



Aloha From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

September 2013

Aiyana's close call

It's every parent's nightmare. The sound of a loud crash coming from nearby, and then the sound of a child crying out in fear and pain.

Kris Jolls' heart sank into his stomach as he raced to the side of Aiyana, his 18-month-old daughter, who had managed to pull a large table on top of her while trying to



Baby Aiyana spent almost a month in the hospital after her injury.

Wish List

Gift Cards

Restaurants
Stores/Markets
Gasoline gift cards
Prepaid phone cards
Family activity passes
Movie tickets

Household Items

Paper towels
Canned goods
Paper plates & forks
Ziploc bags -- quart
Garbage bags
(10 gal., 13 gal., 33 gal.)
Aluminum foil
Plastic food storage containers
Cutlery set

Food Items

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

Miscellaneous

Rolls/sheets/books of
Forever postage stamps
Baby Clothes 0-12 mo. (new)
Flat white sheets – full/twin
Pillows

climb onto it. Aiyana's four-year-old sister Maya trailed behind Kris and watched as he threw the table off of his baby and comforted her.

Aiyana didn't have any obvious injuries, but Kris rushed her to the emergency room at Maui Memorial Hospital, where they met mom Jenette, who had been at work when she got the news.

After several hours of testing, doctors decided to send Aiyana home. "They did x-rays, blood work and ultrasound but nothing came up," says Kris. "The doctors told us to watch her overnight, and to bring her back immediately if anything changed."

"We didn't sleep all night," recalls Kris. "Aiyana still wasn't herself and she couldn't keep anything down."

The next day, doctors ordered a CT scan. It was getting scarier by the minute for Kris and Jenette as they waited for Aiyana's turn on the imaging machine. When the results were finally in, they found that the little girl had a laceration in the small intestine, a duodenal perforation.

Soon Aiyana and Jenette were Medevac'd to Kapiolani Medical Center on Oahu for surgery and

specialized medical care. Kris had been putting up a courageous front and it wasn't until he saw the plane leave with Jenette and Aiyana that it all hit him, and he broke down crying. The next morning he and Maya caught an early flight to Honolulu to be together as a family.

Meanwhile, overnight on Oahu, the surgery to repair Aiyana's damaged duodenum had been successful, much to the relief of Jenette, who had paced the floor alone, waiting for word on what was happening. "The surgeon was so serious and I was terrified that we would lose Aiyana," she remembers. "After about two hours, the surgeon came out with a big smile on his face, and I said 'Oh my God, thank you!'"

Aiyana was in the NICU for five days, in the hospital for three weeks, then another few days at the Ronald McDonald House with her family before they were finally able to return home to Maui.

Like so many families coming suddenly to Oahu with an ill or injured child, Kris and Jenette had no plan. "I knew we had to be there for our baby but I had no idea where we would stay," recalls Kris. As Jenette puts it, "There was so much uncertainty and we didn't know how long we would be here. No clue. Not enough clothes. We had no money saved up. Nowhere to turn."

Jenette shared with Kris a Ronald McDonald House flyer that she had been given by a social worker at the hospital and Kris made an instant decision. "I said 'here we come.' It was a leap of faith, and it turned out to be a blessing from the day we first walked in the door."

Kris remembers vividly being overwhelmed their first week at the Ronald McDonald House. "It wasn't just meeting and talking with the other families and learning their stories, but it was also seeing so

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Message from our President



Terri Chong

It is the House that Love Built, and now, it is the community's love for our keiki that continues to make the Ronald McDonald House a nurturing, supportive, home-away-from-home for hundreds of families every year.

There is so much mana - positive energy - here, and it seems like something remarkable happens almost every day. A child gets released from the hospital and we get to share the family's joy and anticipation as they prepare to return to their home island. A class of kindergarteners stops by, each child offering a canned good item to help stock our pantry, and learning about sharing and caring about others in the process. Volunteers check in, ready to mow the lawn, whip up a meal, clean out closets or help with house repairs, even send out mailings and answer phones. No job is too big or too small, but every task is greeted with enthusiasm and care.

Sometimes, a family that stayed at the House years ago drops by for a surprise visit, just to say hello and stay connected. These "reunions" remind us of the miracles that have happened on the hillside! That is why all of us at RMHC-HI feel so rewarded, as we work with and spend time with the families from our extended ohana. And we are humbled to represent our community's sincere and heartfelt desire to step forward and help Hawaii's children and families during their time of need.



By far, the most difficult thing for us to bear is when a precious child loses his or her battle with a serious illness. Most of the children staying with us respond well to their treatments and are able to return home and resume their lives. But sometimes, the unthinkable happens.

In our last newsletter, I introduced you to a remarkable little girl from Maui named Nanea, who was undergoing treatment for leukemia. She was greatly encouraged by the friendship and support of a young cancer survivor and long-time guest of the House -



Nanea shined brightly at the RMHC-HI Golf Classic in July. In this photo, she was helping emcee Guy Hagi with the lucky number drawings.

Tishelle from Kaua'i. Nanea endured her chemotherapy and other difficult treatments, rebounding to become our mascot and cheerleader at the RMHC-HI annual golf tournament in July. She charmed all the players, helped raise funds for the Ronald House, and was the sunshine that warmed everyone that day. Nanea fought hard, but lost her battle on September 1st. She touched us deeply, forever changing us, and will always be remembered with love.

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many people coming through the door willing to give their time, from the kids to the elders, it was awe-inspiring. This place has changed our lives. It's changed our outlook on community. It's changed our outlook on helping others too. It really showed us what face-to-face type donations do for people. Now I'm excited to go back and see what I can do on Maui to help someone."

"I'm hoping our oldest daughter can remember this



Jenette, Aiyana, Kris and Maya Jolls headed home.

experience as well. She saw the sign saying "The House That Love Built" and wasn't sure what it meant, so I told

her that the volunteers that she sees working around the House are here strictly from their hearts. They're not getting paid, not getting prizes, or awards, love is the reason they do it.

Jenette agrees that the experience has been life-changing. "It's given us a different perspective and made us realize that we take a lot for granted. Our health, family, friends... we take way too much for granted."

McDonald's and RMHC-HI step forward to help budget-strapped schools, clubs and sports teams

Schools all over the state continue to face cuts in funding during the 2013-14 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.

It's really simple and it really works! McDonald's 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, 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 \$16, 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.

Each McFun-Raiser booklet contains coupons for:
McDonald's Food Items

1 FREE HAMBURGER

1 FREE small order of FRENCH FRIES

1 FREE ICE-CREAM CONE

1 FREE HASH BROWN

Buy any LARGE SANDWICH, & get 1 FREE

Buy any BREAKFAST SANDWICH, & get 1 FREE

Wet 'n' Wild Hawaii

One \$5 off adult/youth admission coupon

Coupons are valid thru 12-31-14

2013 RMHC-HI Gala set for November 23!

When it comes to making a difference in the lives of families with seriously ill children in Hawaii, there is great strength in numbers. That is why our largest event of the year, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii Gala Dinner, is so very important to us and the families that we serve. Please join us for this year's event! Your support for this year's Gala will help us so much as we continue providing a safe, home-like place to stay and other services designed to give families the feeling of comfort and support in the face of all their challenges.

Can we count on you this year to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii's Annual Share a Night Gala?

Saturday, November 23, 2013

Sheraton Waikiki Resort

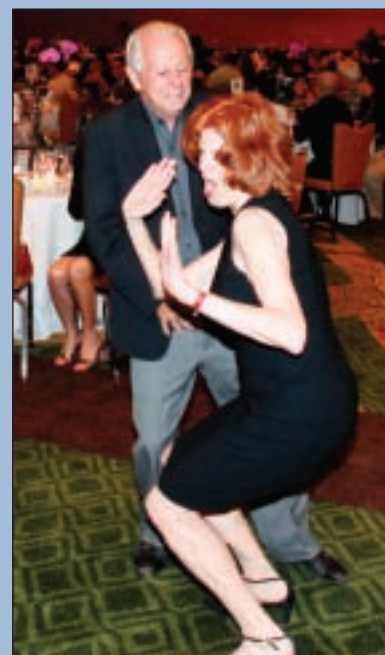
5:00 pm Silent Auction & Country Store Open

5:30 - 6:30 pm Hosted Cocktails

6:30 - 9:30 pm Dinner and Program

Reserve your table, sponsor an RMH Family table, or simply make a donation by contacting Candace Asam-Lopez at 973-5683, ext. 239 or by e-mail at cal@rmhchawaii.org.

*Share a Night
Annual Gala*



AROUND OUR HOUSE

An unexpected detour

It happens more than you might think—with nearly 8 million visitors coming to Hawaii annually. Sometimes it is a premature birth that complicates their trips. Or it can be other medical emergencies that bring out-of-state families to Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House.

For the Clark family from Houston, Texas, their sudden emergency took the form of a freak Manoa landslide that sent a boulder directly onto 7-year-old Leila, and causing serious injury. Peter and Lena Clark were hiking with Leila and 4-year old son Pierce when the unexpected happened. "It really was like a natural disaster movie," Lena told KITV News.

It all happened fast and Lena could only watch as a 15-pound boulder slammed into her daughter. It took rescue crews an hour to reach them. Leila had six broken ribs, a collapsed lung, and a deep gash in her back.

During Leila's two-week hospitalization, the Clark family found refuge at Ronald McDonald House. "We're blessed to be where we are right now," said dad Peter while waiting for Leila to get well enough to travel home. "We are so grateful for all the support from trail guides, emergency crews, hospital staff and the Ronald McDonald House!"



Top, the Clarks posed for a parting photo with the RMHC-HI staff. Bottom, Leila and Pierce bid "aloha" to their new extended family as they left for home.

Did you know?

Last year...

- Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses provided approximately 5,000 nights of lodging for families.
- The Ronald McDonald House program assisted more than 750 individuals.
- Our two Houses facilitated more than 34,000 individual meals for guests.
- Families staying at Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses consumed 1,560 pounds of rice.
- Families staying at Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses used more than 4,160 rolls of toilet paper and more than 1,872 rolls of paper towels.
- RMHC-HI's Family Room at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children helped nearly 9,000 people.
- 2,252 individuals from the community served as RMHC-HI volunteers and contributed 12,077.5 hours of service.
- The value of donated goods and services to RMHC-HI amounted to \$921,552, contributed generously by Hawaii's caring, giving community.



Once in a while, we have a joyous event within our staff, too. And we recently had a "special delivery." Nikee Wainit, our Manager of House Operations gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Teighlor.

Nikee and proud dad Herman are so excited and grateful for their healthy, 8lb, 4oz treasure. Welcome to the RMHC-HI family, Teighlor!



Teighlor

WAYS TO LEND A HAND

Make Change Count

Want your spare change to make a big difference for seriously ill kids in our community and their struggling families? Just collect as much as you can around your home or business (we'll even give you a container to use) then contact us for collection options, or drop it off at the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House in Manoa. In some cases, we may even come to you to pick up your collection!



Everyone can help!

From school children to retirees, more and more individuals are joining together to lend a helping hand. It's hard to imagine just how much it means to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House when they see that others in our community care about them at their time of need.

Schools: contact us at 973-5683 ext. 240 to take part in our Make Change Count service project this coming fall semester.

MIGHTY, HAPPY TO HELP THE KIDS!

Don't forget! For every Happy Meal and Mighty Kids Meal sold throughout 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 in 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.

You can really make your change count!



Attention Military and Federal Workers

Did you know that you can designate Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii (RMHC-HI) as your charity of choice through the 2013 Hawaii-Pacific Area Combined Federal Campaign? Through October 31, military and federal government employees may designate RMHC-HI as their donor choice for payroll deduction donations. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii's four digit agency code is **89629**. Your donation will go directly to support the children and families of Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House.



Lesser known ways to make a big difference

There are some powerful, creative strategies available for you to help RMHC-HI achieve its important mission.

- Does the company you work for offer a "matching gift" program for your charitable contributions? Taking advantage of it could double your donation!
- If you own or manage a company, please throw your company's support behind RMHC-HI. There are many ways to partner with us.

- Naming RMHC-HI as the beneficiary of your insurance policies, in your will, or as part of your estate planning leaves a legacy of caring - while improving many children's lives.
- If you are at least 70 1/2 years old and want to save on your taxes, the I.R.S. has given you until the end of the year to make a tax-free gift of up to \$100,000 directly from your I.R.A. to a non-profit or non-profits of your choice. For more information on how to take advantage of this limited time tax regulation, call Lisa at (808) 973-5683 ext. 243.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mahalo!

Corporate Heroes

SSFM International, selected RMHC-HI as the beneficiary of their 54th Anniversary event held on September 12th at Honolulu International Country Club.

It was also an opportunity to share information about the Ronald McDonald House with the many attendees. Representing RMHC-HI at the event were Terri Chong, Cheryl Soon, Bruce Yanagihara, Wade Nakashima, Candace Asam-Lopez, and Gene Davis.

Mike Matsumoto, CEO of SSFM, presented a check for \$5,000 from SSFM and encouraged others to donate that night, raising another \$2,500, and making SSFM's total contribution \$7,545!



(L-R) Bruce Yanagihara, Terri Chong, Mike Matsumoto, Cheryl Soon and Wade Nakashima.



Fifty members of the Club tackled jobs of all kinds at the two Ronald McDonald Houses on July 20. They worked inside and outside of both Houses to help make them

clean, safe, and inviting for our guest families!

One of the Exchange Club's main objectives is service to the community.



Renee Gomes and her Toshiba Business Solutions staff visited the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on July 12 to donate \$1,000 worth of wish list items! Mahalo for your kindness!!



The good people of The Shidler Group made a return visit to the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House and took over the kitchen on Sunday, July 21 to put together a wonderful dinner for our families, consisting of meat loaf, macaroni & cheese, pumpkin pie, and fresh salad!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT *Mahalo!*

22nd annual RMHC-HI Golf Classic July 18, 2013

Under beautiful sunny skies and with gentle trade winds, 192 golfers took to the course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the 12 noon shotgun start and at the end of the day, everyone had won a prize, including Ricky Honma, who went home with a \$6,200 Rolex watch, courtesy of Rolex presented by Kaimana Kea, official Rolex jeweler. The event, which features games, food and drink at every hole grossed more than \$100,000. In addition, RMHC-HI was presented with a check for \$14,196 from Bob and Dianne Pereira, owners of Midas Hawaii. The donation represented proceeds from the A.P. III Memorial Golf Tournament held earlier in the year. It also rallied more than 200 volunteers who made the experience a very special one for all the participants.



Ronald clowned around with the golfers.



Bruce Yanagihara briefed Reggie Webb on the rules before Reggie tried his hand at the \$1 million shot.



Thank you Outback Steakhouse-Waipio for the great feast!

Mai Tai Bar
Maui Jim, Inc.
Mauna Lani Resort Golf
Mid Pacific Country Club
Oceanic Time Warner Cable
Romano's Macaroni Grill
Ruth's Chris Steak House
Tesoro Hawaii
The MODERN Honolulu
The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua
The Westin Ka'anapali Ocean
Resort Villas
Tiki's Grill and Bar
Mr. Bruce Yanagihara
Waikele Premium Outlets
Waikiki Parc Hotel
zpizza Hawaii

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Tomra
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Yamaguchi & Yamaguchi, Inc.

PRIZE DONORS OVER \$500

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Bubba Gump Shrimp Company
Farrell's Hawaii
Golden Nugget Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
Grand Wailea
Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort
Hilton Waikiki Beach
Holua Resort at Mauna Loa Village
Ka'anapali Beach Hotel
Kauai Beach Resort

PLATINUM SPONSORS

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McDonalds Restaurants of HI (2)
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Outback Steakhouse Waipio
Veronica Kaneko
Waikiki Trader Corp., dba Kaimana Kea

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Servco Pacific
Sky River Management
Sumida & Associates



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Mahalo for your support!
www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org



Volunteer Spotlight

by Michael Ahakuelo, Volunteer Services Manager



We shine our volunteer spotlight on a very inspiring gentleman who goes far and beyond expectations. Wayne Wakeman, a former military and commercial pilot and trainer, is one of our most versatile volunteers. He does just about everything, including volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House Family Room; helping out as a member on our golf committee; driving the shuttle that takes families to and from the hospital; picking up donations, and helping with recycling on a weekly basis.

Since serving in Afghanistan in 2011, Wayne carries a small, smooth rock in his pocket. He calls it his "grateful stone" which reminds him how grateful and fortunate his life has been over the years. The stone serves to inspire him as he goes about serving and giving back to the community.

Wayne's first volunteer role was at the Family Room, our in-hospital

respite center. "The Family Room is an escape for the parents. It's small, but it offers so much, and I see how special this place is for them," says Wayne. "They appreciate the simplest things, like having a comfortable sofa to sit down and relax on while getting away from the hustle environment in the hospital. They love the snacks and beverages provided there, too."

Wayne also has a deep passion for golf. "It's a humbling game, I enjoy playing it with friends" says Wayne. "It's one of life's lessons to play where the ball lays and to follow rules throughout play." He asked to sit on this year's golf committee and took on the role of becoming this year's RMHC-HI Golf Classic military sponsor at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. In addition, through his contacts, he was able to provide various donations for prizes including hair product supplies, a 32 inch flat screen television, gift certificates, and several wines.

"What I take away from all the volunteering is the conversations I have with the families. I'm happy with what I do for Ronald McDonald House and I look forward to helping with this year's upcoming gala event too." Mahalo Wayne, for all of your valuable support for "The House that Love Built"!



Wayne, behind the wheel of our van.