



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Volume V, Issue 1, February 2005

Wish List

Gift Certificates

Wal-Mart
Blockbuster
Costco
K-Mart
Sam's Club
Longs Drugs
Safeway
Movie Passes

Household Items

Laundry detergent
Fabric softener
Dishwashing detergent
Automatic dishwasher detergent
Paper plates
Paper bowls

Food Items

Canned corn beef
Miscellaneous canned goods
Shoyo
Flour
Cooking oil
Individually wrapped snacks

Around the House Spotlight on the Holidays

By Shawn Imura, Judd Hillside House Manager

Since joining RMHC in January 2001, I have found that each and every month has its very special moments. But over the years, to me, the month of December always seems to be the most precious. Families from far reaching corners of the Pacific, who would rather be celebrating the Christmas season at home, instead share the spirit of the holiday with each other here at the House. These families will return home fondly remembering a Christmas unlike any other they have seen. Most will be moved by the compassion of our community and feel nurtured and renewed.

Here are some of the things that made this past

Christmas so wonderful for RMHC families. First, the folks from Best Buy donated and decorated our living room Christmas tree, which was the main focal point. This and the lighting ceremony marked the beginning of the season here at our House.

Next, our families traveled first class in a limousine provided by Exclusive Limousines Incorporated, to the annual Murphy's Bar and Grill RMHC toy drive. Volunteers wrapped over 300 donated gifts while our families toured the downtown city lights on a trolley graciously provided by Don and Miriam Murphy. Then we all feasted on a sumptuous Murphy's Christmas buffet.

Macy's Kahala Mall also stepped forward this year with heartfelt sup-

port. Macy's staff honored RMHC by selecting us as their charity for the employee Christmas giving program. Thanks to these thoughtful gifts, we were able to select much-needed kitchen utensils and household items—and top quality too!

During our annual House Christmas party for staff and families, we were really able to make our home one big ohana and there was lots of "ono" food! It turned out that we had a lot of talented people staying at the House too. The singing competition was fierce for the title of RMHC "Winter Idol" that night. When our panel of volunteer judges made their decision, our contest winner was Maui's Chelsie Smith-Kaukini, whose moving rendition of "Crystal Chandelier" brought us all to our feet. Sheraton Resorts provided our champion and her family with a one-night stay at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel along with breakfast. Grant Tioganco from the Big Island, our second place contestant, and Jeena Juvik, also from the Big Island, who finished third, received nice prizes too—donated gift certificates. Another highlight that evening was the arrival of Santa Claus, who came bearing many gifts for the excited keiki.



(l-r) RMHC board member Melanie Okazaki and staffers Toni Amaranto and Michelle Takahashi wrap toys at Murphy's RMHC Christmas Party.

Also during the holidays, Ronald McDonald stopped by the House to hang out with the kids. Nothing cheers up a child like a visit from the world's most famous clown! They had such a great time playing, singing and laughing together. When Ronald showed them the special treats he had brought for them they squealed with delight.

The families themselves were anything but passive during the holidays. Nearly all made efforts to share the season's joys with each other. Baking, cooking, gift giving and caroling all proved to be wonderful medicine for stressed parents.



Terri Cano, representing Best Buy, puts the finishing touches on their donated Christmas decorations.

Continued on page 6

Board of Directors

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1st Vice-President

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Secretary

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Dennis Okazaki
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Donna Ribellia-Abreu
Paul Takayesu
Brian Takeda
Glenn Waki
Bruce Yanagihara

A Message from our Executive Director



Jerri Chong

The year 2004 went by with dizzying speed! For a moment let's catch our collective breath and look at where we are, what the RMHC Ohana has accomplished over the past 12 months and where we go from here. First off, it is both exhilarating and humbling to report that last year volunteers gave of themselves in unprecedented numbers, and that more individuals, businesses and foundations came forward to support our cause financially than ever before.

During the year, we were able to provide a "home away from home" for nearly 350 families with seriously ill children. In addition, our RMH Family Room at Kapiolani Medical Center provided a place of respite, comfort and support for 450 families of in-patient children.

We were also able to move forward significantly with our plan to improve the quality of service and grow our capacity to assist families in 2005.

Our first project in the New Year will be a major renovation of the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House. This proud and beautiful home, originally built in the 1920s, has been the warm and nurturing temporary residence for literally thousands of families-in-need since opening in 1987. With the completion of the work, our Judd Hillside House will be able to serve seriously ill children and their families better than ever before. It will receive new retaining walls, structural reinforcements and improvements, and when complete, will feature a beautiful Children's Garden Path, family picnic area and a lush, functional front yard.

By the end of this year, we also hope to have completed the creation of Hawaii's second permanent RMH. Having a temporary second House on Dole Street for the past two years has allowed us to keep up with the growing stream of families asking for our assistance. Now that we see that the demand is not going to slow down, we are committing to another Manoa home even more special than the temporary Dole Street House. Stay tuned for future announcements.

I can't stress enough that it is only because of the public's belief in the importance of our mission that we exist at all, let alone be able to face the future confident that we will have the capacity and resources to do our job—and all the while knowing that we are acting on behalf of our caring community.

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

**Shop for
RMHC!**

Enjoy a day of shopping and savings at



Save \$\$

**Community Shopping Day
Thursday, March 31, 2005 (All Macy's Oahu stores)**

Purchase a ticket for \$10 and help support RMHC.

Your ticket entitles you to receive the following discount off almost EVERYTHING*. **20% off** women's, men's and children's fashion and accessories. **15% off** fine and fashion jewelry, housewares, luggage, bed & bath, china, crystal, silver and frames. **Discount applies to regular, sale and clearance merchandise. Ticket is good throughout the day.**

Pre-shop with your ticket at all Macy's Oahu stores beginning March 21 through 30. If you are unable to attend the Community Shopping Day event or want to avoid the crowds, you are invited to pre-select merchandise. Your merchandise will be rung up prior to the morning of the event and available for pick-up beginning March 31 through April 5.

Plus, enter to win a \$500 Macy's Shopping Spree!

ALL proceeds from ticket sales sold by RMHC will benefit RMHC.

**Please send me _____ ticket(s) @ \$10.00 each for Macy's Community Shopping Day.
Enclosed is my payment of \$_____ payable to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii.
Call 973-5683 ext. 240 for information.**

**Please see ticket for complete list of exclusions.*

Special Need

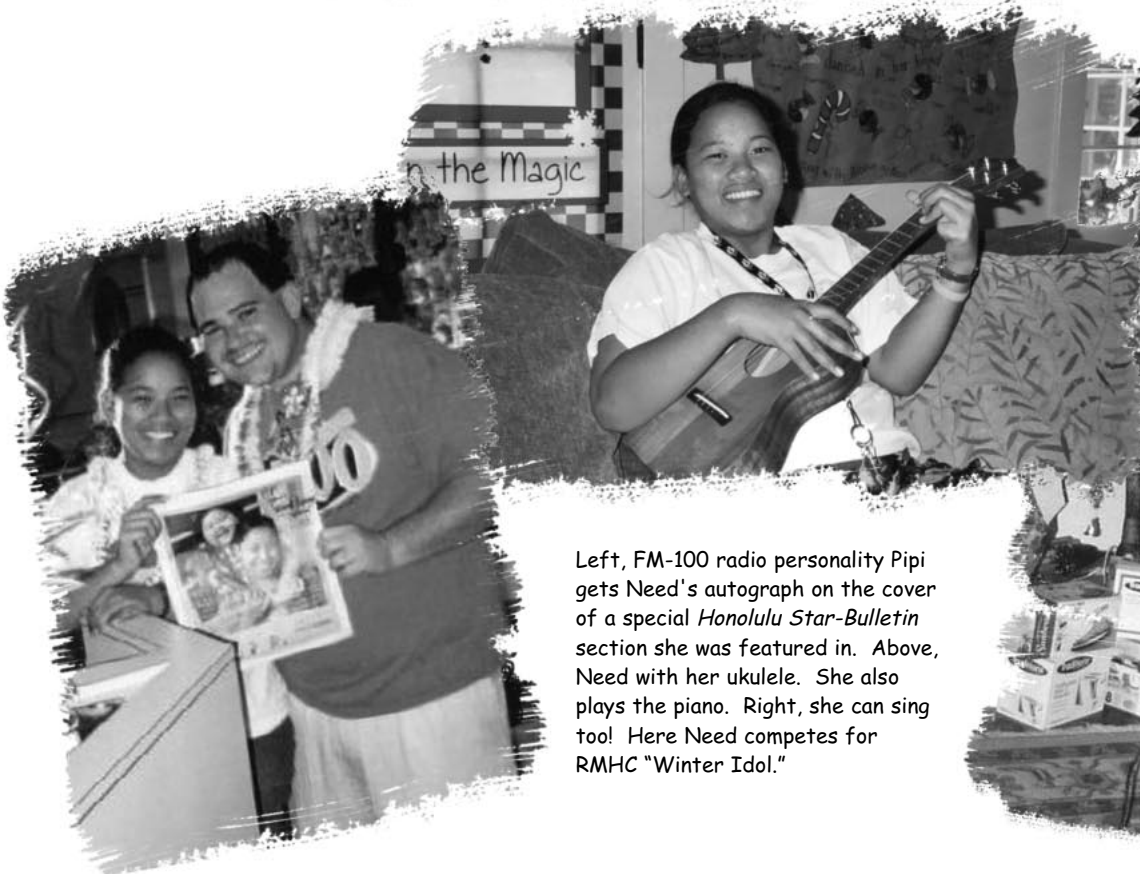


Far left, Need tackles holiday handcrafting. Left, Need and friend on World Children's Day.



Need George

Need George currently resides at Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House with her mom Angela and dad Eugene while she is receiving treatments for colon cancer. They came all the way from the Marshall Islands. Need is a kind and gentle person who loves to smile and loves her music. While staying at the House, Need has celebrated a birthday and shared Christmas with other children and families from all over the Pacific. Need says she misses her family, friends and school back home but has appreciated the "nice people I have met at the Ronald McDonald House and the way we have all become like family." "I also like my doctor, Dr. Fu at Kapiolani," she says with a twinkle in her eye. "I don't know when I can go home yet, but everything is going good."

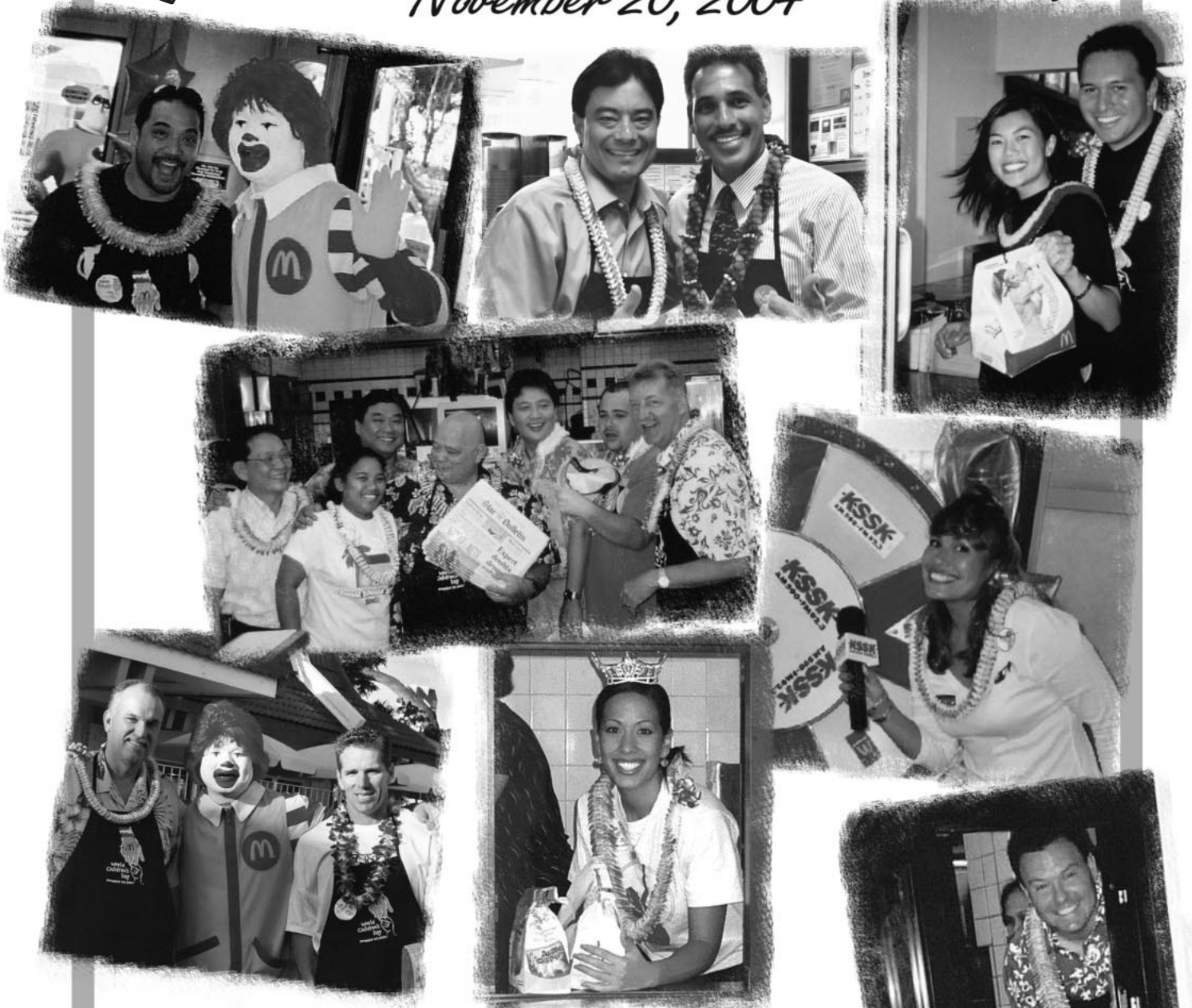


Left, FM-100 radio personality Pipi gets Need's autograph on the cover of a special *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* section she was featured in. Above, Need with her ukulele. She also plays the piano. Right, she can sing too! Here Need competes for RMHC "Winter Idol."

World Children's Day

Benefiting RMHC

November 20, 2004



The caring community stepped forward for RMHC in a big way during World Children's Day by volunteering at McDonald's Restaurants to work behind the counter or sell the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* to raise money for the kids! Everyone pitched in to help RMHC reach its goal of raising \$20,000. Here are photos of just a few.

From upper left, clockwise: FM-100's Billy V with Ronald; Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona with RMHC Board President Dr. Jay Cambra; K-5's Stephanie Lum and Walter Makaula; KSSK's Sweetie Pacarro; Channel 2's Jai Cunningham; Miss Hawaii Olena Rubin; UH football coaches June Jones and Rich Miano with Ronald; Mel Cabang, Channel 2's Manolo Morales, Pipi from FM-100 and City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle. joined Victor Lim and Frankie Chung of McDonald's and RMHC guest-patient Need George at the Keeaumoku McDonald's.

The Honolulu Marathon Race Day Walk

A Benefit for RMHC!



The day started with Ronald McDonald leading warm-ups.

December 14th's Honolulu Marathon Race Day Walk fundraiser was a celebration of family and good health as thousands of participants traveled the 10-kilometer course from Queen Street Annex to Kapiolani Park. The event generated \$10,000 for RMHC, as the community walked for those who could not.

Early on this crisp, clear morning, the RMHC Walk team assembled at its rendezvous point, Ala Moana McDonald's Restaurant, which was opened extra early by owner-operator Victor Lim especially for the RMHC walkers. Ronald McDonald greeted the walkers and, after they enjoyed their light continental breakfast, led them in pre-walk warm-ups and escorted them to the starting line. Fireworks lit up the sky and brought even more excitement to the already enthusiastic walkers.

At the finish line, walkers were treated to some chilled Apple Dippers, courtesy of McDonald's. Author and celebrity fitness trainer Bob Greene greeted the walkers, led them in warm down exercises, posed for photos and signed autographs. Then he took to the stage in Kapiolani Park to share information with everybody about healthy lifestyles.

RMHC is honored to be associated with the venerable Honolulu Marathon. The community walkers on the RMHC team serve as the third member of this powerful partnership. By teaming up this way, the Race Day Walk can make a big difference in the lives of many seriously ill children and their families.

Please mark your calendars!! The 2005 Honolulu Marathon Race Day Walk—a benefit for RMHC—will take place on December 11. Why not join the fun this year?



After snacks and warm-ups, the RMHC Walk Team set out for the starting line.



Soon, it was "Ready. Set. GO!!!"



Finishers were rewarded with chilled, McDonald's Apple Dippers.



"Yummy! It was worth having mom push me all this way."



McDonald's owner-operator Glenn Waki rallies a group of McDonald's employees. Thank you for your support McDonald's!



Two friends of RMHC—Dr. Jim Barahal, Founder and President of the Honolulu Marathon (left), with author and celebrity trainer, Bob Greene at the finish line.



Open Your Heart...Make a Difference

RMHC has been blessed with the support of foundations and businesses from our local community, for which we are very grateful. Our staunchest supporter in the business sector is McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii. We are often asked about this relationship and many are surprised to learn that we do not fall under the McDonald's corporate umbrella. **RMHC is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that relies on the whole community for its support to operate our programs.** McDonald's Hawaii has been with us from the beginning and faithfully continues to step forward on behalf of the families we serve, as you do. Your private donation in comparison to a corporation may seem small, but without the support of individuals like yourself, who are the backbone of any charitable organization, we would not be able to help the hundreds of families we do each year. We count on you.

Yes, you can count on me. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

- \$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 -----

Around the House continued from page 1

Other highlights from the season were gifts and visits to the House from businesses, individuals, schools and volunteer groups such as Maili Church Girls Club, Calvary Assembly of God Church, Marimed Foundation,

H.S. Service Club, and Punahou Kindergarten. These wonderful people and others helped to decorate the House with a Christmas motif; serenaded the families with Christmas carols; cooked or dropped off food; and just passed along a lot of love.

to us all and gave even more meaning to a special season.

Yes, December is unlike any other month here at the House. To each and every one of you who took the time to make the holiday season at our home so wonderful, thank you very much. May you and your families have good health and happiness throughout the year!



RMHC staff with Macy's wonderful Christmas gifts.

Michelle Wilhelm, Shiroma Ohana, Longs Drugs, Young Leaders Club, Kalaheo H.S. Business Class, Radford

This Christmas season marked the first birthday of little Murphy Maka (see our February 2004 newsletter at www.ronaldhouse-hawaii.com). Murphy has been in the hospital since being born on December 20, 2003 and his mom Kyra has been staying with us since December 24, 2003. Though the road for Murphy and his mom is still full of many challenges, his first birthday brought joy



RMHC "Winter Idol" contest winner, Chelsie Smith-Kaukini.

Mahalo To Our Generous Community!



RMHC outpatient Amy He with her principal and teachers at Noelani Elementary. The school raised \$500 for RMHC.



Sam Choy's Diamond Head restaurant's anniversary is a yearly RMHC fundraiser.



RMHC's Jerri Chong receives a capital donation of \$75,000 from Bank of Hawaii's Paula Boyce, representing McInerny Foundation.



A young volunteer does yard work at the Judd Hillside House.



A family friend whips up something special in the RMH kitchen.



RMHC's Candace Asam-Lopez is presented a \$5,000 donation from the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin's* Eran Kennedy.



The children from Punahou School came caroling and brought Christmas cheer to the House.



The late Joan Kroc, widow of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc remembered RMHC in her will, donating approximately \$250,000. The countless number of children that will enjoy longer and more productive lives because of her support will serve as her everlasting legacy.

Support for RMHC comes from many individuals in the form of cash donations, donating items from our wish list and volunteering. We are also extremely grateful to the foundations and businesses that contribute to our mission.

Foundation Friends: McInerny Foundation ♥ Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation ♥ Atherton Family Foundation ♥ G.N. Wilcox Foundation ♥ Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation ♥ Pettus Foundation ♥ Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation: Big Island, Maui, Kauai & Oahu Chapters ♥ Golden State Foods Foundation ♥ Bank of Hawaii Charitable Foundation ♥ Barbara Cox Anthony Foundation ♥ Friends of Hawaii Charities ♥ Kosasa Foundation ♥ Schuler Family Foundation ♥ Citigroup Foundation ♥ Hung Wo & Elizabeth Lau Ching Foundation ♥ Raymond E. & Ellen F. Crane Foundation ♥ Armstrong Foundation ♥ James & Sally Zukerkorn Foundation ♥ Kapalua Maui Charities ♥ Larry & Beatrice Ching Foundation

Corporate Friends: *Honolulu Advertiser* ♥ *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* ♥ *Pacific Daily News* ♥ Honolulu Marathon ♥ Hawaiian International Auto Show ♥ Maui News ♥ Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. ♥ JN Group ♥ KTA Super Stores ♥ Tori Richard ♥ *West Hawaii Today* ♥ *Hawaii Tribune Herald* ♥ Spicers Paper ♥ Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park ♥ Big Island Candies ♥ Fiberglass Hawaii ♥ Ironman Triatholon ♥ McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii ♥ Coca-Cola ♥ and all of our golf tournament participants.



Volunteer Spotlight

MARIE SCOTT - By Brian Koren



Marie Scott

It's 9:15 am and the phone is ringing with a call coming in from the RMH Family Room. It's a good bet that Marie Scott is on the line, wishing me a good morning and letting me know what supplies need replenishing there.

Marie joined our ohana a little less than a

year ago and has been an outstanding Family Room volunteer. She usually takes four to five morning shifts a month, making sure the Family Room is fully stocked and looking immaculate.

Marie is a volunteer who likes to get involved. Along with volunteering at the Family Room, Marie has assisted us with special events like the Fourth of July fundraiser, Murphy's Christmas Toy Drive, and the Honolulu Marathon Race Day Walk. She is always there with a smile and eager to help out. I am also thankful to her husband Steve who has volunteered at the Family Room as well.

Marie is originally from Brooklyn, New York, where her

grandparents settled from Palermo, Sicily. In 1974, Marie's parents decided to take an adventure and moved to Ventura, California. Ironically, her husband of thirty years moved to Ventura that same year. Marie would stay in Southern California with a fulfilling career in Communication Skills Training.

She and Steve visited Hawaii throughout their working years, exploring and falling in love with the landscape and aloha that is unique to our Islands. Finally retiring, they were both ready for another adventure. This time they packed up their belongings and moved to Oahu, thus fulfilling a lifelong dream they both shared. After settling in, Marie was ready to find somewhere to volunteer.

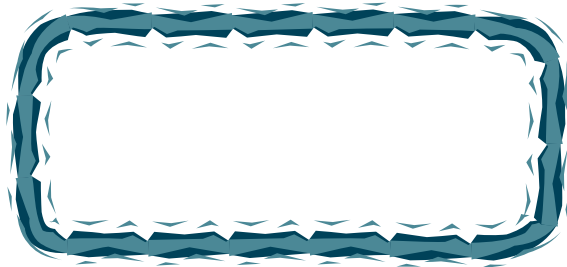
"I am a firm believer that there are no accidents or coincidences in life," says Marie. "I had heard a great deal about RMHC and felt that this was where I needed to volunteer. My feelings turned out to be right, and volunteering at the Family Room has enriched my life."

Marie says she feels privileged to meet the families and play with the children who visit the room. "I am honored to be part of an organization whose goal is to help families in their greatest time of need," she added. "In my opinion love does make the world go around."

With volunteers like Marie, I agree. Thank you for all you do.

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

Gianfranco Melle and son Gianni (Big Island) hold hands in Intensive Care.



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