



SUMMER 2024 EDITION

Celebrating
40
years
1984-2024 *of keeping families together*

OVER 13,000 FAMILIES SPANNING 6 GENERATIONS



www.rmhc-centralpa.org



@rmhcofcentralpa



#Forty4Families



Celebrate with us!

Since RMHC-CP's founding, our mission has been simple: **to ease the burden of childhood illness on families and children**. Starting with a 13-bedroom House in 1984, we have expanded our services to include 36 guest rooms, a Ronald McDonald Family Room, Hospitality Carts and Kiosk programs. These services have made it possible for us to keep families near each other and the care they need.

Since opening our doors 40 years ago, we have had the honor of serving over **13,000 families** from the United States and around the world, providing them with the best medicine....**each other**.



KARLA MITCHELL
Executive Director

We're excited for you to celebrate this milestone anniversary with us. Some of the ways you can join us include: attend or sponsor any of our annual events, hold a Facebook fundraiser benefitting RMHC-CP or participate in our 40th Anniversary Fundraiser and help Feed Our Families by *scanning the QR Code below*.

No matter how you choose to celebrate with us, one thing is for sure, with you by our side, **2024 is sure to be another milestone year** of keeping families together during an ill or injured child's medical Journey. Thank you for 40 years of support and dedication!

In gratitude,

Karla



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

\$40,000

To support our Anniversary fundraiser, please select
"Feed the Families" as the gift designation.

SCAN ME



#FORTY4FAMILIES

RMHC-CP

THROUGH THE

YEARS

1984

Welcomed First Guest Family

The Ronald McDonald House in Hershey opened its doors on Nov. 19 and welcomed the first guest family to the original 13-bedroom home.

1993

8 Bedroom Wing Added

This addition was dedicated to the memory of Bob Burgess and his daughter, Pamela, through the Burgess Foundation.

2000

Opening of Ronald McDonald Family Room

Ronald McDonald Family Room opened at Penn State Health Children's Hospital, featuring a living room that converted to provide overnight accommodations, kitchen, computers, laundry area, and a shower.

2009

Groundbreaking for Expansion

Ground was broken to expand the 21-bedroom Ronald McDonald House to 36 bedrooms.

2010

Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting

Grand opening of expanded 36 bedroom Ronald McDonald House.

2013

Hospitality Cart & Family Room Renovation

The Hospitality Cart debuts at Penn State Health Children's Hospital supplying pediatric patients and their families with snacks, small games, arts, crafts, and personal care items.

2019

Ronald McDonald Hospitality Kiosk

The Ronald McDonald Hospitality Kiosk opened at Lancaster General Hospital providing a welcoming environment; offering nourishing snacks, drinks, health and beauty aids, small activities and a place of respite for families while their child is receiving essential pediatric care.

2020

New Space at Penn State Health Children's Hospital

The Ronald McDonald Family Room moved from the 7th floor of Milton S. Hershey Medical Center to the new NICU floor of Penn State Health Children's Hospital.

2024

Celebrating 40 years

Over 13,000 families spanning more than 6 generations. We can't wait to see what the next 40 years bring!



Keeping families together

since 1984



The Gallagher Family

Patrick has been coming to Hershey since he was 2 days old when he was born with kidney failure. We were familiar with Ronald McDonald House concept because the Scranton House is only a few blocks from our home.

We were at the RMH when the new section opened in 2009. That same year, there was no way we could make Christmas happen. We put together a small stocking to give him and he said, "I thought there might be more but I guess I already got my really big present," (as he patted his belly). He went into the bathroom to wash up and came out screaming, "He came, he came! Santa really came!" Thanks to the RMHC-CP and generous donors, the tub was filled with toys!

Over the years, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Pennsylvania has been a Godsend for our family. Having a chronically ill child is incredibly stressful, and the House and hospital support have gone a long way in making our lives a little more bearable. We give back where we can, making a house meal, and doing TV commercials, but more importantly, spreading the word.

This is a place with loving, caring people that can make a family's fight just a little less desperate at a time when it feels like all hope is lost. Something as simple as a friendly smile, a cup of coffee, or a hot meal can refresh a parent, can give them a little strength when they need it most. There is a warm, comfortable bed to recharge, **because a burned-out parent can't help their child as well as a well-rested one.** The occasional puppy to pet or kitty to scratch can help to plant a smile on the face of a scared child, or their frazzled parents. The House is the place for that to happen.

There are simply no words to express the gratitude that we feel. A hot meal, a roof over our heads, a snack or cookie, basic living supplies, it is all needed, and a simple "thank you" just doesn't seem like enough.

"It's not just a house, but a home."

- Roxanne & William Gallagher



Patrick completed his senior year in the House! 

"In a word,
family.
The staff has
watched Patrick
grow up."



40th ANNIVERSARY GALA

HOME
sweet
HOME
The Hershey Lodge

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 26, 2024


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<https://24GALA.givesmart.com>



LOOKING TO SPONSOR? Contact Amy Leonard at development@rmhc-centralpa.org.

OTHER WAYS *to get involved*



GUEST CHEF PROGRAM: Guest chef program consists of no more than 6 people and participants must be 16 years of age or older. Must cook the meal in our kitchen or another commercial kitchen.



COME IN & BAKE: For individuals 16 years old and over, we offer a baking program here at the House from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday. We have a limit of TWO bakers in the kitchen at one time.



VOLUNTEER AT THE HOUSE: Weekly or bi-weekly four hour shifts. Shifts are daily from 9AM-1PM or 1-5PM and 5-9PM. Must be 18 years or older.



SPECIAL EVENTS: RMHC of Central PA hosts several special events each year. Help is needed with event operations, setup and tear down.

Scan to sign up!





FOUNDING MISSION PARTNER

Every Cent Counts

EVERY TIME YOU BUY A HAPPY MEAL®, MCDONALD'S DONATES ONE CENT TO SUPPORT RMHC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, INCLUDING RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE®, RONALD MCDONALD FAMILY ROOM® AND RONALD MCDONALD CARE MOBILE®. *

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