



Aloha

# From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

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## Kody Couldn't Wait

*Tracey Silva is a registered nurse in the operating room at Hilo Medical Center and Randy Caoagdan is a police officer with the Hawaii Police Department. They spend their lives taking care of others, keeping other people safe. But their lives changed unexpectedly in April when baby Kody arrived nearly three months early on Oahu, and they found that their family needed the kind of care and support that they have always given to others.*

### Wish List

#### Gift Cards

Restaurants  
Stores/Markets  
Gasoline gift cards  
Family activities  
Movie tickets

#### Household Items

Ziploc Bags (Gallon/Quart size)  
Garbage bags (yard & kitchen)  
Dishwasher-safe plastic cups  
Paper towel rolls

#### Food Items

Fresh fruits & vegetables  
Frozen single-serving meals  
(microwavable)  
Frozen pizza  
Individually wrapped snacks  
Frozen Hot Pockets

#### Miscellaneous

Forever postage stamps  
Office supplies  
Fitted white sheets – full/twin  
White shower curtain liners  
White photo-copy paper  
(letter & legal size)

Over in Hilo, results from Tracey Silva's "quad screen" were abnormal, and she was sent to Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children in Honolulu to see a specialist. That particular blood test, taken in the second trimester of pregnancy, screens for Down syndrome, spina bifida, and other chromosomal and neurological conditions.

Tracey explained what happened next. "During an ultra-sound that the doctor was giving me, he said the baby looked fine...but that there was something going on that wasn't right. It turned out that I had a very rare condition called a vasa praevia."

Vasa praevia is a very scary and serious condition. "Essentially it's a time bomb with a 95% mortality rate for the baby, if undetected," Tracey said. "There was nothing we could do but wait and hope."

In Tracey's words: "The plan was to return to Kapiolani around my 30th week and wait until 34 weeks for a C-section. At 29 weeks they sent me back over for an assessment. Right in the middle of my ultra sound they told me I couldn't leave, that they were admitting me immediately, and that I was already in labor!"

Doctors believed that they could delay birth for another week, so Randy remained in Hilo with Kamryn (their 6-year-old daughter). But the following day, Tracey's water broke and baby Kody was delivered by emergency C-section. Randy took the first available flight over but couldn't get there in time. "I delivered at 10:56 am and

Randy was up there by 2:30 that afternoon," recalled Tracey. "Kody weighed three pounds, three ounces."

Randy spent the first couple of nights with Tracey and Kody in the hospital, and then returned to Hilo to grab everything they would need for an extended stay on Oahu.

Unfortunately, Randy got sick when he was there and had to stay at home for the next week.

Eventually, everything smoothed out.

Tracey, Randy, and Kamryn checked into the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House, and even Grandma Kathy joined them.

"Even that first week when I was completely alone, I wasn't really alone here at the



Kody bided his time in the Intensive Care Unit, gaining strength.

Ronald McDonald House," Tracey said. "There was another mom here and even though she had twins to be concerned with, she took me under her wing and really showed me everything I needed to know about this place. Where everything was. How to catch the shuttle. It was so helpful to have someone on my side."

Randy said he also felt comfortable staying at the Ronald House. "I didn't expect that this would feel so much like home. Everyone here is so gracious. That's what I will always remember about this place."

After six weeks at the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House, Tracey, Randy, and Kamryn were able to check out with their new baby Kody in tow. His original due date had been July 5, but he had passed every milestone with flying colors down at Kapiolani

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## Message from our President



Terri Chong

Aloha,

In the almost 30 years that Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House has been helping families with seriously ill children, there has been a group of people whose hard work behind the scenes often doesn't receive the recognition they deserve.

Known as the RMHC-HI Board of Directors, it is the governing body that oversees every major policy decision, guides our organization, and provides inspiration and support that is so critical to the success of the "House That Love Built". Over the years, more than 150 community leaders have served on our Board, dedicating countless hours and contributing thousands of dollars to help the most fragile in our community - Hawaii's seriously ill children and their families.

Our volunteer Board wears many faces and come from all walks of life - from bankers to retirees, teachers and small business owners, doctors and entertainers, attorneys and analysts, from both the private and public sector. Each offers their own special set of talent and skills, but the common thread that binds them is a compassionate and caring heart. They show it at every meeting, every event, every decision they make, every opportunity they have. Whether it's gathering support from the community, directing resources to benefit the families, or navigating RMHC-HI through projects and the many rules and regulations governing non-profits, they are involved and passionate, always with the children and families' needs in mind.

This summer, as our Board membership and officers are updated, I would like to acknowledge and express our deepest appreciation to three members who will be ending their terms and rotating off our Board. A tip of the hat and a big Mahalo to Diane Sumida, Lawrence Chew and John Cheung who have given so much time and energy during their tenure on the RMHC-HI Board of Directors. They leave the board, but will always be part of our Ohana.

Carrying on their tradition of service are our newest team members - Emily Morisada Kuraoka, James Haruki and Tommy Silva. Without a doubt, a big reason that Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House has successfully operated for nearly three decades has been the dedication and enthusiasm of these caring members of our community. They have been, and continue to be our heroes of the heart.

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Hospital and nearly doubled in weight, so doctors decided that he was ready to fly home to Hilo on June 7. Kody obviously couldn't wait to get his life started.

How will Tracey recall their stay at Ronald McDonald House?

"When I first came here, I was unsure and anxious." Tracey said with a smile. "After the first few days, and then getting to know the House managers, oh, my gosh, they just made me feel so welcome and relaxed. And when you get to know the other families staying here, you realize that they are going through the same thing. Somehow you know everything is going to be fine."



Randy, Tracey, Kody and Kamryn

Heroes Of The Heart



Congratulations to Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC) for opening its new \$180 million Diamond Head Tower!

The five-story 200,000-square-foot building houses an expanded neonatal intensive care unit that is five times larger than the previous NICU. The building also has a pediatric intensive care unit, an adult medical surgical unit, an outpatient clinic, the Rehabilitation Services Department and conference and education rooms.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii works very closely with KMCWC to promote family-centered care. Together, we make sure children and their families are all involved in the healing process. It has been our joint mission for nearly 30 years.

# Around the House



Our friends from **UBER**, led by Tommy Pierucki (back, right) came to the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on June 22. The group volunteered all morning to help us prepare a fundraising mailer.



## EMBASSY SUITES CARES!!

Ronald McDonald House Hawaii received a truly wonderful contribution from **Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk**. They donated hundreds of bath towels, wash cloths and pillow slips! All things that families staying at the Ronald McDonald House really, really need. RMHC-HI Guest Services Manager Kanoë Paauhau had a lot to unload!

## Caring and sharing

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Hilo's **Kylyn Rapoza**, International Junior Miss Hawaii Island Teen, visited the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on June 1 to drop off several gift cards for the kids and families. RMHC-HI's Kanoë Paauhau gratefully accepted. Lily Prigent, a House guest from Hilo, joined them for the photo.

## Helping us again!



The folks from the **Microsoft Store Ala Moana Center** joined us at the Judd Hillside House and prepared dinner for our guest families. When the families returned that evening after a long day at the hospital, they found a dinner of Herb Roasted Chicken, two types of pasta, roasted vegetables, and greens - prepared with love.

## Investing in futures pays big dividends!

Once a family stays at the Ronald McDonald House, they become lifetime members of the RMHC-HI Ohana. That means the connection endures, and we are able to follow the progress of many of the children that we have served, even years after their stays. You may remember some of these delightful children from previous newsletters. They have all had difficult journeys, but with the quality treatment and all the support the family has received, these kids' futures look bright.



### Kevin Saligumba, Kauai

Cora and Frankie Saligumba arrived at the Ronald McDonald House in March, 2001 after Cora gave birth to Kevin four months premature. At a very fragile weight of 1 lb. 8 oz., Kevin faced a long period of hospitalization.

The waiting was difficult, as days turned to weeks and weeks into months with many ups and downs. The family was able to stay together at the Ronald McDonald House during Kevin's frustrating series of surgeries and complications with his vision, breathing and ability to eat (he needed the help of a feeding tube until he was 13).

All the patience and care paid off, and after spending his first 2 1/2 years inside the hospital, and overcoming incredible obstacles, he has thrived and fulfilled Cora and Frankie's dreams. "He is active with St. Theresa Parish Church," says Cora. "He's been working part-time through the high school work program and saving his money for a family trip planned for 2020. He wants to explore his roots in the Philippines."



Kevin is entering his sophomore year in high school this fall and has a life filled with potential.



### Camilo Nuegro, Yap

In 2007, Camilo "Bong" Nuegro was hit by a car and critically injured on the island of Yap. Airlifted to Honolulu, he and his mother Lisa resided at the Ronald McDonald House for several months as Camilo received treatment for his broken bones and other injuries. He was so inspired by the medical professionals that cared for him here that he chose to attend a medical college in the Philippines and is now a Registered Nurse, helping countless others like he was helped in Hawaii.



### Keali'i "Chance" Schoepner, Maui

Keali'i "Chance" Salvatore Schoepner was born on April 21, 2009. Despite complications, mom Lara had managed to make it to her 25th week of pregnancy, but Chance weighed just 1 lb. 9 oz. "The doctors at the hospital are very caring, but they didn't sugar-coat anything," Dad Darrett recalls. "They told us his chances were 50-50."

The Wailuku family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House but spent long hours each day by their baby's side as he fought for his life in the Intensive Care Unit.

He made it! Since then, there has been no stopping the youngster, who plays sports and takes part in numerous activities, including modeling! Here he is on the recent cover of Maui Concierge Magazine with his little brother Temana.



# OHANA

## Leila Clark - Houston, Texas

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 on June 23, 2013 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 later 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!"



Leila met Ronald McDonald during her stay at Ronald McDonald House.



Three years later, Leila is an accomplished dancer!



## Charlyn Parial, Guam



*I never gave up...*



*...because life is so good!*

What began as a trip to Honolulu to address an orthopedic issue turned into a long, difficult journey for Charlyn and her parents Lynn and Charles when doctors discovered a heart condition that was so serious it needed immediate intervention; treatment on the West Coast; and ultimately a relocation to the U.S. from Guam. Today, she is on the road to recovery!

# Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!



## *Midas Hawaii raises more than \$40,000 for RMHC-HI!*

Midas owners Bob and Dianne Pereira (left) are so incredibly supportive! On July 14, they presented RMHC-HI President Terri Chong and RMHC-HI Board member Lawrence Chew the proceeds from their annual APIII Golf Tournament, played at Mid Pacific Country Club. This year's total of \$40,108 surpassed last year's donation of \$38,426! Bob and Dianne are tireless supporters of the communities they serve.

**Mahalo Midas!!**

## Preparing for life!!

RMHC -HI representatives recently attended annual awards luncheons for four groups of young professionals-to-be at Hawaii Convention Center. The groups, **HOSA**, **SKILLS USA**, **DECA**, and **FCCLA** all have agendas that included giving back to the community through RMHC-HI. When the luncheons were done, RMHC-HI received copious Wish List items and hundreds of dollars in cash donations! These future medical practitioners, business men and women, hospitality managers, and skilled technicians are our future, and they already embrace personal responsibility!



RMHC-HI's Gene Davis (left) posed with Joshua Wakamura, president of HOSA's executive council and Ada Toyama, HOSA State Coordinator, after delivering remarks at the HOSA luncheon.

## Hongwanji Mission School

**We are so grateful!**

Hongwanji Mission School, led by their 6th grade class, came together for the children of Ronald McDonald House by holding their "Penny Games." Teacher Samantha Kojima presented us with the coins on May 27 - nearly \$1,400 worth!



## UPCOMING EVENT

**Sunday, November 20**

-Annual RMHC-HI "Share-a-Night" Gala-

Join us at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel & Resort to help us honor Bob & Dianne Pereira for all they do to help us assist families with sick children.



To reserve your table,  
call 973-5683 ext. 240.

**Mark Your Calendar**

# Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!

## Da Hawaiian Poke Bowl – Built with Love



DA HAWAIIAN POKE CO.

All during the month of August, Da Hawaiian Poke Co., 870 Kapahulu Ave., near Safeway, is offering a special "Built with Love" Poke Bowl to benefit Ronald McDonald

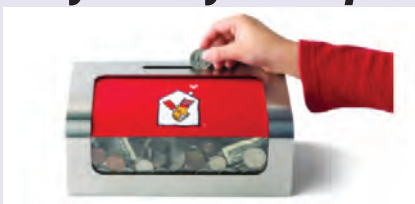
House Charities of Hawaii!

Ahi Wasabi Furikake Poke topped with: Kabayaki Sauce, Crispy Garlic, Bubu Arare, & Kala Koa Tobiko. Try it. You will love it!

\$3 of every "Built with Love" bowl sold this month will be donated to RMHC-HI.



## Your change changes everything!



McDonald's makes it possible - and very simple - for you to join them in lending a helping hand to our families each and every day. RMHC collection canisters at the in-store counter and drive through window are available for you to help "change" a life by depositing coins or bills. It may seem like your change won't help much, but with each coin you deposit at each of your visits, in combination with others, it makes for a very sizable contribution each year.

## McFun-raiser Coupon Books

Every day, 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 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, 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 \$23, everybody is a winner!

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

1 Buy any LARGE SANDWICH, & get 1 FREE

1 Buy any BREAKFAST SANDWICH, & get 1 FREE

*Honolulu Theatre for Youth*

One free \$10 children's admission with purchase of an adult ticket

Some restrictions apply on coupons.

Check out more information about McFun-Raiser on the RMHC-HI website at [www.ronaldhousehawaii.org](http://www.ronaldhousehawaii.org), or call RMHC-HI at 973-5683 ext. 240 or 244

## Donate a vehicle to help families!!

It's as easy as it can be.

Just contact us at our toll-free number:

**(855)-227-7435** or go to

[www.onecarhelpsrhmc.com](http://www.onecarhelpsrhmc.com)



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## Volunteer Spotlight

By Olivia Garner  
RMHC - HI Volunteer Services Manager



Mahalo to all of our volunteers who were able to attend the 13th annual RMHC-HI Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon! Staff, Board of Directors, guest families, and supporters gathered at The Willows Restaurant on Friday, May 27th to honor and support our incredible corps of caring and energetic volunteers.

This year's theme was "You're a Lifesaver", to serve as a reminder that our Ronald McDonald House volunteers are daily lifesavers, keeping families afloat during the toughest times and stormiest weather.

One event simply cannot express all the thank yous we owe our incredible volunteers. However, we hope that a day filled with great food and music helped show our immense gratitude!

Volunteers enjoyed a delicious lunch of local favorites and wonderful entertainment by Pomaika'i Lyman and her incredibly talented family of musicians and dancers. Additionally, Tracey Silva, a mother from Hilo, who was staying at the Judd Hillside House, praised the efforts of all of the wonderful volunteers. Tracey's words were a beautiful reminder of the impact volunteers have on the lives of RMHC-HI guests.

Thank you for your big hearts and continued support. You truly are daily lifesavers at the Ronald McDonald House.

