OUR MISSION

To create, identify and support programs that directly improve the health, education, and wellbeing of children and families in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, including operating its cornerstone programs, the Ronald McDonald House® of Connecticut and the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield.
PERSEVERING WITH PURPOSE

Ronald McDonald House Charities of CT & Western MA (RMHC CTMA) faced many new challenges head-on in 2020. We lived each day not knowing what was to come. By holding true to our mission and our families, we persevered and found much to be grateful for.

Through it all, RMHC CTMA families were never alone. They faced each day with support from our staff and volunteers. They were provided safe and clean accommodations, meals and snacks, and PPE to keep them safe while visiting their hospitalized children. Staff connected with past RMHC families to reassure them they were not alone just because they returned home.

Our volunteers rallied and found new ways to support our Houses. They donated catered meals, cleaning supplies and masks for families.

Community support and loyal donors never missed a beat to ensure RMHC CTMA families had all they needed. They participated in our virtual Dine & Donate fundraisers by ordering meals from partnering restaurants. Through COVID-19 grant opportunities and our annual donors, we raised funds to directly support each family that walked through our doors. These fundraising endeavors were successful because of our dedicated friends who understand the continued needs of RMHC families.

We learned much in 2020. We were reminded of the importance of human connection and communicating with those we care about. Our compassion for others in difficult times brought us together and made us part of something bigger than ourselves. It made us even more like family.

With Gratitude,

Stuart Young
President

Michelle D’Amore
Executive Director

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR PROGRAMS

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts operates on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child - especially not where they will lay their head at night.

Ronald McDonald Houses

The Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut and the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield serve as a **home away from home** for families with seriously ill or injured children, making it possible for children from around the state, the country and the globe to access specialized and essential medical treatment not available in their local communities.

House Benefits

Our Houses provide all the comforts of home to more than 350 families per year, with access to private guestrooms and bathrooms, comfortable living space, a communal kitchen and dining room, playrooms both indoor and outdoor, and laundry facilities. Families can build a strong support system, by establishing friendships with other families facing similar uncertainties. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

RMH of Connecticut Advisory Council

Christine Higgins – President
Eileen Baker, Diana Caty, Arthur Erickson, Peggy Fay,
Ellen Good, Hope Juckel-Regan, Larry Lazaroff,
Lauren Mallozzi, Julia McFadden, Tom Mercaido,
Jennifer Minerri, Lou Proto, Cynthia Tanon-Santos

RMH of Springfield Advisory Council

Todd Bailey - President
Carlene Bailey, Roberta Bolduc, Diane Brunelle,
Myra Camilleri, Michelle Cayo, Margaret D’Amour, Molly Dill,
Nora Drapalski, Jim Dreikorn, Annamarie Golden,
Jessica Hagerman, Shannon Jarry, Todd Lajoie, Darlene Mark,
Cathy McCarron, Cindy O'Malley, Bryan Picard, Thia Ploubides,
Anthony Rino, Patrick Sheehy, Denise Walker, James Watts
2020 SUPPORT & IMPACT

Top Revenue Sources

- Public Support: $630,407
- Special Events: $427,645
- Restricted Gifts: $332,572
- McDonald’s Campaigns: $280,711
- Direct Mail: $157,049
- Grants: $116,816

Expenses

- Program: $1,780,465
- Fundraising: $466,993
- Management & General: $319,338
2020 IMPACT

Over 3,868 nights provided to families allowing them to be by their child’s side.

167 Families served

4,268 hours of service donated by volunteers.

Families traveled from:

15 STATES

6 COUNTRIES

Families saved $959,840 in out-of-pocket lodging and meal expenses by staying in our Houses.

82% of Nights were served to guest families unable to contribute towards their stay.

* Reflects impact of Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut and Ronald McDonald House of Springfield combined.
MEET THE MANEAS

When Andreas needed orthopedic surgery, his parents Vasile and Cristina knew that nothing would stand in their way of finding him the very best care. Their search led them to leave their home, travel to a different country, and stay with total strangers at the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield.

Vasile said that when he first arrived in the United States with his wife and son, he didn’t know what to expect. He felt stressed, worried, and fearful about what their stay would look like. Vasile was “pleasantly surprised” after spending just a few days at the Ronald McDonald House. He found a home-like environment with everything his family could need. Despite continued worries about Andreas’s condition, Vasile felt supported by those around him.

While the COVID-19 pandemic changed day-to-day life, the Maneas were still glad to be staying at the Ronald McDonald House. “The House provided a safe and healthy environment in addition to meals and groceries. The staff and volunteers regularly checked in with us to make sure we were well and if we had any needs... we love them,” they said.

After 94 nights and a successful operation for Andreas, Vasile and his family were able to return home. Even from more than 5,000 miles away, they remain a part of our Ronald McDonald House family.

STAYING CLOSE TO WHAT MATTERS MOST
In April, the following safety precautions were implemented in our Houses:

- Families were moved off-site for their safety for a short time.
- Volunteering and House activities were suspended.
- Stringent cleaning and social distancing protocols were implemented.
- Masks were required for everyone in the Houses.
- Meals were individually packaged for guests and microwaves and mini refrigerators were placed in guest rooms.
- The Houses operated at a reduced capacity with limitations on the number of families allowed.
- Common spaces were temporarily closed or limited in their usage.
2021 RMHC CTMA STAFF

Michelle D’Amore - Executive Director

Kaitlyn Darcy
Administrative Assistant Special Events Coordinator

Melissa Funaro
Senior Development Manager

Celine Hamilton Quill
House Manager

Marissa Hedman
Communications & Digital Fundraising Coordinator

Richard Popilowski
Chief Development Officer

Antonnique Robinson
Manager, Guest and Volunteer Services

Rosemarie Zello
Development Manager

Cathy Zorgo-Bignolas
Director, RMHC Global Partnerships & Communications

Springfield House

Night Managers
Noelia Ramos
Jazmin De La Cruz
Briana De Souza
Marisol Diaz
Kyla Burgess
Joe Shepard
Shakura Coffman-Meadows

Housekeeping
Gisela Lopez
Yamika Vazquez

Connecticut House

Night Managers
Amy Rodrigues
Danique Williams
Deneisha Davis
Glenda Maldonado
Jirina Fargeorge
Lee Grenier
Leidene Laviera
Omayra Rodriguez-Colon
Stacie Tavaran
Stephanie Nugent
Viviana Rivera-Alvarez

Housekeeping
Maria Perez
Rosy Muriel
Anabel Caporal
Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts

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