

Generations of Love

2021 Gratitude Report



40 years



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Southern Arizona

40 years

WITH GRATITUDE

For all the community leaders who worked together to start the Ronald McDonald House in 1981.

For all the volunteers and staff who have made this House a home to so many.

For all the donors and friends who have supported this work.

And for all the families that have placed their trust in us for 40 years.

Thank you so very much. We share these highlights with heartfelt gratitude.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has,” said Margaret Mead decades ago.

And this year we celebrate decades of accomplishments of a small, committed group of incredible individuals – those who launched the Ronald McDonald House® in Tucson 40 years ago.

They were doctors, parents, community leaders, representatives of McDonald’s – all committed to making life better for families of very sick children. They started small – the House on Speedway had five bedrooms and three shared bathrooms. And oh, how this community has helped us grow.

Today’s House has 27 bedrooms, a spacious kitchen and dining room, indoor and outdoor play spaces and a healing garden. We operate a Ronald McDonald Family Room® at Banner Children’s Diamond Children’s Medical Center for families of hospitalized children. And we’ve launched a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® to bring dental care to children in Cochise County.

How many families have benefitted from the Ronald McDonald House since 1981? Imagine McKale Stadium stuffed with fans – every one of those seats represents one family. That’s more than 15,000 families. And we are grateful that many of those who were children at the Ronald McDonald House now have children of their own. You can read about a few of them in this special 40th anniversary Gratitude Report.

And speaking of gratitude, I am grateful to all those who came before me, who built the foundation for this wonderful organization. The leaders, board members, volunteers, donors, and many, many friends. The women of Alpha Delta Pi. And the staff members who for 40 years have poured their hearts into this work. Collectively we are changing the world – one child, one family at a time.

Kate Maguire Jensen

President & CEO, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona

Gratitude to our previous Executive Directors:

Pat Roads ▪ Kathi Wells ▪ Mary Kay Dinsmore ▪ Diana Sheldon

A Promising Beginning

Today, the Ronald McDonald House is recognized around the world but that wasn't the case in the late '70s. The first Ronald McDonald House had opened in Philadelphia in 1974 and they were just starting to pop up in cities around the country.

Dr. Vince Fulginiti, the Chair of the University of Arizona Department of Pediatrics, was aware of other Ronald McDonald Houses and wanted one in Tucson. Ron Michaels, who was a marketing consultant for McDonald's, had attended a presentation about the Ronald McDonald House. He knew the McDonald's business and that this would be good for Tucson. And so started the wonderful community effort to launch the Ronald McDonald House.

Dr. Fulginiti asked Dr. John Hutter, pediatric oncologist, to get involved. He didn't need any convincing.

"We had a philosophy early on that treating our patients involved treating their families," Dr. Hutter said. "I was a big believer that a Ronald McDonald House would be good for our patients and good for the community." He readily admits that he had no experience fundraising, but fortunately others did.

Support from the local McDonald's owner-operators was a critical next step.

Roger Canchola, President & CEO of Arcos de Oro, remembers his dad, Jose's, excitement about this project. The Cancholas owned the McDonald's restaurant in Nogales and Jose knew that the House would serve families from Santa Cruz County.



Dr. John Hutter treats a young patient (circa 1980).



"Once my dad got involved," Roger said, "he encouraged the other owner-operators to pony up some money. He was pretty good at that."

They all knew they'd need community support to keep the House going.

Ron Michaels helped identify the right house – a white, rambling Spanish style home on Speedway built by John Murphy in the '20s – and helped negotiate a deal with a low down payment.

Renovations began and as anyone who has ever remodeled an old house knows, there tend to be issues. Local architects, electricians and contractors donated services to offset costs. Furniture was donated by Lou Register. Dorothy Novak, Vice President of the Board, outfitted the kitchen and laundry room. The young women of Alpha Delta Pi sorority washed windows.

And *the House that Love Built* opened for families on February 14, 1981. With five bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living room, dining room and library. Over the years, the House was remodeled and expanded to help more families. In 1991, a two-bedroom casita was added near University Medical Center for families of bone marrow transplant patients. In 1996, property adjacent to the House was purchased for administrative offices and a year later another renovation added more bedrooms and bathrooms.

Even with expansion over the years, by the early 2000s, hundreds of families were being turned away every year for lack of space. And once again the community rallied to raise more money to build the new House. With a \$1 annual land lease from University Medical Center and a lead gift from Angel Charity for Children, the dream of a new House with 28 bedrooms, living room, dining room, a kitchen with views of the Santa Catalina Mountains, and indoor and outdoor play spaces for children was realized.

Since 2007, nearly 600 families call this House their home each year. And it all started with a like-minded group of people who poured their passion into making life easier for families with very sick children.



So many people and groups to thank for launching the Ronald McDonald House.

Ron Michaels

Marketing consultant for McDonald's, who helped put things in motion.

McDonald's

Local owner/operators Jose Canchola, Glenn Garrett, and Herb Cowgill represented McDonald's on the steering committee and supported the Ronald McDonald House for decades.

The Junior League

Conducted a community needs and feasibility assessment. The League also equipped the first playroom and underwrote the House Manager's salary for three years.

Angel Charity for Children

Founded by Louise Thomas and Jane Loew Sharples to host the first Angel Ball and raise enough money to retire the Ronald McDonald House mortgage.

Alpha Delta Pi - Delta Gamma Chapter

Since our inception, the women of Alpha Delta Pi at the University of Arizona have been involved in helping the Ronald McDonald House through volunteerism and fundraising.

Thanks also to nearly a hundred community leaders who served on the Steering Committee, the Board of Governors and the original Board of Trustees

Looking Back to the Ronald McDonald House and Cancer

It was 1992 and fifteen-year-old Brian Rogers had been feeling lousy, but according to him, not bad enough to keep him from playing golf and chasing girls. The summer after his freshman year, he left his home in Casa Grande to help his grandparents in Silver Springs, New Mexico. But he was so tired and lethargic, he spent a lot of time sneaking away to take naps.

"I was helping to build a deck and was so tired, I swung a hammer smack into my leg. When I went to lie down (for another nap) I saw this really bad bruise on my leg." But he didn't think it was anything unusual.

Fortunately, his maternal grandmother did. She and his mother, Herbie, thought he might have Osgood-Schlatter – a disease that affects kids having growth spurts. Since his grandmother was a lab technician, she ran a blood test and was shocked to learn that Brian had cancer. The diagnosis was confirmed by the doctor she worked for, who wanted to fly him to the closest hospital as soon as possible.

Meanwhile Herbie was on her way to New Mexico to pick him up and knew none of this. (Remember life before cell phones?) A police officer pulled her over to break the news that her teenage son was so sick, he needed to be flown to University Medical Center. As upset as she was, she was clear-headed enough to know that Brian needed his mom with him, so she demanded to drive him there herself.

The drive to Tucson was a blur.

"When we got to the hospital, they were all ready for us," Herbie said. "Brian's name was on the door and his labs had been sent. I was so grateful and so terrified at the same time."

"I still remember it vividly," Brian said. "They didn't pull any punches. They told us I had a rare, aggressive form of bone marrow cancer, with about a 30 percent survival rate." It was Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia, a cancer usually seen in elderly patients.



Brian with Lisa Smith, House Manager

Treatment started immediately – intense chemotherapy for months. Herbie spent that time sleeping on a pull-out chair in Brian's room, "living out of the trunk of her car."

When cold, flu and RSV season hit, Brian's doctors all but insisted they move to the Ronald McDonald House.

"The doors to the Ronald McDonald House opened. Lisa (the House Manager) was there to welcome us and help us feel at home. I was never happier to see a washer and dryer, ironing board and starch." (Herbie reminds us it was the '90s and people ironed and starched their clothes.)

"At first, I was just excited to get out of the hospital," Brian said. After that, "the Ronald McDonald House became our second home."

Herbie stayed at the Ronald McDonald House off and on for nearly a year while Brian was in treatment. Brian stayed there too when he had a break from chemotherapy but couldn't yet go home.

"We found love and acceptance there," Herbie said. "There was always someone to wrap their arms around you. To say, come have a cup of tea. And the people we met there made our lives so much richer."

After 10 months, Brian and his mom were able to go home. He remained in complete isolation, seeing family and friends through a window or if "they scrubbed like they were going into surgery."

"It was the most stressful time of my life, but I will always rejoice that we found the Ronald McDonald House," Herbie said. "All these years later, I'm passionate about the House."

"I have a lot to be thankful for," Brian said. "I had great doctors and nurses, emotional support from the Ronald McDonald House. And my savior, my mom. I know I could have lost my life and am grateful for every moment I have with my beautiful wife and twins."



Brian and his mom Herbie



\$28 Million
saved by families
in lodging and meal costs



15,000
House Guest Families

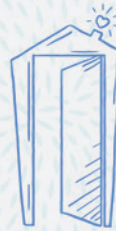


1,200
House & Family
Room Volunteers

40 years



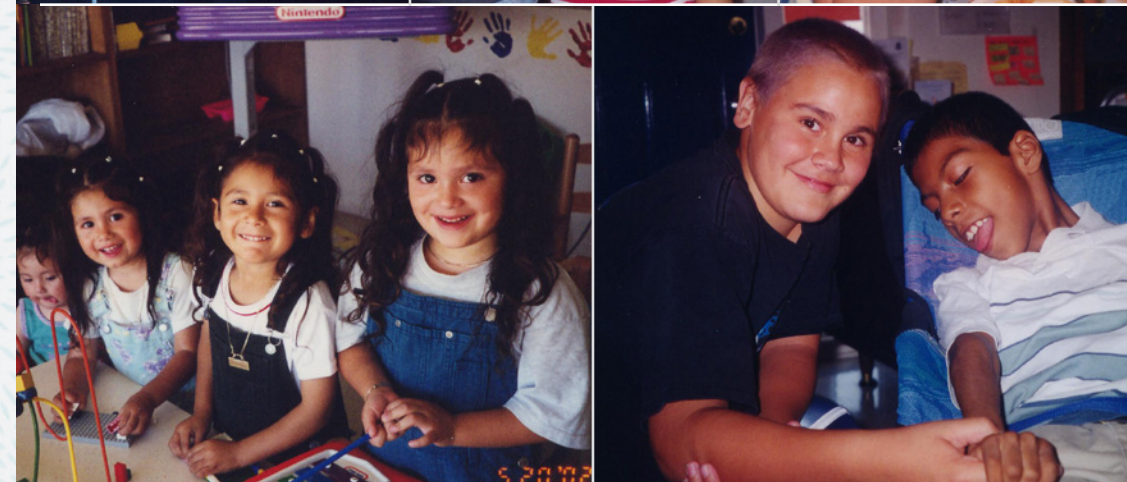
1,000
Families served aboard the
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile



160,000
Ronald McDonald
Family Room Visitors



29,500
Meals served



Partners in Care

McDonald's Legacy of Community Support

Most of us need the same basic elements to get ourselves motivated for a successful day – a solid night's rest, a clear plan for the day and likely a great cup of coffee. For what was to become Arizona's first Ronald McDonald House back in 1980, the plan for success was no different – a solid foundation of community supporters, a clear vision for how family-centered care could fundamentally change pediatric health care and, as for that cup of coffee? We had McDonald's, of course!

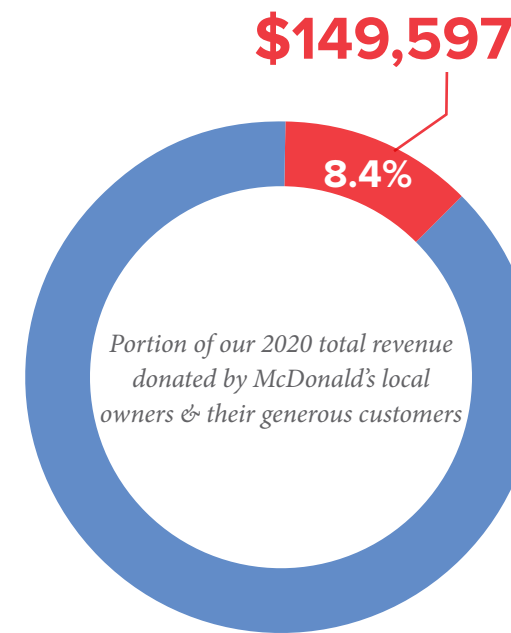
A few of today's local McDonald's owner-operators were a part of that original group of founders, including Herb Cowgill. Herb remembers the "eclectic group of community volunteers with experience in construction, finance, real estate, management, insurance, small business and more. Everyone had a real heart for this work, but there was no roadmap. It was all new."

According to Herb and fellow McDonald's owner, Michael Osborne (who was a general manager in his 20s at the time), one of the main issues that concerned the group was fundraising. While the Ray Kroc Foundation provided a seed grant, the ongoing support of the mortgage, staff salaries and the upkeep of the House was daunting.

McDonald's needed to help with both raising funds and letting people know that the House would need community support. The local owners responded with personal gifts and in-store fundraising promotions featuring Shamrock Shakes and customer donations.



McDonald's owner-operators at the Wizard of Oz-themed 30th anniversary celebration



Over the years, the connections between McDonald's, the citizens of Tucson and Ronald McDonald House Charities have grown deeper. As Herb likes to say, "We feel a very strong attachment, responsibility and loyalty to the Ronald McDonald House. There is a sense of ownership that is not just ours but the community's."

In fact, one of our newest connections is first-time board member Justin Osborne. That's right...Osborne. Justin is Michael's son who has been working with his dad since age 14. (But he adds that he was already cleaning out the ball pits the kids played in since he was 8.) "I was fortunate to be able to work with my dad. I remember visiting the Ronald McDonald House to cook for the families. It was exciting and fulfilling. I have been waiting for the privilege to serve on the RMHC Board for a long time and can't wait to get more involved."

Today, McDonald's local representatives still assist with fundraising for RMHC (accounting for \$150,000 per year, or about 8-15% of our annual operating budget – no small feat!). They serve on our board of directors and take part in our events. They also supply the Ronald McDonald Family Room with coffee for the patient families and the nurses and doctors – because everyone needs a great start to their day.

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- Justin Osborne

Labor of Love

When Joe Wilson retired from teaching community college in California and moved back to his native Arizona, he knew he wanted to do some volunteer work. And in a way, he had a personal connection to the Ronald McDonald House.

Joe grew up in Ajo, 130 miles west of Tucson in a family with seven kids.

“When I was 10, my older brother, Stanley, was diagnosed with a kidney disease called Bright’s Disease. He was in the hospital for long stretches and my mother had to pay someone to sit with him. She couldn’t leave all the other kids.”

Joe thought about how great it would have been to have a Ronald McDonald House back then. (This was 1957.) Unfortunately, his brother passed away a year later, and Joe never forgot what his family went through.

In 2011, he called the Ronald McDonald House to offer his help and has been here ever since. He knew he didn’t want to sit at the reception desk or clean the kitchen, so he chose house maintenance. He’s here twice a week checking things off his list.

“I make sure we’re meeting all the OSHA requirements, so I check the fire sensors, the elevators, the emergency lights, the fire extinguishers,” Joe said.

“I like to keep the grounds clean and make sure everything is safe for families.”

Joe lights up when he talks about helping RMHC staff with special events. He actually likes all the work involved setting up for our annual House Party and the Walk for Kids. (Even with a 5:00 a.m. start time, he’s always the first to arrive.)

So far Joe has dedicated more than 1,400 hours to the Ronald McDonald House.

Over the past 40 years, countless volunteers have cooked meals, answered the phones, painted, folded laundry, staffed the Ronald McDonald Family Room and everything else one could imagine to support the families of Ronald McDonald House Charities. You have shared your love and your positive energy, enriching the lives of the parents and children we serve together. Thank you.



Due to more than 40 years of visionary leadership, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona cares for hundreds of children and families each year. Thank you for building a foundation not only of bricks and mortar, but of Compassion, Love, Family, and Gratitude.

BOARD PRESIDENTS

1977-79	Ron Michaels	1993-94	Chuck Albanese	2013	David Lopez-Monroy
1980	Lee Taylor	1995-96	Jim Murphy	2014	Eugene Fera
1981	Ron Michaels	1997-98	Jerry Flynn	2015	Paul Dias
1982	Karen Gannon	1999-2000	Tom Wilson	2016	Cristie Street
1983	Linda Breck	2001-03	Bill Hussey	2017	Chuck Gray
1984	David Foust	2004-05	Greg Dougherty	2017	Paul Dias
1985	Krista Neis	2006-07	Maria Parham	2018	Patty Carnovale
1986	Joanne Smith	2008	Johnny Helenbolt	2019	Susan Causbie Cowgill
1987	Robert Strauss	2009	Judy Dye	2020	Allen Freed
1988-89	Fred Dardis	2010	Lorraine Glazar	2021	Tim Medcoff
1990-91	Jane Wahrer	2011	Michael Greenbaum		
1992	Holly Hutchison	2012	Shelley Watson		

40 years

Ronald McDonald House Charities through the Years





THE HOUSE THAT *Love* BUILT®

Be Part of the Art

We are creating a mosaic for our new kitchen with the faces of the people who make this House a home. For a gift of \$40, in honor of our 40th anniversary, your photo can become a permanent part of our mosaic that will stay in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen for years to come. Visit rmhctucson.org/mosaic



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

A Mom's Perspective

Christina Barron's children likely are not the first kids who don't look forward to visiting the dentist – but this is more than a slight aversion.

Two of her three children had very bad, bordering on traumatic experiences with dentists. Her son, Christian, age 13, had leukemia when he was very young and developed a lifelong fear of people in white coats. In addition, he has Down syndrome and a sensory processing disorder, so the whole experience in a dentist's office was hard to handle. Twice a year, Christina was driving him from Sierra Vista to a pediatric dentist in El Paso, where he had to be hospitalized to receive dental care.

And her daughter, Isabelle, 9, had such unpleasant encounters with several dentists that she wouldn't open her mouth for anyone, no matter how hard Christina tried to get her to cooperate. After a while, Isabelle was having trouble eating and had developed such serious tooth abscesses that her mom thought she had the mumps.

That's when they found "the bus." That would be the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®. "They love the bus," Christina said. "They think it's like Disneyland. It doesn't have the feel of a regular dentist office and everyone there is great."

Isabelle went first and even though she was nervous, Dr. Kristine Angeles's quiet manner calmed everyone. Dr. Angeles was able to take care of all Isabelle's dental needs.

"When I saw her for a follow-up, I saw a huge improvement in her oral health," Dr. Angeles said. "And she was no longer anxious."

Isabelle is also teaching her brother about oral hygiene and helping him brush and floss his teeth.

"Christian's motor skills aren't great, so flossing is difficult. But Isabelle is the only one Christian will let help him with this," his mom said.



"I really can't say enough nice things about the people who work on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. From the front desk to the hygienist to the billing people – they're all great. And Dr. Angeles – we all adore her."

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile that the Barron kids affectionately call "the bus" is a new program for RMHC. It's a partnership with Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. in Cochise County, to bring dental care to kids throughout the county who otherwise may not have access to a dentist.

It operates just like a conventional dentist office – but on wheels. The CCHCI staff provides comprehensive care – from routine cleanings to X-rays and restorative care including fillings, crowns and repairing damaged teeth. In 2020, the dentists with the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provided dental care for nearly 600 children.

"We are so proud of our partnership with the professionals who work for CCHCI," said Kate Maguire Jensen, President and CEO of RMHC. "They have such big hearts and are truly committed to improving health care for children and families throughout Cochise County."



years

"I really can't say enough nice things about the people who work on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. From the front desk to the hygienist to the billing people – they're all great. And Dr. Angeles – we all adore her."

Together Through the Highs and Lows



“Ronald McDonald House really provided everything we needed to be as comfortable as possible there.”

Derrick and Melva were looking forward to welcoming their second child in December. They had no reason to worry, given the easy uneventful pregnancy they had with their now 5-year-old daughter, Zendaya.

Melva has diabetes which increases the risk of complications during and after pregnancy. The doctor warned her and Derrick that their newborn could face irregular heartbeat and low blood sugar. Even though she was confident managing her diabetes, there were still so many unknowns.

Three weeks before her due date, Melva was rushed into an emergency C-section at Tucson Medical Center, 70 miles from home on the Tohono O’odham Nation Reservation near Sells, AZ. Zendaya stayed at home with Derrick’s mom.

Baby Greyson was born with dangerously low blood sugar. He had trouble breathing and his skin was jaundiced. Before mom and dad could even hold him, the doctors whisked him away for diagnostic tests.

“We didn’t know how serious it was at first,” Melva said. “The first time we saw him it was hard. He had a CPAP machine for his lungs and PICC line in his belly button. We couldn’t hold him for a week.”

Four days later, Melva was discharged without Greyson. The worry grew. Worst of all, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that Greyson could only have one visitor at a time. The idea of waiting in the car or driving back and forth from Sells was overwhelming. Then their social worker told them about the Ronald McDonald House.

“We had heard of the Ronald McDonald House, but we never really heard of what they offered or what the stay was like,” Derrick said. They soon learned that the Ronald McDonald House offered all the amenities of home just minutes from the hospital.

When a child is sick, “all your focus should be on the healing of your child and that’s what the Ronald McDonald House was. We weren’t stressed out about anything else,” he added.

Best of all, Zendaya could stay with them at the House. She arrived in Tucson later that same night. “She really liked it here. She didn’t want to leave,” said Melva.

But as much as it felt like home, they still were missing their baby boy. There were times when they thought they’d be heading home but then Greyson would need to stay for a few more days. “Is it ever going to end? Am I ever going to get to take him home?” asked Melva through tears.

Greyson was in the hospital until January 7, just one day shy of turning 1 month.

As members of the Tohono O’odham Nation, community is a centerpiece of their lives, and that’s what the House was for them – a community. When Greyson and Zendaya are a little older, the family plans to return to the House to volunteer, hopefully bringing neighbors along for the journey.

“The House became a part of us. It’s something we will always remember and be appreciative of.”





Rylin, Tim, Lori & Keegan Medcoff

A Leader to Build on Our Legacy

Board President Tim Medcoff likes to say that “he’s only as good as the people around him.” And this year, he’s also paying tribute to those who came before him.

Tim understands that the early founders and board members of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona created a strong foundation and clear mission to help families during their darkest times.

“My goal in 2021 is to ensure our families continue to get the support they need in our friendly and nurturing home-away-from-home.”

Tim has served on the board for the Ronald McDonald House for five years, and he is humbled to lead the board of directors this year. Tim is an eternal optimist and believes things happen for a reason.

A horse accident introduced him to our work in 2010. His daughter was thrown and then stepped on by a horse. While she was recovering at the Diamond Children’s Medical Center, he wandered into the Ronald McDonald Family Room, grateful to have a place to relax and to pick up some snacks and books for his daughter. A few years later, his good friend, Paul Dias asked him if he would serve on the board. Tim quickly agreed.

Tim is the Managing Partner of Farhang & Medcoff, one of Tucson’s premier full-service law firms. He has received numerous recognitions including being listed in the 2021 edition of “Best Lawyers in America” for his work in employment law.

He loves his job because he gets to help people every day. The trust he develops with clients enables Tim to expand his base of knowledge. “I get paid to get educated,” Tim says. “Every time I get a new client, I get to learn about their business – what makes them successful, how they train and empower their employees, how they manufacture their products safely, or how they run their McDonald’s restaurants efficiently.” To Tim, being a lawyer means being a trusted advocate and building relationships with clients. He applies those same objectives in his role as a board member of the House.

It’s not all work and no play, however. Tim also loves his family and his community. “One of the reasons Ali [Farhang] and I started our own practice is because we wanted to use our expertise to help the community. We are both passionate about being good lawyers, and about being involved in the community.”

Tim just finished serving as board chair of the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce, has served on the board for Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (TROT), Parent Aid Child Abuse Prevention and many others. Giving back to the community also extends to his family. “I tell my kids every day to be impactful, and I hope I’m setting a good example.”

Tim leads a powerful team of 23 board members – people who are furthering the work of Ronald McDonald House Charities and making life a little easier for children and families.

“I’m blessed to lead a group of like-minded, passionate board members whose sole mission is to build on the foundation created by visionary leaders who came before us; our goal in 2021 is to build on that legacy.”

2021 Board Members

Tim Medcoff, President
Farhang & Medcoff

Rick Robinson, Vice President
Robinson Accountancy

Amanda Yell, Treasurer
Robinson Accountancy

Cindy Evers, Secretary
Community Volunteer

Allen Freed, Past President
AJ Freed LLC

Tanya Baker
HSL Properties

Cathie Batbie-Loucks
News 4 Tucson – KVOA

Todd Blake
Banner University Medical
Center Tucson

Patty Carnovale
Cardinal Pointe Financial Group

Susan Causbie Cowgill
Community Volunteer

JR Durazo
Durazo Construction

Brenda Gordon
Vantage West Credit Union

Betsy Harden
Tucson Medical Center

Donna Kleven
Farmer’s Insurance/
Donna Kleven Agency

Jeff Murtaugh
Realty Executives Arizona Territory

Justin Osborne
Osborne Enterprises
dba McDonald’s

Devron Reddington
CAID Group

Eric Rhodes
Arizona Bowl

Lisa Stutz
Centene Corporation

Vivian Van Peenen
Community Volunteer

Nya Thomas
Alpha Delta Pi
Delta Gamma Chapter

Bridget Werchan
Casa de los Niños

Adana Williams
Nextrio

The Next Chapter

Quick, somebody needs to option the movie and book rights for a fascinating couple. It's going to start humbly in Michigan but quickly involve the U. S. Department of State, traveling through Indonesia, London and the Netherlands. The story prominently features a long-time DEA-agent-turned-Las-Vegas-chef and a little rescue pup named Tucker. And guess where the latest chapter is set? Right here in Tucson, Arizona.



The Life and Times of Dianne Andruch and Odell Handcox (working title) has a central theme: caring for our protagonists' fellow citizens. A couple who was committed during their life to bettering the many communities of the world they spent time in has resulted in some remarkable gifts to local charities. Dianne would eventually rise to be the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services in the Bureau of Consular Affairs at the Department of State. Odell also travelled the world fighting drug trafficking with the Drug Enforcement Agency. Both Dianne and Odell unfortunately passed away from brain cancer, yet even that is not the last chapter in their extraordinary journey.

As part of their will, they left a generous gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona (as well as a dozen others) that helps pave the way for our next 40 years. From our humble beginnings on Speedway Boulevard, the staff and Board of Directors at RMHC have a vision to match the meaning and magnitude of the lives of Dianne and Odell. With their help – and with yours – we can see a world where all children have access to medical care and their families are supported and actively involved in their children's care.

So, who will be joining you in leaving their legacy at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona? It's not always who you might think. There are certainly the Diannes and Odells of the world, and we are forever grateful to them, yet members of our Legacy of Love Society also include a couple in their 40s with two girls in college, a newly retired husband and wife who volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, and a single man in his 30s who has named RMHC as a beneficiary of an insurance policy. From charitable trusts to wills, to IRA rollovers and donor-advised funds – no matter the size or type of gift, everyone can effect change in meaningful ways.

When you name RMHC of Southern Arizona as a beneficiary in your estate plans, we welcome you into the Legacy of Love Society. To become our newest member, contact Nancy Kirk, Director of Philanthropy, at (520) 326-0060 or nkirk@rmhctucson.org.

Corporate Champions

- | | |
|--|---|
| ACE Hardware, Joe Findysz & Family | Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross Foundation |
| Alpha Delta Pi
Delta Gamma Chapter | Nextrio |
| Arcos de Oro | Norman and Joan Kinsey Foundation |
| Arizona Complete Health | R2K plumbing |
| Bank of the West | RBC Wealth Management |
| Banner University Medicine | Realty Executives Arizona Territory |
| Bashas' | Roche Tissue Diagnostics |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona | Tempur Sealy International |
| Community Foundation
for Southern Arizona | Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi
Private Foundation |
| Connie Hillman Family Foundation | Tohono O'odham Nation |
| Dias Management | Trader Joes 88 |
| Gray Management | Tucson Electric Power |
| HSL Properties | Tucson Federal Credit Union |
| Image FIRST | Vantage West Credit Union |
| La-Z-Boy of Arizona | WaterTec of Tucson |
| Legacy Foundation of
Southeast Arizona | William and Mary Ross Foundation |

Thank you to our photographers for capturing the emotional impact of the work of Ronald McDonald House Charities:

Shammie Sobecki, Stefanie Spencer, Allison Hastings, Libby Lewis & Soulumination.

And to all of those have helped us capture moments throughout the years — we thank you!



Adopt-a-Room

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Allen and Sheryl Freed | Michael and Tina Baker |
| Bill Block Foundation | Parker Hannifin, Veriflo-Tucson |
| Cardinals Charities | Paul and Nelie Dias |
| Del and Jodi Norton | Phil and Cheryl Klein |
| Dr. Mikel Lo and Dr. Tina Pai | Retirement Evolutions
Wealth Management Staff & Clients |
| GEICO | Roche Tissue Diagnostics |
| Herb and JoAnn Cowgill | Schmidt and Barton Family Fund |
| Jeff and Anne Wenaas | Southwest Airlines |
| Kate and Craig MacKay | The Harden, Clements, Simpson,
and Paschall Families |
| Marsha Thrall and Jack Bona | |
| McNabb Family Foundation | |



Felicia at the Ronald McDonald House in 1993

Giving Back

Felicia Werchan doesn't remember being diagnosed with cystic fibrosis – she was a toddler. But she remembers staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Her mom, Bridget, now a board member, remembers the comfort she felt. How “what seemed insurmountable was doable because of the Ronald McDonald House.”

Felicia remembers the toys, the kids to play with, the Disney murals on the wall and the sugary cereal her mom wouldn't buy at home. Now Felicia is a mom – baby Natalie Joy was born in September. Felicia is also a software engineer at Microsoft, and a generous donor to the Ronald McDonald House.

“I'm lucky to work in a field where I make more money than I need. And it's nice to be able to give back to the Ronald McDonald House.”



Natalie Joy and Felicia, 2021 (above)
Bridget (right)

Dollar-for-Dollar State Tax Credit

Yes, it's true!

When you give to your favorite charity, you may be eligible for a dollar-for-dollar return on your State of Arizona taxes.

This may sound too good to be true, but nonprofit organizations like Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona fill an important gap between the private sector and government support. Because of this, the State of Arizona has established the Qualified Charitable Organization Tax Credit, for which your donations to the House are likely eligible. Every dollar you donate, up to the maximum (see below) can come right back to you in the form of a reduced tax bill or an increased refund.

So how does it work? You can find our comprehensive Charitable Tax Credits Guide by visiting rmhctucson.org/tax-credit-info.

There you'll find answers to common questions like:

- I already donate to my child's school. Can I still claim this tax credit?
- I thought this was a nonrefundable credit. How can I increase my refund?
- What forms do I need to fill out?

We always advise that you consult with your tax professional before making any financial decisions.

Arizona's Charitable Tax Credit

Donate through tax day in April.

Single Taxpayer or Head of Household
\$400 Maximum

Married Filing Jointly
\$800 Maximum

Learn more and make your gift at rmhctucson.org/donate





Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Southern Arizona

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