



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

October 2009

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Kaylee James' remarkable story

Modern medicine has made a significant difference in the outcomes of premature deliveries. In recent years, it has become possible for babies born earlier and earlier to survive. While most serious conditions associated with premies can be detected immediately and attempts made to address them, there are often lingering issues which parents must face well after their baby is released from the hospital.

It was in February, 2008 that Angie James gave birth prematurely to twin girls Mia and Kaylee. Born 13-weeks early, with complications, and on the remote island of Kwajalein, the twins were in extreme jeopardy.

Sadly, Mia's heart and lungs were not strong enough for her to survive, but little Kaylee, born weighing 2 lbs. 4 oz., did make it through her first few hours. Although doctors had their doubts that Kaylee would live, Angie and her husband Dennis were determined to do all they could for her, and the infant was rushed to Honolulu for intensive care.

magnet with her ready smile and happy disposition. But she still faces ongoing challenges that one can barely imagine. This means return trips to Honolulu for additional care - and repeat stays at the Ronald McDonald House.

Angie says their trips to Honolulu are taxing but necessary. "Kwajalein has no specialists, and the hospital is quite limited. We must come to Honolulu for periodic MRIs, and to see the ophthalmologist, neurologist, neurosurgeon, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and orthopedic specialists."

During the James family's most recent stay last month, doctors detected a swelling in Kaylee's brain that meant her shunt, implanted on her last trip, wasn't preventing fluid buildup as it was supposed to. This resulted in another urgent surgery to replace the shunt. They need to get it exactly right because this drainage tube is something Kaylee will require for the rest of her life. She also must undergo continuous physical therapy to help her gain full use of her hands and legs, which were affected by the damage her brain suffered during childbirth.

Wish List

Gift Cards

- Wal-Mart
- Costco
- K-Mart
- Sam's Club
- Target
- Longs Drugs
- Supermarkets
- Gasoline gift cards
- Prepaid phone cards
- Movie Tickets

Household Items

- Non-stick pots & pans cookware
- Paper towels, napkins & plates
- Ziplock bags
- Garbage bags (yard & kitchen)
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic food storage containers

Food Items

- Cup Noodles (microwave)
- Sugar
- Flour
- Cooking oil
- Fresh fruits & vegetables
- Frozen meals (microwave)
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Assorted canned goods

Miscellaneous

- Rolls/sheets of "Forever" postage stamps
- Xerox paper (8.5 x 11)
- Office supplies



Kaylee James remained in intensive care for nearly four months.

To be close to Kaylee, and see her through this ordeal, mom, dad and Kaylee's four-year-old sister Kierah stayed at the Ronald McDonald House for four months while Kaylee fought for her life. With her family by her side, never giving up hope, the newborn grew stronger, and her breathing, hearing and sight began to develop. Finally, in June, doctors determined that she was stable enough and strong enough to be released from the hospital and go home. They called her their "miracle baby."

"Cognitively, Kaylee is on track right now. Physically, she is a little delayed, but she is still making steady progress," Angie says.

Delightful little Kaylee, now 21-months old, draws people to her like a



Finally, fresh out of the hospital, Kaylee could spend quality time with mom Angie and sister Kierah at the Ronald McDonald House.

A few nights after the recent procedure, Kaylee developed a fever and had to make an unscheduled trip to Kapiolani's emergency room. Tests

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Jerri Chong

A Message from our President

Aloha!

Our two Ronald McDonald Houses, which combine for a total of 17 guest rooms, have evolved to compliment each other perfectly and allow us to serve families effectively and efficiently.

Parents with in-patient children stay

at the Oahu Avenue House while families whose children are being treated on an out-patient basis or those with an accompanying minor sibling make the Judd Hillside House their "home-away-from-home". In other words, it is all adults at the Oahu Avenue House and totally child-friendly at the Judd Hillside location. This set up has been working really well.

Since opening its doors in 2006, the Oahu Avenue Ronald McDonald House has provided more than 5,400 nights of temporary lodging for some 750 anxious parents, nearly all from the neighbor islands. Although a typical guest at the Oahu Avenue House is a parent accompanying a hospitalized child, we can accommodate high-risk



Our Oahu Avenue House

pregnancy moms there as well. So instead of sitting and fretting, literally an ocean away from neonatal specialists during the most critical stages of their pregnancy, they are able to temporarily reside just minutes away from the hospital here on Oahu.

Recently, we have been running at 100% occupancy at the Oahu Avenue House, largely because of a surge in premature deliveries on the neighbor islands.

The efficiency of using the two Houses this way also maximizes the impact of every dollar people contribute. Making donations go farther is how we are able to help families all year long at our three facilities on a cash budget of just over \$1 million.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward with support, including those that made this summer's RMHC-HI Golf Classic a big success! For a look at that special day on the links, check out pages 4-5 of this

newsletter.

Our next important fundraiser is our Annual Gala on November 21. It's a wonderful event that you won't want to miss. To reserve a table or purchase seats, call 973-5683 ext. 239.

Remarkable Story, continued from page 1

revealed that it wasn't an infection from her surgery, but they administered antibiotics to be safe.

Just as she always has, Kaylee rallied strongly, kicked the fever and soon was back to her happy, endearing ways.

Dennis and Angie breathed a collective sigh of relief and prepared to head back home—for now.

Before leaving, Angie took a moment to reflect on the whole experience. "It has been both amazing and devastating at the same time. To see our baby girl thrive despite her issues is amazing; but to see her have to face the hardships devastates us."

She credits the Ronald McDonald House and staff for making a big difference. "The House is such a blessing," Angie says. "Without them, I'm not sure what we would have done. It has truly become our 'home-away-from-home' and the staff has become part of our family. They are incredible people and the world is such a better place with people like them in it!"



Not yet two, Kaylee is saying her first words. "Bye-bye", she said again and again while pushing her walker down the hall on the last day of her September stay at the Ronald McDonald House.

RMHC-HI Board names new officers

Attorney Richard Rand has been chosen as RMHC-HI's new Chairman of the Board. Mr. Rand is a partner at Marr, Jones & Wang. His term at the helm of the organization's board extends until 2011.

"I feel honored to be asked to take a turn as chair," Mr. Rand remarked. "The work we do is very important to me because it means so much to families trying to deal with the unthinkable situation of having a child with a life-threatening illness."

Also named to the new slate of officers were Doreen Griffith, Managing Partner at Grant Thornton LLP, as 1st Vice-Chair; Beth Lum, Owner of Creative Fundraising Associates, as 2nd Vice-Chair; Wade Nakashima, Manager of Supply & Distribution at Tesoro Hawaii Corporation, as Secretary; and Sara Isonaga, CFO at The Myers Corporation, as Treasurer. The volunteer board consisting of business and community leaders governs the organization.

Brian Takeda, of R.M. Towill, rotated out as Chairman after completing his two-year term.

Completing the list of RMHC-HI Board members are Dr. Robert Durkin of Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children; Dennis Pang of Dennis Pang & Associates; Bruce Yanagihara of Prudential Locations; and McDonalds Owner-Operators Donna Ribellia-Abreu, Frankie Chung, and Patrick Lim.



Richard Rand

Community Support

Helping others even during a recession

Slow economic times haven't slowed down people's interest in stepping forward to support RMHC-HI, it has just made them turn to extra-creative ways to make a difference.

Clubs, groups, schools, kids and others have created fun ways for their colleagues, friends and relatives to participate in activities designed to raise needed funding for RMHC-HI.

Want to pitch in too but you're not sure how? Here are some examples that might give you an idea (right).

Still looking for inspiration? Just give our Community Relations Specialist, Michelle a call at 973-5683 Ext. 240.

Hawaii National Bank

On July 14, Nikolaus Daubert (left) and Leslie Menor (right) of Hawaii National Bank's Spirit and Wellness Committee presented RMHC-HI's Michelle Takahashi with checks totaling \$840, raised by their June "Casual Clothing Day".



Young Entrepreneurs

Eight year old Iolani student Allyson Yuasa, along with her cousins visiting from Philadelphia decided to raise money for RMHC-HI by setting up a lemonade stand near Allyson's home in Kahala. The four girls, accompanied by their moms, dropped off the \$228 they raised.

Left to right in the photo are Sophia Mahoney, ten; Allyson; Isabella Mahoney, eight; RMHC-HI's Nikee Wainit; and Emma Mahoney, six.



Mid Pacific Institute's Elementary School

The children of Ms. Michelle LeBlanc's class—1st and 2nd graders—raised \$668.74 for RMHC-HI by selling a variety of things, including spam musubi. They also painted fingernails, made and sold beaded jewelry, and much more.

RMHC-HI's Reenie Rea, a MidPac alum (back right) visited the school on July 10 to accept the donation.



The ultimate gift forward

Friends of the late Janice "Jan" Biltoft described her as an "outspoken, energetic community leader, who was active in many causes." It is also clear that she had a vision of a better world that even transcended her time here on Earth.

Mrs. Biltoft, a retired Kailua-Kona accountant who passed away on July 10, 2008, willed RMHC-HI more than \$50,000 to assist with its work. This means she will be able to help make a difference in the lives of needy, anxious families long after her death.

RMHC-HI accepts gifts like these, which are the supreme expression of one's best intentions, with the utmost respect and care. It is our responsibility to fulfill last wishes, and to make sure these special donors achieve the legacy they desire and deserve.

Please consider including RMHC-HI in your will, life-insurance, or estate planning.



Taken in 2003, here is the late Janice "Jan" Biltoft with her husband Charlie, who himself died in 2004. In life, they did much for others, but shunned the spotlight. Through targeted bequests upon her passing, their spirit of caring and aloha will live on.

Attention Federal Employees!

All Employees of the U.S. government, including service personnel, may designate a charity to receive a monthly donation that is deducted automatically from their paychecks through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

RMHC-HI's CFC designation code is:

89629



Thank You!

Tee-riffic day on the course

The spirit of caring and sharing shined brightly on July 17, when nearly 200 golfers and 200 volunteers came out and enjoyed a fun-filled day at the 18th Annual RMHC-HI Golf Classic on Hickam Air Force Base's Mamala Bay Golf Course.

Participants ate and played their way through the course, and had chances to win jackpots, Neighbor Island golfing trips, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, a Rolex watch, and even \$1 million.

As usual, the event brought out several celebrity golfers such as Chef Sam Choy, and media members Guy Hagi (KGMB-TV), who played and served as the banquet emcee; Howard Dashefsky (KHNL-TV), Jason Yotsuda (KSSK), and Scottie B. (STAR). Among the community and business leaders taking part were U.H. Athletic Director Jim Donovan, and Honolulu Fire Chief Ken Silva. But probably the most well-known character was Ronald McDonald, who posed for pictures with all the teams and looked like he was having the most fun of all!

Many hours of preparation went into planning the Golf Classic, from securing prizes and auction donations, to making sure that every hole had a fun game to play or tasty foods and drinks to enjoy. Our sincere thanks go out to the sensational sponsors and volunteers who helped to make it all possible!



Emcee Guy Hagi



Dick Kinder's club covers were certainly on-theme for the day.



Daniel Mausolf took the Midas Prize Wheel for a spin before teeing off at hole # 4.

2009 RMHC-HI

Mamala Bay Golf Course

July 23

Proceeds top \$100,000 for



Volunteers Dory Clisham (left) and Pamela Foster helped Wade Morimoto of Superb Sushi distribute sushi to golfers.



Volunteering is a family affair for (left to right) Terri, Taylor, and Fire Chief Ken Silva.

Rolex by Kaimana Kea with "timely" support



RMHC-HI's Nikee Wainit (back, right) joined Rolex by Kaimana Kea's Amy Meng and Daisuke Yoshimori out on Hole #2 to assist players who wanted to take a swing at a new Rolex.

Since 2002, Rolex by Kaimana Kea has generously supported the Golf Classic by sponsoring a hole and giving a Rolex watch to one lucky player each year. This "time" around, Ren Frias hit his tee shot closest to the pin on the picturesque second hole (5' 7½") and won the Rolex, valued at \$5,450.

"Having an exquisite Rolex as a yearly prize really helps make our Golf Classic stand out as a one of a kind event," says RMHC-HI President Jerri Chong. "We are enormously grateful to Jim Geiger and the wonderful folks at Kaimana Kea!"

HI Golf Classic

Course, Hickam AFB

, 2009

for second year in a row!!



Paul Bunda and Sanford Ota mug for the camera while waiting for the shotgun start.



Scott Hirono watched his \$1 million shot attempt come tantalizingly close to going in (within 8 1/2 ft.!).



Teaming up for RMHC-HI are (left to right), Dr. Jay Cambra, Chef Sam Choy, Veronica Kaneko, Ronald McDonald, Kitty Lagareta, Howard Dashefsky and Jim Donovan.

Outback Steakhouse

For eight years now, Outback Steakhouse Waipio has been sponsoring a golf hole, and presenting their Bonzer Banquet, a delicious dinner for everyone at the RMHC-HI Classic, following the on-course action. Proprietor Julie Uyemura says the reason

Outback keeps coming back to support the children and families of Ronald McDonald House is because, "It's just our way of reaching out to the community in a grassroots way."

She admitted that this year, their participation was harder for them because of the economy, but says, "Over the years we've established a good bond and we believe what the funds are used for is a wonderful thing—and we have a good time, too!"

Thank you Outback Steakhouse Waipio for giving so much every year!



Julie Uyemura, Proprietor

Mahalo to our team sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors

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 Horizon Lines LLC
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 McDonald's Golden Arches Merchants Assn. - Team A
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 McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii - Team A
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 Ko Olina Resort & Marina
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 Mitsunaga & Associates, Inc. - Team B
 Sheet Metal Industry of Hawaii
 Summerlin Life & Health Insurance Company

Silver Sponsors

AlohaCare
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 Chevron Products Company
 Chun Kerr Dodd Beaman & Wong
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 Dennis Pang & Associates
 Ed Sonoda Plumbing Inc.
 Golden State Foods - Team B
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 Oahu Waste Services, Inc. / Honolulu Disposal Services
 Premier Insurance - Team A
 Premier Insurance - Team B
 R.K. Oshiro Door Service, Inc.
 Ridgeway Construction
 RONS Construction Corporation
 theStrategist
 Urban Works
 Yamaguchi & Yamaguchi, Inc.

"It's my turn to help"

Alberto Masaquel, one of our newest volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House Family Room, truly understands what the families he meets there are feeling. "I became a volunteer because I can relate to the families who are going through a rough time in their life. I know what they are experiencing," says Alberto.

The Family Room, at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, provides a caring, supportive environment where parents and families of seriously ill children can take respite from patient care while still being near the child if needed. It is staffed by volunteers like Alberto.

Alberto's experience with such things began suddenly on April 25, 2008, when his 12-year-old daughter Alyssa, an Iolani student at the time, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML), a type of cancer that is found in the blood cells. For Alberto and his family, life was turned upside down.

He and wife Cecilia had noticed that Alyssa appeared to be losing weight, and showing cold symptoms monthly. Then on a school morning in April, Alyssa had a hard time getting out of bed and a lump had appeared on the left side of her neck. Tests revealed that she had leukemia. "The doctors told us to check her into the hospital immediately,"

recalls Alberto. "I didn't completely understand what Leukemia was at the time.

That would soon change.

Alyssa underwent three rounds of chemotherapy at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children and was later flown to City of Hope National Medical Center in California. The family stayed at the Pasadena Ronald McDonald House while she received more chemotherapy and bone marrow transplanted from her older brother Christopher. It was a very difficult trip, and her condition became critical more than once. But she made it.

Alyssa is back home in Hawaii now, and recovering steadily. But she returned deaf, "due to the toxicity of the antibiotics she had to take," Alberto explains. "She's going



Back in Hawaii, and with Alyssa back in school, Alberto and she have reason to look to the future optimistically.



Alberto Masaquel on duty at the RMH Family Room.

to be checked to see if she is a candidate for a hearing device known as a cochlear implant. That might really help her."

Current tests can detect no cancer cells in Alyssa at this time, but Dad's cautious. "We look forward to two years from now when we can say she is officially in remission," he says.

Alberto, who is an employee at United Airlines, cites the Family Room as a major positive impact on him and his family. "Although everything was still so fresh for us, the Family Room volunteers took the time to help, and that's what I am here to do now. Volunteering also keeps me grounded and my daughter loves that I am doing this. It's my turn to help those who are dealing with what we had to."

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

I want to step forward for the families. Enclosed is my gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii.

- \$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 _____

Email: _____

I'd like to make a monthly donation of _____
to the above credit card, effective _____

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).

RMHC-HI teams with McDonald's to engage the community

Local McDonald's restaurants offer year round activities that are fun and benefit Hawaii's families through RMHC-HI! Below is information about three special co-promotions, McFun-raiser, an ongoing campaign; Halloween Treat Packs, a great choice for a Halloween bag stuffer; and McHappy Day, set aside to honor kids and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii.

McDonald's and RMHC-HI step forward to help budget-strapped schools

Schools all over the state are facing record cuts in funding during the 2009-10 school year. This means they must somehow raise the necessary money for many things themselves including interscholastic sports, field trips, activities, and more.

Now, more and more schools, teams and clubs are discovering the fundraising power of the RMHC-HI McFun-raiser Coupon Book Program.

Friends of Aliiolani School (FOA) is one group that has been aggressively raising funds with the McFun-raiser program. President of the organization, Margaret Miura, says they use McFun-raiser "because the coupon books are easy to sell and we are able to support another charitable organization at the same time. We see it as a benefit to both RMHC-HI and FOA." Ms. Miura says the money they raise is going to fund or supplement school events, classroom projects and extra curricular activities.

It's really simple and it really works! McDonald Restaurants of Hawaii donates menu items, which is

really the key to this program. RMHC-HI packages these menu items in a handy coupon book, along with a discount coupon for Wet 'n Wild Hawaii (formerly Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park), which it sells to organizations like those described above for \$3 each. The group then sells them for \$5, making a \$2 profit on each coupon book sold. Since the coupons in the book are valued at approximately \$13, everybody is a winner!

Check out more information about McFun-raiser on the RMHC-HI website at www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org, or call Michelle at 973-5683 ext. 240.



TRICKS & TREATS PACK

A Special Promotion at McDonald's Now!!

Get Your Halloween Treat Packs Today!
Through October 31 only
(while supplies last)

\$4.00 per treat pack (plus tax)
(each treat pack contains 12 McDonald's coupons for Halloween treat-giving)

\$2.00 from every treat pack sold benefits Ronald McDonald House® Hawaii

McHappy Day

Circle November 20 on your calendar! That's the date for McDonald's McHappy Day (formerly World Children's Day).

McDonald's Restaurants across the globe will have special activities and celebrity guests to mark the event.

Here in Hawaii, customers may donate \$1 and receive a paper cutout hand to post in the restaurant that symbolizes the help for seriously ill children that each donation brings.

In addition, every Breakfast Extra Value Meal, all beef sandwich Extra Value Meals, and selected chicken Extra Value Meals sold (not including Happy Meals, Mighty Kids Meals) will generate a \$1 donation for RMHC-HI.

Treat yourself and help our families!!





Volunteer Spotlight

The Hernandez Family

by Michael Ahakuelo



On the last Sunday of every month at our Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House, you will smell the sweet aroma of a savory home-cooked meal sponsored by the Hernandez Family. Sal Hernandez, an active duty member for the National Guard, and his wife Leslie have been cooking at the House since March. They have also recruited their fellow church members at Pacific Revival Center to join them.

But Sal and Leslie have actually been active with Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House for nearly three years. They first came up to House to spread the cheer of Christmas through caroling on December 24, 2006. Later that evening, they got a nice surprise. "I remember that Christmas Eve very well," Sal says. "It was the evening that Leslie gave birth to our son, Joshua."

Since then, Sal, his family, and church members have come up to the House every December to share the Christmas spirit with families.

Earlier this year, Sal and Leslie realized that they

wanted to have other volunteer opportunities at the Ronald McDonald House, and they decided to encourage others to join them in the Ronald McDonald House's traditional Sunday dinner program.

"Having us here to cook for the families is great," says Sal. "I love it; my wife loves it; and so do the members from our church." He says they welcome the chance each month to visit with the families. "We see some familiar faces and some new faces each time we come. During dinner time, we get to share good fellowship and listen to their incredible stories. We are humbled by what the families share with us at the table."

The Hernandez family and friends find so much personal value in their

visits that they say they would like to do even more in the future. "Our goal in 2010 is to sponsor two dinners a month," Sal says. "And of course, Christmas Eve!" This year Sal and his group will be hosting a toy and food drive for Ronald McDonald House and will be dropping off the donations on Christmas Eve.



The Hernandez family-(left to right), Kaleb, Leslie, Joshua, Sal and Amaiya.

A special mahalo to Ryan's Graphics for helping to bring this newsletter to you in color.



Aloha from Our House to Yours
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