



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Volume IV, Issue 2, June 2004

Wish List

Household Items

Paper plates
Paper bowls
Toilet paper
Napkins
Laundry detergent
Hand and dish towels
Wash cloths

Food Items

Frozen foods
Frozen cookie dough
Corned beef
Vienna sausage
Spam
Rice

Individually wrapped snack items

For Our Kids

Preemie diapers
Gifts for infants
Gifts for boys & girls
DVDs
Videos
Outdoor toys
Games

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



Lenora and Trishna Mishra back from physical therapy

She came many miles and brought us endless smiles

Thirteen-year-old Trishna Mishra and her mother Lenora checked out of the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House recently and caught their flight back home to Fiji after Trishna's surgery and physical therapy to address serious problems related to her Cerebral Palsy. In the relatively short time that she called the Ronald House her home-away-from-home (19 days), Trishna touched everyone that she came into contact with because of her easy smile, her passion for participating in life, and just the way she "connects" with the people around her.

Lenora, a Human Resources Executive in Fiji's capital city, Suva, brought Trishna, her youngest daughter, to Hawaii for treatments not available at home. "Many families come to Hawaii for children's treatments they can't get in Fiji," said

Lenora. "Some of them are unsure about how or if the Ronald McDonald House can assist them. When I get back, my message to everyone will be that the House is a wonderful place of support and it is the closest thing you can imagine to being at home."

Lenora said she and Trishna have fond memories of their time at the House. "Meeting families from other Pacific Islands and sharing our stories was very valuable. I had never met anyone from Saipan or Truk and we learned so much."

Trishna's first impression was that she felt immediately at home. "Like one big happy family," recalled Lenora.

Lenora also had praise for Shriners' Children's Hospital and one nurse in particular—Heather. "Trishna just loved Heather," said Lenora. "When Trishna saw her, she lit up every time. Even on days when Trishna didn't feel like doing her physical therapy, she would immediately change her mind when Heather appeared."

"You're my nurse!" Trishna was fond of saying to Heather with a playful smile.

"Trishna is such a loving person," said Lenora. "She will greet you with open arms and she holds on tight. She's stronger than she looks."

More than just physically strong, Trishna is strong of spirit, and an inspiration to others. She refuses to allow her devastating



Trishna and her favorite Teddy Bear

condition to stand in the way of her enthusiasm for living each and every day to its fullest.

Before departing, Lenora said that she was grateful for what she found at the Ronald McDonald House. "The warm, family atmosphere made us feel comfortable and the transportation provided for us certainly made it easier," she said.

At home in Fiji to welcome them when they arrived was dad, Vineet, older sisters Vanisha and Namrata, and younger brother Sachin.



Trishna "felt right at home" in the RMH Judd Hillside dining room.

Mark Your Calendars!

June 7-27

The Kaukau Challenge—
a benefit for RMHC
at Ala Moana's Mai Tai Bar

June 12-13

Visit the Exotic Car
& Cycle Show
at Blaisdell Arena—
a benefit for RMHC

July 4

Visit the McDonald's Keiki
Safe Haven booth at
the Schofield Barracks
Independence Day Celebration

July 15

Is your team ready for the
13th Annual RMH
Golf Classic?

Board of Directors

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Bruce Yanagihara

A Message from our Executive Director



Terri Chong

Summer is always a very busy and exciting time at Ronald McDonald House. Just as during the rest of the year, families of seriously ill children use the House as a base of operations and source of support as they go about the important business of getting their keiki well again. But once school lets out there is a better chance the little patients' brothers and sisters will be able to come along. Again this summer, children from all over will live, play and dream together about happier times. Each will comfort the next.

We all recognize the profound value of family support during these medical crises. Keeping the family unit intact is perhaps the strongest of all the tools we provide. That togetherness empowers families at a time when they need all the strength they can muster.

Some seriously ill children are treated on an outpatient basis, so they stay with their whole family at the House. For these children—some too young to understand everything that is happening to them—having a sense of normalcy and a home-like atmosphere is the best medicine there is.

That is what we at RMHC do—on behalf of the people of Hawaii. And it is you, as a member of the community that can make a huge difference in the lives of these youngsters when you make a donation or volunteer your time or expertise. If you've "been meaning to," then this summer would be a perfect time.

Do you remember in school writing an essay each fall titled "What I did last summer?" Not only might your contributions help a child respond to treatments well enough to attend school in the fall, but you may also be personally responsible for a happy ending to his or her inevitable essay assignment.



The Children and Families o



Around the House

By Nikee Wainit

Aloha everyone! It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Manager of House Operations here at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii. I am so fortunate to be given this opportunity to work together with such a wonderful and delightful group of people. I felt welcomed from the very first day, and have been moved by the friendliness and warm aloha shown me. Since that day, I wake up every morning and look forward to coming in to our special House, and I know I'll always feel that way. I would like to say to our wonderful team, thank you and God bless you all for making my transition a wonderful passage.

One of my goals is to create more fun activities for our families to participate in, since having outings and other diversions to keep themselves busy is so important during their time away from home, as they face the reality of their children's unknown futures. The energy and focus required to deal with their crises-at-hand can be a draining and painful experience, often filled with apprehensive "downtime" as they anxiously await their children's next treatment or test. Even just one afternoon of amusement serves to get their minds off of their troubles and allows them to take up the next day's challenges with renewed strength.



Nikee Wainit

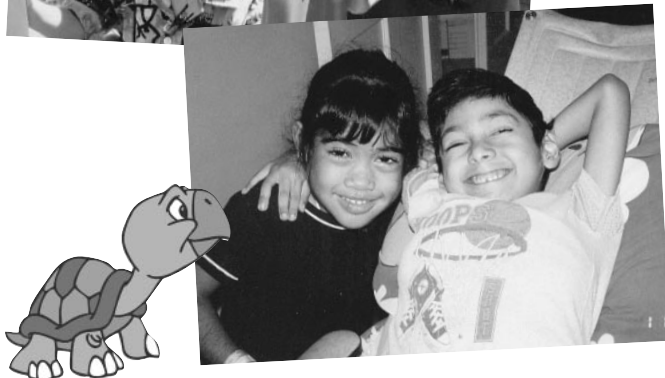
I hope to also underscore our commitment to make our Houses places where families feel like they are at home. We understand the hardship our families are experiencing during these difficult times, so we are always searching to improve and add new facets to our programs in order to provide better and more accessible services. This is made easier by the understanding and assistance of people and businesses in the community that give of themselves and their resources.

Being around the families, especially the children, has given me a richer understanding of what life is all about—caring, and appreciating the love and support we share with others.

Aloha and a big mahalo to everyone in the community for their wonderful contributions and enduring dedication over the years for RMHC and its families. I am honored to now be a part of such an important legacy.



f Ronald McDonald House





Open Your Heart...Make a Difference

Summer is the most coveted time of the year for kids. No school means sleeping in, playing or hanging out with friends, going to the beach, being a legitimate couch potato, or being active and jamming in all the fun activities possible before summer ends all too quickly. For many, it is also a time for family vacations and gatherings. Oh, the good old summer days of being a kid. But, life does throw curve balls and not all keiki will have the same carefree summer most will enjoy.

Instead, they will be facing a summer filled with doctor visits, hospitalization, needles and tears. Traveling for them means leaving home, family and friends during a frightening time in their lives.

For those parents with pre-mature babies, their first summer with them will be spent in the Neonatal or Pediatric Intensive Care Units. Not the summer any imagined. With your support of RMHC, you can help us help families through this difficult time so that next summer they will be able to enjoy the good old days of summer, as it should be.

Yes, I want to help. Enclosed is my gift to RMCH 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 -----

MAIL FROM THE RMHC EXTENDED FAMILY

Dear RMHC,

In Feb. 1995, our son James had to undergo a surgery to correct an extremely rare physical birth condition. We were told that most pediatricians go through a career lifetime and may never see such a condition due to its rarity. We were fortunate to have a wise doctor on Maui who referred us to a specialist on Oahu.

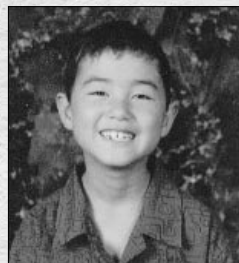
Our son was only 12 months old when we had to schedule the operation. While on Oahu the Ronald McDonald House provided comfort and eased our stress. It was also a great eye-opening experience seeing other families at the House going through much greater trials and hardship. I realized I had nothing more to complain about.

James is nine years old today, and is a sweet, soft-spoken and kind-hearted spirit.

Luckily he has no recollection of the painful weeks at Kapiolani Hospital.

Thank you to everyone at RMHC for what you are all doing!

Sincerely,
Gwen Henry
Wailuku



James Henry, today fully recovered

To My Caring Friends,

I have enclosed a small donation towards Ronald McDonald House. I know it's not much but whenever I have a few dollars to spare I try to donate to you.

My Daughter Shalei Eleneki was seven years old when we were on Oahu for brain surgery. She had a tumor on her pituitary gland. The tumor was removed successfully and Shalei is almost 100% recovered. Luckily Shalei was able to leave the hospital after only one week and was able to fly home to Maui.

I pray for all who work to make RMHC a success and for all the families that are staying there. May God bless each and every one of you as He did with Shalei and our Ohana.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Jennifer Kekiwi
Haiku



How the community supports RMHC



Jody Kadokawa, Regional Manager for Spicers Paper, cheerfully absorbed dozens of crème pies to the face to raise money for RMHC during Spicers' Festival of Papers event. Later (after cleaning up nicely), he and Shane Yoshimoto turned over the \$1,000 proceeds to RMHC's Jerri Chong and Candace Asam-Lopez.



Cindy Abe's, Leilehua High School Marketing Class visited RMH to drop off a contribution raised during a year-long on campus fundraising project.

Recent contributions from our newspaper partners, generated through sales at McDonalds Restaurants and other special promotions:	
<i>Honolulu Advertiser</i>	\$29,078
<i>Honolulu Star-Bulletin</i>	\$14,319
<i>Guam Pacific Daily News</i>	\$4,817
<i>Maui News</i>	\$2,114
<i>West Hawaii Today</i>	\$1,681



Dalton Tanonaka came with his daughter Dior, and her Punahou School first grade class to visit RMH, drop off items from the RMHC Wish List and present a personal donation to RMHC's Jerri Chong.



Stan Brown, Chairman of the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association and Murray Towill, Secretary of the Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation present a \$2,500 check from the proceeds of the 2003 Oahu Visitor Industry Charity Walk to RMHC's Gene Davis.

Three Cheers for RMHC Volunteers

RMHC honored its outstanding volunteers for their exceptional service to seriously ill children and their families with a "Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon" on Thursday April 22 at the Kapiolani Community College Tamarind Fine Dining Room. A total of 50 dedicated, reliable volunteers were acknowledged and most were able to join the RMHC staff for a sumptuous meal and an awards program that spotlighted each and every one for their devotion to the RMHC Mission. During 2003, RMHC volunteers donated an incredible 11,132 hours of service.

Mahalo from the bottom of our hearts!

Few things are as rewarding as helping children and families during their unexpected medical crises. RMHC offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, so there is something to match every volunteer's interests and skills. For a complete listing of ways to help, check out the volunteer section of the new RMHC website at www.ronaldhousehawaii.org.



RMHC volunteers honored



Brian Koren

RMHC proudly announces the addition of Brian Koren as Volunteer Coordinator. Brian, formerly Program Director of the Camp Timberline Division of Kamaaina Kids, is responsible for recruiting, training and coordinating the contributions of time and effort of the many RMHC volunteers, including the RMH Family Room's 100% volunteer staffing. Brian can be reached by calling 973-5683 x241



RMHC volunteers help prepare your newsletter.

Good Fun at the Visitor Industry Charity Walks

Rain didn't detract from the excitement of the Oahu Visitor Industry Charity Walk, held in Waikiki on Saturday, May 15. The Walk, one of four held simultaneously on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island each year, has raised more than \$13 million dollars since its inception in 1978 to help hundreds of local charities, including RMHC.



RMHC's Michelle Takahashi distributes McDonald's Apple Dippers.

To do our part, RMHC staff joined employees from McDonald's Restaurants, Golden State Foods, Communications Pacific, Milici Valenti Advertising and the Outrigger Hotels at an aid station along the route where a steady stream of smiling Walk

participants received ice water, Mochi Crunch and McDonald's Apple Dippers to speed them along their way.

The Neighbor Island walkers weren't forgotten either, as McDonald's

Restaurants provided representatives at each of the Charity Walks to give out their new, healthy Apple Dippers to all the walkers. They also provided "Go Active Gift Baskets" as prizes.



RMHC's Nikki Wainit (left) hands out ice water to a thirsty walker.

McDonald's Restaurants celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Happy Meal by helping RMHC

McDonald's Restaurants will be commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Happy Meal July 23 - August 18. As a part of this special occasion, RMHC will receive 10 cents for every Happy Meal, including Mighty Kids Meals, sold during the promotional period. So, mark your calendars and visit your neighborhood McDonald's Restaurant. You will be lending a helping hand to the children and families of Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House by purchasing a Happy Meal or two! We're Lovin' It!



These RMHC-McDonald's campaigns really work! Earlier this year, the "Give a Little Love" promotion raised \$26,854 for the kids and families. Two McDonald's locations were honored for selling the most hearts per thousand transactions—McDonald's of Pearlridge Uptown and McDonald's of Prince Kuhio Plaza, Hilo. The award for most creative display of Give a Little Love hearts went to McDonald's of Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Thank you for your strong support!

McDonald's® 25th Anniversary
HAPPY MEAL®
CELEBRATION
July 23 - August 18

10 cents from every
Happy Meal® purchased
helps the children and families
of Hawaii's Ronald
McDonald House.

RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
OF HAWAII

Mahalo to our friends

- ♥ **FACSFAC Pearl Harbor, Mr. & Mrs. Himeo and Sarah Hanato, Iliahi Elementary School Grade 4, Palolo School, St. John's School (Guam), Ms. Lavonne West & Friends and Mrs. Joni White** for collecting pull-tabs* for the House.
- ♥ **Filipino Women's League** for collecting pull-tabs* for the House and cooking dinner for the families.
- ♥ **Iolani School** for donating \$78.30 through a pull-tab* campaign.
- ♥ **Kalaheo High School** for donating \$20 through a pull-tab* campaign.
- ♥ **Leilehua High School Marketing Class** for donating \$488.36 through their vending machine project.
- ♥ **Mr. & Mrs. Owen and Kiyomi Morishige** for donating bentos for the House.
- ♥ **Pearlridge Chapter AARP** for donating \$20 through a pull-tab* campaign.
- ♥ **Mary Kendall** for creating and donating colorful children blankets.

* 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.

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS, THANK YOU!

Visit Our New Website!

Volunteer!

**Learn more
about RMHC!**



Contribute!

Contact Us!

Next time you are on the Internet, surf on over to the new RMHC web site at www.ronaldhousehawaii.org. Learn more about the organization, its programs, the families it serves and the people dedicated to its mission.

You can also read all of the recent RMHC newsletters, view our photo gallery, and check out the many exciting volunteer opportunities.

If you would like to make a donation to RMHC, there is an easy-to-fill-out form that you can print and mail. Not only that, but if your club or group wishes to raise money, there is all the information you need about the McFun-raiser Coupon Book Program.

The site will also feature updated information about upcoming special events and joint fundraising projects with community partners.

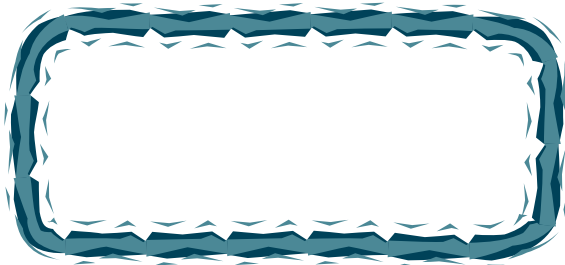
A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the incredibly talented husband and wife team of Heather and Paul Manfredi at Maikai Designs for the beautiful look and functionality of the site. Also, many thanks to Eugene Villaluz of Tapacom for his technical assistance and expertise.

Do you have any questions, comments or suggestions? The new web site offers an easy way to contact RMHC via e-mail. Let us know what you think!

Maikai Designs

Aloha From Our House to Yours is published quarterly by Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii. Address all inquiries regarding this publication to Gene Davis, Editor, RMHC, P.O. Box 61777, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1777 or call (808) 973-5683 ext. 223

In memory of baby Diane Rios pictured here with mom Sal.



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