000 - \$2,999

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Our annual Holiday Open House featured delicious food provided by Levy Foods (center), live music by Carlo Lovasco, check presentation from Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union (L-R Pat Marsh, Cindy Earl, Jon Heldon) and a visit from Santa (R with guest).

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE - ST. PETE EAST



2006 FRIENDS AWARD - CARDEL HOMES

The Friends Award honors an individual, corporation or community organization who has gone beyond the call of duty to help accomplish the needs of the Ronald McDonald House Program. Currently in its 11th year, we are pleased to announce our 2006 Friends Award Recipient; Cardel Homes.

For the past two years, in keeping with their commitment to families and their wish to give back to the communities they help build, Cardel Homes has generously donated \$25,000 per year, for a total of \$50,000. They are a community-minded company, committed to raising awareness and funds for local charities.

We are very grateful to have friends like Cardel Homes, who make our lives, and the lives of our families so much easier.



THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT IS ALIVE & WELL AT RMH



Brucie Klay's Dance Studio in South Tampa made ornaments & hair ribbons for her young students to choose from when they made a donation to Ronald McDonald House.



First Impressions of Tampa stopped by the Tampa RMH with a selection of toys and gifts.



Home Shopping Network (HSN) sent some of their employees to help St. Pete decorate for the holidays.



Students from Gulfwinds Montessori brought holiday gifts to the St. Pete house for our families.



Dillard's - always supportive of RMH, dropped off some beautiful gift baskets over the holiday season.

2007 RMHC OF TAMPA BAY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Betsy Wilkinson
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Kathy Robinson
Operations Assistant
Barbara Cooper

RMHC Staff at the 2007 Annual Run for Kids (L-R: Donna Young, Janice Davis, Lise Fields, Ed Ameen, Judy Keyak, Betsy Wilkinson, Alison Barrick, Lynn Lippincott) & the Lambrecht family



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Planned gifts provide a way to serve and be remembered by future generations. Each gift, small or large, is a gift of lasting value. Someone who makes a planned gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay is helping to prepare our organization for the future much like one would plan for the future of their own loved ones.

Any gift which is transferred with the help of a professional is considered a planned gift. Planned gifts are a tax-efficient method of giving and offer benefits to you, the donor, as well as to our organization.

These gifts may take some time to set up and arrange, but the benefit is that they stretch beyond the immediate need and help the organization – one whose mission includes preparing for emergencies – to make ready for future needs.

Some of these gifts can create opportunities for donors as well as for RMHC. There are many giving options from which to choose — from naming Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay in a will to a more complex trust arrangement. Other types of gifts such as the transfer of real estate properties, stakes in businesses or securities may be the most beneficial for all concerned. Gifts may be made outright with long-lasting benefits to the organization, or they can be made over time through mutually beneficial options that enable the giver to build retirement earnings, receive fixed payments or maximize tax benefits while supporting the RMHC mission.

If you would like more information about making a planned gift, please contact Executive Director Janice Davis at (813) 258-6430.

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

Share a Night

(\$25) (\$70) (\$300) (Other _____)
(see enclosed envelope)

Memory & Honor Gifts

(see enclosed envelope)

Planned Gifts

Contact Executive Director Janice Davis
at (813) 258-6430

Volunteering/Preparing a Meal

St. Pete: (727) 821-8961 ext. 7694
Tampa: (813) 254-2398 ext. 316

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

Mail with your check payable to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay. Donations can also be made securely online at www.rmhctampabay.com.

Thank you for your generosity.

"In life we don't always get what we want. We wanted a perfect child. Instead God gave us an extraordinary young boy - a vivacious two year old whose legs must be amputated. This house is indeed a blessing to us. In Jamaica, 66 of our dollars makes one US dollar. We just couldn't afford a hotel. To show my appreciation I help with extra chores without letting anyone know." - Tampa RMH Family