



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

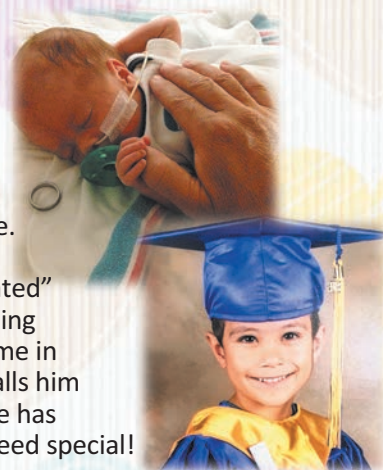
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Together, we are investing in futures...

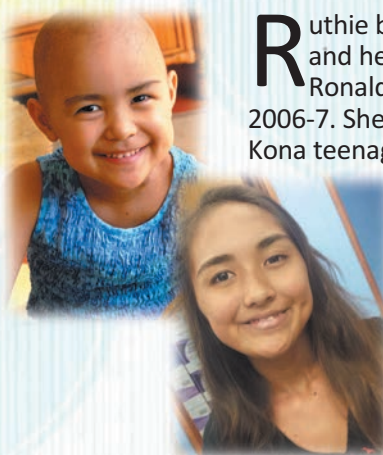
When Kealii was born, doctors said he had only a small chance to survive. In fact, he became known as “Chance” when he was an infant. While in the hospital and fighting to survive, his family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House. Low and behold, Kealii is now a thriving nine-year-old, playing baseball, going to school, even doing a little modeling back home on Maui.



In 2013, Koa was born three months early, weighing 1 lb. 10 oz., and required months of hospitalization. His mom and dad stayed nearby, at the Ronald McDonald House. Now five years later, Koa is doing great! He has “graduated” from pre-school and is heading off to kindergarten back home in California. Koa’s grandma calls him their “Special K.” The way he has grown and developed is indeed special!



It has been 10 years since sweet Kaylee stayed here at the Ronald McDonald House with her family. Kaylee was born prematurely on the island of Kwajalein. She was then sent here to receive lifesaving treatments. Today, she is doing great!



Ruthie battled cancer while she and her family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House back in 2006-7. She is now a blossoming Kona teenager who not only loves paddling and other water sports, but also travels the country supporting efforts to find cures for childhood cancers. Go Ruthie!

Mom and dad were visiting their favorite destination - Hawaii - when A.J. decided to be born more than two months early! It turned their two-week vacation into several months at the Ronald McDonald House. Recently, A.J. turned five, and is looking handsome back home in Texas!



Many of these families' "back stories" are easily accessed on our website. Just select "Family Stories" on the main drop-down menu.
www.ronaldhousehawaii.org

Continued on page 4

Message from our President



Jerri Chong

Aloha,
A lot can be learned from studying statistics. For instance, we are able to determine important benchmarks like number of families

served; nights of lodging provided; geographic location of our guest families' homes; and occupancy rates that provide a clearer picture of emerging or increasing community needs. Of course financially-based statistics are vital for budget balancing too.

But I want to share some statistics that I hope will help bring home the reality that the Ronald McDonald House is so much like your own home, with the same need for important staples, food, and supplies that you have – except, multiply that by 17. That's the number of families that we can accommodate at our Ronald McDonald Houses at any given time.

Imagine, keeping our pantry and refrigerators stocked with canned goods, fresh foods and supplies so healthy meals can be prepared for almost 400 families throughout the

year. That's more than 15,000 meals! And here in Hawaii, that also amounts to almost one ton of rice (yes, 2,000 pounds), a staple for many families' breakfast, lunch and dinner!

Coffee is consumed in vast quantities, almost 3,000 pots a year. And we go through an endless supply of household products, nearly 1,200 rolls of paper towels; 1,500 trash bags; and more than 2,000 Ziploc bags.

There is also a constant hum of activity in our laundry room throughout the day. Nearly 2,000 loads of laundry are cycled through our washer/dryers, and these and other appliances get so much usage that replacements are necessary every 3-4 years.

What families also appreciate so much are the transportation and shuttle runs we provide every day. It's critical for families to get to and from the airport, hospitals, and treatment centers where their keiki are receiving medical care, and most have no options other than the Bus or expensive taxis. That's why support for our transportation program and donations of gas cards make such a big difference for us.

These are some of the regular items on our Wish List – and why it really means a lot when folks drop off donations of

Wish List items or hold food drives or household product collections for us. We would have to purchase all of these if they weren't so generously donated by people and businesses in our community. And that means that we can stretch our resources to better serve our families.

There are so many ways that you can pitch in and help to make a big difference. I want to invite everyone to be a part of our important mission.

If you are a cash donor, our secure, online donation page is very easy and convenient to use.

If you want to help by donating some of the staples and supplies that we need, just check our Wish List and drop them off at our Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For some people, volunteering is the preferred way to help a cause that they believe in. Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization. They carry out essential duties for us and are a very important part of our Ronald McDonald House Ohana.

Getting the job done with limited resources is a challenge that we rise to every day. We are able to do that because we have a community that truly cares.

“Aloha From Our House to Yours”, the newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii (RMHC-HI), is published three times a year. RMHC-HI, 1970 Judd Hillside Road, Honolulu, HI 96822

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Heroes Of The Heart



Our friends at SSFM International have been helping us assist families for many years. Mike Matsumoto and his entire staff have shown that they truly care about giving back and about the well-being of our keiki.

We are recipients of significant support from SSFM International, and its employees, colleagues and friends - and we get the opportunity to share our story at SSFM's annual company get-together.

Their kindness doesn't end there - SSFM's staff contribute hours of volunteer support as well!

We are so thankful for SSFM International, our "Heroes of the Heart".



SSFM International
President, Mike Matsumoto

Far from home but not alone

Baby Rai Camacho has had casts on both legs virtually his entire life. Since he was flown to Hawaii shortly after birth, he has actually lived longer in Hawaii than his home back in Guam. In a way, he is lucky because his mom, Lavina, works as an early childhood clinician, focusing on children's emotional and social welfare. "As a health care professional, I never thought that I would be on the other side – in need of assistance," Lavina admitted.

But here she was in Hawaii to make sure Rai, born with bilateral clubfoot, could have the brightest future possible – and that he didn't have any of the other serious conditions that can be associated with clubfoot. Her husband Glen accompanied her and Rai but soon had to return to Guam for work - and also to look after their three daughters, Antonia (18), Linda Sophia (13), and Olivia (11).

"We didn't know that Rai had that condition until he was born, so we weren't really prepared for it," Lavina remarked.

Glen works for the Department of Navy and he is in the Air Force Reserve. "Being a military family, we know how difficult separation can be," said Lavina.

There's about a ten-and-a-half year gap between Olivia and Rai. He was quite unexpected. "I actually conceived him on an IUD and it was a pretty rough pregnancy," shared Lavina. "From the very beginning he has been giving us a run for our money. God is really making us work for our only son. But that's fine."

"When we first got to Hawaii we stayed on base, because of my husband's military status. But it came with a lot of uncertainty and ended up not being our best option," Lavina recalled. "That weekend I was so worried about where we were going to stay. We checked the hotels but it was going to cost over eight grand. We weren't prepared for any of that. We never thought that we would be out here this long. A family member did mention the Ronald McDonald House, but I wasn't familiar with it at all before coming out here. Or even if Hawaii had one."

The anxious parents were so relieved to learn that they could check into the Ronald McDonald House immediately. "Staying here has given us multiple blessings," Lavina praised. "It allows us to be together and not worry about where we are going to go, and lets me create a routine for Rai. The House is only a mile from the hospital, and it's near our church too."

But it hasn't been as easy as Lavina might make it seem. "It's really tough being away from family," she said, wiping away a tear. "And

dealing with your baby's medical condition. So the support from the House and the amazing parents that we have met has been so important. I'm very humbled by the interaction and support. Hawaii and the Ronald McDonald House will always have a special place in my heart because I associate it with this difficult time in my life – and so many people were there for us."



Lavina Camacho, from Barrigada, Guam with her baby boy Rai at the Ronald McDonald House.

Wish List

Gift Cards

(especially Uber)

Movie Passes

Household Items

Microwavable paper plates
Garbage bags (yard & kitchen)
Ziplock bags
Paper Towels

Food Items

Frozen single-serving meals (microwavable)
Frozen pizza
Individually wrapped snacks

Miscellaneous

Forever postage stamps
Office supplies

To see our complete Wish List, visit www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org



Save the Date!

Saturday, November 17, 2018

*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii
Black & White Share-a-Night Gala*

Sheraton Waikiki Resort
Country Store, Silent & Live Auctions, Live Entertainment

Cocktail Attire: Black and White (Jackets optional)

To reserve your table, please contact Candace Asam-Lopez at (808) 892-1905 or cal@rmhchawaii.org
Sponsorship Levels: Koa \$15,000/ Maile \$10,000/ Ilima \$5,000/ Pikake \$3,000/ Seats \$250 each



Continued from page 1



Tishelle was diagnosed with Leukemia in 2006 when she was nine-years-old.

During her two-and-a-half years of treatments, Tishelle and her mother traveled regularly to Honolulu from Kauai for chemo and other therapies. When they did, they called Ronald McDonald House their "home-away-from-home".

Tishelle not only survived, she has thrived, and she is now in her early twenties - and married with two children of her own!



After being born prematurely and weighing 1 lb. 9 oz., Kevin spent the first two years of his life at Kapiolani Hospital fighting to survive. His mom and dad had the Ronald McDonald House to keep them close to him the entire time. It was far from easy, but it all worked out. Kevin, now 17, enjoys going to school, church and playing sports back home on Kauai!



Five years after Noah and his family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House, the cancer survivor is starting the fifth grade over on the Big Island! He has come so far since those scary days!

What a blast!

RMHC Hawaii's 27th Annual Golf Classic took place on July 18, 2018 at the Hawaii Prince Golf Club in Ewa Beach. With more than 200 golfers, along with staff and another hundred volunteers the day was a special one - plus, we surpassed our goal of \$100,000! Thank you so much for your support!



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Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa
Ka'anapali Beach Hotel
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Kaha Lani - Castle Resorts & Hotels
Keoki's Lau Lau
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The Lotus Honolulu at Diamond Head Hotel
McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii
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Waikiki Beach Walk
Wailea Beach Resort, Marriott Maui

Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!



The kind folks from **Aloha Petroleum** and **Dunkin' Donuts** stopped by the Judd Hillside House on Saturday, August 4 to drop off breakfast for the families!



USA National Jr. Teen 2018 Nala Torres and her family cooked a delicious dinner for our families at the Judd Hillside House on Sunday, August 5.



Kaia the Goldendoodle is becoming a regular visitor at the Ronald McDonald House. Everyone she meets falls in love with her.

Her owner, Kristine Suehiro delights bringing calmness and smiles to the kids and families.

Here is Kaia with current House resident Robert Bolante, from Lahaina.



On August 4, six members of **Moms On A Mission** rolled up their sleeves to give the bathrooms at the Judd Hillside House a thorough, deep-cleaning. This dedicated group has lent incredible support for RMHC Hawaii for years now! They are truly among our special heroes.

Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!

Workplace Giving Changes Lives

Workplace giving programs provide essential support for RMHC Hawaii families, and many donors find it to be an easy and convenient way to make their annual tax-deductible donations.

If you are a federal government employee (civilian or military), please consider designating a portion of your **Combined Federal Campaign** gift to Hawaii's Ronald House.

If **Aloha United Way** is your option for workplace giving, you can choose to direct your gift of \$48 or more per year to help keep families together when they need each other most.

Mahalo for your support and we salute you for changing lives!



#70680



#89629

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 \$25, 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

One free \$10 children's admission with purchase of an adult ticket at Hawaii Theatre for Youth

Some restrictions apply on coupons.

Check out more information about McFun-Raiser on the RMHC-HI website at www.ronaldhousehawaii.org, or call RMHC Hawaii at 973-5683 ext. 244.

Give Hope All Year Long!

Join a valued group of supporters who have generously decided on easy and convenient *monthly* gifts to RMHC-HI.

Convenience Donations are automatically made monthly, saving you time, money and postage.

Peace of Mind You'll never have to look back to see when you last gave. You'll be sent a receipt of donation at the end of the year by mail or e-mail.

Flexibility You can increase, decrease or cancel your contributions at any time simply by calling us.

Satisfaction Enjoy knowing that your support is helping to reduce administrative costs and that your gift is a full investment in bringing comfort, care and hope to families with seriously ill children.

Simplify your life by signing up today at www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org or call (808) 892-1902.



Hope is sometimes the best medicine of all.

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www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Caring people needed immediately!

There are many ways to volunteer at Ronald McDonald House - from baking cookies to doing yard work (and everything in between).

Visit:
www.ronaldhousehawaii.org
to find a complete list of
volunteer roles and
application forms.

Please call 973-5683 to get
started or contact
info@rmhchawaii.org.

