

# Ronald McDonald House Charities®

FACT SHEET

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## **mission**

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC®), a non-profit, 501(c)(3), creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. RMHC fulfills its mission by creating programs that address targeted needs, and by supporting these programs through its global network of local Chapters in 53 countries and regions. RMHC Chapters are run by boards comprised of members of the local medical community, business and civic leaders, parents/volunteers, and McDonald's representatives.

## **core programs**

The *Ronald McDonald House*® program has provided a “home-away-from-home” for millions of families since its inception in 1974. There are more than 277 Ronald McDonald Houses open in 32 countries and regions worldwide.

The *Ronald McDonald Family Room*® program provides a home-like haven inside hospitals, often just steps away from neonatal or pediatric intensive care units. Ronald McDonald Family Rooms provide the families of hospitalized children an opportunity to refresh, rest, and reflect, without leaving their children's sides. Today, there are more than 125 Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in 13 countries and regions.

The *Ronald McDonald Care Mobile*® program is a fleet of state-of-the-art vehicles that deliver cost-effective medical, dental and educational services to underserved children in their own neighborhoods. There are 32 Care Mobile programs in service in Argentina, Poland, El Salvador, New Zealand and the United States.

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### **scholarships and grantmaking**

Ronald McDonald House Charities awards grants to non-profit organizations for programs that directly improve the health and well being of children.

*National and international* grant requests are reviewed two times per year by a 20-plus-member Board of Trustees in Oak Brook, IL, comprised of health professionals, business and civic leaders, and McDonald's representatives.

The *RMHC Scholarship Program* is available through participating local U.S. Chapters to high school seniors who wish to continue their education.

### **history**

The first Ronald McDonald House opened in Philadelphia in 1974 as the result of the perseverance and dedication of Fred Hill, then a Philadelphia Eagles football player. After his daughter, Kim, was treated for leukemia at the local children's hospital, Hill became determined to help other families faced with the same situation. Very few institutions at that time provided sufficient accommodations for such families, and Dr. Audrey Evans, a pediatric oncologist at Children's Hospital, suggested that a "home-away-from-home" was needed. Hill enlisted the help of and his teammates and then General Manager, Jim Murray, as well as the local McDonald's restaurant franchisees to raise funds to purchase and renovate the first House.

### **website**

[www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org)

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