

Health * Well-being * Education

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI) works hard to make a difference for children and families in Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

“There aren’t words to describe how permanently our lives have been changed for the good because of Ronald McDonald House.”



Every year, we are proud to provide:

- **Nearly 20,000 nights of a “home away from home” for families of hospitalized children in the 84 rooms of our 4 Ronald McDonald Houses**
- **Thousands of medical procedures to underserved youth through our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®**
- **40 renewable college scholarships to promising area students through the RMHC-CNI National City Bank Scholarship Program**

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana
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RMHC-CNI National City Bank Scholarship Program

Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. That's why Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI) is committed to improving the education of young people in our region.

Each year, with the partnership of National City Bank, we support up to 40 promising students with a \$4,000 college scholarship through the RMHC-CNI National City Bank Scholarship Program.

Recipients are carefully selected based on high school academic performance, demonstrated leadership and financial need, as well as a personal interview with members of our Educational Advisory Committee. We are proud to partner in the educational ambitions of such talented young people. So, to help ensure they have the support to make their dreams a reality, our scholarships are renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study if recipients meet academic and community service standards.



Through our scholarship program, we are making a difference every year in the lives of 40 young adults, as well as strengthening the future of our community. Thank you for helping us help.

“This scholarship allowed me to go to the school of my dreams.”

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Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®

In a world experiencing unprecedented advances in medicine, thousands of children in Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana still do not have access to proper care. Without access to routine care and treatment of regular childhood issues, their minor problems can go undetected until they have escalated into acute problems that have a social, emotional and physical impact on the child's overall health and well-being.

RMHC®-CNI, working in a collaborative partnership with Advocate Hope Children's Hospital, is helping to address this critical need.



Our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® (RMCM) is a state-of-the-art, custom-designed vehicle that provides free medical care to underserved children in their own neighborhood. The vehicle is 40 feet long and 8 feet wide, with exam rooms, a waiting room and a medical records area. The mobile clinic is staffed by medical professionals and is equipped to provide education, initial screening, diagnosis and primary care. With the cost-efficiency of a mobile clinic, the RMCM team is able to provide every year thousands of procedures to children who otherwise would not have access to proper medical care.

We are proud to be collaborating with community partners to improve the health – and consequently, the overall well-being – of thousands of underserved youth in our community.

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Ronald McDonald Houses

Whether from across the city, the state or the world, tens of thousands of families travel to Chicagoland's children's hospitals each year for the expert care their children need. RMHC®-CNI is committed to providing these families a "home away from home" blocks from their children's hospital in the 84 rooms available at our four local Ronald McDonald Houses. Each year, we are proud to provide nearly 20,000 nights of comfort to families who need a place to stay so they can be there for their children. Our Houses include:



Ronald McDonald House® (RMH®) near Children's Memorial Hospital
622 W. Deming Pl. Chicago, IL 60614 • 773.348.5322



RMH near Loyola University Medical Center
Tripp Ave. at Air Mail Rd. Hines, IL 60141 • 708.327.2273



RMH near University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital
5444 S. Drexel Ave. Chicago, IL 60615 • 773.324.5437



RMH near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital - New in 2008
4410 W. 93rd St. Oak Lawn, IL 60453 • 630.623.5300

Each House is unique in design, but all provide a comfortable, home-like environment where family members can sleep in their own room, eat, relax and find support from other families in similar situations. In addition, families may use our free laundry facilities, kitchens, computers and other amenities to take care of the necessary business of day-to-day life while they are transplanted from their homes. Houses are staffed by a small group of dedicated professionals, as well as a large network of volunteers who help to keep the Houses clean and inviting, orient families to the House and neighborhood, treat families to home-cooked meals, stock the pantries and provide special services to make our guests comfortable. In return, we ask families to donate five dollars a day, although the actual cost to operate each room is \$50 per night. About a third of the families who stay at our Houses are unable to make the \$5 contribution, however, no family is ever turned away because they are unable to contribute.

We don't know which families will need a place to stay at one of our Ronald McDonald Houses next. But we do know that for thousands of families who find themselves with a seriously ill child in the future, our Houses will be there to provide comfort and convenience so they can be strong for their children.

"You made this difficult time bearable. Thank you for helping us be there for our daughter."

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Our Needs

As an independent non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organizations to support us with volunteer time, in-kind products and services, and funding. For more information about our needs and how you can help, go to www.rmhcni.org.

Volunteers

From our volunteer Board of Directors to greeters in the Houses, volunteers are the backbone of our charity. Volunteers fulfill key roles in our program operations, help us maintain our facilities, lend talent to special projects, raise funds and lead our business operations. With three core programs and four facilities, we could not afford to fulfill our mission without the donated time and talent of thousands of committed volunteers. Please see the Volunteer Opportunities tab for more information.

In-Kind Products and Services

Paper... printing... soap... linens... accounting... It takes many different products and services to run our programs. And those products and services cost money. That's why we are always grateful to receive those items free of charge. In-kind donations help tremendously to keep our costs down – and that means our resources can be spent directly where they are needed most: on providing quality services for more and more children and families in our community. Our specific needs change frequently, so please contact us to discuss our current wish list. However, the following is a general list of typical needs:

Products

Sandwich bags, plastic wrap and foil
New bath and bedroom linens
Laundry detergent and fabric softener
New toys, games, DVDs and books
Cleaning supplies
Paper products
Office supplies
Toiletries
Canned and non-perishable food

Services

Graphic design and printing
Legal
Financial
IT
Audio/Visual
Cleaning, light construction/maintenance
Clerical
Limo/shuttle
Photography

In addition, from restaurant and hotel gift certificates, to event and plane tickets, to condo stays and “insider” experiences, we are always looking for unique or valuable donated products and services to offer in our silent and live auctions to help raise funds for the charity.

Funding

As an independent non-profit organization, our most critical need is philanthropic support of our ongoing program operations and capital expansion. For example, we must raise an average of \$50 to operate each Ronald McDonald House® room, per night. This cost, combined with RMHC®-CNI National City Bank Scholarship and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® expenses, adds up to millions of operating dollars that we must raise each year. We must raise additional funds in order to complete capital maintenance projects, as well as to continue to grow our facilities to meet increasing community need. Please see the Make a Difference tab for more information.

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Volunteer Opportunities

At Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI), volunteers are everywhere... in our Houses, in our office, at events and in our boardroom. We are extremely grateful to the hundreds of active volunteers who give of themselves to make the work of RMHC-CNI possible.

Who are our volunteers?

Our volunteers are students, stay-at-home parents, working professionals and retired adults. They come as individuals or in groups. They have weekly commitments or help with one-time projects. But no matter who they are or what they do, one thing is consistent: they are caring people who enjoy making a difference for children and families in our community.

Won't You Help Us Help?

House Volunteers

Each of our Houses is operated by hundreds of dedicated volunteers who fill roles such as:

- Cooking meals for families
- Entertaining guests at arts and crafts or bake nights
- Cleaning, painting, gardening, organizing and generally helping to maintain the Houses
- Greeting guests and answering phones
- Checking in families and orienting them to the House and neighborhood

Office and "Boardroom" Volunteers

Volunteers provide invaluable leadership and service to support the business operations of our charity. These types of roles include:

- Event planning and preparation
- Collating, filing, organizing, copying and providing general office support
- Working on committees to provide assistance with specific programs, events or issues

Event Volunteers

Each year, the chapter puts on several fund raising events, from galas to golf tournaments, and we rely on volunteers to "staff" those events.

Volunteers handle roles such as:

- Greeting and registering guests
- Helping to coordinate live and silent auctions, raffles and other special activities
- Photography



For more information about any of these types of volunteer opportunities, go to www.rmhceni.org or give us a call. House inquiries should be directed to the House most convenient to you. For all other opportunities, call our chapter office at 630.623.5300.

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Help Us Make a Difference

To provide quality services for the children and families who need us, we must raise funds and support. The following are easy ways to join us in this effort. For more information, go to www.rmhcni.org or call 630.623.5300.

Become a Caring Partner

Businesses and organizations around the area are joining in our mission by committing to customized, on-going programs to raise funds and support for our cause. Not only do our partners enjoy the satisfaction of making a difference in the community, they also gain positive community exposure for their involvement as well as opportunities to engage employees and customers in their efforts. Programs include:

- Annual fund raisers & sales-related donations
- In-store change and pop tab collections
- On-going donation of products and/or services
- Long-term event participation and sponsorship

We are proud to introduce the following Caring Partners, who have worked with us to establish long-term relationships that benefit RMHC®-CNI while meeting their own unique business needs.



Donate Pocket Change

What is change to you, is funding for us! Thanks to the local McDonald's® Owner Operators and Company Stores, coins and bills donated in the collection canisters at regional McDonald's restaurants add up to one of our largest annual fund raisers. So, please, drop some change in the canister next time you see one and know those dollars and cents really make a difference.

Recycle Pop Tabs

By collecting pop tabs for recycling, you can help the environment *and* RMHC-CNI. Our recycling partner, United Scrap Metal (www.unitedscrap.com), recycles the tabs and gives us the market value of the metal, plus a charitable match. You can drop off tabs at one of our Houses, our office, any regional Great Clips (www.greatclips.com), or United Scrap Metal. For information or to download a can wrap to make your own collection container, go to www.rmhcni.org.

Underwrite an Event or Program

Help make our work possible by covering the cost for part (or all!) of one of our events or programs. Whether you sponsor our golf tournament reception, a gala table, our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® or the cost to operate one of our Ronald McDonald House® rooms each month, you are making a tremendous impact on the families we serve.

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