



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Volume IV, Issue 1, February 2004

Wish List

Household Items

Paper plates
Paper bowls
Toilet paper
Napkins

Food Items

Corned Beef
Vienna Sausage
Rice
Spam

For Our Kids

Premie Diapers
Gifts for infants
Gifts for teen-agers
DVDs
Videos

*(Due to health concerns,
we ask that donations be new
or in "like-new" condition)*

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Nurturing families on behalf of the community

A message from Jerri Chong, RMHC Executive Director

Last year Ronald McDonald House programs in Hawaii comforted and supported more than 750 families during their times of crises—and it is our caring community that deserves all the credit. Without the backing of the people of Hawaii, the best intentions by even the most caring of people would be ineffectual. We at RMHC have the honor of putting the human face on the community's mandate to look after seriously ill children and their families.

Each time in the past year that someone made a financial contribution or when volunteers came to cook a meal, tutor a child, bake cookies, or help with a project, it was a difference-maker in many profound ways.

I wish everyone in the community that supports RMHC could see the grateful and often amazed looks on the faces of stressed-out parents when it sinks in just how much Hawaii cares about them. And I wish you could get a sense of the way an ill child responds when put in a home-like environment filled with aloha. Even a small measure of normalcy in their lives is incredibly important medicine.

Of course, last year was very special because, with the opening of the RMH Family Room inside Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, now the RMH safety net of caring also extends to many Oahu families coping with a child's medical emergency. In its first year, the Family Room assisted roughly 1,000 people, predominantly from Oahu.

Among our 2003 personal highlights—and there were many—was the day Cora and Frankie Saligumba were able to take their child Kevin home to Kauai for the first time since he was born. He was finally strong enough. Kevin had been fighting for his life for more than two years after being born prematurely and Cora was able to stay nearby at our Judd Hillside House the entire time.

We were all excited and happy for Brandon Ng and Suzie Leong of Kamuela when their baby boy Aidon was born healthy after Suzie's high-risk pregnancy. We knew the couple well because they had been lengthy guests at the House when their first child Aimee was so critical following her premature delivery.

We also witnessed an ironic twist of fate near the end of the year when Nicole Ludgate and son Bucky were forced to separate just when the 3-year-old had progressed enough in his cancer treatments to go home to American Samoa. Nicole, a U.S. Army reservist, was activated and sent to Iraq. Luckily, Bucky has a large and loving extended family back in Samoa. But the joy of being back together with mom will now have to wait until Nicole does her duty.

As representatives of the community's good will, RMHC staff and volunteers work hard every day to assist the families. Each is also rewarded daily—just by knowing these very special people.

On their behalf, mahalo for your support.



Cora and Frankie Saligumba, happy to be taking Kevin home.



Suzie Leong, Aimee, Brandon Ng, and Brandon's mom waiting to pick up their new baby Aidon from the hospital and return to the Big Island.



Nicole and Bucky Ludgate at Christmas, now half a world apart.

Around the House

By Kristi Koga

It's a warm heart and a love for the children that often attracts extraordinary people to the Ronald McDonald House. These people care in such extreme ways, and it seems amazing that they have so much to give.

One such person that has touched many lives here at the Ronald McDonald House is Ruth Castillo. Ruth came to the House on Christmas Day in 2001. Her granddaughter Shylynn had been diagnosed that day with renal failure and was air-ambulated to Kapiolani Hospital. Shylynn's Christmas gift that year had been a handmade blanket from Grandma Ruth. Ruth remembers how much warmth



All of Ruth's blankets bear this distinctive logo.

and comfort the blanket brought her tiny granddaughter in the big hospital. Shylynn could hold onto the blanket, she could smell the blanket and it was hers to cling to while going through such a scary and traumatic experience.

Ruth made fast friends at the House and on a weekend trip

home, she made a blanket for another child she had met there. She stitched the name "Grant" on the blanket, remembered he loved ducks, and found the perfect material for his special gift. When she came back to Honolulu, she took the blanket and presented this precious gift to Grant. From that moment on, no matter where he went,

Grant held his blanket and wouldn't let anyone take it away.

During her stay, Ruth was amazed at how special it was for her and other families in similar situations to come and stay at the Ronald McDonald House. "They came in and they were treated like family by the other guests and by the staff," Ruth said to me in tears.

"Just thinking about the experience always touches my heart." After about a month, Shylynn was able to go back home to Hilo. With these experiences in hand, Ruth made a firm commitment to herself to give back to the Ronald McDonald House, the families and children. Now, Ruth sews blankets in her free time and sends a box to the House every couple of months. These special and unique gifts are always different with one common element...the little Ronald McDonald foot prints found somewhere in the design.

We are always so excited to receive Ruth's packages to see what new materials and designs she has come up with. The families are thrilled to receive this gift for their children, a special memento from their time at the Ronald McDonald House. A warm comfy blanket can do wonders to help soothe a child's frightened heart. Mahalo Ruth for all that you do!



Blanket maker Ruth Castillo with granddaughter Shylynn.

RMH Family Room celebrates first year



Lea Reyes of Makakilo with baby Ren, feeling at home in the RMH Family room.

January marked the one-year anniversary of the Ronald McDonald House Family Room, a place of respite and support inside Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Different from the two residential facilities where overnight lodging is offered, the RMH Family Room is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., 365-days-a-year and provides privacy, snacks and beverages, Internet access, and friendly, caring volunteers. The room is often used to spend quality time with a young patient's siblings, who are not allowed in the intensive care units and often feel ignored. In the Family Room are a TV, videos, books, games and two big comfy couch.

During the Family Room's first 12 months of operation, it came to the assistance more than 400 families (over a thousand individuals) from all over the world. Fifty-four percent of those families were from Oahu.

"We embrace this opportunity to serve families from Oahu," said RMHC Executive Director, Jerri Chong. "When a child is very ill and perhaps very afraid, parents just can't leave the hospital. The Family Room is just seconds away from the Intensive Care Units."

There is no charge for families to use the Family Room. It is managed by RMHC volunteers and supplied in part by donations from the community.





Miriam and Don Murphy at their yearly "toy-raiser" for RMHC.



Ronald spends Christmas time with the RMHC families.

Christmas 2003 at the House

The holiday season is always very special at RMH. For the families away from their home, relatives, and friends, it can be an added reminder of their unfortunate situation. Instead, the spirit that envelops the House each Christmas often can be an uplifting experience that fortifies and inspires families with its heartfelt sharing and love. This year was no exception!

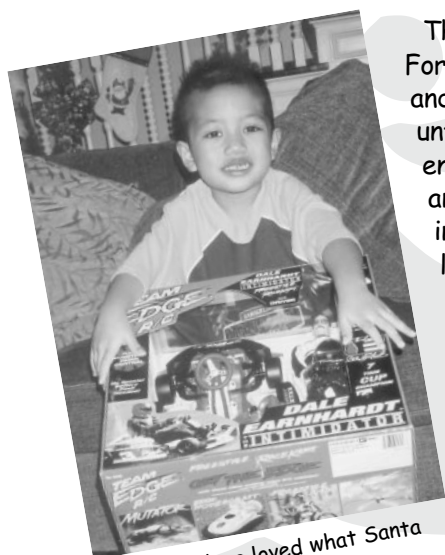
The families enjoyed many gestures of Christmas aloha from the community. Some of the highlights included the annual Murphy's toy-raising Christmas party at Don and Miriam Murphy's venerable downtown bar and grill. Each year the Murphys treat the RMH families and friends to an evening of food and even rented the

downtown trolley for families to view the Christmas lights.

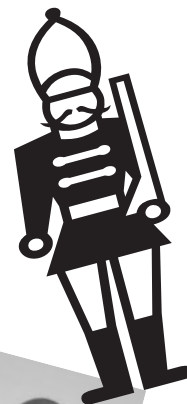
Another night during the holidays, the annual RMH Christmas party took place at the Judd Hillside House. The two most recognizable people in the whole world were there—Ronald McDonald and Santa

Claus! Kids and parents joined in games, food, and had a genuinely good time.

Many wonderful Christmas gifts arrived for the children from caring members in the community. Spirits of the children and their families soared as a result of the expressions of caring.



"M.J." Kitalong loved what Santa brought him.



Jeric Maralit receives his gift from Santa.



Teri Dela Cruz (r) of Fuji Film Photo Hawaii drops off a brand new camera and box of film as a Christmas donation to RMHC weekend manager, Diana Poteet.



Amy He receives her gift from Santa with Mom, Zhang Lin by her side.



Open Your Heart...Make a Difference

February is the time of year we are reminded to share our love for those we hold close in our heart—a sweetheart, child, parent, other family member or friend. There are gifts of flowers, candy, cards, but the one we see most often at RMHC is emotional support. It is powerful, easily shared among families and all those who touch their lives during their child's illness. It is not something that is bestowed just once a year, but everyday of the year. A few kind words, somebody to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a hug—they don't cost anything, but its value is priceless. While these things are given freely, there is a cost associated in providing services. Will you share a little love with our families by helping with a financial gift so that they will continue to find the love and support they so need?

Yes, I will share a little love. Enclosed is my gift to RMHC Hawaii.

\$250 \$150 \$100
 \$75 \$50 Other - \$_____

Please Print

My check/payment is enclosed

Please Charge my:

Visa MasterCard American Express

Name _____

Card Number _____

Address _____

Expiration Date _____

City _____

Name on Card _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Your Signature _____

Skip my acknowledgement and save the funds for your programs. I know my gift is appreciated and being utilized well. My cancelled check/credit card statement will serve as a receipt (all gifts of \$250 or more will be sent a written receipt in compliance with current tax requirements).

----- Please clip and mail to RMHC, P.O. Box 61777, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1777 -----



WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY 2003



KSSK's Sweetie Pacarro volunteered to work the drive thru window at the Makiki McDonald's on WCD.

On November 23rd, Second Annual World Children's Day (WCD) activities brought the whole community together for the children. All told, this statewide event, coordinated through Hawaii's 77 McDonald's Restaurants, raised more than \$20,000 for Hawaii's RMHC. The *Honolulu-Star Bulletin* ran a 20-page tabloid insert about WCD and RMHC. The next day, the paper ran two more full pages in their front section about the event and describing for everyone what RMHC does. The *Star-Bulletin* also provided thousands of papers with all the revenue raised going to RMHC.

McDonald's restaurants participated in WCD by designating certain menu items and then contributing part of the price of each one sold to RMHC during the promotion. Some of Hawaii's biggest celebrities fanned out to McDonald's restaurants across the state, acting as ambassadors for RMHC and helping to sell *Star-Bulletins*.

Thank you McDonald's! Thank you *Star-Bulletin*!
Thank you celebs!



Kathy Muneno of KITV pitched in for the kids at the Kahala McDonald's.

Kauai mom up to the challenge

The last thing 25-year-old Haena resident Kyra Maka expected when she went for a prenatal checkup was to be immediately rushed to Oahu, but when doctors discovered that Kyra's blood pressure was off the charts and diagnosed her with preeclampsia, a condition that causes blood pressure fluctuations during pregnancy and can seriously endanger both child and mother, she was instantly air ambulated to Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.



Kyra Maka helps care for new son Murphy in the Intensive Care Unit.

The only thing Kyra had with her was the hospital gown that was given to her before leaving Kauai. "I wore my bathing suit to the doctor's appointment but they cut me out of it when they discovered my condition," Kyra recalls. "I had no money, no keys, no I.D., nothing when I got here." For Kyra, it was her first child and first time leaving Kauai, where she lives on the rural North Shore of the island with her extended Hawaiian family.

Two days after arriving, doctors decided to deliver the baby by cesarean section and so, on December 20th, Murphy Kuaihealani Mahuiki Maka III was brought into the world almost two and a half months premature. He was 15 inches long and weighed 2 pounds, one and a half ounces. "In his first month he grew an inch and almost doubled in weight," said Kyra. But Murphy's struggle is far from over. "The doctors give him a 50-50 chance and say it will take time for his lungs to mature," she said.

After recovering from the delivery, Kyra found out about the Ronald McDonald House. "Lucky for me there's the Ronald House. Without them, I would be in a terrible situation," Kyra said. "Maybe on the street."

She was welcomed into RMH Dole Street on Christmas Day, given the essential things she lacked, and between the House and the RMH Family Room inside the hospital, she has found



She was so happy when doctor's finally allowed her to hold Murphy.

the support system she and so many others like her desperately need.

Kyra's routine takes her on the morning RMH shuttle to the hospital where she stays until the last shuttle takes her home at 8:30 p.m. "It's an all day thing when you have a sick baby," she said. For the first month, Murphy was so critical that even Kyra wasn't allowed to hold him in her arms. "It was hard when I could only stare at my baby



Kyra shares information about her baby during a visit to the RMH Family Room.

and not hold him," she said.

Whenever she feels frustrated or just needs a break, she just drops by the RMH Family Room inside the hospital to refresh and gather strength.

While at the House, Kyra finds

understanding and compassion from volunteers and the other guests. "Everybody gets together and shares experiences," she said. "I'm so grateful for all that RMH provides."

Give a Little Love

Donate \$1
at any

McDonald's Restaurant in Hawaii

February 5 - 26

Receive a pink paper heart to sign
your name or the name of your
special someone

All proceeds will go to benefit
Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House

Golden State Foods delivers in many ways

One of RMHC's staunchest supporters in the community continues to be Golden State Foods (GSF) and the GSF Foundation. GSF is the warehousing and distribution center for McDonalds of Hawaii, Guam and Saipan. Month in and month out the good folks at the Waipio company go beyond the call to help RMHC achieve its mission. Whether it is with cash or product donations, volunteer projects at the House, or assistance in distribution of RMHC materials, GSF General Manager Carl Guhl and his group are always there with lots of smiles and aloha.

"We enjoy being able to use the resources we have to

help RMHC," said Guhl. "The House is such a good cause and it helps so many people in the community that we do whatever we can. And, it can be fun giving back to the community," he added.

Guhl singled out Dianne Hara, Chairman of the GSF Foundation and Amy McAngus of GSF for their special efforts. "Amy and Dianne are key to the success that we have with the Ronald House," he said.

RMHC salutes the caring people at Golden State Foods!



Guhl led his team of employee volunteers as they cleaned the House, then cooked lunch for all the families.



He even took repeated "dunkings" to help raise money for RMHC.



GSF staff barbecued for the families.



Volunteer Spotlight



KATHY NEARY AND ROGER HUTCHINGS - by Justine Carson



Kathy Neary and Roger Hutchings

Sadly, we must bid aloha to two of our most dedicated volunteers, Kathy Neary and Roger Hutchings.

Thirteen years ago the couple was looking for somewhere to help out during the holiday season. They called the Volunteer Hotline and

were given two numbers, one for a food kitchen and the other for the Ronald McDonald House. Kathy remembers calling both numbers and getting in touch with a House Manager from the Ronald McDonald House. "The House called, the kitchen didn't, it was like God chose this house for us," says Kathy.

The House had just opened and volunteering was not the same as it is today. "When we first started we didn't really know what to do. We would sweep up the lanais, wash the floors, just do anything that needed to be done." As the years went by they were able to develop programs around their hobbies, Kathy loved crafts but never had the time to do them. So she started craft nights here at the House. Kathy says, "One of the best pieces of advice I could give fellow Volunteers is just to bring to the House what they

love to do. By using your skills or hobbies you open the eyes of the young ones and you find yourself."

Roger feels that one of the best things about volunteering at the House over the years has been all the "miracles they have gotten to see."

"Together we have witnessed the strength of the children," says Roger. "They may be going through the toughest times of their life, but they are still smiling and excited to see you when you come up to the House." During their 13 years here at the House they feel that they have received so much more than they have given, the families have brought them so much hope and joy. As Kathy puts it, "even though you may have had a bad day at work or you just feel like you have no energy left, you walk up to the House and you become recharged".

After more than a combined 40 years here in Hawaii, Kathy and Roger are moving to Portland to be closer to family. Even though they are leaving, their ties to Ronald McDonald House will not be broken. As soon as they get settled they will start volunteering at the Portland Ronald McDonald House. As they begin a new adventure we know that they will always be here in our hearts and minds. Aloha Kathy & Roger, we wish you the best in all things to come.

Thank you for your dedication!

Foundation and Business Support Friends

Our sincere thanks to the following foundation and business supporters for helping us to meet our mission through grants and gifts to RMHC:

RMHC Program Support

♥ HEI Charitable Foundation	\$12,000
♥ HMSA	\$10,000
♥ Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation Big Island Charity Walk	\$7,000 (Dole Street House)
♥ Golden State Foods Foundation	\$5,695
♥ The Schuler Family Foundation	\$5,000
♥ Honolulu Marathon	\$5,000
♥ Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation Oahu Charity Walk	\$2,500 (RMHC Family Room)
♥ Hawaii National Bank	\$2,500
♥ Conner's Memorial Fund	\$2,000
♥ Tony Taniguchi Memorial Golf Tournament	\$2,000
♥ TheoDavies Foundation	\$2,000
♥ Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park	\$1,611
♥ The Raymond E. and Ellen F. Crane Foundation	\$1,500
♥ Spicers Paper	\$1,500
♥ Chevron Texaco	\$1,000
♥ Golden State Foods	\$1,000
♥ Sam's Club Foundation	\$1,000



Dr. Jim Barahal, President of the Honolulu Marathon presents RMHC's Jerri Chong with a \$5,000 donation.



Golden State Foods Foundation chose the RMHC Golf Tournament to present their donation of \$5,695. Pictured are (l-r) Dianne Hara, GSF; Dr. Jay Cambra, RMHC President; Chong; Carl Guhl, GSF.

Share-A-Stay Program Support

♥ Bank of Hawaii	\$5,000
♥ Elsie Wilcox Foundation	\$5,000 (Kauai Family Fund)
♥ Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc.	\$5,000
♥ PacifiCare	\$5,000
♥ Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation Kauai Island Charity Walk	\$2,500 (Kauai Family Fund)
♥ Citigroup, Inc.	\$2,400
♥ Kapalua Maui Charities, Inc.	\$500 (W. Maui Family Fund)



Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park G.M. Jerry Pupillo personally brought the proceeds from "Family Fellowship Day" as an RMHC donation.

Mahalo to our friends

- ♥ **Central Middle School** for donating \$346.68 through a coin campaign.
- ♥ **E.B. deSilva Elementary School and The Kalani Family, Kalaheo High School DECA, Our Redeemer Lutheran School, Pearlridge AARP Chapter, Tripler Fisher House** for collecting pull-tabs for the House.*
- ♥ **Highlands Intermediate School** for donating \$115 through a pull-tab campaign.*
- ♥ **Hongwanji Mission School** for donating \$103 through a pull-tab collection campaign.*
- ♥ **Keaau Middle School** for donating two handmade children's blankets.
- ♥ **Wheeler Intermediate School** for donating \$583.65 through a coin campaign.
- ♥ **Mahalo to the schools and organizations who participated in our McFun-Raiser fundraising program in 2003.** A special mahalo to **Seagull School at Kapolei**, our largest participant in 2003, ordering 3,098 booklets.

* While Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii encourages and appreciates the recycling efforts of the community on our behalf, we are no longer able to pick-up your collection of pull-tabs for recycling. If you or your organization would like to continue recycling pull-tabs we ask that you take it to a recycling center in your community and then mail the proceeds to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii. We appreciate and thank you for your continued cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Michelle at (808) 973-5683 ext.240.

Mark Your Calendars!

We encourage RMHC friends and Ohana to participate when they can in third party events that have offered support for the organization. Coming up this year are:



Everybody, especially motorcycle enthusiasts, is invited to

Vagos South Pacific's

First Annual
SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY
March 14 at Punaluu Café

A portion of the proceeds from the noon-5 p.m. event will be donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii!

FIRST HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

April 15 - 18 — get \$2-off adult discount coupons from participating McDonald's Restaurants starting March 29.



VISITOR INDUSTRY CHARITY WALKS

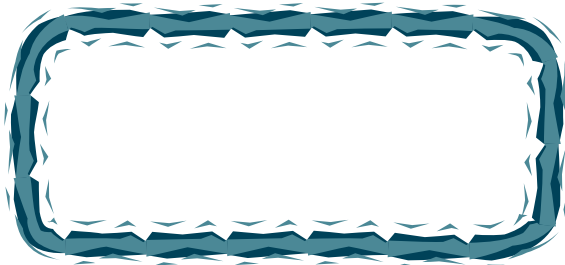
(Maui, Big Island, Kauai, Oahu)
May 17



THE HONOLULU MARATHON

December 12

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Bucky (Samoa)



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