



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

October 2012



Waiting for Koamalu

Updated October 5, 2012

Koamalu is still too small to get on the transplant list. He needs to weigh 22 pounds, and five months after being born, he's just halfway there. So everyone waits and hopes. Koamalu's twin brother Hayden continues to progress, doing a little better than Koamalu, but he has also had serious difficulties at times. Their young parents, Jade Iaukea-Shimizu and Les



Koamalu is holding on.

Huihui, have been unwavering in their tireless efforts on behalf of their babies.

For the moment, the couple's life mostly consists of long hours at the hospital followed by anxious nights huddled together with Hayden at the nearby Ronald McDonald House. But they have been anything but spectators on this journey. They have already taken the battle to UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles during Jade's pregnancy, where the diagnosis of Twin-To-Twin Transfusion Syndrome was confirmed and a procedure performed on the unborn twins to give each their own flow of blood.

Koamalu has what is called "short gut syndrome." He was born with only 10 percent functioning intestines. One of the complications of this condition is that a baby's liver begins to fail soon as well. So it's a delicate race to 22 pounds, and if they can nurse along his liver until then, he should be a candidate for the life-saving double

transplant that he needs. It will probably take place at Stanford Medical Center or Seattle Children's Hospital. Both places are familiar with Koamalu's case and he has even gone through testing at Stanford.

A year ago, back in Kailua-Kona, neither Jade, 18, nor Les, 22, could have ever imagined where they would be now and what they would be doing. The sudden change in their lives began the day Jade found out that she was expecting. Les remembers it well. "We were both scared. We didn't know who to tell. We didn't even know what to do next. I had never even baby sat before."

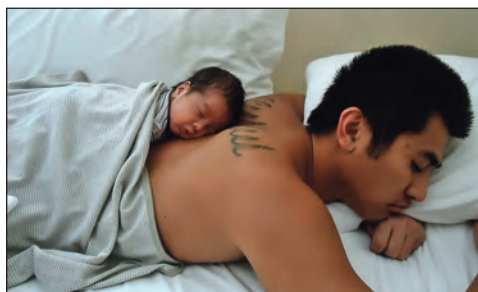
Then came a double-shocker. They learned that Jade was expecting twins.



Jade and Les spend many hours each day encouraging Koamalu in Intensive Care.

When the surprise subsided, they found that they eagerly looked forward to the future together with their babies.

But it started to get complicated about 20 weeks into Jade's pregnancy. "The doctor told us that one of the twins (Koamalu) had a fluid buildup in his abdomen," says Les. "He gave him a 20% chance to make it, and he gave his brother Hayden a 50% chance to survive. He said that if Koamalu would pass, then Hayden would probably pass with him. In the ultrasound, we could see that their umbilical cords were getting tangled up." When everyone realized how fragile her pregnancy was,



Hayden and Les grab a nap at the Ronald McDonald House.

Wish List

Gift Cards

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

Household Items

Paper Plates
Ziploc bags
Garbage bags
(10 gal., 13 gal., 33 gal.)
Aluminum foil
Plastic food storage containers

Food Items

Canned Goods
Ketchup
Sugar
Cooking oil
Soy sauce
Fresh fruits & vegetables
Frozen meals (microwave)
Saimin
Individually wrapped snacks
Rice

Miscellaneous

Rolls/sheets/books of Forever
postage stamps
Xerox paper (8.5 x 11)
Office supplies
Baby Clothes 0-12 mo. (new)

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Message from our President



Jerri Chong

Aloha,
2012, our 25th anniversary year, is turning out to be all that we had hoped for. We have been able to share the Ronald McDonald House story with countless people; express our gratitude to our loyal supporters for their 25 years of caring; and reconnect and strengthen our relationships with many of the special families that have stayed here since we opened in 1987.

Taking Ronald McDonald with us on road trips to major shopping centers on Oahu and the neighbor islands this year has been truly special. We have held Saturday events at the Kahala and Windward Malls; Hilo's Prince Kuhio Center; Lihue's Kukui Grove Center; and Kahului's Queen Kaahumanu Center, featuring the Ronald McDonald Show, along with other great entertainment and activities for the kids. At each stop we felt so welcomed and everyone we met seemed eager to better understand how we help families and to learn how they can show their support. Next, we will be at Kona Commons, in Kailua-Kona on December 1.

A real highlight this year was being selected by the employees of Bank of Hawaii to receive a share of the proceeds from their annual Community Walk. This fun event was held at the Honolulu Zoo with bank personnel and their families rallying together to enjoy the walk, entertainment, displays, and food. When all was said and done, Bank of

Hawaii's donation to RMHC-HI was more than \$45,000! Check out some photos from the event on page seven.

2012 will also be remembered as the year that we created "Helen's Corner", a beautiful and special section of our Hawaiian Garden on the Judd Hillside House grounds. Helen's Corner was dedicated to honor the memory of Helen Asakura, a long-time supporter of the Ronald McDonald House. Attending the dedication was Helen's daughter Ann Asakura, who herself has served on the RMHC-HI Board of Directors. Also on hand were many of Helen's friends from McDonald's of Hawaii, who provided the funding to create Helen's Corner. It is a beautiful area to match the beautiful memories that we have of Helen.

But the year is not over yet. There are still opportunities for you take part in our anniversary. We have our 25th Anniversary Gala coming up on November 18; the yearly Christmas dinner and toy drive on December 5 at Murphy's Bar & Grill; and much more. I hope you will be there to help us put the finishing touches on a year to remember!



Helen's Corner

Koamalu continued

Jade was immediately flown over to Kapiolani Medical Center on Oahu for bed rest. After holding on for a total of 46 days, Jade gave birth to Koamalu and Hayden by caesarian section on April 7, nearly two months prematurely.

Hayden came out first and he had his heart murmur, which went away after a few days, but Koamalu needed immediate intervention. "The second Koamalu came out, they started draining the fluid that had built up in him," Les says.

During a diagnostic test, they discovered the undeveloped intestines. "So the doctor had to use what was left, and connect him up as best he could," tells Les. "But that wasn't enough intestines left for him to survive. So he would ultimately need a transplant to save his life. That was so hard for us to hear. I thought I was having a bad dream."

But through all of this, Les and Jade have been able to remain optimistic.

And they have a stable temporary living arrangement and safety net. "We weren't sure what we were going to do after the twins were born," says Jade. "One of our neighbors had a preemie and they stayed at the Ronald McDonald House, and they were telling us about it. So when the time came we asked the hospital about the

Ronald McDonald House, and before we knew it, we had a place to stay. Not just any place either, a wonderful place. We really enjoy being here. We made so many friends."

"If not for Ronald McDonald House, sadly, we would have had to go home and be miserable without our babies. That just wouldn't be right because you need to be near your child in the hospital," adds Les.

The couple's situation has had a profound effect on them. "At first I wondered why God gave us sick babies, Les says. "Was he punishing us? But before long I realized that God gave them to us because he knew that willingly, we will do everything we can for them. I am so happy these babies came into our life. We didn't realize it before, but we really weren't complete until our boys got here."

"I'm still scared," says Jade. "But I'm excited. I mean, it's tiring but it's not hard. I really enjoy having them around."

"I know I will find a way to take good care of my family," concludes Les. "As my dad used to tell me, 'The road to success is always under

construction.' There might be detours and it might get bumpy. Some people might pass you along the way. That doesn't mean that, at the end of the road, you're not going to get to your destination."



Jade and Les with Hayden at the Ronald McDonald House.

From our mailbox

Dear Ronald McDonald House Staff,

Thank you so much for taking care of me when I had kidney failure. You guys are so nice to everyone, and helpful, and caring and a lot more too! To me you are my heroes because you guys treated me like family and took care of me on Christmas, even though I was sick.

Once I found out about my kidney, it made me cry. I still have and hold my blanket you gave me. I love it so much. I get scared sometimes at my grandma's house, so I hold on to my blanket really tight. My blanket is like my friend.

I'm now 10-years-old and I'm in the 5th grade. My granny Ruth is very nice. She is wonderful, and now she makes blankets for you guys to give to other children.

Remember when I got healthier, and I was so glad to go back to Hilo? Well, part of me really didn't want to go because I made friends there at the House. So anyway, thank you for what you do! Please write back to me. I will be so happy. Thank you. Hope you write back!

Mahalo,
Shylynn Kawamoto

Dear Shylynn,

Thank you so much for writing and sharing your feelings with us. We were honored to have you and your family stay with us when you were in Honolulu being treated for your kidney problem. That's really neat that you still love your blanket, and we are so grateful that your grandma takes the time to make new blankets for other children staying here.

Things remain the same at the Ronald McDonald House, with kids from all over the islands calling this their home-away-from-home during their medical hardships. Just like you, they are making friends with each other and helping each other through the difficult times.

We hope you are feeling good and enjoying school!

Remember, if you and your family are ever in Honolulu, please stop by to say hello to your ohana at the "House that Love Built". In the meantime, please stay in touch and let us know how you are doing. O.K.?

Sincerely,
Jerri, Nikee, Candace, Gene, Michelle, Lisa, Kalei, Lana, Kasha, Michael, Kanoe, Richard, and everyone at RMHC-HI!

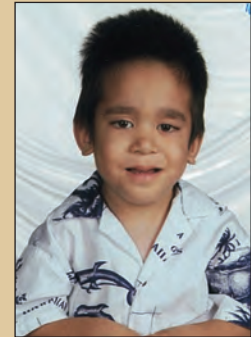


*To the staff of Ronald McDonald House (both venues),
We are thankful with grateful hearts for all your help and efforts for us, especially for Jason!*

Update on Jason: He's a joyful one, already 3 1/2 years old, in preschool, very smart. He is still on therapies but taking steps and getting stronger. At present, he is 36 inches long and weighs 26.4 lbs.

He is also eating solid foods, but still has his feeding tube. Enclosed is Jason's pre-school picture.

*Best wishes and God bless to all.
Love and prayers,
May, Justin, and Jason
Pascua-Massie
—Kahului Maui*



From our Facebook page



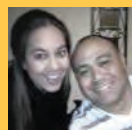
Chel Arquero

My son, Ezekiel was born at 24 weeks last October. We stayed at the RMH for 5 months off and on as we traveled back and forth from Maui. Ezekiel will be celebrating his first birthday soon and I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the RMH for everything they have done for us while we were going through the roughest days in our lives. It was surely a home away from home. We love and miss you all. We will be by soon to say hello with Ezekiel!!!
Arquero/Nava Family



Justin Chubbs Rivera

I miss this house ☹️



Nora Ludgate Alaiafune

For many years I've tried to find the words to express our gratitude to the staff of RMHC, Honolulu. After many attempts and deletes, I decided that I simply cannot let another year go by. From our Ohana to yours.. "Thank You" for giving us a home away from home and helping fuel Bucky's heart in his battle with cancer. Today, we celebrate his 13th birthday. And with every milestone we hit, we remember those who helped us along this journey. Thank You again RMHC...



Bucky



2012 RMHC-HI Golf Classic – July 19 - Mamala Bay



Participant and Emcee,
Guy Hagi.

A Perfect day to play golf!
Morning sprinkles turned into brilliant sunshine for the nearly 200 golfers participating in this year's RMHC-HI Golf Classic at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Mamala Bay Golf Course on July 19. It was a truly remarkable day for everyone. The sold-out event raised more than \$100,000!

In addition, Dianne Pereira, Owner of Midas Hawaii, presented a check to RMHC-HI for \$6,790, representing the proceeds from her company's own golf event!

As the golfers settled down to a great dinner provided by Outback Steakhouse Waipio, many great prizes were given away.

Below, among the lucky winners was Tyler Tokioka, who went home with a \$6,500 gift certificate, courtesy of Rolex by Kaimana Kea. Making the presentation for Rolex was Debbie Medeiros.

Please visit our Facebook page for more photos from the RMHC-HI Golf Classic.



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Leu, Okuda & Doi, Attorneys at Law
McDonald's Golden Arches Merchants Assoc. - Team A
McDonald's Golden Arches Merchants Assoc. - Team B
McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii-A
McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii-B
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Veronica Kaneko

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Vacations Hawaii

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Ruth's Chris Steak House
Tesoro Hawaii Corp.
The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua
Turtle Bay Resort Golf Club
Vacations Hawaii
Zpizza Hawaii

Mighty, Happy to Help the Kids!

Don't forget! For every Happy Meal and Mighty Kids Meal sold through 2013, our friends at McDonald's of Hawaii are donating five cents to RMHC-HI.

Those nickels will really add up and make a big difference to our ability to serve the children and families.

Thank you McDonald's customers for your continual support of our mission through

participating in special promotions like this one and by dropping your change into the handy collection boxes near cash registers.



SAVE THE DATE!! Share a Night!!

The 2012 RMHC-HI Gala is coming up on Sunday, November 18 from 5:30 pm till 9:30 pm, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The theme is "25 Years of helping families" and we would love for you to be there! Go to our website for more details or call Candace at (808) 973-5683 ext. 239.

Share a Night 
Annual Gala

Convenient ways to support RMHC-HI

Most people agree that it feels good to extend a helping hand to families who are struggling with something difficult that they had no part in creating.

For some folks, showing they care is as easy as writing a check or making an online contribution. Others, especially those with a little free time, prefer to give of themselves - stepping forward to fill one of the many important volunteer roles available.

Or, supporting RMHC-HI can be as easy as picking up your morning paper at McDonald's. The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Maui News, Hawaii Tribune Herald, West Hawaii Today, Garden Island and Pacific Daily News all participate in a special program that sends part of your newspaper's purchase price to RMHC-HI, when bought at McDonald's.

There are many more ways to help too, including:

- incorporating RMHC-HI into your estate planning
- conducting your own fundraisers benefitting RMHC-HI
- putting spare change in the RMHC-HI collection boxes, located near the cash registers inside all McDonald Restaurants and most drive-thru windows
- providing in-kind and Wish List donations for the Ronald McDonald Houses
- using McFun-Raiser coupon books for your school or organization's fund raising campaign

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 Ronald McDonald House Hawaii

 RonaldHouseHi

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mahalo!



The staff of SSFM International selected RMHC-HI as the beneficiary of their 53rd Anniversary event held on September 13th.

RMHC-HI was also given the opportunity share our mission and accomplishments with many of those attending.



Mike Matsumoto, CEO of SSFM International, presented a \$5,000 contribution to RMHC-HI and encouraged others to donate that night, raising another \$2,000!

(L-R) Mike Matsumoto; RMHC-HI board member Bruce Yanagihara; RMHC-HI President Jerri Chong; SSFM executive and RMHC-HI board member Cheryl Soon; and RMHC-HI board chair Wade Nakashima.



The Waimea Lions recently held a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in cooperation with the enthusiastic staff of McDonald's Waimea Center, over on the Big Island.

A portion of each ticket sold was earmarked for Ronald McDonald House Charities, an amount that was graciously matched by local McDonald's owner Robert Leopoldino, resulting in a more than \$1,200 donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities and a pledge by all to "let's do it again."



We Serve



On Tuesday evening August 14, the wonderful folks from California Pizza Kitchen - Waikiki, led by their General Manager Darren Delucca, catered dinner for our families at Ronald McDonald House. They also brought numerous items from our Wish List!

The families staying here were so appreciative when they returned from the hospital to find dinner waiting for them.



Left, a group of enthusiastic volunteers from Hilton Grand Vacations cleaned the House on September 8!

Right, Vertical Patrol Naval Squadron 47 came up to the Ronald McDonald House on September 1 to help clean up, in and around the House.



We Thank the Bank!!

Bank of Hawaii
Community Walk

Saturday, June 2
ZOOMING AROUND FOR GREAT CAUSES

More than 1,800 Bank of Hawaii (BOH) employees and their families gathered at the Honolulu Zoo for Bank of Hawaii's sixth annual Community Walk. A record \$135,000 in donations was raised and was equally divided among three Honolulu non-profits, including Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii.

This is the largest amount that BOH employees have raised since the walk was started in 2007, and this is the largest turnout of bank employees for a community service event. Each year employees vote to determine the walk's beneficiary organizations.

Thank you BOH for choosing RMHC-HI and then holding such an incredible event! Thank you too, for all the other things you do to help us assist families.

Accepting the donation from Bank of Hawaii's Peter Ho (holding check) and Jason Koyanagi (far left) is Jerri Chong, flanked by RMHC-HI Board members (left to right) Karen Wong, Dr. Robert Durkin, Martin Lau, Francis Nakamoto, Richard Rand, Wade Nakashima, Bruce Yanagihara, and John Cheung.



25th Anniversary recognition!
(Left) the Honolulu City Council congratulated RMHC-HI on its milestone and (above) Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho proclaimed June 16 Ronald McDonald House Day on Kauai.



Volunteer Spotlight

Lynne Stevens



by Michael Ahakuelo, Volunteer Services Manager

This time, we shine the spotlight on Lynne Stevens, a volunteer who is certainly not one to shy away from hard work. You'll find him twice a week providing landscaping and maintenance support at the Ronald McDonald House, usually while listening to music on headphones. What is he usually listening to? "Music of the 70s, 80s, and rock," he says.

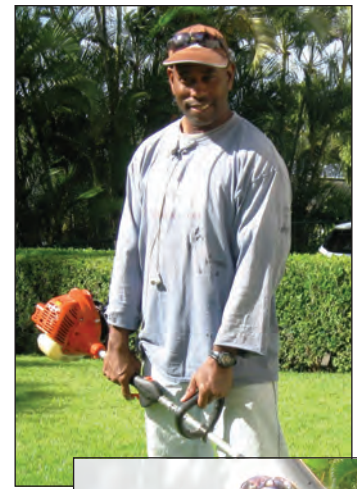
Lynne became a RMHC-HI volunteer in February 2012, after learning about the Ronald McDonald House through an advertisement. He says he had always wanted to become involved with an organization that helps children. So when his schedule allowed him, Lynne became a volunteer. "I wanted to volunteer because I have the ability and time, and I figured instead of thinking about becoming a volunteer, I should just do it."

Over the past months, Lynne has assisted with landscaping, recycling, around the House painting and repairs, and was a

shuttle driver during our annual golf tournament. He says that he had never really done any yard work before, but had some carpentry background. "I've learned a lot while being here."

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, Lynne prioritizes his schedule with work, volunteering, surfing, and doing various art work including painting and sculpting. "Work is always secondary for me because my priority is being here every week," he says.

The staff has come to view Lynne as a friend as well as a volunteer. He says that he feels at ease when he is at the Ronald McDonald House. "I just want to give my 100% to RMHC-HI," says Lynne. "When I see that I'm helping staff with tasks and it allows them to do other things, I realize I made the right choice of coming here. I find that I benefit by volunteering too. It's therapeutic and it helps me practice being unselfish."



Lynne Stevens on duty at RMH.



Mahalo for your support!
www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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