



Aloha

From Our House to Yours

www.RonaldHouseHawaii.org

Newsletter of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

Vol. XVIII, Issue 1, February 2018

Seeing this thing through together

Two people from different parts of the world meet by chance in Hawaii, find love, marriage, and children. That happy story is probably repeated many times in our beautiful islands. Our couple also decides to make the Big Island their home.

Daniel Hoskins and Gretchen Magnusson met when they both were attending classes at the University of Hawaii. Daniel was on a Study Abroad Exchange Program from his home in England, and Gretchen was from Oregon. Following their courtship and marriage the couple began carving out a good life in Keaau, on Hawaii Island. Daniel is a plumber and Gretchen is a HR professional. They have two



Daniel and Ally relaxing at the Ronald McDonald House while the 10-year-old was recuperating

children, a 10-year-old son Alasdair (Ally) and a 7-year-old daughter Elode.

As with most families that stay at the Ronald McDonald House, they never dreamed that they would be here. Then a day comes when their life suddenly changes.

Ally was continually getting sick and while doctors were trying to pinpoint the problem, his school called. "They told us to take him to the doctor's right away because one of his eyes closed and he was having a difficult time focusing and walking," said Daniel. "At the hospital, he had a MRI scan and then he was medevac'd to Oahu."

It was on October 3, and suddenly everything was different. "When Ally was diagnosed and rushed to Oahu, Gretchen came and stayed with him, and now I am staying with him and Gretchen is back on the Big Island working. We were both able to go to Oakland with him, when he had his operation."

What doctors had found in the MRI was that Ally had a big tumor in the center of his brain. He needed delicate brain surgery that was available in Oakland. It was a perilous procedure, but he's handling it "sterlingly" Daniel said. "It was a very dangerous operation and he seems to have done very well with it. He's finishing up his radiation."

When they returned to Hawaii, Ally was hospitalized at Kaiser for three weeks and Daniel stayed at the Oahu Avenue House. "It was perfect for us while Ally was in the hospital. It's all adult parents over there," Daniel recalled.

"When Ally was discharged from the hospital and we moved over to the Judd Hillside House, we started to see more of what the House is about. People are here for all sorts of reasons but we all have a certain understanding and respect for each other. It's turned out to be really nice over here."

Shortly after Daniel spoke with us, he and Ally were able to join Gretchen and Elode back home and have probably been catching up with Gretchen's parents, who live in Papaiko. But the uncertainty can be unnerving. "Now we can go home for

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Wish List

Gift Cards

Movie Passes

Household Items

- Toilet paper
- Clorox Wipes
- 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
- New iPad
- Auction and Prize items

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Message from our President



Jerri Chong

Aloha,
Last year was our 30th anniversary year, and our schedule of celebratory events and media appearances was full. Our five

Neighbor Island mall events and three Oahu mall events allowed us to connect with the public as well as many families that have stayed at the Ronald House over the years. We couldn't have done these exciting events without the help of the shopping centers, merchants, musicians, friends and volunteers at each location.

Meanwhile, back at our two Ronald McDonald Houses, our caring community was generously bestowing us with so many gifts of kindness and support. Clearly, a Ronald McDonald House is not only "The House That Love Built", but also "The House That Love Maintains." We are deeply grateful for your overwhelming support.

A small sampling of the help we received caring for our families include:

- Fundraising events and projects that raised significant dollars to benefit RMHC-Hawaii and all our programs.

- Airport to hospital/house transportation for families, provided by Cecil Morton's SpeediShuttle service help to ease families' worries the minute they land on Oahu.
- Shatter-resistant, commercial grade tinting of all the windows at our Oahu Avenue House by Tommy Silva and his T&T Tinting Specialists to lower searing summer temperatures and provide comfortable living quarters for our families.
- Complete restoration and re-invigoration of our Oahu Avenue grounds by Steve Dewald and his Steve's Gardening Service with the assistance of Koha's Nursery, Beachside Lighting, Pacific Pipe-Oahu, and Sharon's Plants.
- Foundation pours, sidewalk and walkway installation by Joe Kimmey's Foundations Hawaii, with the help of HC&D and the Mason's Union.
- Contracting assistance by John Cheung and C C Engineering with fire escape ladders, fire exit doors, and relocation of compressor units.
- Full funding of our 3-year IT Operational Plan by the Sophie Russell Testamentary Trust.

- Food drives and donations that kept our pantry shelves well stocked and supplied.
- Many others also did amazing things to help our families, including McDonald's of Hawaii, Bank of Hawaii, Brian Derby, Coca-Cola, Consolidated Theatres, Don & Marion Murphy, HOCU, Hugh Gentry, Kidz For A Cause (see page 3), Moms On A Mission, Sam Choy, SSFM, Watanabe Floral, and so many more.

During our 30th anniversary year, we were also on countless radio stations around the islands, all the local TV stations and virtually all the newspapers. What's so exciting is that our work with Kidz For A Cause along with our new website and social media efforts are helping us attract a whole new generation of compassionate young people committed to doing good things in the community.

The future looks bright. Every day brings great promise. You make such a big difference in the lives of kids and families that really need help. I hope that you are as excited about 2018 as we are and that you will continue to keep RMHC Hawaii in your heart!

"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

Seeing this through together *continued from page 1*

six weeks - until he has to come back for another scan. After that, who knows?" Daniel told us.

"Being able to stay here at the Ronald McDonald House is less exhausting for him. After the operation, it took him a while to recover. At first he was very fatigued and cognitively not able to have any fun with the other kids. At first he wasn't strong enough physically to go out and play. But he has recovered nicely and since he started talking again, we can't shut him up, he's doing so much better," Dad joked.

One thing is for sure. Whatever happens moving forward, Daniel, Gretchen, Elode and Ally will be seeing this thing through together.



Still recovering from his delicate brain surgery, one thing definitely remaining intact is Ally's sense of humor.

Heroes Of The Heart

Formerly Oceanic Time Warner Cable, this amazing company has been a supporter of RMHC Hawaii for many years and in many, many different ways. They have helped by providing us with low cost Internet access; raising money for RMHC's first Wireless Access Point - in use at our Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House, providing (tireless, unconditional, above and beyond) support and assistance for RMHC to upgrade to VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) in 2015. Their team secured the path to run fiber from the main line (Manoa Road) to Judd Hillside. They moved mountains for RMHC. There are also many other ways the company has stepped forward to help over the years.



And, when needed, their technical team's response time is less than 24 hours. Amazing!

Forever Ohana - Teresa Marquez

Ever since Teresa Marquez stayed at the Ronald McDonald House, she says she has wanted to give back. She actually stayed at the House twice, in 1991 and 1993, because two of her children, Scott (Kepono) and Devin, needed treatment for the same thing - a rare condition called Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, a bacteria in the blood that an immune system can't fight off. It meant blood transfusions, platelet infusions, and a lot of prayers. Each time they stayed for about three and a half weeks.

"Doctors told us their condition could come back and could eventually mean a life of dialysis," shared Teresa. "We were also very worried that our youngest child, Kara was going to get it. But now, all in all, they are fine."

Kepono, now 30 years old, works at Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel and Devin, now 29, works at the St. Regis at Princeville, on Kauai.

Although it has been 25 years since her last stay, memories are still vivid. "It was so cozy and clean," she recalled. "The huge kitchen and fridge were full of food to be cooked and shared by all. The kid's playroom was full of toys and a giant stuffed bear. And the volunteers were awesome."

Teresa read about Kidz For A Cause in our October newsletter. "Why not the Big Island?" she thought. Then she got to work.

"I've been involved in many community events and fundraising for my kids," she said. "Now my grandkids will be involved!"

Teresa has enlisted the help of Ekela Kahuanui and Lehua Ahsam at the Kohala Village Hub facility, allowing her to have her own Kidz For A Cause rally there in January, and fundraiser (scheduled for February 24). "Individual kids are still planning fundraisers too," she added.

"The more Big Island kids and parents coming together and participating, the more FUN we all will have raising money for kids and Ohana in need," Teresa concluded.

Those interested should call Teresa at (808) 217-7879, and block out February 24 on their calendars.



The Marquez Ohana. Standing tall is Kepono, who once struggled for his life at Kapiolani Hospital. Teresa is back, left.

Benefiting RMHC Hawaii



Be a Kid for a Cause!

Kids helping kids!



Many of the individual fundraisers have been held, but there's more to come before the big finale on April 22! Each one is someone's brainchild. Every fundraiser means an additional donation to RMHC Hawaii. **Check out the calendar of upcoming events on the Kidz For A Cause website, figure out a way that you can help too!** The next rally is 2pm February 25 at Sacred Hearts Academy. Join us!

KIDZFORACAUSE.ORG

2017 RMHC HAWAII

Share a Night Gala

November 18 at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort

This year's RMHC Hawaii Gala was a smashing success! Nearly 600 attendees gathered for an inspiring evening in support of Hawaii's "home-away-from-home" for seriously ill children and their families. Mahalo everyone!

Entertainment Director Nancy Bernal put together an impressive lineup of talented performers. One after the other, Emcee Al Waterson welcomed to the stage pianist Noly Paa; amazing 10-year-old singer Kaylee Shimizu; Jordan Segundo; Augie T; Taimane; Na Leo Pilimehana; and the venerable Robert Cazimero. The event, RMHC Hawaii's largest fundraiser of the year, raised more than \$300,000 to help fund the operations of Hawaii's two Ronald McDonald Houses.



Cathy Lee, Nicki Lee and Jerri Chong



Honorary Co-Chairs Veronica Kaneko and Miles Ichinose with Kaylee Shimizu



Taimane



Jordan Segundo



Robert Cazimero



Na Leo Pilimehana



Robert Palma, Lisa Ah Nee, Kyoko Palma and Kenta Palma



Al and Nancy Waterson, Kaylee Shimizu and Miss Hawaii, Kathryn Teruya



Garet Azama, Trinette Hepa and Candace Asam-Lopez



Governor Ben Cayetano, Augie T. and Vicky Cayetano



Erik Rita, Kanoe Paauhau and Cherrise Rita



Left, Tevita and mom Pina Ofakineiafu. Right, Simon Joseph and Simon Jr.



Irva Fuchigami and Kasha Curek-Rhoades

Mahalo to Our Shining Stars



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Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!



Fresno State's football team, cheer and dance squads visited the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on December 23, the day before their big game against Houston in the Hawaii Bowl! And Fresno State won!



The folks at **Monsanto Maui** created special BBQ fundraisers to help the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House!

Including the company match, the

efforts led by Vanessa Godoy (a former RMH guest), Hayde Sim, Kurt Adam, Vance Del Castillo, Alika Corpus, and Eugenia Stitts raised \$4,141! RMHC Hawaii Manager of Operations, Kanoe Paaahu (center) accepted the check.



Left, a great group of cheerful **Hawaiian Airlines** team members came up to the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on November 27 to start decorating it for Christmas!



Right, the next day, phase two of Christmas decorating took place as our friends at **Macy's** put on the finishing touches.



A big MAHALO to the students and faculty at **University Lab School** for conducting a "Make Change Count" collection campaign raising \$636.41 for RMHC Hawaii. 7th-grader Dominic Hill, and faculty member Danya Hill dropped off the donation to the Judd Hillside Ronald McDonald House on December 20.



A group of big-hearted "gamers" from the **Punahou** class of 2014, turned their online passion into a fundraiser. Robert Kaya (left) and Jared Tom presented RMHC-HI's Candace Asam-Lopez with a check for \$425!



PUNAHOU SCHOOL

Ways The Community Supports Us Mahalo!

Moms On a Mission Hawaii

Rock 'N Roll BEACH PARTY

April 28, 2018
Pomaika'i Ballroom
5:30pm

LIVE Sounds of LS34 **Surfin The Night with Lina Girl**

Dinner, Dancing, Surf the 'Rockinlicious' Candy Bar, Beach Party Auction, & Photo Booth

\$105
Includes a Share-A-Night For a Family to Stay at the House

Benefiting The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii

For Tickets Call : Roxane 256-8788 or email: Momsonamissionhawaii@gmail.com

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'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, 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, or call RMHC-HI at 973-5683 ext. 244.

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 "super-sized" contribution each year.



Mighty, Happy to help the kids

Don't forget! For every Happy Meal and Mighty Kids Meal sold throughout 2018, our friends at McDonald's 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.

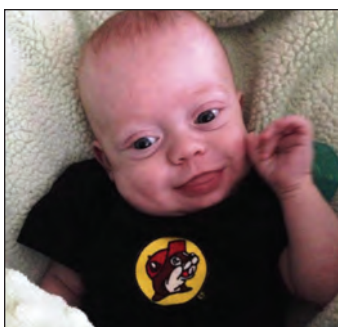
Thank you McDonald's customers for your continual support of our mission through participating in special promotions like this one and by dropping your change into the handy collection boxes near cash registers!

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Hawaii

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Looking for Volunteer Opportunities for Your Company, Club, School, Family or Group of Friends?

There are many ways to help the families staying at Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses!

Volunteer Groups of up to 15 people:

- Sponsor a Meal for the Families: Potluck, cook or cater a meal for 35-40 people
- Host a Bake Day: Gather the ingredients to bake treats! Brownie points if you decorate too!
- Provide a Few Extra Hands: We always appreciate assistance with the "extras" around the House, whether it's organizing, restocking or light cleaning, etc.

Volunteer Groups larger than 15 people:

- Part of your group can work on making a meal or baking goodies while another part of your group helps with the "extras" around the house

Looking for a volunteer opportunity for yourself?

- From being a Green Thumb to helping in our Offices, there's a range of options!
- Our new Family Support Services Program offers direct support to the families.
 - During a four-hour shift, you could help with providing house tours, cooking, baking, hosting an activity, decorating and even by lending an ear.



To schedule a date to volunteer and/or for more information, please contact Volunteer Services Manager Lindsey Tolentino. Call 808-973-5683 ext. 241 or email lindsey@rmhchawaii.org.