



Aloha

# From Our House to Yours

[www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org](http://www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org)

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Vol. XVI, Issue 3, October 2016

## It Takes a Caring Ohana

Hawaii is the home of the extended family. We often consider our friends and neighbors as cousins; uncles; aunties; or other calabash relatives, and we care deeply about all of our keiki. As a community, we are inclusive, and it gives a child the best ability to become a healthy adult because that larger "family" takes an active role in contributing to the rearing of the child. That means everybody, including extended family; educators; clergy; and when needed,

the emergency responders and medical professionals among us.

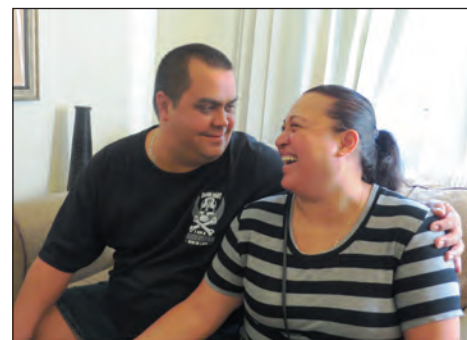
We embrace that same attitude at the Ronald McDonald House. We are an Ohana, and we are here for the well-being of our precious children. Our Ohana members are the donors, staff, volunteers and the families who are staying at the House, themselves. Each fulfills its role and the result is an incredibly powerful safety net and a nurturing environment where families gain the calm energy to face the daily challenges of having a seriously ill child and being an ocean away from home.

Aside from a safe, comfortable place to stay and hot, healthy food on their plates, family interaction may be the single most impactful experience for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. With so much in common, parents from all over bond and reach out to each other, offering understanding and support. It's usually the ones that have been staying at the House for a while that take the initiative to make sure the new comers know what resources are available here and how to access them. They also become someone to talk to and share experiences with.

That tradition continues on and on, and it remains incredibly important. Gaylani Coyle from Pukalani, Maui never expected to find herself in the role of mentor for other families at the Ronald McDonald House. In fact, back in June she never expected to ever stay at a Ronald McDonald House. Few of the families at the House expect to be there. But then, suddenly at 25 weeks pregnant, her water broke and she went into labor. The baby's dad Jaime Carvalho rushed Gaylani to Maui Memorial

Hospital, where she delivered Kaleono'eau Coyle-Carvalho. "The doctor took a look and said to me, 'In about five minutes this room is going to be filled with about 30 people and we are going to deliver by emergency C-section. We have to get her out.'"

"Within 20 minutes she was born. I had been anesthetized and didn't see her until two hours later when they had her stabilized. But then, we immediately had to say goodbye. My one pound eight oz. baby was rushed over here to Kapiolani."



Jaime and Gaylani glad to be together and near baby at Ronald McDonald House.

It started to sink in - that when she joined Kaleono'eau on Oahu it would be for a while. "What was I going to do? The social worker at Maui Memorial told me all about Ronald McDonald House, and how they assist families. At first I was hesitant because I didn't know what it would be like. My mom looked it up on the internet. She said the place was beautiful and that we would feel right at home."

Gaylani checked into the Oahu Avenue House on July 1 and Jaime would come every other week for a few days when he could get away from his job at Costco. But Jaime has peace of mind. "Knowing that she's ok here is very comforting and it takes a load off of my shoulders, Jaime said.

Continued on page 2

### Wish List

#### Gift Cards

Restaurants  
Costco/Sam's Club  
Gasoline gift cards  
Family activities  
Movie tickets

#### Household Items

Paper Towels  
Ziploc Bags  
Garbage bags (yard & kitchen)

#### Food Items

Fresh fruits & vegetables  
Frozen chicken  
Frozen pizza  
Individually wrapped snacks  
Frozen Hot Pockets

#### Miscellaneous

Forever postage stamps  
Office supplies  
Fitted white sheets - full/twin  
New pillows  
White shower curtain liners  
Electronics  
(IPad or other tablet)

## Message from our President



Jerri Chong

Aloha,

Literally thousands of families have had their fears quelled and their burdens lightened by the support they have received here at the Ronald McDonald House, and the way it all comes together is something to behold.

It takes layer upon layer of caring people to create this healing environment, and it starts with our compassionate community - individuals, businesses, groups and foundations - all recognizing the severe needs of families with seriously ill or injured children, and stepping forward with their support.

Next, our small but dedicated staff uses the resources made available by our community, and works with the families directly. Also, our large corps of motivated and energetic volunteers roll up their sleeves and add significantly to the synergy. All this combines to result in needed and very welcomed help for families while their children are being treated by medical specialists in Honolulu.

But there is one more layer of support that may not be as obvious. It comes from within the ranks of families staying at the Ronald McDonald House - parents helping other parents, and kids helping other kids. In short, families standing shoulder to shoulder as they share the difficult

experience of having a child with a life-threatening illness or injury.

You can certainly feel the value of this sort of interaction when you read this issue's cover story about Gaylani Coyle and Jaime Carvalho of Pukalani, Maui and their new baby Kaleono'eau.

Like so many moms before her, Gaylani arrived at the Ronald McDonald House anxious and unsure about what to expect. Soon, she began to realize that everything was set up so that moms and dads can feel normalcy, freeing them to focus on their child. Gaylani recognized that all the tools were provided, and it was just a matter of getting used to



Gaylani Coyle

everything that was available. That's when she started sharing her knowledge with new arrivals, guiding them through their first few days here, then remaining as someone they could talk to during their stays.

Gaylani is not the first mom to act in this supportive way, and she won't be the last. This type of healing chemistry is a natural part of the Ronald McDonald House experience.

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*It Takes a Caring Ohana con't from page 1*

"Everything is provided here. We don't have to worry about all the little things."

Things began going really well for Kaleono'heau at the hospital. Gaylani was so grateful for her baby's progress and the support she was getting that she wanted to give back, even in the midst of her own three-month stay. "I let the new mothers know that if they needed me I would be there to listen to their highs and lows. I wanted to be a pillar, where other mothers could vent, cry, or even be angry."

Gaylani began putting together little care packages for the new moms when they arrived at the House. She would introduce herself and say, "Here are a few things you may not have thought to bring with you." She would often even help new arrivals carry their luggage upstairs to their room.

"This is such a very blessed place, doing wonderful things" she said. "I just want to be a part of it."

Heroes Of The Heart

gsf

golden state foods

As long as there has been a Ronald McDonald House in Hawaii, Golden State Foods (GSF) has lent its support, and has always been willing to do that little extra for us whenever they are asked. Whether it's helping us with transportation; logistics; consulting; or providing meals and gifts for families, the folks of GSF stand by our side, ready to help. In addition, their foundation arm, the GSF Foundation, has stepped forward again and again to help fund important projects at both of Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses.

Clearly, Golden State Foods cares about our children and families - and they put their resources to work regularly to give back to the community they serve. GSF and its compassionate staff are truly Heroes of the Heart!

# Around the House

## Forever Ohana

**Vianney Tokona**

I don't know if you still remember me or not, I used to live at Ronald McDonald House in 2008 while I had surgery at Shriners. I clearly still remember you Aunty Kanoe. I hope you're well and doing okay. I'm the Fijian girl that stayed there with my mom Joana. I never got the chance to say thank you in person while we were there, but I'd like to take this time to thank you and RMHC-HI for playing a major role in my life, and being my second home. No words can express how grateful I am. I'm 19 years old now and I'm attending a University here in Fiji. One day I hope I get the chance to come visit Hawaii & the Ronald McDonald House. Forever grateful for RMHC-HI. Bless all of you & take care.

-Vianney



## Cooling Down/Greening Up at the Judd Hillside House



Families staying at the Ronald McDonald House are now able to sleep extra comfortably because wonderful, energy efficient "split" air conditioning units have been installed in all of the guest rooms.

The second part of the project was the installation of a photovoltaic solar system. This new surge in energy will allow us to cool the rooms without having to pay additional electricity charges.

So many people worked to make this project possible and the families are extremely grateful.

### Project Funders

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation  
 Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation  
 Maurice and Joanna Sullivan Family Foundation  
 McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii  
 Economy Plumbing and Sheet Metal  
 HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union  
 Ben & Miriam Lau Foundation  
 Ronald McDonald House Charities Global

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of one of our Founding Board Members, James Wagner, on September 2. Jim was a founding director and vice president of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii (1984-1987). Jim was instrumental in guiding the organization through its inception. He and his wife Pattie both played important roles in its early development and remained steadfast with their support throughout the years. We were deeply touched to learn that in a final gesture of compassion and generosity, Jim's family arranged for several memorial gifts honoring his legacy to be made to Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House. Mahalo to the Wagner family and me ka aloha to our dear Jim. He will be so greatly missed.

## IN MEMORY OF JAMES A. WAGNER



James Wagner



Pattie & James Wagner

# THE 25TH ANNUAL RMHC-HI GOLF CLASSIC

180 golfers teed it up on August 12 to benefit the families that stay at Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses! The silver anniversary edition of the Golf Classic took place at the Hawaii Prince Golf Club and was capped with a banquet and exciting prize giveaway.

The event raised more than \$110,000 to help Hawaii's seriously ill children. Our Golf Classic always brings out over one hundred incredible volunteers to make sure the day's activities run smoothly. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible!



Below, left to right, RMHC-HI's Kanoë Paauhau (center) and volunteers Rosalyn Takayanagi (left) and Jocelyn Barbosa greeted the golfers at the registration table; Howard Dashevsky and Ken Silva on their way out on the course; and teammates on Meadow Gold's team - Ron Shima, Layne Kaita and Jerry Linville with the new watches they won.



## Platinum Sponsors

Crazy Shirts  
Golden Arches Marketing Association (2 Teams)  
Golden State Foods Hawaii  
Hamasaki Construction (2 Teams)  
J. Kadowaki, Inc.  
Leu Okuda & Doi, Attorneys at Law  
McDonald's Restaurant of Hawaii  
Meadow Gold Dairies Hawaii (2 Teams)  
Midas Hawaii  
Outback Steakhouse  
Pasha Hawaii  
Po'okela Paddles

## Gold Sponsor

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McDonald's of Kauai  
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Newtown Veterinary Clinic, Inc. (2 Teams)  
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Locations Foundation  
Matheson  
McDonald's of Hilo (2 Teams)  
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Par Hawaii  
Premier Insurance  
R.K. Oshiro Door Service, Inc.  
SERVCO Pacific Insurance  
Sheraton Waikiki  
The Coca Cola Company  
Urban Works-Architecture

## Prize Donors and Hole Event Sponsors over \$500

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Hawaii Prince Golf Club  
Hawaii Prince Hotel  
Hawaiian Eateries  
Hokuala Golf Club  
Holua Resort at Mauna Loa Village  
K&K Distributors  
Ka'anapali Beach Hotel  
Kaha Lani - Castle Resorts & Hotels  
Kapalua Golf  
LH Gamble Company, Ltd.  
Maikai Realty  
Maui Jim, Inc.  
Mauna Lani Resort Golf  
McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii  
Paradise Beverages  
Sansei Seafood Restaurant & Sushi  
Sheraton Waikiki Hotel & Resort  
Structural Integrity Associates, Inc.  
T&T Tinting Specialists, Inc.  
The Coca-Cola Company  
TNP Auto Detailing  
Tony Group Autoplex  
Waikiki Parc Hotel  
Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa  
Mr. Bruce Yanagihara

## Join us at this year's RMHC-HI Gala!

Tables and individual seats are available for the upcoming RMHC-HI Gala on November 20. The event, which will take place at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, is honoring longtime organization supporters Bob and Dianne Pereira, owners of Midas in Hawaii.

The RMHC-HI Gala always delivers outstanding food, drink and entertainment, and this year will be no different. Please join us for an outstanding evening of fellowship and good times — all to help the children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

We are currently seeking auction items for the event!

To purchase tables or individual seats, just contact Lucy at 973-5683 x240, [lucy@rmhchawaii.org](mailto:lucy@rmhchawaii.org), or online at [www.ronaldhousehawaii.org](http://www.ronaldhousehawaii.org)

*Share a Night  
Annual Gala*

## Why we support RMHC-HI - by Dianne Pereira, Midas Hawaii

Years ago, Bob and I were fortunate enough to sit on the Board of Directors for Hawaii's Ronald McDonald House. The experience was life changing for us. Despite any bumps in the road we had encountered in our lives, we saw that many other families have way more hurdles to overcome. We got a firsthand look at what parents with children who have serious illnesses, sometimes terminal illness, had to go through. It was heart wrenching. Many times we had to hold back our tears.

The staff and volunteers at Ronald McDonald House are like angels, supporting and giving hope and love to those parents who are grieving over the pain and suffering their children are enduring.

Imagine, living miles away from the hospital and having to drive miles or travel miles and stay in a hotel to be by your child. Medical insurance doesn't cover that nor does it hand them any comfort or give respite to these families.

We know that every dollar we can get donated to RMHC-HI goes to helping these families. The volunteers and staff don't do this as a job. They do it with sincere love and care for the families. They can't do it without your help.

Years ago, RMHC helped our granddaughter in Los Angeles when she was sent to UCLA for surgery and treatment. My son and his wife could not have

afforded to stay there 3 weeks to be with her if it wasn't for RMHC in Los Angeles. They were treated like family even though they were miles away from home.

If you donate or volunteer to help, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you haven't already, please take a tour of the house in Manoa and see for yourself where your donation of time or money will go. Everyone can do something! No donation,

monetary or otherwise, is too small.

The House recently asked us to be the honorees at their Gala Event on November 20, 2016. We are both humbled and proud that we were chosen to possibly inspire others to help the families in need. The recognition is nice but the true reward comes from the joy we feel in supporting the House.

By the way, if you love to play golf, every year we sponsor (with the help of RMHC-HI) a Golf

Tournament in honor of our

brother, Tony Pereira III, who passed away in 2010. The tournament is held at Mid Pacific Country Club and the next one will be on Monday, January 30, 2017. Every penny goes to RMHC-HI. We invite you to join us for a day filled with fun and laughter to support a great cause.

Thank you RMHC-HI for helping us help you.



Dianne and Bob (wearing the Midas shirts) posed with a couple participants at their annual charity golf tournament.

# Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!



A big THANK YOU to **Central Middle School's YMCA Summer Scholars** for donating snacks and beautiful cards to our families. We are so appreciative for all of our young Ronald McDonald House Volunteers!



## WELL ROUNDED CITIZENS!

Our guests' tummies were full of delicious Hawaiian food - thanks to Aiea Warriors Softball Team who prepared the meal in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen. The warm, get-well cards they left for the kids and families were also much appreciated!



On September 15, our incredible friends at **SSFM** presented RMHC-HI with a check for \$5,000. Additional donations by SSFM employees and friends raised another \$4,710, for a total of \$9,110. (Left to right) Garet Azama (RMHC-HI Board Member), Mike Matsumoto (President/CEO SSFM), Jerri Chong (RMHC-HI President), Stacey Miyamoto (SSFM Board Member), James Haruki (RMHC-HI Board Member), Eric Matsuda (SSFM Board Member), and Corey Matsuoka (SSFM Board Member).



They didn't just pose in our playground! This enthusiastic contingent of **HomeStreet Bank** employees spent the better part of the day on September 16 working really hard to make sure the Judd Hillside House would be nice for the families staying there.

[www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org](http://www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org)



YouTube



Government worker or member of the military? Please remember us when you sign your **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** pledge cards for 2017.

Our listing:  
**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii**  
**#89629**

# Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!

## Become a Legacy Donor

With just a little planning and a big heart, you can give hope and comfort to sick children and their families.

You can support future generations of Ronald McDonald House families through a planned gift today. Join our Caring Heart Legacy Society. A charitable gift can offer benefits for you and help Ronald McDonald House families year after year.

- Gift via your Will/Trust
- Make RMHC-HI a beneficiary of your Life Insurance Policy
- Consider the tax-smart strategy of Retirement Plan Assets
- Donate Stocks or Securities

**ATTENTION:** If you are at least 70 1/2 years old and want to save on your taxes, the I.R.S. allows you 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 tax regulation, call Lisa at (808) 973-5683 ext. 243. A charitable distribution from your IRA can be used to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

## 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.

## Mighty, Happy to help the kids

Don't forget! For every Happy Meal and Mighty Kids Meal sold throughout 2016, 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!

## 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Caring people needed immediately!

Do you have what it takes to be a  
Ronald McDonald House  
Family Room volunteer?

If you:

- 1) Are at least 18 years old.
- 2) Want a volunteer role that really makes a difference.
- 3) Are willing to commit to 8 hours per month.
- 4) Truly care about children and families...then...

**YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT FOR THIS  
IMPORTANT ROLE.**

Please contact us at [info@rmhchawaii.org](mailto:info@rmhchawaii.org)  
to get started.



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
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for Women & Children