An Affordable “Home Away From Home”

On March 1, 2016, Teresa McPeck gave birth to Ella-Mae at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. Upon birth, Ella-Mae was immediately placed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to receive treatment for a Pierre Robin complex and cleft palate. To remain close to their daughter, Teresa and her husband, Charlie, were referred to the CNY Ronald McDonald House, where they would remain for 52 nights.

Our House quickly became a “home away from home” for the McPecks, who were traveling from Oswego, New York. It allowed Teresa and Charlie to be more involved in Ella-Mae’s medical care and stay alongside her as she underwent treatments and surgeries. The available amenities and services at our House also provided a sense of relief for the couple, as they did not have to worry about the day-to-day travel expenses.

“The complimentary shuttle service to Crouse Hospital and meals that were donated by local restaurants or businesses were a huge support for our family,” said Teresa. “Today, Ella-Mae is a happy, beautiful baby who continues to grow and thrive every day. Looking ahead to the future, we know that she will need to undergo more medical procedures, but it is comforting to know that we already have a place to stay nearby the hospital and our daughter when that time comes.”

We help families like the McPecks save an average of $275 per day. That helped contribute to a total savings of approximately $14,300 for the McPecks during their 52-night stay. On behalf of the McPeck family and so many others, we thank you for your continued support.
Many thanks to all the individuals and groups who dedicate their time and talents to raising money for “The House That Love Built.”

Thank you to all the individuals and groups who continue to dedicate their time and talents to raising money for “The House That Love Built.”

At the CNY Ronald McDonald House, guest families come to us from throughout Central New York and Northern Pennsylvania, and in some cases, even from different countries. All of our families fill our hearts and our home, and we know that each family is stronger because they are together.

Our House allows brothers and sisters to stay together with their families while a sibling is in the hospital. It also gives them the opportunity to play with other children who are experiencing similar situations, which can help them better cope with trauma. In 2015, we saw a 16 percent increase in the number of siblings of patients staying with us and a 22 percent increase in the number of overall guests. With our occupancy continuing to trend upward as we approach the end of 2016, we again find ourselves serving more families than ever before.

With more – and in some cases, bigger – families to serve, community support is increasingly vital to raise much-needed funds to support the services we provide. Whether you’re attending or sponsoring one of our annual events like the Many Hearts One Home Celebration, collecting Wish List items to help stock our pantry, preparing a home-cooked meal, hosting a fundraiser, volunteering or contributing a monetary or in-kind donation, you’re making a difference.

Your support helps us save families approximately $1.6 million annually in costs that they would otherwise incur if they had to stay in a hotel or commute from home.

As always, thank you for all that you do to help keep families exactly where they belong… Together. It is with your ongoing help that we have the opportunity to make a “home away from home” affordable and accessible to families and support them when they are facing the unimaginable.

Beth Trunfio
Executive Director

External fundraisers, both big and small, are a tremendous source of support for the CNY Ronald McDonald House every year, and they can be very easy to coordinate. Thinking of supporting the CNY Ronald McDonald House by holding a dress-down day at work, setting up a bake sale in your neighborhood with the kids or going on a bowling outing with your co-workers? Visit our website and fill out a host application form, and we will help you get started on your own event.

Donations made from March 8 through Aug. 31, 2016

Remember Our Donation Boxes
Whether you’re driving through or dining in, please remember our charitable donation boxes at your local McDonald’s. Your spare change directly supports the children and families of Ronald McDonald House Charities. The boxes are one of the largest fundraisers each year for our local organization.

Leave a Legacy
Over the years, Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY has helped keep thousands of children and their families together when they need it most. We provide stability and vital resources to families through programs focused on family-centered care, and at our House, parents find support from our staff, volunteers and other families. With your big heart and a little planning, you can help us bring hope and strength to sick children and their families for years to come. Visit rmhcpghome.org/cny to start planning.

Thank You TOPS
We would like to extend a sincere thank-you to our friends at TOPS Friendly Markets and everyone who stopped by the TOPS Booth at the Taste of Syracuse in June. This was the first year that we were lucky enough to partner with TOPS at the two-day event in order to help raise awareness for the CNY Ronald McDonald House. By the end of the weekend, proceeds from the prize wheel and food tent sales raised more than $13,500 for our organization, which will help support our ongoing day-to-day operations.
**Touch of Home**

There are several ways businesses, companies, school groups or organizations can volunteer or help support Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY. Whether it’s sponsoring an event, preparing or donating a meal, or helping raise awareness about our House and our mission, every bit of support helps us maintain our home away from home.

Through our “Touch of Home” dinner program, we work with many local groups who visit us on a monthly basis to prepare a home-cooked meal for our guest families. Thank you to all of the groups who support our “Touch of Home” program, including our newest corporate participants, Dupli Envelope & Graphics and Target in Cicero, New York.

The Liverpool Central School District’s “Wellness Committee” elected to support the CNY Ronald McDonald House in order to prepare healthy, nutritious meals for guest families. Among the district’s 12 schools, the committee coordinates a volunteer group of faculty and staff members that come in each month on an assigned day to visit with families and provide dinner.

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**For the Love of Food**

We are fortunate to be able to partner and collaborate with a wide variety of local restaurants as a part of our “For the Love of Food” program to help provide well-balanced meals for the children and families who stay with us. Our most frequent meal suppliers include Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse, Julie’s Place, Kitty Hoynes, Mario & Salvo’s Pizzeria, Olive Garden, Prime Steak House, Nick & Angelo’s Ristorante, Swallow’s Restaurant, Twin Trees and the 1060 Restaurant at the Genesee Grande Hotel.

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**Child Life Specialists Volunteer**

Not only does the team of Child Life Specialists at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital help sick children cope with their fears and anxieties before, during and after procedures and treatments, they also frequently volunteer their time in support of our organization. Most recently the team stopped by our House to visit with guest families and fix a delicious meal. We cannot thank the team enough for its support inside and outside the hospital.

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**A Very Merry Thank-You**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas in July celebration and helped make it another huge success. Nearly 80 companies, community groups and individuals helped collect more than $10,000 worth of Wish List items, gift cards and monetary donations to support our guest families.

As in years past, several of our former guest families participated in Christmas in July and turned in some of the biggest collections in order to support our current guest families. The Woodburn family, of Owego, New York, stayed at our House earlier this year when their then 6-month-old son had surgery at Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital. Thomas, the boy’s father, is a member of the Owego Police Department and organized a donation drive with his co-workers. For one day, members of the department sat outside of a local Price Chopper and invited ingoing customers to purchase and donate Wish List items. At the end of the day, the drive resulted in over $3,000 worth of items that the Owego Police Department delivered to us using a trailer!
13th Annual Golf Invitational

Our annual golf event was held on Thursday, Sept. 15, at Turning Stone Resort Casino. Overall, 160 golfers helped raise over $94,000. A special thank-you to our major event sponsors: Turning Stone Resort Casino, NBC3, CBS5, CW6 and CNYCentral.com, Burdick BMW, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Image Press and Son’s Bakery.

A big thank-you to our hole sponsors and golfers.

This was the 13th year in a row that community members and business leaders enjoyed an afternoon of golf to raise money for our House. Over the years, the invitational has generated nearly $1.1 million to support the families who stay with us.