

A photograph of a man with short brown hair, wearing a grey sweater, smiling warmly while holding a baby. The baby is wearing a purple headband with a large flower and a purple ruffled dress. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage.

Planting Seeds  
*of Kindness*

Gratitude Report 2022



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Southern Arizona

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. We offer this report with heartfelt gratitude.

All photos by Sobecki Photography, except where noted



Working in the Ronald McDonald House brings a special kind of joy.

It's unlike any other job I've ever had. Amid the planning, the budgeting, the meetings, the management, I get to see the power of human kindness. Almost daily. And how one small act of kindness begets another and another. Here are a few.

A family from Washington, D.C., who stayed here when they were adopting a baby five years ago, sends us a picture of their little guy every year, along with a donation to help the next family.

A local attorney joined our board because she understands the stress our families feel. Her own daughter needed heart surgery when she was just two years old.

A Raytheon employee takes time off work every week to bake cookies in our kitchen. When a mom came down the stairs saying, "It smells like my grandma's house," she had her reward.

Then, that mom (whose four-year-old daughter was battling cancer) went home and held a slipper drive, donating dozens of pairs of fuzzy slippers to kids and parents at the Ronald McDonald House.

And this just happened—a lovely young couple from Sierra Vista who recently lost their five-month-old baby girl, wrote to ask how they could help us.

For me, these are all reminders that what we do here matters and that we are all connected because we care about kids and families. Collectively we are planting seeds of kindness that may bloom in unexpected ways and in unknown places. I'm grateful to witness these intentional acts of kindness and for the support of the community that makes it all possible.

With gratitude,

Kate Maguire Jensen

President & CEO  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona

## FOR THE LOVE OF ALICE

*Clifford family photos courtesy of Ellen Duverret and The Bald Beauties Project*

Three-and-a-half-year-old Alice is a wild child who loves swimming, scootering and running around. Her dad describes her as bubbly, clever and exceptionally funny. So when she complained about a “tummy boobo” it seemed like she just needed time to rest and recharge.

When nothing helped her feel better, mom Shelby took her to the emergency room in Sierra Vista, where a nurse practitioner took a blood sample. She ran it three times to ensure the numbers she was seeing were correct. Alice had B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL for short) and needed treatment in Tucson right away.

Shelby called her husband Landon, who was in class for his Captain’s Career Course, to break the news.

“As a Captain in the Army, you’re prepared for anything that might come your way,” said Landon, “but nothing could have prepared me for this.”

Luckily Shelby’s sister knew what to do. She called the Tucson Ronald McDonald House to get her sister, brother-in-law and one-year-old nephew a room close to the hospital. They were checked-in just hours later.



“The House made everything a step above easy,” said Shelby. “I don’t know if I’ll ever be able to describe what a relief that is. Not having to worry about where my family is going to sleep and where we’re going to eat. Or where we’re going to be safe from COVID-19 when nothing feels safe.”

From the start, Shelby knew that Alice would lose her hair, and that it would be difficult for her. The week of the diagnosis, mom got a big haircut to show Alice that bald women can be strong and beautiful. When Alice’s hair started falling out a few weeks later, she asked for a haircut “just like mama’s.”

For the first few months, Alice and her family made the 80-mile trip to Tucson every few weeks for chemotherapy, all while receiving tremendous support from family and friends.

They wanted to find a small way to take the kindness they received and pay it forward. So they started brainstorming.

They remembered the whirlwind that happens when a child needs immediate care. That moment when you grab everything, throw it into a bag and race to the hospital. And the next moment, when you realize what you forgot.

For Landon, that was a pair of slippers. Something easy to slip on. Something that felt clean after days with Alice in the hospital. That’s when it dawned on them: they could give back with slippers.

Armed with a long Amazon wish list and a lot of help from neighbors, friends and family, they collected slippers to donate to the House. The outpouring of love was so great that by the end of the drive, they had collected over 60 pairs.

They hand-delivered the slippers to the House with Alice’s help. She couldn’t wait to show how strong she was by pulling the overflowing red wagon.

“For a little kid going through everything she’s going through – she’s been amazing.”

Alice still has a long road ahead of her filled with visits to the hospital and the House, but she’s doing great! Through it all, she has maintained her strong will and keen sense of humor. Just last week, Landon “invited” her to help with a chore – putting her dirty dishes in the dishwasher. But Alice sassily replied, “I can’t. I have cancer,” before running off to play with her brother.



## About Our Families

NUMBER OF ROOM NIGHTS IN 2021

3,249

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

17 Nights



**BENEFIT TO FAMILIES**  
\$726,006

Families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in 2021 saved an estimated \$726,006 combined in hotel, meal and transportation costs.

### WHY THEY STAY

43%  
Prematurity/Birth Defects

12%  
Cancer

5%  
Respiratory

4%  
Cardiac

3%  
Cerebral Palsy

3%  
Gastrointestinal

30%  
All other diagnoses

### WHERE THEY'RE FROM

COCHISE	31%
GRAHAM	11%
GREENLEE	7%
PIMA	7%
MARICOPA	6%
SANTA CRUZ	5%
YUMA	5%
MOHAVE	1%
NAVAJO	1%
PINAL	1%
APACHE	1%

OUT OF STATE	12%
OUT OF COUNTRY	10%



“Looking back now, the House had everything we needed and more. Everyone was so warm and welcoming to Axel and he still sleeps with the dinosaur quilt we got when we checked in.”

CASSIE CHAMBERLIN FROM GILBERT, AZ



**I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT**

Was there ever a time when your phone rang, and it was your child's school calling? You worried it was the school nurse. A flood of thoughts, emotions, questions, and maybe even changed plans happened in one moment.

Is my kiddo, okay? Do I need to pick them up? How am I going to leave work? How long will they be home? What do I need to do to take care of them? Of the house? Of their brothers and sisters? Wait, do I have the medicines they'll need? And what about dinner tonight? All these thoughts raced through your mind before you even hung up the phone.

Then, maybe you called your partner to tell them what was happening. And their response was, "Don't worry about dinner tonight. I'll take care of it."

"I'll take care of it" was exactly what you needed to hear. It wasn't everything, but suddenly, you felt just a little bit lighter and a little more confident that you could take care of the most important piece of this puzzle – your sick child. Parents with critically ill children live in those moments all day, every day. It can be exhausting.

Here at the Ronald McDonald House, we're taking a new approach to our Family Support Services so that we can be that partner who says, "I'll take care of it."

When families must travel to Tucson for their child's medical care, an important support system is one of the things they leave behind. All the close-by relatives or friends who can help cook, clean or take care of the children. Without them, the parents take on all the work themselves. It can be isolating.

Our long-time staff member Steffanie Wood is filling this new role at the House. Steffanie has worked in various roles with RMHC since 2014 and was recently promoted to a new position: Family Support Specialist. Steffanie has a background in social work. However, like many, she didn't know much about what happened behind the scenes at the Ronald McDonald House when she was first hired eight years ago.

"I started working here and thought it might be a nice part-time job for a year or so, but it quickly got its hooks in me. When I worked as a weekend manager, I was the only staff member here. The families would open up to me about everything they needed in order to just go on for another day. Finances, transportation or a hug. I saw how important kind gestures could be to lift their spirits."

In her new role, Steffanie is connecting with families and finding new ways to ease their burdens a little bit at a time. While they are here at the House, she plans monthly Craft Corner activities, medical milestone celebrations and pet therapy visits. Steffanie also plans birthday parties



Phillipp, playing and learning in the Center for Adventure

just like you would at home. She and Director of House Operations, Cheri Goldman, stay in close contact with the social workers at the hospitals. The social workers can let them know when a mom or dad might need a pick-me-up after a rough day or some bad news.

Steffanie is also focused on the sibling experience. Often, one or more brothers or sisters stay here at the House with the rest of the family. It can be a confusing and difficult time for them, as their parents' focus is necessarily shifted more toward their sick sibling.

RMHC is partnering with Beads of Courage, an innovative art-in-medicine initiative, to establish a program to show patients' siblings how important they are. There are ten different kits with symbolic beads that can be placed on a necklace or a keychain.

Steffanie and Anna Mae Suda, a long-time RMHC volunteer and retired elementary school teacher, expanded the program by adding art activities and books to read. For example, the Elephant Bead focuses on strength and overcoming fear. Families read the book "There's a Nightmare in My Closet" by Mercer Mayer, which addresses the fear of the dark. The accompanying activity is drawing their own personal "strength shield."

Of course, life doesn't magically go back to "normal" once a family leaves the Ronald McDonald House. Steffanie has created the new *House to Home* program. This program will help families transition to life with a new baby, new medical care regimens, new mental health obstacles or even the loss of a child.

When families leave, they receive a care package. The packages are filled with gas and grocery gift cards, non-perishable foods to restock their home pantries, frozen meats donated by our friends at Trader Joe's on Grant Road and snacks for the car ride home. We also have volunteers who come into the House to cook and freeze casseroles for the families to take with them. It may only be enough for a few meals, but we hope it will be just that extra touch of kindness to make their transition a bit easier.

The Family Support Services program will help make sure families feel at home at their new "home-away-from-home." Even though our guests might be leaving behind their home support system for a while, Steffanie and her team will make sure they return home with a new, extended family who will continue to "take care of it" for them.



*"I started working here and thought it might be a nice part-time job for a year or so, but it quickly got its hooks in me. When I worked as a weekend manager, I was the only staff member here, and the families would open up to me about everything they needed in order to just go on for another day. Finances, transportation, a hug. I saw how important kind gestures could be to lift their spirits."*

STEFFANIE



Photo courtesy of the Wenaas family

The best things in life are  
the people we love, the  
places we've been, and the  
memories we've made  
along the way.



## Giving Thanks for a Giving Heart

Sometimes the nicest gift is one you never expected.

Like the one we received from the estate of Sally Wenaas this past fall. Sally was a big fan of the Ronald McDonald House. She had incredible compassion for families with sick children.

After a short illness of her own, Sally passed away last summer. A few months later, her son let us know that she had left a generous donation in her estate. Sally intended to help kids and families at the Ronald McDonald House long after she was gone.

Sally was 86 when she passed, and had been a role model for many younger women who wanted to be Sally when they grew up. She was young at heart – gracious, stylish, fun-loving – always interested in others and the world around her. A favorite line of hers was, “The best things in life are the people we love, the places we’ve been and the memories we’ve made along the way.”

Sally and her husband, John, moved to Tucson from Ohio in 1962. While John built his oral surgery practice, Sally focused on raising their three successful sons, who grew up to adore her. Travel was one of her passions. She loved visiting Africa, Europe and Asia.

Over the years in Tucson, Sally proved that giving was part of a remarkable life. She was a member of Angel Charity for Children, Silver and Turquoise Board of Hostesses, the Junior League of Tucson, the Tucson Country Club and the Mountain Oyster Club. Sally also had a large circle of dear friends, neighbors, former neighbors, bridge partners, travel buddies and garden club pals. And let’s not forget all the friends of her sons who practically grew up in her house.

Sally was preceded in death by her husband, John, and her son, John, Jr. She was incredibly proud of her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We are grateful to have known Sally and that she chose to leave a legacy at the Ronald McDonald House. Her gift will be used to ensure our work continues to serve children and families. It will also honor Sally’s spirit – her kindness, her joy for life.

She will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone who had the good fortune to know Sally Wenaas.

## Cooking Up Kindness

Steve Hayes had a moment of realization.

He was on his first tour of the Ronald McDonald House a few months after moving to Tucson. Walking through the front doors, he was reminded of his teenage years when his parents encouraged him and his sisters to volunteer in their community. He had chosen the local hospital and spent his time talking to patients. Steve learned about their troubles and hopes, all the while offering his kind smile and generous heart.

As his House tour continued, he saw a sign recognizing the support of the local McDonald’s owners. Steve remembered that his sister also had a connection to McDonald’s. Her brother-in-law owned a McDonald’s restaurant and supported his local Ronald McDonald House. There was also a Ronald McDonald House just a few blocks away from where he lived in Minnesota for 23 years.

Finally, the tour reached the kitchen, where his group would be cooking a meal as part of the Chef for a Day program. That is when Steve had his ‘aha’ moment.

“How many meals could I have cooked at that House back home? I wasted so many years when I didn’t realize there were so many ways to get involved.”

It is our kitchen where Steve would shine over the next ten years. Steve and his colleagues from Southwest Airlines have cooked more than 100 meals. One hundred! It’s not just a gift of food but a gift of comfort and care. Steve has also become an all-star member of the Walk for Kids committee. He is usually the top fundraiser.

When Steve is on a break at the Tucson Airport, he’ll visit the gates and remind the passengers that Southwest is a major supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities. He loves that so many of them offer a donation and their stories about how RMHC has helped their family or a friend. Mostly Steve feels confident in supporting RMHC because he knows the donations stay local.

“As this city grows, there is so much opportunity to help people. I hope everyone finds a way to get involved, just like my parents inspired me to.”



To volunteer for Chef for a Day or our other volunteer programs, visit [rmhctucson.org/volunteer](http://rmhctucson.org/volunteer).

## Ready to Bloom

Imagine a Walk for Kids that's much more than a walk. An event where you and your family learn fun, new ways to approach health and wellness. An exciting event on a crisp December morning designed to encourage children and families to be active and build healthy habits. In its tenth year, the Walk for Kids is ready to grow from its original concept into something that meets more of the needs of children and families in Tucson. While we still hope to do some fundraising, improving the overall health of kids in our community comes first.

We are working with our dedicated committee to make this vision a reality. We will collaborate with health-focused nonprofits, kids' sports leagues and like-minded companies to bring a holistic approach to health and wellness to all of the Walk for Kids participants.

Obstacle courses, yoga, nutrition for families on-the-go... and, yes, a family walk.

"Arcos de Oro is proud to be back as the title sponsor for the 10th Annual Walk for Kids!" said Jeannette Ornelas, Community Relations/Promotions Manager at Arcos de Oro McDonald's and event chair of the Walk for Kids.

*"We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at this year's event to enjoy family activities provided by our local community partners. It's always great to see the Tucson community come together to improve the health and well-being of children and their families."*

JEANNETTE ORNELAS

Learn how you can get involved in the December 4th event at [rmhctucson.org/events](https://rmhctucson.org/events). There's space for sponsors, activity partners and, of course, you!





## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

### Imagine this: it's midnight.

Your pregnant wife wakes up in agony. You head to the hospital in Nogales where she's diagnosed with preeclampsia. Her doctors want her to see a specialist at Tucson Medical Center (TMC) nearly 80 miles away.

Before you can wrap your head around the situation, they put her in an ambulance and she's on her way. An hour-and-half drive. You'll meet her up there in a few hours after arranging care for your three-year-old son. But before you can hit the road, you receive the life-changing phone call.

It's your wife's doctor. Her condition worsened enroute to Tucson. Her organs are failing. She's being rushed into an emergency C-section. You won't make it in time.

This account isn't a 'what-if' scenario. It's Paulo and Elizabeth Dos Santos's story.

The first 48 hours were critical for baby Danna, who was born at 27 weeks. "It was really frightening because you come in and you just see three or four monitors and cables plugged in. You don't even see the baby," said Paulo. "I was thinking, 'What now? What will we be facing?'"

But Danna was a superstar. Her vitals were great, and she didn't develop any complications. In the words of her doctor, she was perfect.

For the first two weeks, Paulo drove back-and-forth from Rio Rico every day so that his son, Phillipp, could have some normalcy.

But the stretch of I-19 between Tucson and Rio Rico is one of the deadliest roads in the United States. It's dark and tedious – especially at night, which was when Paulo was driving, tired and drained after a day at the hospital.

When a social worker caught wind of the situation, she suggested the family apply to stay at the Ronald McDonald House. Paulo was worried about a lengthy application, thinking it would take months to get accepted. But the process was quick, easy and welcoming. They had a room at the House that same day.

"Staying at the House – I tell this to everyone – it's a blessing. Nothing compares to the importance of being near to the baby."

There was something for everyone. A bed for mom, a playroom for Phillipp and a workspace for dad. And the people at the House were so welcoming. Every day, a volunteer or staff member would ask, "How's Danna? How are you?" When Elizabeth and Paulo answered, people truly listened.

Paulo quickly connected with other families staying at the House, wanting to continue the kindness that others had shown him and his family. He recalls one family that he met – a father and son from Mexico.



"The kid was here since December and he hadn't seen his mom because his mom is on the Mexico side and she can't cross. They had to pick up the car seat [from her] and they didn't want to ride in the vans because it's full of people. So I said, 'yeah, I can drive you down.' The idea was that I'd leave them at the border crossing in Nogales and they'd have to walk over and grab a cab on the other side. But I saw that the kid was so weak. So I phoned the company on the Mexico side and I asked the driver to cross to the States and pick the kid up at the border so that he didn't have to walk."

It was a small kindness that meant the world.

The Dos Santos family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House for nearly three months while baby Danna reached all her developmental milestones.

The family is now home in Rio Rico, where they're oh so happy to have their family together.

"Staying at the House – I tell this to everyone – it's a blessing. Nothing compares to the importance of being near to the baby."

## A Woman Who Cares

Photos courtesy of Julia Fisher Farbman

The thing about planting seeds is that you never know how far the growth will spread. An act of kindness, an inspired idea, a community collaboration can impact lives all over the world.

Meet Dr. Audrey Evans, the co-founder of Ronald McDonald House Charities. In the late '60s, Dr. Evans was recruited to be the Chief of Pediatric Oncology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She says, "because no one else wanted the job." At that time, only one in five children survived childhood cancer. Now, gratefully, nearly 80 percent of children with cancer live to adulthood.

Dr. Evans thought children's hospitals should start living up to their names. She added places for kids to play, birdcages and aquariums. She let them bring their pet bunnies and kitties into the hospital. She also invited parents to participate in the conversation about their child's care.

She once said, "When a child is sick, the family is sick." Dr. Evans's approach was to treat not just the child but the whole family. It was revolutionary.

In the early '70s, a Philadelphia Eagles football star, Fred Hill, whose daughter, Kim, had survived childhood cancer, wanted to give back. So along with the Eagles' General Manager Jim Murray and Ed Rensi, a McDonald's Regional Manager, they raised more than \$100,000 for her pediatric oncology program. When accepting the check, Dr. Evans politely told them she needed more.

She wanted a house for the families of her out-of-town patients who were sleeping in chairs, on floors or in cars. So that's what happened. They renovated a house near the hospital to provide comfort and care, lodging and support for families with very sick children.

Because of Dr. Evans's determination and the goodwill of good people, there now are Ronald McDonald Houses worldwide – 379 Houses in 45 countries and regions. To date, more than 8 million children and families have stayed at a Ronald McDonald House.

Dr. Evans was once asked (when she all but demanded that first house) if she had any idea that there would be Ronald McDonald Houses all over the world. She replied with an impish smile, "Well, of course, I did!"

Anyone who followed Dr. Evans's career would not be surprised by her accomplishment. From the beginning, she was a trailblazer. When she enrolled in medical school, she was one of the few women accepted and was the only woman in her residency program.

“When a child is sick,  
the family is sick.”

DR. AUDREY EVANS

After medical school, Dr. Evans went to Boston Children's Hospital, where she trained under Dr. Sidney Farber, the father of modern chemotherapy. She was later recruited to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia by C. Everett Koop, who became Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Evans's research and clinical practice resulted in significant advances for children with neuroblastoma, one of the most common solid tumors in childhood cancer. She's credited with decreasing mortality rates by 50 percent for neuroblastoma patients, earning herself the moniker, the "Mother of Neuroblastoma." And she's received just about every award possible in the field of pediatric oncology.

Still, there's more. After an incredible medical career that spanned six decades, Dr. Audrey Evans retired at the age of 84 to start something new. In 2011, she co-founded the St. James School in Philadelphia, a tuition-free summer school to give children in lower-income families a better chance for success.

When asked what's most important to her, about how she wants to be remembered, Dr. Evans said, she "wants to be known as a woman who cares." Indeed.

If you were thinking the life of Audrey Evans sounds fascinating and should be made into a movie, you're in luck! Lifelong friend of Dr. Evans and screenwriter Julia Fisher Farbman is currently in pre-production on *Audrey's Children*. The screenplay has already won or been nominated for several screenplay awards.

To learn more visit [audreyschildren.com](https://audreyschildren.com) or subscribe to the [@rmhctucson](https://twitter.com/rmhctucson) social feeds.



**“The instant I set foot in the Ronald McDonald House, I felt such peace and relief. It always felt like home and we made lifelong friends there.”**

DOROTHY RIDER, MOTHER OF REED, FROM WICKENBURG, AZ

## One Penny at a Time

How small are the smallest of these seeds of kindness? Often, they are the ones you don't give a second thought. Do you remember when you once shared a warm greeting with a passerby? Maybe not, but you might have been the one bright spot in their day. Do you remember when you allowed the new employee or team member to voice their opinion at the project meeting? No? That likely gave them the confidence to be an active part of the team and to feel valued.

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Do you remember every time you've "rounded up" for charity in the check-out line? You may not, but we sure do.

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This past year was a standout year for the "microdonation" in Tucson. Tens of thousands of you rounded up hundreds of thousands of times to raise an astonishing amount of money for

Ronald McDonald House Charities. The Round-Up for RMHC® program has become the new standard for the drive-thru and countertop donation boxes. At Southern Arizona McDonald's restaurants, the average individual donation was 41 cents. While it may not sound like much, multiplied across 48 restaurants and 365 days, our McDonald's partners helped us raise \$180,000.

What of the long-standing Happy Meal® donation? Each one purchased in 2021 meant two cents for RMHC. At the end of the year, RMHC families benefited to the tune of almost \$40,000.

No one company or individual could support all the needs of Ronald McDonald House Charities. As they say with regard to children, it takes a village. So, the next time you are at the drive-thru and a friendly voice asks if you would like to "round up to the nearest dollar for the Ronald McDonald House," know that you too are making a difference.

In addition to McDonald's Restaurants and Happy Meal round-ups, two other Arizona businesses supported RMHC with their own "round-ups" in 2021. Thank you to our friends at Bashas' Family of Stores and Ace Hardware for wildly successful fundraising campaigns. You can look for opportunities to participate this year at Bashas' and Food City stores in September and at participating Ace Hardware stores on Tucson's east side in October.



© McDonald's

# Making an Impression

When Aaron left the Army after 12 years, he felt he needed to do something different. While working as an accountant, he met someone who asked him to get involved with the Ronald McDonald House.

“I didn’t know anything about it,” he said. Then his wife, who works for Banner University Medical Center, told him what the Ronald McDonald House does for families. He came into the House for a tour and was hooked right away.

“I was blown away that the Ronald McDonald House provided this type of service to families.” He immediately felt grateful that he and his wife never needed this type of help. “I just can’t imagine being a parent with a sick child, having to travel for medical care AND worrying about finding a place to stay.” Aaron set up a recurring donation to be automatically processed every month. He and Nicole love the fact that when they donate, the money stays right here in Tucson.

The best part is Aaron was planting a seed of giving with his 18-year-old son and didn’t even know it. A few years ago, Aaron and Nicole asked Michael to babysit his younger sister in order to attend the House Party, our annual fundraiser held at the Ronald McDonald House. When Michael asked about the event, they told him that it raises money to support families who have a sick child and don’t live close to a hospital.

Not too long after, Michael started making donations to the Ronald McDonald House himself – without Aaron or Nicole knowing. When Aaron found out about Michael’s contributions, he thought, “That’s super cool. He actually paid attention!”

To make a monthly donation to RMHC, visit [rmhctucson.org/donate](https://rmhctucson.org/donate) and choose the “make this a recurring gift” option.



## Adopt-a-Room Partners

Adopt-a-Room Partners make an annual gift of \$5,000 or more to be the exclusive sponsor of one of the guest rooms at the Ronald McDonald House. We are so thankful to these donors for the wonderful way in which they support our families. Our Adopt-a-Room Partners are...

Allen and Sheryl Freed  
Awesome Amphi Alums  
Cardinals Charities  
Dr. Mikel Lo and Dr. Tina Pai  
Del and Jodi Norton  
GEICO Cares  
Harold and Nancy Willingham  
Herb and JoAnn Cowgill  
Jeff and Anne Wenaas  
John and Phyllis Capp  
Kate and Craig MacKay  
The Lundtvedt Family  
In Memory of Anna

Michael and Tina Baker  
Marsha Thrall and Jack Bona  
Norkaitis Family Charities  
Paul and Nelie Dias  
Phil and Cheryl Klein  
Rebecca Johnson  
Retirement Evolutions Wealth Management  
Staff and Clients  
Roche Tissue Diagnostics  
Schmidt and Barton Family Fund  
Southwest Section of the PGA  
The Harden, Clements, Simpson,  
and Paschall Families

## Community Champions

Community Champions help Ronald McDonald House Charities in a big way. We are grateful to these wonderful donors, who are incredibly committed to the children and families we serve. The following Champions make an annual contribution of \$10,000 or more...

ACE Hardware, Joe Findysz and Family  
Alpha Delta Pi – Delta Gamma Chapter  
Angel Charity for Children  
Arcadia Landscape  
Arcos de Oro dba McDonald’s  
Arizona Complete Health  
Awesome Amphi Alums  
Banner University Medicine  
Bashas’ Family of Stores  
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona  
Connie Hillman Family Foundation  
Desert Diamond Casinos  
Dias Management dba McDonald’s  
Gray Management dba McDonald’s  
HSL Properties  
Image FIRST  
La-Z-Boy of Arizona

McDonald’s Local Owner Operators  
Nextrio  
Norman and Joan Kinsey Foundation  
Pioneer Title Agency  
R2K Plumbing  
Realty Executives Arizona Territory  
Roche Tissue Diagnostics  
Southwest Section of the PGA  
Susan Causbie Cowgill and John Cowgill  
Tempur Sealy International  
The Jane Elise Hendricks Charitable Trust  
Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation  
TMC Healthcare  
TMC Foundation  
Tohono O’odham Nation  
Trader Joes 88  
WaterTec of Tucson

“It is my privilege to volunteer at RMHC of Southern Arizona. The House really is a home and fills a special need for families undergoing the unimaginable stress of having a sick child. Our House is beautiful, and the small staff fills the family’s needs on every personal level possible.

DAYLE LANSMAN, RMHC VOLUNTEER, FROM TUCSON, AZ



## 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 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

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# Board of Directors

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## Thank you from a grateful Board President

Our Gratitude Report is one of our opportunities to say how grateful we are for your support throughout the year, but this year has special meaning for me. We have all faced trials these past two years, but the trials of our families that we serve are ongoing, even when there isn't a pandemic.

As we begin to hopefully see light at the end of the tunnel, and the end of the worst of the pandemic, we are very excited about the new projects on the horizon that should be starting very soon. We have new projects inside the House and outside the House that will allow us to further our mission of nurturing the health and well-being of children and their families. Stay tuned as we work to expand our efforts towards this goal outside the footprint of the house itself and strive to reach children and families that we haven't been able to reach in the past.

We have several new faces on our Board this year, and we also have several "returning champions" who are all very excited about the work the House does and excited to lend their expertise to the pursuit of our mission. I thank all our board members for giving their time and their hearts to the Ronald McDonald House.

Also, let me say how thankful I am for the amazing staff and volunteers at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona. If you have had an interaction with any of them in the past, you know

how dedicated and truly caring they are. If you have not had that experience, feel free to drop by the House some time and get a tour, volunteer for our Chef-For-a-Day program or just say hello, and you will see what I mean. They are the best group of people I have had the privilege of working with, and it is my honor, as well as the Board's, to be able to support them.

Finally, I am humbled by the faith the Board and the staff have put in me to lead them this year. Thank you. I have always felt that I received more from my service to the House than I ever have given and to be asked to be the President this year is an honor. And thank you again to all of you reading this for your continued support of the House. We will not let you down in the faith you have placed in us with your generous donations of money, time, and goodwill. We will be working hard to turn the resources you have entrusted us with into a better House, better programs and to have a greater impact than ever before.

**Rick Robinson**  
President  
*Board of Directors*



**Ronald McDonald**  
**House Charities®**  
Southern Arizona

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