



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Special 12-page anniversary issue, May 2012

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii



CELEBRATING
25
 YEARS
 IN HAWAII
 1987-2012

**"Lifting children to
 a better tomorrow"**





Jerri Chong

A special message from our President

Aloha kakou,

25 years ago, a very special group of people, supported by a great number of caring organizations and businesses and fueled with boundless energy and love, came together and

turned a vision into a reality - Hawaii's first Ronald McDonald House. Their purpose was to provide more than just lodging; it was also to provide hope, helping hands, and caring hearts for families struggling to take care of a very sick child. Our mission has not changed. Since 1987, nearly 10,000 families have shared laughter and tears, and found comfort and support while making their home with us. And this year, we will surpass the milestone of 100,000 room nights provided for these families.

In many ways, creating this House was very much like giving birth to a very special and long-awaited child. The difference was that this child had many parents watching out for it, planning for its future, and guiding it through its early and adolescent years. Some of our proud parents include:

- Susan Entz, our first Board president who worked tirelessly and fought fearlessly against sometimes insurmountable odds.
- Kitty Lagareta, our first volunteer Executive Director who was the driving force for rallying community, corporate, and government support.
- Dr. Richard Kelley and the Outrigger Hotels who, for the past 25 years, has provided rooms to handle our overflow whenever the House was full, resulting in no family ever being turned away.
- McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii, who has made our families their families and given time, resources, program support and a special place on their priority list when it came to helping "The House That Love Built."
- Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, who shared our vision and understood firsthand the challenges our families go through. They have partnered with the House in every way to insure that the children and families come first, and are always taken care of.

- And our Founding Board, people from all walks of life and different sectors of the community - an amazing group of people with unmatched dedication for a cause that they fiercely believed in.

There are also some people who are no longer with us, but who will always be a very important part of the Ronald McDonald House. People who lent not only their names, but gave their hearts and souls, time and money, and commitment to this project. People like Richard Davi

from Kapiolani Medical Center, Helen Asakura, Reverend Abraham Akaka, and Maurice "Sully" Sullivan. Sully chaired the successful campaign to raise almost \$2 million to purchase our first Ronald McDonald House. His legacy continues through his family, and Sully's compassionate spirit and his tradition of caring and giving is echoed in the work and support of Joanna Sullivan and their children. These are people whose touch is indelibly etched in our history. They are our special angels who I believe continue to watch over us, and love and care for our families.

The journey has been challenging, exciting, sometimes daunting, yet always joyful. At the start, 25 years ago, few in Hawaii

knew what a Ronald McDonald House was. Some thought that it was a hospital or clinic. Others thought it was a halfway house or rehabilitation center. When kids heard about it, they thought that maybe Ronald McDonald lived here. Well, Ronald doesn't live here, but he does visit, and the joy, love, and caring that he epitomizes, fills every room of this special place.

We are proud that what so many worked so hard to create, has grown and flourished, evolving over the years to address our community's changing needs. But the core of our mission has always remained the same. This tradition of caring and giving at the Ronald McDonald House began a long time ago, when our Founding Board made a promise to create a "home-away-from-home", a safe and healing place for families to be together when they need each other the most. A 25-year promise that has not faltered. We stand committed to keeping this House open for as long as it's needed, and we are grateful to this generous, caring community for helping us honor that promise.



Forever Ohana

TWICE THE JOY

"It is hard to put into words how grateful we were to have the Ronald House during those times! Although these words are genuine, it is only a fraction of the gratitude we feel towards your MISSION!

In everyone's life there will be a time when you will need to rely on and in need of a friend. Someone outside your ohana! Six years ago we were blessed with the birth of our twin boys, Julian and Kalani. My wife and I were not ready for the journey that would transpire for the next few months of our boys' lives. Two pounds apiece and smaller than a notebook, we were staring down a tunnel of unknown. We didn't think about it at the time but this was the toughest time in our young married life. As new parents, this was not the script we wanted write!

As anyone would hope for, our families were there to anchor and support us through this trying time. But it was new friends that came into our life, and only now do we truly appreciate the blessing of hope that they gave to us.

Our journey of parenthood began at the Ronald McDonald House door step. Your generosity and the insurance of a comfortable, safe place for my wife to rest and recharge, to be strong and loving for the boys, was truly a selfless act of caring and support. I could not imagine what the outcome would have been without the love and dedication of the Ronald McDonald House. And for this we are forever connected to you as a family and with every family. Our bond will keep us strong and we are humbled to be part of such a higher and greater purpose. Thank you and peace to you and bless all you stand for!"

--Joseph and Fernanda Panganiban



PARENTS COULD STAY FOCUSED FOR KAYLEE

"Words can't say how much the Ronald McDonald House meant to us. When our twins Mia, and Kaylee were born 14 weeks premature it was one of the most terrifying times in our lives. Mia passed away, but surprisingly Kaylee held on and was medevac'd from Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands to Kapiolani Hospital in Honolulu. We had no idea what we were going to do, and the folks in the NICU suggested the Ronald McDonald House. The stress of where our family was going to stay was immediately taken off our shoulders, at a time where there were just more important things to concentrate on. As our daughter was in the NICU, one issue arose after another, and her stay ended up being quite lengthy. If it were not for the Ronald McDonald House, my husband and I would have had to return home to work because of the financial burden.

The Ronald McDonald House allowed our family to stay together. It gave us a safe 'fun' place for our oldest daughter who was 4 years old at the time, and we were able to concentrate on the most important thing, our family, without the added stress of everything else. The Ronald McDonald House also gave us the chance to connect and talk to other parents and families that were going through similar circumstances. We

were able to 'vent' and ask advice with the other families.

After Kaylee was released to go back home, we had to return many times for follow-ups, therapy, and a few surgeries. We were welcomed back to the Ronald McDonald House by the staff with smiles and open arms. Kaylee was able to return to a place that was familiar and comfortable to her each time, which reduced her fears, something she never could have gotten from staying in a hotel. Kaylee was always excited to go back and see all of the staff at the House.

Kaylee is now four years old. Our family has moved back to California because she has better medical care and services than when we lived in the Marshall Islands. She is doing fantastic, has learned to walk with the aide of forearm crutches, goes to preschool and is a very happy little girl. We are so thankful for the Ronald McDonald House, what they gave us above all was the ability to focus on what was most important, our daughter."

--Dennis and Angelique James



Continued on page 9

THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT

1982 Committee formed to establish a Ronald McDonald House® in Hawaii

1984

Judd Hillside Property identified and lobbying for permits begin



1985

Maurice "Sully" Sullivan leads \$1.8 million Capital Campaign efforts



1986 Groundbreaking for major renovation and construction begins at Judd Hillside



1987 Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House opens in March



1992



Over 4,000 guests welcomed through our doors

1997



10th year anniversary celebration and a total of nearly 11,000 guests welcomed to our home.

Two-and-a-half decades

2002

Dole Street House opens under temporary license



2003

RMH Family Room opens at Kapiolani Hospital



2004

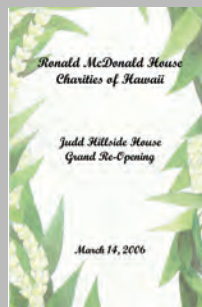
Capital Campaign of \$3.7 million undertaken to acquire second House facility on Oahu Avenue and for renovations and upgrades to Judd Hillside property

2005



Judd Hillside renovations begin. The House is closed for seven months, but RMHC-HI continues to serve families through our partnership with Outrigger Hotels and a temporary facility

2006



Our second House on Oahu Avenue opens in January and the Judd Hillside House re-opens in February

2007

20th year anniversary celebration and the total number of guests welcomed to Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses reaches 21,000



2012

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS
IN HAWAII



Mahalo Hawaii for your support in making a difference to seriously ill children and their families.



25TH ANNIVERSARY BRINGS RMHC-HI OHANA TOGETHER

The Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House shimmered with beauty in the mid-day sunshine, freshly sprinkled by a morning of Manoa showers. As guests began arriving in the SpeediShuttles, the warm energy and anticipation grew, and soon there were more than 150 men, women, and children that all had in common a strong connection with Ronald McDonald House. People that helped create the House 25 years ago intermingled with those responsible for keeping their dream alive today, and families and children whose lives were altered forever by their experiences here.

In an atmosphere of caring and generosity, the gathering of RMHC-HI ohana celebrated their connection to "The House That Love Built" and shared their mutual passion for its mission. It was a time of fellowship and pride, and a time for strengthening bonds. Here are photos from that special day.



Kevin Saligumba



Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle with the Saligumbas



Francis Nakamoto, Linda Ishikawa and Dr. Robert Durkin



Marda Phillips and Kathleen Bryan



Victor Lim, Diane Sumida, Patricia Harell, Karen Zwern and John Cheung



Howard Ip



Marissa Wong, Kristina Rau and Zan Timtim



Bruce Yanagihara, Dan Cooke and Stuart Chun



Caesar Llarenas, Jerri Chong and Michael Tam



Fran Hill, Lorraine Yannone, Joanna Sullivan, Kitty Largareta, Fred Hill, Sue Entz and Marda Phillips



Bruce Yanagihara, Diane Sumida, Carrie Jeanne Oda, Chad Sumida, Wade Nakashima, Lawrence Chew and John Cheung



Richard Rand, Randy and Cheryl Grubb



Fred and Fran Hill shared their inspiring story.



Jerri Chong with the Panganibans



The Hills assisted Rev. John Kaina with the blessing.



(Back), Sandy Albano, Blossom Tyau, Kitty Wo and Richard Nakagawa. (Front), Jerri Chong, Joanna Sullivan and Fran Hill



Fred Hill entertained Dr. Jay Cambra, left, and Richard Rand with one of his great stories.

Mahalo to our major donors whose generosity and support have helped Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii serve the children and families of our island community for 25 years.

McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii • Mrs. Joanna L. Sullivan & Family • Bank of Hawaii
Don and Marion Murphy • Honolulu Star-Advertiser • Outrigger Enterprises Group

Many thanks to our special friends who have contributed time, services, and support for all the projects and events celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House.

ABM Family of Services • Benjamin Moore Paints • Cathy Lee of RSVPstyle • Garma Graphic Design
Geotech Solutions, Inc. • Golden State Foods • Japanese Seventh-day Adventist Church • Lance Orillo
Martin & MacArthur • Mobi PCS • Ron Yamamoto • Shriners Hospitals for Children • SpeediShuttle
Tempur-Pedic • UH Manoa Auxiliary Services • Walsh Construction

And thank you to the many donors, volunteers, and friends of the Ronald McDonald House who give support in so many ways throughout the year. Your gifts of time, dollars, and compassion are what continue to keep "The House that Love Built" open every day.



Walsh Construction is a huge company with a heart to match. Senior Project Manager Randy Grubb and his team oversaw several projects leading up to our anniversary event. Among the accomplishments were the installation of driveway lighting; landscaping; clearing and planting on hillside above the House; filling ground areas with rock; and painting the entire exterior of the Oahu Ave. House. Currently, Walsh Construction is working on additional improvements to enhance the beauty and functionality of our Ronald McDonald Houses. Walsh Construction was awarded the North Carolina Governor's Award for Volunteer Service for 2010 in the state, for their similar support of the Durham Ronald McDonald House.



The folks of ABM, led by Tiera Covington, performed community service projects at the Judd Hillside and the Oahu Avenue Houses to prepare for RMHC-HI's 25th Anniversary Celebration. They included pressure washing, window cleaning, last minute landscaping and interior house painting, as well as general House detailing and minor maintenance fixes.



Mrs. Joanna Sullivan, whose late husband Maurice "Sully" Sullivan led the capital campaign to create Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House back in the early 1980s, attended the anniversary event with her daughter Kitty Wo (back) and RMHC-HI supporter and friend Blossom Tyau (left). Mrs. Sullivan, who has supported RMHC-HI every step of the way over the years, presented the Ronald House with the beautiful custom koa table (featured in the photo) and TV entertainment center as anniversary gifts.



Forever Ohana continued from page 3

Thankful are we...

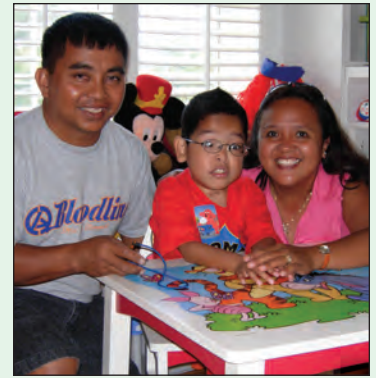
"For more than two years, Ronald McDonald House became my second home as my son Kevin struggled after being born very prematurely at 24 weeks in 2001. He was 1 pound 8 ounces, and 12 1/2 inches long. Even though I spent most of my time at the hospital, I did manage to meet other families at the House from different places like Hilo, Kona, Maui, Guam, Saipan, and even others from my home island, Kauai. Every family has their own story to tell of hospitals, procedures, uncertainties, prayers and the many people to thank that helped us through when we needed it so.

To the caring staff at Ronald McDonald House: you touched us deeply and supported us in ways that allowed us to concentrate on helping Kevin—and that was so important to us. To the other RMH families we met and shared story with, your words of encouragement and fellowship helped us to know we weren't alone. To the families that are at RMH now, and for those who will find themselves there, continue to have faith, strength and courage to battle for your keiki. You don't have far to look for understanding and support. Someday, Kevin will know and appreciate how blessed we were to have been a part of the RMH family."

Frankie and Cora Saligumba

2012 update from Cora:

"After leaving the Ronald House, Kevin still had medical issues to contend with and some remain, such as a feeding tube for supplemental nourishment, but he has thrived and recently celebrated his 11th birthday. Kevin's favorite subjects in school are reading, math, and art. Outside of school he enjoys soccer, kickball, golfing, playing video games, surfing the internet, attending church and of course, playing with his friends.



Aloha

"It has been almost exactly two-and-a-half years ago now since we walked out your doors. Our hearts filled with happiness and joy that we were finally able to head back home to Maui with our son Chance Keali'i who had been hospitalized at Kapiolani NICU for over 100 days.

We admit that despite our overwhelming happiness, we may be a touch richer if we had purchased stock in Kleenex due to the amount of tissues used to wipe tear filled eyes and runny noses. As you can imagine after being at the Ronald House for three months, we built great relationships with staff members and other families. In all honesty, I can't even imagine what state we would have been in, be it emotionally, psychologically, and financially without your love and support to absolute strangers. It was our home away from home at a time when we needed it most. A warm bed, laundry facilities and food. Things you take for granted.

We are very pleased to inform you on Keali'i's amazing progress. He was three in April, and he is in the 70th percentile for his height. He is still rather slender being in the 30th percentile for his weight. Various IMUA Rehab therapist still visit him once a month and have evaluated him as testing on a five-year-old level i.e.: cognitive testing. He has a great handle on communication skills, particularly a very extensive vocabulary. He is doing great and has an infectious smile and a larger than life personality. We will be forever grateful for the support of RMHC-HI!!!!

-- Lara and Darrett Schoeppner



Kim Hill's legacy of love and caring

Her parents set out to make a difference more than 40 years ago

Fred Hill loves telling stories, and one of his favorites is how he and his wife Fran have been together since the first grade. Without giving anyone's exact age away, that's more than 60 years. "But I didn't ask her to marry me until the ninth grade," says Fred, flashing his warm smile and clear blue eyes. Usually, Fran is by his side, ready to augment Fred's anecdotes with her own recollections of events and people they have known over the years. Fred is naturally shy, so sometimes Fran's help in these matters is much appreciated. They are a very special couple that tirelessly advocates for Ronald McDonald Houses everywhere.

Quite often on their travels they are asked to recount those days in 1969, when Fred was about to start his fifth season with the Philadelphia Eagles football team. "We were on the road to play an exhibition game and Fran called with the news that our three-year-old daughter Kim had leukemia," Fred tells. "We were young and we were a long way from home and family. We also had our other daughter Kristin, who was one-year-old at the time, to look after."

The Hills spent many months at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



The Philadelphia Eagles rallied behind efforts to start the first Ronald McDonald House after tight end Fred Hill's daughter Kim battled leukemia.



Kim Hill and dad Fred at the first Ronald McDonald House.

"At the time I didn't enjoy being sick. But I'm glad I did get sick, because through my suffering, a great thing has come from it."

- Kim Hill, 1983

and saw how difficult it was for families that were trying to stay close to their sick children. Many had come from hundreds of miles away for specialized treatments, and Fred and Fran recognized the need for some type of support for parents going through this. They were able to rally the Philadelphia Eagles ownership, management, and players to ultimately partner with the Children's Hospital and McDonald's Restaurants on a project to provide a place to stay overnight for these families.

"That small home that was purchased near the hospital in Philadelphia became the very first Ronald McDonald House in 1974," recounts Fred. "Now there are 314 Ronald Houses in 31 countries."

Kim beat the odds, won her battle against leukemia and was able to set

out on a happy life. She loved riding horses with her sisters Kris and Kyle. In high school, she sang in the choir, ran on the cross country team, and danced at her prom. She had many friends, and boyfriends too! Kim went on to college, began working, and soon experienced her greatest joy - motherhood - and began raising her own son, Andrew.

But during Kim's mid-20s, she began having severe headaches, and then the tumors were discovered. "The doctors removed two tumors, one the size of a grapefruit, from her brain," Fred remembers. "But they kept growing back, affecting her motor and sensory skills. Kim suffered a great deal, and yet, she remained optimistic and a fighter to the very end." Kim Hill passed away on



Kim was surrounded by love up until her death last year at age 44. Here is an earlier photo with mom and dad, and sisters Kyle and Kristina.

March 5, 2011 at the age of 44. But the 40 additional years she lived after her initial diagnosis of leukemia held a lifetime of joy, achievement, and celebration.

"Kim was very proud of the fact that she had been an inspiration for something as wonderful as the Ronald McDonald House," Fran shared during the couple's recent visit to Hawaii for RMHC-HI's 25th anniversary. "Before she got too sick, she was always ex-

curred between the Hills and current Dallas Cowboy football player Mana Silva and his wife Keilah, who stayed at the Hawaii Ronald McDonald House about three years ago when their baby Kauahe was born prematurely. Fred and Fran couldn't help but think



The Hills and the Silvas shared experiences of the NFL and the Ronald McDonald House.



RMHC-HI President Wade Nakashima (left) and Jerri Chong presented Fred and Fran Hill with a commemorative milo wood bowl to honor their daughter Kim's life.

of the time when they were Mana and Keilah's age, just starting their family, overcoming challenges and handling the ups and downs of professional football, and they eagerly exchanged information and offered advice to the young Hilo couple.

cited to accept invitations to visit Ronald McDonald Houses around the country, share her story, and help raise funds for other Ronald House programs. It brought Kim such great satisfaction just knowing how many families were being helped, every day, by what she had helped create so many years before."

But perhaps the best part of Fred and Fran's visit was the opportunity to welcome the Hills into Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House Ohana. "Fred and

Fran are exceptional people," says RMHC-HI President Jerri Chong. "But ironically, what makes them so special is that they are just like anyone else. They could be anyone's parents, anyone's neighbor, anyone's friend. They had the same hopes and dreams for their child that every parent has. They wanted to love, protect, and care for their daughter just like any mom and dad. These are the ties that bind. It's the universal language of love and family that is common to everyone."

The Hills can't accept all the requests they continue to receive to travel and share their family's story. So when the delightful pair said they would come to Hawaii and participate in our 25th anniversary, it meant a great deal to us. During their time here, Fred was more than happy to appear on the local TV morning shows, radio, and in print interviews to help promote our milestone.

Fred and Fran spent many hours at the Ronald McDonald House during their trip, easily mixing with staff, board members and the families staying here. One special meeting oc-



Fred and Fran Hill made many dear friends on the RMHC-HI staff and Board of Directors.

SPEEDISHUTTLE STEPS UP BIG FOR THE KIDS AND FAMILIES



Jerri Chong with Cecil Morton



SpeediShuttle, the transportation company providing door-to-door, island-wide shuttle service to and from the airport, as well as private car service, has begun offering complimentary airport transportation for families staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses. In addition, SpeediShuttle is stepping forward to help with transportation needs related to RMHC-HI's special events and fundraisers during the year. Just recently, SpeediShuttle provided shuttle service to guests attending the Ronald McDonald House 25th Anniversary event, with nine of its brand new silver Mercedes Benz vehicles!



"As a Hawaii based owned and operated company, we understand how important it is to take care of our local kama'aina and give back to the communities in which we work, live and play," said Cecil Morton, SpeediShuttle President & CEO. "What better way to support the neighbor island and Pacific Rim families in their time of need, when their main focus is on improving the health of their child." RMHC-HI President Jerri Chong pointed out that the new partnership will fill an important need for the charity. "This new association with SpeediShuttle is really important to us," she said. "It allows us to take a significant step forward with our mission of assisting families with their needs during a child's medical emergency. This handy transportation means a lot to the families."



Mahalo for your support!
www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii
 1970 Judd Hillside Road
 P.O. Box 61777
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1777
 info@rmhchawaii.org
 Phone: (808) 973-5683

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