



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
TAMPA BAY

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Mission

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay provides comfort, care and support to children and their families through the operation of core programs like the **Ronald McDonald House®**, the **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile™**, **RMHC College Scholarships**, and grants to other non-profit organizations that assist children. **The Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay provides a home-away-from-home for families of pediatric patients at area hospitals.**

Ronald McDonald House®

Since 1980, we have served more than 37,000 families in our three Tampa Bay houses offering 66 bedrooms each night to families with children being treated in nearby hospitals. RMH St. Pete East and West are adjacent to All Children's Hospital; RMH Tampa is adjacent to Tampa General Hospital and also serves families with children at St. Joseph's Children's and Shriners hospitals.



Children with a history of tube feeding can have challenging feeding problems. They don't know what it feels like to be hungry or full. Feeding programs wean kids from tube feeding by increasing food intake.

Cover photo featuring RMH family member Deana Byrd with Albie the therapy dog courtesy of Thomas Bruce Photography

Five Organ Transplants

For a child who has dealt with illness all her life, eight-year old Victoria Lachman is a happy, vibrant little girl. Her mom Ivette describes her as a very normal, but "sick" child who has spent her entire life in hospitals.

Victoria was born with gastroschisis (also called abdominal hernia), a type of congenital abdominal wall defect in which the intestines and other organs develop outside the fetal abdomen through an opening in the abdominal wall. After her delivery via emergency C-section, she was immediately taken into surgery. Over the next few months, she underwent nine bowel resections and countless surgical procedures including the surgical removal of the small intestine resulting in short bowel syndrome. This condition prevented Victoria from eating or absorbing nutrients, requiring a central line for Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN). However, this caused irreparable damage to her liver and by the age of eight months, she was in full liver failure.

According to her mom, "The day Victoria turned nine months, the doctor advised me to call our family to say goodbye because she had less than 24 hours to live." That same day, the Lachmans received news from UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) that they had a donor match for Victoria.

After 20 hours of surgery, Victoria was given a new chance at life. Victoria is one of the first children in the world to receive a five-organ transplant: stomach, liver, spleen, pancreas and small intestine. Today, out of the 17 children in a close-knit group of kids with multiple organ transplants, Ivette is sad to report that only one other little girl and her daughter remain alive. "We were told this would not be a cure, but rather an extension of her life, hopefully giving her another ten years to live." Victoria's quality of life is her parent's main concern,

continued on inside page 5

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile™

Changing Lives in Tampa Bay

The RMCM Program, managed by the USF Department of Pediatrics, is a mobile clinic that expands access to quality health care in the Tampa Bay area by providing accessible medical and dental services to underserved and underinsured children. The RMCM travels to 40 of the 209 Hillsborough County School District elementary, middle, and high schools and also serves five schools in Pasco County. From February 2006 through December 2010 the program served 5,746 students, providing over \$1,229,000 of medical services through school visits and community health fairs at no charge to the patient's families. In addition, a community homeless center and a domestic violence shelter are scheduled for monthly RMCM visits.



Five-year old Lilly (pictured at right) resides at a local homeless shelter with her mother and siblings. Her mom recently lost her job, and then her home. She has been struggling to get healthcare for her children. Lilly needed a school physical to be admitted to kindergarten but her mom could not afford to take her to a walk-in clinic. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM) visits the homeless shelter on a weekly basis and they saw Lilly for her school physical on the day this photo was taken. When Lilly came onto the RMCM, she thought she was going to see Ronald McDonald, and was very disappointed to learn that he was not on board, which is why she has such a sad face. However, after the exam, she was very excited to receive a gift. Best of all, she was happy to learn that she could now attend school, easing the burden on her mom. The staff on the RMCM now sees Lilly almost every week when they visit the shelter and she looks forward to waving at Ronald's picture and getting a new book.

Program Expansion:

Suncoast For Kids Foundation has committed funding for two years to increase the number of Pasco County schools visited by the RMCM Program. The support from the Suncoast For Kids Foundation will allow expanded health care access for up to nine more schools in Pasco County, further impacting the number of students that would not otherwise have adequate health care options.

In August, the USF RMCM Program partnered with the USF Medical Students from Physicians For Social Responsibility to provide a regular monthly evening clinic for homeless children at Metropolitan Ministries.



2009 Statistics

Regular Site Visits	883
Health Fairs	118
Teens	81
Dental	108
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Total Health Services	1,190



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RMHCTB Scholarship Program

Forty-six high school students selected as this year's scholarship recipients from our eleven-county area were honored at a luncheon in early December. Most of these recipients will be the first in their family to attend college. Families, friends and McDonald's owner/operators heard Ernest Hooper, a writer for the St. Petersburg Times and father of teens speak about his own background and the challenges he overcame on his way to his career as a successful, award-winning writer.

2009 Scholarship Recipient - Zarin Hamid

When Zarin Hamid was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect at birth, her parents were given three choices: take their daughter home to die, put her through a series of three open heart surgeries, or wait for a heart transplant. They chose the series of heart operations in the hopes that their daughter would be cured.

The Hamids have dedicated their lives to taking care of Zarin. They spent many months staying at the Ronald McDonald House in New York while their daughter was in the hospital. After undergoing the last of three heart surgeries, the Hamids were bankrupt, and forced to move from their home in New York to a new home in Florida.



A few years later, Zarin became very ill and in her words, "Received a miraculous heart transplant." Although she now has a new heart, she must take potent medicine that causes severe side effects. Even with all of her health issues, Zarin is constantly worried about her family's financial situation. Her father was unemployed for eight months and only recently found short term work.

Despite all of these setbacks, Zarin is continuing to progress in her education. She has been placed in honors classes in the medical magnet program. She was awarded the Presidents Award in elementary school, inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in middle school, and is currently a member of Health Occupation Students of America, receiving second place for medical reading in a regional competition. She is a board member of Model United Nations, an academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about civics, current events, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. She also volunteers at her local library and hospital.

In 2009, Zarin was one of 46 high school sophomores chosen to receive the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay's scholarship, which provides a two-year Florida prepaid community college tuition or equivalent tuition at an approved accredited institution. In this program, sophomores are mentored through their junior and senior years to ensure they meet college requirements. Zarin hopes to one day work in the United Nations to help children around the world with education and health, and her parents could not be more proud.

Ronald McDonald House Program 2009 Statistics

	St. Pete	Tampa	Total
FAMILIES			
Families Served	1,500	337	1,837
Occupancy Rate*	93%	69%	88%
Areas Served (FL counties)	47	36	49
States (not FL)	25	10	26
Countries (not U.S.)	11	7	15
Average Stay	8.4 days	8.7 days	

VOLUNTEERS			
House Volunteers	224	102	326
House Volunteer Hours	14,392	7,052	21,444
Teen Volunteers	55	17	72
Teen Volunteer Hours	2,079	185	2264

MEALS			
Community-Prepared Meals	1,035	331	1,366

TOP FLORIDA COUNTIES	TOP 5 DIAGNOSES	ETHNICITY (numbers do not reflect multi-ethnic families)	
1. Polk	1. Neonatology	Caucasian	66%
2. Lee	2. Critical Care	Hispanic	18%
3. Pasco	3. Cardiology	African American	12%
4. Manatee	4. Hematology/Oncology	Unknown	4%
5. Sarasota	5. General Pediatrics		

COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES

Belize	Guatemala	Netherlands	Peru
Canada	Haiti	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico
Dominican Rep.	Jamaica	Panama	Venezuela
England	Mexico	Paraguay	

HOME STATES OF FAMILIES SERVED IN 2009

Alabama	Indiana	Minnesota	Ohio
California	Kansas	Mississippi	South Carolina
Colorado	Kentucky	Missouri	Tennessee
Delaware	Louisiana	New Hampshire	Texas
Florida	Maryland	New Jersey	Utah
Georgia	Massachusetts	New York	Virginia
Illinois	Michigan	North Carolina	

Love Notes is published twice per year for families and friends of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Tampa Bay. Comments may be directed to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay at 28 Columbia Drive, Tampa, FL 33606 • (813) 258-6430 • www.rmhc-tampabay.com

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 RMH West, 702 8th Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
 RMH Central, 601 5th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
 RMH Tampa, 35 Columbia Drive, Tampa, FL 33606 (813) 254-2398

*Combined weighted avg.

Designed & written by Alison Barrick

Breakout of 2009 Expenses*

Income



Expenses



*A copy of the audited Financial Report of RMHC of Tampa Bay, Inc. is available by contacting our Administrative Office.
 The industry standard is not to exceed 25 percent for fundraising and management costs.