



# Gratitude Report 2020



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Southern Arizona

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Keeping families close®

**WITH GRATITUDE**

For all our volunteers who know that love and compassion help families heal.

For all our donors and friends who support the work of RMHC® in countless ways.

And for all the families who place their trust in us while their children are receiving medical care.

Thank you so very much. We share these highlights of our past year with heartfelt gratitude.



## An Invitation to Share our Table

Something special happens when people gather around a table to share a meal. The joy comes not just from a lovely meal, though food certainly can be fabulous.

**It's the sense of belonging.  
The stories shared. The laughter.  
The friendship. The love.**

This is what dinnertime feels like at the Ronald McDonald House thanks to you. Every evening families gather to enjoy a meal that's been prepared by volunteers. The meal itself means that there's one more thing they don't have to think about, and it also reminds them that people care.

When our families sit together for dinner, they share each other's journeys and offer each other support. Friendships form that often last years after they've left the Ronald McDonald House.

Thanks to your support, we've been able to remodel the Ronald McDonald House kitchen. Now it will be even more warm and welcoming for families who are missing the comfort of their own homes. Come join us to make a meal or just take a tour of the new kitchen.

Because of you, moms and dads with very sick children can breathe a little easier.

With gratitude,

**Kate Maguire Jensen**  
*President & CEO*

# A Caring Respite

*“Everybody is kind and welcoming.”*

– Kieyana Smith



Every first-time parent feels it.  
The worry. The fear. Can I do this?  
Will I be enough for my child?

Then the hospital discharges you or the doula leaves your house and you panic. *You're leaving us on our own to care for this tiny human being?*

Kieyana Smith had those worries, too.

Kieyana is a 23-year-old Army veteran who has already been through more than her fair share of trauma in her life. Then, during her pregnancy last year, she began to have seizures. She had fainting spells. At 31 weeks she was rushed to the hospital (almost 100 miles away from her home in Sierra Vista) for an emergency C-section.

Kieyana had more reason than most first-time parents to worry. But then she thought about her family.

She thought about her girlfriend, Jordon, who is a mom herself and with whom Kieyana was helping to raise 3-year-old Arianna. She thought about her mom, Vashanda, and her example as a caring and supportive parent. She thought about her grandmother, Linda, and her love and wisdom. She thought about her brother, and her aunt, and her cousins, and so many others. If only she could have everyone by her side, she could do this.

On October 30, 2019, Kieyana gave birth to Aubrie Alaya Smith. Tiny. Vulnerable. But Aubrie had her mom, and her mom had her family.

Aubrie stayed in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for 55 days. During that time, Kieyana, Jordon, and Arianna stayed together at the Ronald McDonald House, just a few minutes from the hospital. And when Jordon needed to return to Sierra Vista to work, Vashanda could come up and be with Kieyana. Or Linda. Or Isaiah, her brother.

At the Ronald McDonald House, families stay at what Kieyana likes to call her “home-away-from-home.” They can stay for as long as they need. They are cared for by their own family and by a family of loving volunteers and staff.

“Everybody is kind and welcoming,” said Kieyana. “You come downstairs in the morning, and everybody’s welcoming you, ‘Hey, good morning. How are you doing? Do you need anything?’”

While the worries never go away, at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona the burden of those worries is shared by our community. The worries about Aubrie’s health are shared by the doctors and nurses. The worries about what to eat are shared by the Chef for a Day volunteers. The worries about how to pay for it all are shared by the many donors who support our Ronald McDonald House.

Because of them, because of you, families like Kieyana’s don’t have to pay a penny to stay here. Because of your continued support, Kieyana, Aubrie and their family have their “home-away-from-home” on their future trips for Aubrie’s medical care in Tucson.

Everyone does his or her part. It all makes a difference. It all helps Kieyana worry a little bit less so she can give the best to her baby.





*Your gifts helped the Smith family save \$13,000 over the course of their stay.*



*Esme, Melissa's daughter*

## Dental Care on the Go

It's not exactly a house call – but thanks to the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, dental care for kids is now much closer to home.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a new program for us, a partnership with Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. (CCHCI). It rolled out this past summer, bringing dental care to children in communities throughout Cochise County. The CCHCI dental staff provides comprehensive dental care – cleanings, sealants, varnishes, X-rays and restorative care including fillings, crowns, bridges and repairing damaged teeth.

“It is amazing,” said Melissa Dee VanDongen. “It is so much easier. They can set up the appointments and I can get all three kids done in the morning, so they don't miss a whole day of school. I've lived in Benson my entire life. We used to go out of town until the Care Mobile came to this area.”





The very first patient to the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Bisbee was an 11-year-old girl who had chipped her two front teeth when a handstand went awry. She had been extremely self-conscious about her teeth for more than a year. That first day she got her teeth cleaned and her front teeth fixed. “She saw herself in the mirror afterwards and was beaming. She was so happy, just in time for the new school year,” said Dr. Brianna Hillier, Director of Dental Services.

“This was a true testimony as to why we’re here – and why I am so grateful that Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona is collaborating with us to bring these much-needed services to our rural communities. Our patients often have little to no transportation, and when they do it is often unreliable. This little girl could have gone several more years without getting her teeth fixed because her grandmother could not bring her to the next closest town (more than 45 minutes away), nor could they afford it. Bringing dental care to her has not only improved her self-esteem, but also her overall health,” Hillier said. “I look forward to more and more experiences like this.”

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile has regularly scheduled visits to the Benson Family Health Center, the Copper Queen Community Hospital and the Bisbee Family Health Center. It also visits elementary schools in Pearce, Elfrida, McNeal and Naco. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of three- to five-year-olds with tooth decay. And to start children on a lifetime of good oral health.

The van was purchased with support from our global headquarters. We support a portion of the clinical operation. Arizona Complete Health and the Legacy Foundation of Southeastern Arizona provided grant support. This year we earned a grant from Arizona Complete Health to help build a parking structure for the new dentist office on wheels.



“I am so honored to provide dental services on this Care Mobile,” said Dr. Hillier. It is a beautiful vehicle and is quickly turning into the ‘cool, new’ thing to see driving around Cochise County.”



## This Volunteer Makes our House a Home

Grace Richman started volunteering when she was 13 and has kept at it for 70 years. She's been a dedicated, hardworking volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House since 2012 and says that this is the best volunteer job she's ever had.

**“I like the people who work here,” Grace said. “I like that we provide a service for families. If I had a sick child (and thank God I never did) I can imagine what this place would mean to me. I see the miracles that happen here.”**

Grace is one of our kitchen goddesses. She's one of the volunteers who makes sure that when you come to cook dinner here, everything is in its place. The colanders do not get mixed in with the mixing bowls. And the spatulas stay separated from the salad tongs – at least on Grace's watch.

Grace moved to Tucson in 2006 after she and her husband, Bob, sold their hair care product business. Her sister was living in Tucson and it seemed like a great place to retire and play some golf.

When Bob passed away a few years later, Grace realized she needed more in her life than golf. So she called the Ronald McDonald House to ask for a “job.” She's been here ever since, volunteering nearly 3,000 hours over the past eight years.

“Grace gives more than her time to the House and our families, she gives her heart,” said Christine LaBoy, Program Manager. “She has a natural way of befriending our younger volunteers and taking them under her wing – it's incredible to watch. We are blessed to have her as a volunteer.”

Twice a week when Grace is here, our kitchen gets a thorough cleaning. She makes sure the leftovers haven't been left too long and the pastries look as good as they taste. When our House Party rolls around in September, Grace doubles the amount of time she spends here, making sure this House shines before any guests arrive. And on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, you'll often find Grace helping out at the House.

“A lot of the other volunteers have families in town, so I don't mind helping out,” Grace said. “Honestly, I get more than I give.”



# About our Families

IN 2019

## 580 Family Visits

LONGEST STAY

## 164 Nights

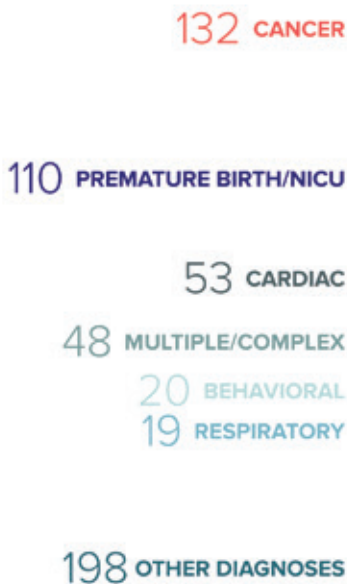
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

## 7 Days



HOW LONG THEY STAY

## WHY THEY STAY



## WHERE THEY'RE FROM



## FINANCIAL IMPACT

# \$1,017,438

Families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in 2019 saved an estimated \$1 million in hotel, meal and transportation costs.

# Helping Moms Helps Babies Too

With the caring support of our community, there is no end to the services we can provide to families that stay at the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson. Last year we created a beautiful new lactation suite to give moms using breast pumps a private, peaceful place of their own. Thanks to a generous grant from the TMC Foundation, the room is even better than we envisioned. Moms with babies in the neonatal intensive care unit are finding more than a pretty place in the lactation suite, they are finding new friends.

Thanks to the TMC Foundation and other generous donors for helping us nurture the health and well-being of children and their families.

“This is my first baby and I was really nervous about breast feeding. The first day I used the room I met another mom, Marie, who has three other children, and she spent time with me and showed me what I needed to know. We would set times to meet in the room and visit while we used the pumps, and sometimes even when we didn’t need to (Sorry!) because the room is so nice. Thank you for thinking of such a nice thing to do for us.”

– Jacqueline



“The lactation suite should be called the lactation oasis. Not only is it a place where we can go to nourish our babies – but mothers can retreat to nourish their souls.”

- AMANDA



# Up for the Challenge

The Robinsons love spending time with each other. They love solving problems together, too, and are good at it. Be it jigsaw puzzles, escape rooms or wedding planning: Rick, Kathryn, Amanda, and Amanda's fiancé Josh enjoy every chance to tackle a problem together.

**So, when presented with the opportunity to help solve problems for families with sick children, they were ready for the challenge.**

Each of them has been involved at Ronald McDonald House Charities throughout the last decade. Kathryn has volunteered at the House and Josh in the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

Rick has worked for 31 years as an accountant, primarily serving McDonald's franchisees, and he was excited to join the board of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona in 2013. After joining his accounting firm in 2017, his daughter Amanda joined our Board of Directors, too. Not only have they both dedicated their time and financial know-how to RMHC, but they have been instrumental in urging others to become involved with our charity, too.

In 2019, Rick became the captain of Team RMHC, a new cycling program that brought more than two dozen people together to ride in El Tour de Tucson. The team – made up of avid and amateur cyclists, a grandfather and his granddaughter, McDonald's franchisees from three states and a former Ronald McDonald House guest family member – raised more than \$25,000. Rick is currently organizing the 2020 team to ride in El Tour de Tucson as well as other races around the state.

Not to be outdone by her father, Amanda took on several responsibilities to support our House. She is the current treasurer of the board, co-chair of the 2020 House Party and vice president of the Red Shoe Society. This year the Red Shoe Society and its membership consisting of young professionals will hold several service events for the families at the Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room as well as fundraisers and networking mixers.

**You can join the Robinson family (they'd love to have you!) through any of the events listed on the next page.**





# HOUSE PARTY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020



NOVEMBER 21, 2020



# WALK FOR KIDS

DECEMBER 6, 2020



RED SHOE SOCIETY SOUTHERN ARIZONA  
Supporting RMHC® #KeepingFamiliesClose

YEAR-ROUND







When you prepare a meal for families at the Ronald McDonald House, you're not just cooking, you're caring.

No matter how big your house is, when you have guests over, everyone ends up in the kitchen. It's the same at the Ronald McDonald House. Our kitchen is truly the heart of this home. And thanks to the generosity of donors and friends, our kitchen is getting a much-needed overhaul. Professional-quality refrigerators will ensure food stays at the proper temperature. A new breakfast station will help families get a quick meal in the morning on their way to the hospital. An expanded kitchen island will give our volunteer chefs more space to work. And the entire kitchen and dining room will be lighter and brighter, a better place to cook, eat and enjoy.





Thank you to the wonderful donors who helped make this possible:

**The Norman and Joan Kinsey Foundation**

**Arizona Complete Health**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**

**Tucson Electric Power**

**Marsha Thrall and Jack Bona**

**Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation**

**Tucson Federal Credit Union**

**Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross Foundation**

**Tucson Appliance Company**

**Patty Carnovale and Steve Hester**

**Carolyn Masters**

**Courtney's Courage**

**Individual Donations**

If you'd like to be part of the kitchen renovation, here are a few ways to get involved:

Our kitchen needs a whole bunch of new pots and pans, bowls and blenders. If you'd like to buy some items, here's a link to the kitchen wish list: [rmhctucson.org/kitchenwishlist](https://rmhctucson.org/kitchenwishlist).

We are creating a special mosaic with the faces of the people who make this House a home. For a gift of \$50, your photo can become a part of a mosaic that will stay in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen for years to come. Visit [rmhctucson.org/mosaic](https://rmhctucson.org/mosaic) to make a donation and upload a photo of your friendly face. (Think of it as an "un-selfie.")

*Thank you to all our friends in the restaurant business and friends with friends in the restaurant business who kept our families fed while our kitchen was under construction.*

# Climbing Kilimanjaro to Build Center for Adventure

Kids need places to explore. Things to discover. Opportunities to imagine. Even when they're sick. Maybe especially when they're sick.

Thanks to the generous (and adventurous) idea from Michael Cyrino, board member for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona, we have the opportunity to design and build a wonderful, creative place for kids.

**Michael is taking on a high-altitude challenge to raise money for our Ronald McDonald House. He is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in September to raise \$50,000 for our new Center for Adventure. The mountain in Africa soars to 19,341 feet.**

This new Center for Adventure on our campus will be a special place for children to just be kids. To forget about doctors. To laugh and play and learn.

For little kids we'll build colorful things to crawl around and through. A costume shop will let boys and girls become dragons, firefighters and superheroes. There will be places to draw and things to build.

We're creating a separate space to offer older kids their own kind of fun. We'll have an '80s arcade game, a new Wii, a dance machine and an Xbox with age-appropriate games. A virtual reality game may help them envision overcoming real obstacles.

The new Center for Adventure will be great for parents as well as kids. Parents can relax and be content that their kids are happily playing (and learning) nearby.

"The children and families we serve at RMHC don't start or end their journey with us," said Michael. "We are simply a stop along the long road to recovery. As a board member and longtime supporter of RMHC, I am proud to take on the challenge of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro to, in a small way, honor the challenges faced, obstacles overcome, and mountains climbed by the more than 500 families we serve each year. Everything we do at RMHC is a team effort, and I welcome everyone, near and far, to come on this journey with me. Together, let's build a space for kids to explore, discover and get lost in adventure."

**To contribute to the Center for Adventure and to read Michael's ongoing blog, visit [rmhctucson.org/michael](http://rmhctucson.org/michael).**



“Words cannot describe how much  
you have helped us get through  
that time we spent in the hospital.  
You helped us stay together as  
a family.”

- BRIQUEL ARMENTA



# Will Power

Traute Witlox remembers back when she lived in Germany. There were such limited resources for children. Then a classmate of hers organized a fundraiser to benefit kids which is still going today.

When Traute and her husband moved to Arizona, they established a will, but when her husband passed away in 2001, Traute knew she had to update it.

She thought back to her classmate who raised money for children and thought “kids are our future, and we have to care for them.” She thought long and hard, working with her attorney, to make sure her wishes were reflected in her will.



*“Kids are our future and we have to care for them.”*

– Traute Witlox, Legacy of Love Society member

She decided to include Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona as a beneficiary because she wanted to help children AND she wanted her legacy to stay local. Once Traute’s will was updated, her attorney encouraged her to let her beneficiaries know that they were included. And we are so glad she did!

Traute has been to the Ronald McDonald House several times and stays up-to-date on what’s going on. She enjoys knowing that her gift will support families with very sick children. Last Christmas, she stopped by the House with another gift – a handmade gingerbread house for the kids.

Thank you, Traute, for including RMHC in your will and thank you for letting us know!

## What About Your IRA?

If you are considering leaving a charitable gift after your lifetime, your IRA might be the best option. Nonprofits like Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona don’t pay taxes on IRA distributions, unlike other beneficiaries.

Recently a new law was passed that could affect your IRA so you might want to check with your financial advisor. The three main changes are:

**You can continue adding to your IRA after age 70½ if you are still working.**

**Your Required Minimum Distribution changed from age 70½ to 72.**

**After death, your beneficiary must take the full distribution within 10 years, instead of over a lifetime, with some exceptions.**

For more information on how you can name RMHC as a beneficiary of your IRA or make a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA, please contact Nancy Kirk, Director of Philanthropy at (520) 326-0060 or [nkirk@rmhctucson.org](mailto:nkirk@rmhctucson.org).

*“When I give one of these special quilts to a mom who is going through a particularly tough time or a child who needs a little TLC, their eyes light up.”*

– Cheri Goldman, Director of House Operations



Mary (left) with Kathy

## Sew Much Love

What happens when two wildly talented quilters team up for a cause? They create up to 80 unique, work-of-art quilts to donate to the Ronald McDonald House and Quilts of Valor every year.

Mary Sciabarra and Kathy Schrode discovered their mutual passion for quilting nearly 13 years ago and have been working together ever since. Mary dreams up the design and sews together hundreds of pieces to make the top of the quilt. Kathy does the backing and the quilting, an equally time-consuming and artistic part of the project.

“It’s an ideal partnership,” said Kathy. “We each have a job we love.” And they use their talents exclusively for the things that matter most in their lives – family and their two chosen nonprofits.

Mary and her husband, Joe, learned early about the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Their daughter, Christine, contracted botulism when she was three months old. They were living at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California and ended up spending more than a month at the Ronald McDonald House in Los Angeles.

**“We realized then that there are so many children who needed help and just developed a pay-it-forward mentality.”**

Twice a year Mary and Kathy deliver a small mountain of quilts to be given to moms and kids at the Ronald McDonald House. The arrival of the quilts always causes quite a stir. Some of the quilts are themed around a children’s book or cartoon character. Some feature vivid colors and designs. Others are calm and serene. Each one is absolutely fabulous.

“When I give one of these special quilts to a mom who is going through a particularly tough time or a child who needs a little TLC, their eyes light up,” said Cheri Goldman, Director of House Operations.

**“Our families know for sure that these quilts are made with love.”**



**SOUTHERN ARIZONA  
McDONALD'S OWNER OPERATORS**

**\$169,748**

**12%**

*Portion of our 2019 total revenue  
donated by McDonald's local  
owners & their generous customers*

## Round-Up for RMHC®

In 2019, McDonald's introduced an exciting new way to raise funds for local Ronald McDonald House Charities chapters across the United States. Whether you are placing your order at the drive-thru, the kiosk or at the front counter you can now round your bill up to the next dollar. Two cents, 10 cents, 46 cents at a time, customers all over Southern Arizona are now supporting our very own Ronald McDonald House, right here in Tucson.

### How do those small acts of kindness add up?

In the month of December alone, you helped raise more than **\$30,000 for our House...**  
**4 cents, 13 cents and 67 cents at a time.**

### McDonald's Role with RMHC

McDonald's local owner-operators have positively impacted millions of children and their families and continue to do so through Ronald McDonald House Charities, providing valuable resources and support to help us expand our local core programs and services.

Although the McDonald's system is our largest corporate partner, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona is its own nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. We rely on the support of the entire community – and greatly value donations from individuals and other corporate partners.

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#### Did you know?

The donations you make at your local McDonald's restaurant stay local. When you visit a McDonald's in Southern Arizona, you are supporting a local business that reinvests in our community.







## An Unexpected Family Tradition

*“Ronald McDonald House is like a second home to us. This is an amazing place to stay.”*

– Charlotte Randall

Merlynn and Don Randall had their first visits to a Ronald McDonald House (in Durham, North Carolina) 22 years ago. Their son, Donald, was born with severe acquired immune disorder and required a bone marrow transplant when he was 7 months old. He thrived and years later they needed the Ronald McDonald House again. This time in Tucson.

When their daughter Charlotte was a little girl, she was one of those kids who was always sick – bronchitis, whooping cough, pneumonia. Her doctor thought she would grow out of it. When she was 18, a physician assistant in Bullhead City diagnosed two heart murmurs. The PA was concerned, especially when she realized that Charlotte’s resting heart rate was nearly 60% higher than normal.

That cascaded into a diagnosis of ‘inappropriate sinus tachycardia,’ (also known as an abnormally fast heartbeat) and a referral to Dr. Peter Ott, cardiac electrophysiologist at Banner-University Medical Center Tucson. Dr. Ott performed a few procedures to try to regulate her heartbeat. Then he installed a pacemaker.

Charlotte has endured blood infections, endocarditis, weeks of hospital stays, cardiac rehab. Now she has been diagnosed with nontuberculosis mycobacteria, a disease that mimics tuberculosis but is not contagious. It leaves her very short of breath. The past seven years have been difficult for Charlotte, yet her spirit soars. The family has spent more than 300 nights here.

“Ronald McDonald House is like a second home to us,” Charlotte said. “The people here are so nice. This is an amazing place to stay. I rave about it to the nurses all the time.”

“You get to meet other families,” said Charlotte’s mom, Merlynn. “They have been a blessing and an encouragement to us, and we try to be a blessing and encouragement to them. We still keep in touch with some of the families we have met here.”

As much as Charlotte likes the Ronald McDonald House, she’s eager to travel someplace she’s never been!

# 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](http://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

**Single Taxpayer or Head of Household**  
\$400 Maximum

**Married Filing Jointly**  
\$800 Maximum

Donate through tax day in April.

Learn more and make your gift at [rmhctucson.org/donate](http://rmhctucson.org/donate)





“As a tax preparer, taxpayer and dad, it feels good to help an organization that does so much for those in our community. To me, giving to the Ronald McDonald House means that families are being supported to help decrease daily stresses. By having meals prepared and a place to stay close to medical facilities so they can focus on what is really important – time with their child during treatment. The reality is the money you are giving isn’t costing you a dime because it is a dollar-for-dollar Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organization Tax Credit, yet it means so much to those who utilize the resources that Ronald McDonald House offers!”

- JOHN WHETSTONE  
*Tax Professional*

*Every tax filer’s financial position is unique. Please consult with your personal tax advisor.*

# Corporate Champions

We love it when our corporate partnerships benefit everyone involved. When local businesses donate their time and their talent, both their employees and their customers can feel proud of their investment in our community, and often their businesses benefit too.

Ace Hardware – The Findysz Family

Alpha Delta Pi – Delta Gamma Chapter

Ameriprise Financial – Becky Johnson  
and Patty Carnovale

Arizona Complete Health

Arizona Daily Star

Banner University Medicine

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

Connie Hillman Family Foundation

Dias Management dba McDonald's

Dunn Edwards

HSL Properties

Image FIRST

La-Z-Boy of Arizona

Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona

Maurice R. and Meta G. Gross Foundation

Nextrio

Norman and Joan Kinsey Foundation

R2K Plumbing

RBC Wealth Management

Realty Executives Arizona Territory

Roche Tissue Diagnostics

Thirty-One

Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation

Trader Joes #88

Tucson Electric Power

Tucson Federal Credit Union

Vantage West Credit Union

William and Mary Ross Foundation

## Spotlight on our Corporate Champions



ARIZONA TERRITORY

### Realty Executives Arizona Territory

"Agents for Change" at Realty Executives Arizona Territory care about their clients and they care about their community. When they help you buy or sell your home, they make a donation to our home, the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson. Those donations help families with a roof over their head, a comfortable bed to sleep in and a supportive community for hundreds of nights each year.



Alpha Delta Pi

### Alpha Delta Pi – Delta Gamma Chapter

The Delta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi at the University of Arizona is a sisterhood in spirit and in practice. These impressive young women work tirelessly each school year to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona – and they've done so for more than 35 years – from volunteering at our events to cooking meals at the House to organizing major fundraising events. Their president even serves on our Board of Directors. Last year the sorority members raised \$40,000 for RMHC.

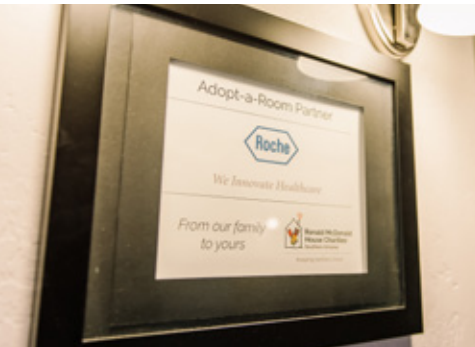


# Adopt-a-Room Partners

The Ronald McDonald House Adopt-a-Room Program is a wonderful way to support families. For an annual gift of \$5,000 you, your company or your organization can be the exclusive room partner of one of the guest rooms at the Ronald McDonald House. Our Adopt-a-Room Partners are...

Marsha Thrall and Jack Bona  
Deanna Campbell and Family  
John and Phyllis Capp  
Cardinals Charities  
Herb and JoAnn Cowgill  
Paul and Nelie Dias  
Allen and Sheryl Freed  
GEICO  
Ann Grüb  
The Harden, Clements, Simpson,  
and Paschall Families

Phil and Cheryl Klein  
Dr. Mikel Lo and Dr. Tina Pai  
Craig and Kate MacKay  
McNabb Family Foundation  
Del and Jodi Norton  
Retirement Evolutions Wealth Management  
Staff and Clients  
Roche Tissue Diagnostics  
Schmidt and Barton Family Fund  
Southwest Airlines  
Jeff and Anne Wenaas



*The Cowgill Family, Adopt-a-Room partners*



# What are the Right Ingredients for a Great Board President?

Allen Freed, president of our Board of Directors, is a businessman who spends a lot of time in the kitchen – his own, the Ronald McDonald House kitchen and restaurant kitchens in Tucson as part of the Primavera Cooks! program.

In fact, it was meal preparation that brought Allen to the Ronald McDonald House. He's a member of the Winers and Diners group that cooks here at least four times a year and since his culinary skills were well known, he was recruited as sous chef. Allen already knew several board members and soon fell in love with the work of the Ronald McDonald House and joined the board.

“My grandmother always told me that, ‘It’s only good if you share,’ no matter what ‘it’ was,” said Allen. “Cooking for others is a way to share your love and is certainly apropos for ‘the House that love built.’”

Within a few years, Allen was named Board President. No stranger to leadership, Allen had built his own business in the food industry, which he sold five years ago.

“Having been fortunate in my businesses, I am now grateful to be able to share my time and experience with organizations that have a higher purpose, and where sharing has even more meaning.”

He says he's retired – yet based on his schedule, it doesn't appear so. He spends most of his time mentoring young entrepreneurs and contributing his talents to nonprofit organizations. We can expect greatness from Allen and the Board of Directors whose mantra this year is, “Dream Big.”



He said, “the Ronald McDonald House offers help to those at a time in their lives where pain and fear cuts deep and when no family should bear that burden alone. We share our home and our kitchen but, most importantly we share our love. I’m proud to be a part of that sharing.”

*“We share our home and our kitchen but most importantly we share our love.”*

- Allen Freed

# Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT**

Allen Freed  
*AJ Freed LLC*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

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