



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Volume V, Issue 2, July 2005

CONSTRUCTION : UNDER CONSTRUCTION : UNDER CONSTRUCT

FLASH!!! RMHC Announces Major Improvement Projects



These are thrilling times for everyone who is a part of the ever-growing Ronald McDonald House Ohana of friends and supporters.

As you know, it is hard to imagine anyone needing material and emotional help more than a typical guest family staying at a Ronald McDonald House—neighbor islanders of limited means, who are dealing with a child's catastrophic illness in an unfamiliar city, and literally an ocean away from their safety net of family and friends.

The good news is that, soon, RMHC will be better equipped than ever to help lessen the burdens of these anxious families.

Last month, our Ronald McDonald House on Judd Hillside closed for extensive renovations on its interior and exterior.



(l-r) RMHC Exec. Dir. Jerri Chong; Mega Construction's Marnie Koga Hursty; Roy Tsutsui, R.M. Towill; Dennis Okazaki, Koga Construction and RMHC Board Member; and Dr. Dan Robie, RMHC Board President break ground as construction gets underway.

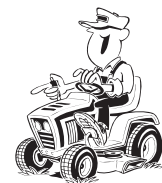
During the six months the renovations are expected to take, RMHC is leasing another home in Manoa Valley to accommodate families.

When the work is complete, the Judd Hillside House will be incredibly inviting and nurturing—while retaining its warmth and its healing atmosphere. The House and grounds will receive new retaining walls, structural reinforcements and improvements, and will feature a beautiful family picnic area, an expanded keiki playground and a lush and functional front yard. Other important electrical, plumbing and flooring upgrades will also take place.

Now, part two of the good news. The house that is being leased during the renovations has also been selected to become RMHC's second permanent Ronald McDonald House in Hawaii. RMHC is purchasing it, and when permitting is completed, it will take the place of the temporary, rented, Dole Street location.

All this is possible because so many large, institutional donors stepped forward with more than \$3 million on behalf of the kids and families.

Looking ahead to 2006, Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses expect to welcome more than 350 families with these unique needs. While they are here, RMHC services will make them better equipped to stay in a supportive role during their child's treatments. When they return to their homes, all will have been touched by our caring community.



Board of Directors

Dr. Daniel Robie,
President

Brian Takeda,
1st Vice-President

Bruce Yanagihara,
2nd Vice-President

Terri Cano,
Secretary

Paul Takayesu,
Treasurer

Dr. Jay Cambra,
Past President

Kimo Cano
Frankie Chung
Robert Isonaga
Patty Milburn
Jeanine Ogawa
Dennis Okazaki
Melanie Okazaki
Diane Pang
Donna Ribellia-Abreu

A Message from our Executive Director



Terri Chong

In the last newsletter, I told you there was something BIG on the horizon—and now I can share the incredibly important news! Thanks to Hawaii foundations, corporations and government programs, we have raised nearly all the capital necessary to embark on major upgrades at the Judd Hillside House and the acquisition of a permanent second House. The cost for this two-phased project totals more than \$3 million but when it is completed, we will be positioned to continue the vital services we provide for many years to come (check out all of the details of our impending expansion and improvements in our page one story).

These major funders are doing their part to support RMHC's growth—and it's an important part of the equation. But for it all to add up to success, we must rely on individuals in the community such as you to help us actually operate our Houses and programs. After all, what good are even the most beautiful and useful facilities without the capacity to pay for the supplies, utilities, insurance, and upkeep? What good are even the best thought-out plans to serve families if there is no money to actually carry out the activities?

Truth is, it will cost more to operate two permanent locations when they are both up and running—and this is how you, as a member of our special community, can have a huge impact on the hundreds of apprehensive families asking us for assistance each year. Please take this opportunity to express your support by using the form below and the enclosed envelope to make a direct contribution to RMHC. Give whatever you feel comfortable with. We will invest it to directly help seriously ill children and their families—and as we continue to send you our quarterly newsletter, you can actually see your support in action.

It all comes together as an example of what can be accomplished by combining the support of everyone—from the smallest individual donor to the largest community sponsor.

Mahalo Hawaii, for remembering our children in need.

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

YES, I want to help support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.

\$500
 \$250
 \$150
 \$100
 \$75
 \$50
 \$35
 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Enclosed is my check made payable to: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii

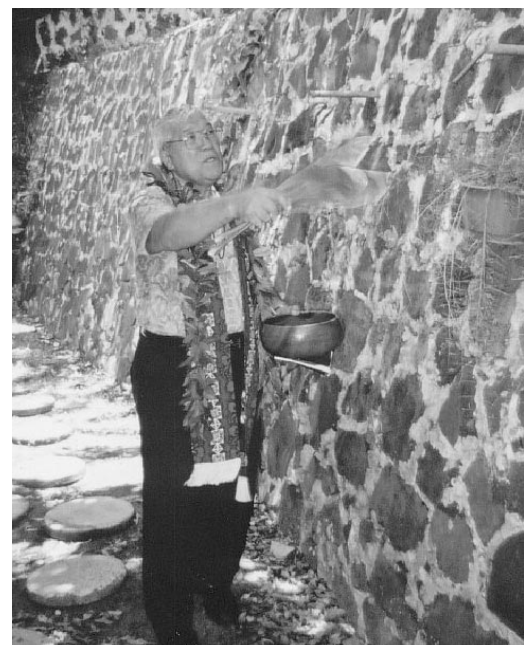
Please Charge my: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name as it appears on the card _____

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).



The Reverend William Kaina blessed the Judd Hillside site just before construction began.

Making the Relocation Possible

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to some very special people that made the recent relocation of RMHC offices possible. Without the help of these incredibly generous individuals and businesses, this six-month renovation process would have been more costly and much more difficult.

Besides receiving our undying mahalo for their contributions, friends of RMHC can also show their appreciation by patronizing these companies when possible.

We couldn't have done it without...



- ♥ **Royal Hawaiian Movers** donated the entire move: packing and transporting the contents of the Judd Hillside House to three separate locations—the temporary offices on Young Street; the newly leased House on Oahu Avenue; and to storage.
- ♥ **Horizon Lines** donated the use of two, 40-foot containers to store House furnishings during the renovation.
- ♥ **Golden State Foods** provided the space to store the containers at their distribution center in Waipio.
- ♥ **Office Doctor** contributed their services to set up the modular office workstations at the Young Street Offices.
- ♥ **MHDC Partners** donated the office space in their Young Street Building.
- ♥ **Tom Shell (TSI Consulting)** organized the move and facilitated other vendors' participation.

Tom Shell (r), with the hard working gentlemen of Royal Hawaiian Movers

Around the House

By Shawn Imura, Judd Hillside House Manager

It is always an emotional time when one of our long-term families returns home. That's because we personally care very much for the families that stay with us. So one bittersweet reality that we must always face is that families that we have come to feel really close to eventually leave when their children's treatments are complete.



M.J. Kitalong

Recently, we bid aloha to two very special families.

Maggie Towai and her son Mark "MJ" are from Saipan. They made their first visit to the Ronald McDonald House in August 2003. It lasted for seven months. Since then, they have been making frequent trips back and forth for MJ's cancer treatments. They are leaving shortly

for home again, and they are hoping to have all treatments completed in 2006.

Maggie feels that she will always have strong ties to the Ronald McDonald House. "This will always be our second home," she says. "And in the future should M.J. need more surgery or chemotherapy, we know you will be here for us."

Angela Korok and her husband Eugene Lalimo are here with their daughter Need George from the Marshall Islands. They were with us about ten months while Need received her cancer treatments, and they have decided to relocate here, to be near Need's doctors.



Need George

I asked Angela how she felt about transitioning from the Ronald House.

"Even though I am happy to have our own place, I am very sad because I have seen so many good things that happened for our daughter while we were staying at the house," she told me. "My family and I are so lucky that there was a place like the Ronald McDonald House, because it made us feel like we were at our own home and it helped us not to miss the things we left behind. Thank you Ronald McDonald House staff, we are going to miss all of you."

We too will miss these special people and wish them the very best.

Moscow Circus brings smiles—and support

A big mahalo to the Moscow Circus and *The Honolulu Advertiser* for bringing cheer to our families—and for stepping forward with a generous donation to RMHC!

In a partnership involving RMHC, McDonald's, the circus and newspaper, circus goers used discount coupons that also generated cash for RMHC. Everybody benefited, and it raised more than \$8,000 to help families with seriously ill children.

Members of the circus also made a special trip up to the Ronald McDonald House and did a special performance for the delighted kids and families.



Stars of the Moscow Circus pose with RMH families following a private performance.

Aloha! *The Honolulu Advertiser*



Jaimelyn Cepeda...

To the Ronald McDonald House family and friends:

Life is God's greatest gift. So special that we must cherish every moment we have with those we truly love, for that moment can be gone. And when that final moment comes, we are left to hold on to the sweet and loving memories—and the bitter lesson of life's fragility and the preciousness of our borrowed time.

But because of Jaimelyn's life and passing, my husband and I can no longer take things in life for granted. We live each day to the fullest. We try to solve most problems before the end of the day and not depend on tomorrow to come, for the next day may be too late.

So we fondly kiss and hug our loved ones good night, and tell them we love them, for the future is not guaranteed.

These changes in us are because of our little Jaimelyn.

We, the family of Jaimelyn Maria Castro Cepeda, would like to extend our sincere appreciation for all of your love, kindnesses and support--but most of all, your prayers in our time of sorrow. Thank you and God bless you all, James and Angelyn Cepeda and Family



...with former RMHC Board Member Roger Hutchings...



...with mom Angelyn and dad James...



...on the day Jaimelyn returned home to Saipan

CATS gives paws for thought—and thanks!



A young fan is treated to authentic face painting by a CATS cast member...



...and it wasn't just for the kids.



RMHC Board members Dr. Dan Robie and Patty Milburn (r) welcomed supporters and friends.

RMHC friends and supporters had an evening to remember at the opening night of the Broadway production CATS at the NBC Concert Hall on April 12.

With the help of Clear Channel Hawaii, RMHC was able to offer special packages that included an exclusive pre-performance pupu reception with fabulous food and music by the Honolulu Jazz Quartet. Partygoers also met CATS cast members, who offered face painting for everyone. At intermission, the party reassembled for a special dessert treat. Our compliments to Centerplate, which provided the catering for the event!

The event raised nearly \$5,000 for RMHC. Mahalo to everyone who attended! And special kudos to the people who made it all possible: Clear Channel Hawaii and Broadway Across America.



St. Andrew's Church rummage sale raises thousands for RMHC

On a beautiful June weekend, hundreds of shoppers poured over the merchandise at the annual St. Andrew's Church Downtown Rummage Sale, looking for bargains and unusual pieces. Not only were they shopping for themselves, but also, since the money raised was donated to RMHC, they were actually shopping for the kids and families too.

In addition, the wonderful people at St. Andrew's allowed RMHC to select items that could be used at one of our Houses, even before the sale started.

Final tally? The sale means more than \$6,000 for RMHC programs (and some nice household items)! The aloha experienced during the project was absolutely priceless.

RMHC is deeply grateful to the 67 volunteers and seven staff members from St. Andrew's Church, and the many others who donated merchandise for the sale. Obviously, without their hard work and generosity, it would not have been possible.



Our extended family—RMHC staff with St. Andrew's staff and volunteers



RMHC's Nikee Wainit and Shawn Imura enjoyed looking for useful House items.

TOYOTA-HAWAII DEALERS STEP FORWARD ON BEHALF OF SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

"We sincerely hope that this van will serve Ronald McDonald House families well in the years to come," said Glenn Inouye, spokesperson for Toyota-Hawaii dealers and Senior Vice-President of Servco Pacific Inc., as he turned over the keys to a new Toyota Sienna to Ronald



McDonald House Charities of Hawaii (RMHC) Executive Director Jerri Chong. "If it can make a contribution to the recovery of even one child, then it will be well worth it."

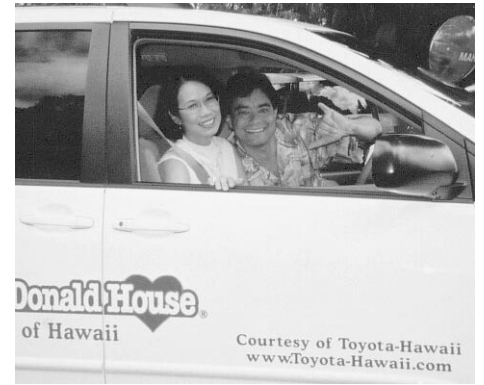
During the van presentation, RMHC Executive Director Jerri Chong gave Servco Hawaii's Curt Lee (l) and Glenn Inouye, representing the Toyota Dealers of Hawaii, a big "thank you" letter signed by all the families.

Chong underscored the relationship between RMHC and Toyota-Hawaii. "Toyota-Hawaii has helped us with the transportation needs of seriously ill children and their families for many years," she said. "I think

that shows their commitment to the community and we are certainly proud to call them partners, as we pursue our important mission."

The new van's main task will be to carry families staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses to and from the hospital. Last year, 331 families called a Hawaii Ronald McDonald House their "home-away-from-home." Also during 2004, members of 428 families paid at least one visit to the RMH Family Room at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children.

Toyota-Hawaii was established in 1957 and now has a network of nine dealerships on four islands.



Chong and RMHC Board Member Dr. Jay Cambra posing inside the new van

Family Room Wish List

- Toothbrushes
- Small tubes of toothpaste
- Paper towels
- Pocket packs of tissues
- Small paper bowls
- Resealable plastic bags, all sizes
- Disinfectant wipes
- Coloring books
- Crayons-12 pack
- Decks of playing cards
- Steno notebooks
- Board games such as: Sorry, Parcheesi, Backgammon, Chess, or Checkers

Caring people needed immediately!

Do you have what it takes to be a Ronald McDonald House Family Room™ volunteer?

If you:

- Are at least 18 years old...
- Want a volunteer role that really makes a difference...
- Are willing to commit to 8 hours per month...
- Truly care about children and families...

Then...

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT FOR THIS IMPORTANT ROLE.



Please call 973-5683 ext. 241 to get started

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii (RMHC)
1970 Judd Hillside Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
www.ronaldhousehawaii.org

June Jones & Friends Tee It Up for RMHC!



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii has received a check for \$25,000, raised at the June Jones Foundation QB Golf Classic on the Big Island's beautiful Hokuili`a course, June 27. RMHC, the main beneficiary of the event, will designate half of the grant to help families from West Hawaii and half for the other neighbor island families with seriously ill children.

"I cannot thank my many friends enough who have agreed to step forward with me in helping these children and their families," June Jones told the players participating in the tournament. "Life is about giving and I feel so blessed to have been put in this position with my life to attempt to make a difference in the lives of these families. To all of you, I say thank you for helping me attempt to make a difference."

Among those anchoring teams of local and mainland amateurs were former and present NFL quarterbacks Danny White, Doug Williams, Neil Lomax, Bill Kenny, Vince Ferragamo, Timmy Chang, Chris Miller, Rick Mirer, Earl Morrow, Nick Rolovich, Jim Zorn, and of course, June Jones. Although unable to play this year, Hall-of-Famer John Brodie was also on hand. Others participating were All-NFL linebacker Junior Seau, former UH football coach Dick Tomey, and popular island entertainer Henry Kapono Ka`aihue.

For this special honor, MAHALO to June Jones, Foundation Executive Director Kevin Kaplan, the foundation's Board of Directors and Advisory Committee, and everyone who participated in this exciting event.



(l-r) John DeFries, Chief Executive Officer of Hokuili`a; Bruce Yanagihara, RMHC Board Member; and June Jones



All-pro NFL quarterback Neil Lomax (front, left) relaxes with his 3rd place team consisting of Vern Yamanaka (seated) and (back, l-r) Walter Kirimitsu, Alan Ikawa, and Warren Haruki.

Our sincerest gratitude to you!



Thousands of people took part in this year's "Give A Little Love" campaign at all Hawaii McDonald's Restaurants. Supporters of RMHC purchased a paper heart for a dollar and were able to write their name on it and post it at the restaurant. The final amount raised through this expression of aloha was \$19,988. Thank you McDonald's and everyone, for making it possible!



Shoppers flocked to Macy's on March 31 to take advantage of the 2005 Macy's Community Shopping Day fundraiser. Just by purchasing a \$10 ticket to the event, with all the money going to charity, customers were rewarded with 15-20% off on almost anything at all Oahu Macy's locations.

Because so many people bought their tickets from RMHC and Macy's, the promotion raised more than \$5,600 to help us help the children and families.

Thank you Macy's! Thank you shoppers!



Volunteer Spotlight



By Brian Koren

"Thanking you for making us smile" is the theme this year for our spectacular volunteers and, in this issue, I would like to shine the Volunteer Spotlight of appreciation on every single one of you that volunteers for our organization.

Whenever I see a volunteer helping out in the office, at an event, in the Family Room, out on our grounds, or just stopping by to drop off dinner or dessert for our families, the first thing I always see is a big smile. I think our wonderful volunteers know how contagious and easy these are, because I've noticed that the smiles spread to our families and staff instantaneously.

We keep statistics on all kinds of information here at

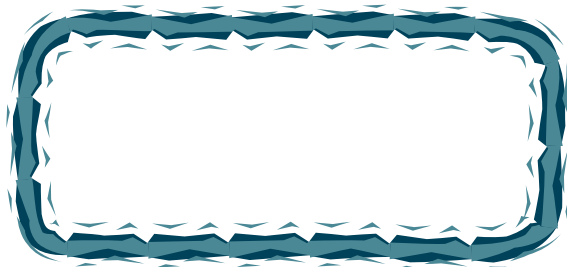
the House and I wanted to share some of it with you. Last year, RMHC provided 5,542 nights of lodging and assistance for 331 families. In addition, the RMH Family Room at Kapiolani Medical Center received 7,364 visits from family members of 428 inpatient children. Without the support of our Volunteers, it would have been impossible for us to help as many families and individuals.

As some of you know from my e-mails, I would like each volunteer to raise their right hand and give themselves a huge pat on the back for all of their time and energy. We here at RMHC truly appreciate everything you all do for our organization and families!



An enthusiastic group of RMHC volunteers was honored at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

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



Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii
1970 Judd Hillside Road
P.O. Box 61777
Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1777

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Honolulu HI
Permit No. 635