



Aloha

From Our House to Yours



Volume VI, Issue 1, May 2006

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Grand Re-Opening of Ronald McDonald House—Judd Hillside

On March 14, under a gentle Manoa drizzle, government, community and foundation representatives gathered together with RMHC board members, staff, and families at the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House to help celebrate its

grand re-opening following a nearly eight-month renovation and construction project. The event drew more than 100 invited guests and included representatives from many of the companies that worked on the renovations.

The program included the reading of a proclamation signed by Governor Linda Lingle and Lt. Governor James



RMHC Board President Dr. Daniel Robie welcomed and thanked all of the distinguished guests.

"Duke" Aiona proclaiming March 14, 2006 as "Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii Day." The Director of the State Department of Health, Dr. Chiyome Fukino, was on hand to read the proclamation.

The City & County's Debbie Morikawa read a warm message of congratulations from Mayor Mufi Hannemann that also praised the "generous donors from the community, both in the private sector and government."

Another highlight of the event was the remarks delivered by Joani Morris, a Maui mom who was one of the very first guests to stay at the House back in 1987. She captivated the audience with her personal story (see page 3 for more about the Morris family).

Now that the Judd Hillside House has reopened, families from all over are again residing there when they must fly to Oahu for treatment of a child's serious illness. The House has resumed its role as a "home-away-from-home," allowing families to stay together when they need each other most.



Sue Entz, the first Hawaii Ronald McDonald House president, returned for the grand re-opening of the Judd Hillside House nearly 19 years after she helped establish it.



Everyone stayed dry under the large tent set up on the newly expanded front lawn.



1987 RMHC guest Joani Morris came from Maui for the event.

Wish List

Gift Certificates

Wal-Mart
Blockbuster
Costco
K-Mart
Sam's Club
Longs Drugs
Safeway
Movie passes
Gasoline gift cards

Household Items

Laundry detergent
Fabric softener
Dishwashing detergent
Automatic dishwasher detergent
Large cooking pots and frying pans
Assorted bakeware
Flatware sets
Electric can opener(s)
Paper towels/paper napkins
Paper plates/plastic forks & spoons
Paper bowls
Toilet paper (individually wrapped)
Batteries (AAA, AA, C)
Zip lock bags
Aluminum foil
Plastic food storage containers

Food Items

Spam
Canned corned beef
Canned tuna
Canned soups
Miscellaneous canned goods
Shoyu
Flour
Cooking oil
Individually wrapped snacks
Rice
Saimin
Frozen dinners/meals

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A Message from our Executive Director



Terri Chong

Aloha! As you may know, RMHC has taken some major strides recently. A \$3.7 million capital campaign has brought a magnificent face-lift to our original Ronald McDonald House on Judd Hillside and allowed us to purchase another Manoa home to be our second permanent House. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the foundations, businesses, and government programs that paid for the bulk of the expenses. Details and photos can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

But you don't have to be a large institutional funder to make a difference. As we put the finishing touches on this major project, we now must clearly focus on serving the anxious families with seriously ill children that will continue to stream to RMHC for assistance. This is where you too can have a direct and positive effect on those in need. All that is required is the desire to help because there are many ways available.

For instance, many caring people lead such busy lives that their choice of support is with a direct cash donation to the organization. It's just most convenient, and they are comfortable with the public trust that RMHC has built over the years. They know that we are careful custodians of such gifts, making sure that each dollar is spent wisely and without waste. Many Hawaii businesses also are committed to giving back to the community and find RMHC an appropriate recipient of their corporate donations. Some companies also offer to match the charitable donations of their employees (check with your HR Department).

Other people want to lend their professional expertise to the mix, stepping forward with a personal skill that furthers RMHC's work. Businesses may provide in-kind services, if appropriate.

Other opportunities include volunteering and donating items on our Wish List. For a complete list of all the ways you may be able to help, visit us at www.ronaldhousehawaii.org.

What really counts is that you have it in your heart to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families. When that is established, you can be confident that there is a way of supporting RMHC that is right in your comfort zone. You can also be confident that your contribution will have a direct and positive effect on very real people facing very real and difficult obstacles that they had no part in creating and could not possibly have anticipated.

That is why your support, on whatever level, is so meaningful and so much appreciated.

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

Yes, I have it in my heart to help the families. Enclosed is my gift to Hawaii's RMHC.

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

My check/payment is enclosed

Please Charge my:

Visa
 MasterCard
 American Express

Please Print

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).

Ronald McDonald House's first Hawaii babies now nearing 19-years-old



Maverick Morris, after recovering

In late March, Hawaii's original Ronald McDonald House on Judd Hillside Road in Honolulu observed its 19th birthday. Soon after, Maui's Maverick Morris celebrated his 19th birthday as well. But the two have more in common than just birthdays. When Maverick was born prematurely, and with complications, his mom Joani became one of the first guests to stay at the House. Recently, Joani

wrote to us, as many former guests do, letting us know how the former patient is doing. In Maverick's case, the news couldn't be better. Here is what Joani wrote:

Aloha All,

Eighteen years ago Maverick and I came from Maui — he was a preemie — and we both suffered from a rare infection. I was the first to stay in my room at that time — brand new pretty sheets — everyone was so kind — so wonderful!!

So it is with a happy heart I write to you to let you know how Maverick is doing. Earlier this year Maverick achieved Eagle Scout status with the Boy Scouts. He is a high school senior preparing for college somewhere on the mainland. He is a computer geek, interested in software design.

God bless you all.

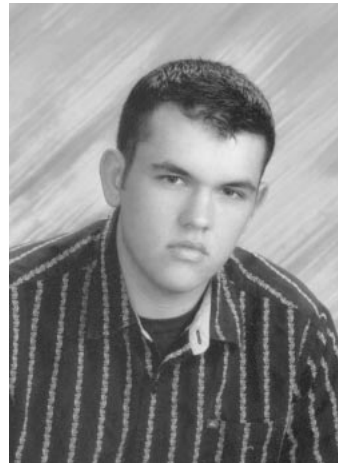
When contacted, Joani told us that she vividly remembers her two-week stay back in 1987. "I remember being surprised at how long families needed to be away from home after having a premature baby," she said. "We were lucky because Maverick was well-developed and big for a preemie, but others were required to spend many weeks, if not months, in Honolulu waiting for their babies to grow strong enough to go home. I realized how important having a Ronald McDonald House is."

Joani found a warm and nurturing atmosphere when she arrived. "We felt so welcomed," she recalled. "I was recovering and could hardly walk, and I remember the manager saying that there was rice cooked and food in the pantry. It dawned on me that people and businesses had donated food and supplies, and others had

prepared a meal and readied the House for people needing them. It was because they cared."

Aside from some temporary effects of his hospitalization, Maverick thrived after returning home to Maui. Two years after Maverick was born, Joani and Dad Michael welcomed their second child, Marissa, a healthy baby girl. "Our two kids really get along well, said Joani. "They're great friends."

And now, as Joani shared in her letter, Maverick is readying himself for college. "He's been accepted by two colleges and has to decide."



Maverick today as a senior in high school

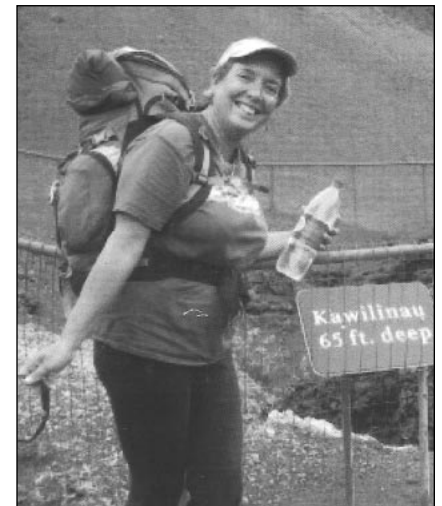
Looking toward the future, the 5'10" Eagle Scout has an interest and a knack for computers and is augmenting that by learning Japanese. Joani said that when he's not studying, Maverick loves to boogie-board big waves.

It sounds very much like a young man on the brink of a bright and exciting future—his journey along the way helped by a caring community. His is

but one such story.

Nothing is so exciting for us, than to hear from families that have stayed at our Ronald McDonald House because it means that the "House That Love Built" has stayed in their hearts—just as they have stayed in the hearts of all of us involved with RMHC.

Joani Morris is a very, very busy woman. In addition to helping raise two teenagers with husband Michael, she is a Maui County Lifeguard and an active, dedicated volunteer. Pictured right, Joani was volunteer leader on an anti-invasive species project inside Haleakala Crater. She has also visited Kahoolawe on numerous occasions to help with native plant restoration and watershed improvements. Most recently, she flew to Kauai with the Red Cross to assist flood victims after the major flooding and dam breach there.



The New Face of RMHC

The long wait and the hard work have paid off! RMHC has accomplished its goal of having two permanent, enduring Ronald McDonald Houses in Hawaii. Families began checking into the newly purchased Oahu Avenue Ronald McDonald House on January 18, 2006. Soon after, on February 6, the original Hawaii Ronald McDonald House on Judd Hillside Road began taking families again for the first time since the major construction and renovation project began there on July 1, 2005. During the closure, families continued to be placed at the leased, Dole Street House (which we have now closed) and with our hotel partner, the Outrigger Ohana.

Upon completion of some internal renovations at the Oahu Avenue House, there will be a total of 18 comfortable, private guest rooms between the two residential facilities. All to better serve families that have traveled to Oahu for their child's critical medical care.



Judd Hillside House photos (above, l-r): The expanded front lawn; beautiful wood floor spiral



More Judd Hillside photos (above, l-r): The re-decorated living room; new family picnic area; childr
(Below, l-r): New retaining wall and garden path; the upgraded rear lanai; enhanced guest room; reb



MAHALO to the major donors of

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation • City & County of Honolulu • State of Hawaii • Frear Eleemosynary Trust • McInerney Foundation • R

Special Friends of

Architects Pacific • Bank of Hawaii • Benjamin Moore Paint • Corian Solid Surfaces Dupont • Designing with TLC • Golden State Foods Hawai

- Construction and renovations at Judd Hillside House complete
- Purchase of permanent second House on Oahu Avenue finalized



al staircase; front lanai



The new Oahu Avenue Ronald McDonald House



men's playroom; and family entertainment corner
built kitchen; dining room; and outdoor play area

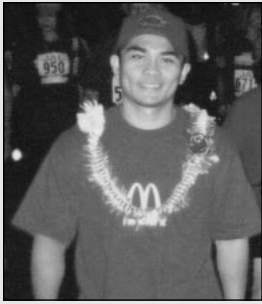


of the RMHC Capital Campaign

RMHC National • Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation • Atherton Family Foundation • G.N. Wilcox Trust • Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation

f the Renovations

i • Horizon Lines Hawaii • McDonald's of Hawaii • MHDC Partners • Office Doctor • Royal Hawaiian Movers • Select Comfort • TSI Consulting



Brian Vitoria mixed with walkers before the Walk...

World Champ Brian Vitoria walks the walk for kids and families

2005 Honolulu Marathon's Race Day Walk benefited RMHC

WBC Light Flyweight Champion of the World, Waipahu's Brian Vitoria led the RMHC's Walk Team during December's Honolulu Marathon Race Day Walk, much to the delight of the walkers and spectators.

The "Hawaiian Punch," as Vitoria is known, got an early start on the day by joining walkers at McDonald's of Keeaumoku around 3:30 a.m. There he met everyone, signed autographs, and conducted a stretching and warm up session before leading them on the 10K walk. The Race Day Walk is the Honolulu Marathon's companion event, and covers the first 10 Ks of the



Marathon, ending at Kapiolani Park. It raised a total of \$10,000 for RMHC.

After finishing the walk, Vitoria spent time handing out McDonald's Apple Dippers and congratulating walkers as they crossed the finish line.

Many mahalos to the Honolulu Marathon, McDonald's of Hawaii, Golden State Foods, and HMSA for supporting RMHC on this event and to Brian Vitoria for being a such a good friend of Hawaii's seriously ill children and their families.

...then the Champ joined Ronald McDonald to lead a special warm-up...



...by then, the McDonald's/RMHC Walk Team was raring to go.

World Children's Day 2005



Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona worked the drive-thru window.

November's World Children's Day celebration at McDonald's Restaurants everywhere was bigger and better than ever. All over Hawaii, people learned more about the mission and families of RMHC and they had the opportunity to participate in this fundraiser in many ways.

Whether it was purchasing a menu item that generated a contribution to RMHC, donating a dollar to "Give a Hand," buying a *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* from one of the many celebrity volunteers, or just dropping some extra coins in the collection canisters, it all added up to raise



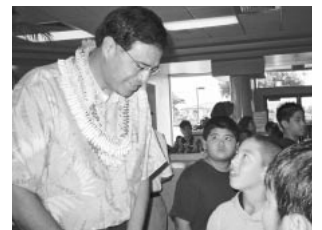
KITV's Jill Kuramoto joined Honolulu firefighters to help RMHC.

more than \$35,000.

We are so grateful to every single person that stepped forward to help. Your support means very much. This includes many of Hawaii's well-known public figures and personalities that gave of their time to be ambassadors for RMHC and

to encourage donations during the three-day observance. They included:

Lieutenant Governor James "Duke" Aiona; Mayor Mufi Hanneman; City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle; members of the Honolulu Fire Department; elected officials Suzanne Chun Oakland, Norman Sakamoto, Scott Nishimura, Lynn Finnegan, Corinne Ching, Mark Moses and Donovan Dela Cruz; June Jones and his UH football coaches; KGMB's Kim Gennaula, Guy Hagi and Liz Chun; KITV's Jill Kuramoto and Rob DeMello; KNHL's Stephanie Lum, Diane Ako and Paul Drewes; KCCN's Lina Girl and Billy V.; KHON's Manolo Morales, Trini Kaopuiki, and Tanya Joaquin; K-59's Sweetie Pacarro; KIKI's Natasha; Narcissis Queen Darah Dung and her court; Miss Hawaii Malika Dudley; MidWeek's Ron Nagasawa,



Mayor Mufi Hanneman encouraged support for RMHC at Pearl Kai and Kahala McDonald's.

Yushing Ting and Katie Young.

On Maui, Mayor Alan Arakawa, Senator Rosalyn Baker and Representative Kameo Tanaka.

On the Big Island, K-BIG's J.E. Orozco and DaBeat's Gumby.



UH football coach June Jones sold *Star-Bulletins* to raise money for RMHC.



City Prosecutor Peter Carlisle (center) joined KHON-TV's Trini Kaopuiki and Manolo Morales to help with the World Children's Day effort.

**Shop for
RMHC!**

Enjoy a day of shopping and savings at



Save \$\$

**Community Shopping Day - Friday June 16, 2006
(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 apparel and accessories. 15% off fine and fashion jewelry and home merchandise

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 June 6 through 15.

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 June 16 through June 19.

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

ALL proceeds from ticket sales by RMHC will stay with the organization.

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.**

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Volunteer Spotlight

BILL LOWE - by Gene Davis



Bill Lowe

When Bill Lowe is volunteering at the RMH Family Room he really does know what parents are going through with a hospitalized child. His own son, who is now 26-years-old, was born almost three months premature. "He had a real tough time and stopped breathing at one point," Bill says. "It feels like yesterday.

Now he's over six feet tall and doing real well. I am still very grateful that the hospital staff was there and helped us get through that." Bill is also grateful about something else—two other healthy children and two healthy grand children.

Volunteering, Bill feels, is one way he can give back. "It's a feeling of contribution, to contribute back to the community."

Bill, who works for the U.S. Marines at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station counseling servicemen that want to further their education, has been volunteering at RMHC for two and a half years. Besides his current assignment at the Family Room, he has also helped at the Judd Hillside House in many ways including "cleaning the fish tank, taking invento-

ry and cleaning out the garage."

Bill learned about RMHC while volunteering at a local church. "I was introduced to someone at the church that already volunteered at RMHC, and I decided to give it a try," he recalls. "And I enjoy it very much."

Bill says there are many intangible rewards for volunteering. "For instance, about three months ago, there was a little girl from a neighbor island that was receiving inpatient treatment. She visited the Family Room with her parents several times. I can't remember her name but she always had a smile on her face; she was always upbeat, even with the breathing and feeding tubes. I didn't see her that often, and then I didn't see her at all, but one day, I noticed a card tacked to the bulletin board. It was a card from her and her family just saying 'thank you' to all the volunteers here. Experiences like that are special to me."

What would Bill tell someone who was thinking about volunteering at RMHC?

"I would tell them to put aside any reservations that they may have about volunteering and to just jump in and do it. No matter how small or how short, it is important. I think once you can establish a routine of volunteering, it becomes very easy and the rewards come."

Mahalo to Our Friends



On behalf of RMHC, former guests Joseph and Fernanda Panganiban (left with their new-born twins Julian and Kalani) along with Laurie Smith-Kaukini and Craig Kaukini (right) accepted the \$1.11 million check from Donn and Sharon Weinberg of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. It was an important contribution to the recent Capital Campaign.



RMHC's Jerri Chong (left) was presented with a check for \$5,000 from the folks at the Mai Tai Bar at Ala Moana. The donation was generated by the restaurant/bar's 5th Annual Mai Tai Rumble, a modern day "battle of the bands."

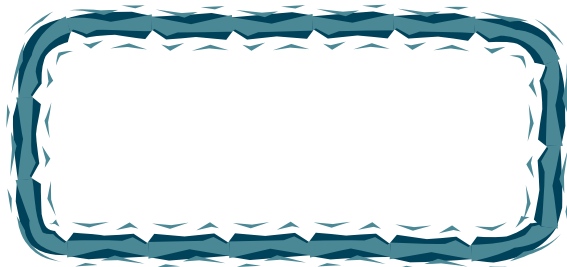
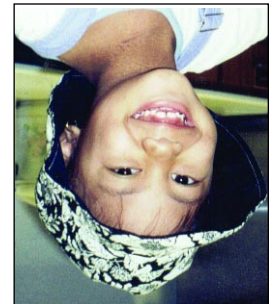


Another key piece of the Capital Campaign was a donation of \$250,000 by the Mary D. & Walter F. Frear Eleemosynary Trust. Presenting the check to Jerri Chong was Bank of Hawaii's Paula Boyce.



RMHC Board President Dr. Dan Robie (right) received a check for \$5,050 from Cirque Hawaii's Barry Schmoyer and Cornell Nicholas. The money was raised through a series of charity performances by the Waikiki show.

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



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