



# Gratitude Report 2025



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Southern Arizona





**MY NAME IS LISA STUTZ, AND I AM HONORED TO SERVE AS THE 2025 BOARD CHAIR FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA.**

As the mother of an infant who was critically ill and hospitalized after birth, I have always connected personally to the impactful work of this organization. We serve to keep children and families close when it matters most.

What we provide goes far beyond a clean, comfortable place to stay in close proximity to the hospital. The staff work incredibly hard every day to ensure families have access to meals, transportation, social support, basic necessities, and, most importantly, to provide a hug, a hand to hold, a shoulder to cry on, and a high five celebration when a family is able to return home.

RMHC® also invests in Southern Arizona and surrounding communities via initiatives and partnerships such as the Sibling Center at Banner Diamond Children's Medical Center, the Ronald McDonald Family Room® programs at Tucson Medical Center and Banner — University Medical Center Tucson, and two Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® dental programs.

We would not be able to make these investments without the generous and selfless contributions of our amazing supporters and donors. We would not be able to make these investments without YOU!

Thank you so much for your continued support in helping us to serve more families better.

*Lisa L. Stutz*

**Lisa L. Stutz**

Board Chair

*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona*

# Welcome!

# ¡Y bienvenidos!

## YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. TO ME, THAT'S THE FEELING OF TUCSON.

And that feeling is ubiquitous within the Ronald McDonald House Charities community as well. It's the approach we take to inviting a new family through our doors, greeting volunteers in all of our program spaces, or partnering with individuals and companies to support our long-term vision. It's the feeling our compassionate staff carry with them every day.

As we embark on our 44th year serving the Tucson community (as well as our 50th anniversary globally!), you will notice new changes and deeper services that are all central to the same purpose that's motivated us our entire history: caring for families with children who are ill or injured.

I invite you to explore with us as we expand essential services to remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. Within these pages, you'll read about the steps we're taking to give families **HOPE** and meet basic needs before hospitalization is necessary. You'll better understand how you're helping families cope with physical, financial, and emotional stresses during their medical **JOURNEY**. That **HEALING** process continues after they've gone home, for as we're fond of saying: "once an RMHC family, always an RMHC family."

So, on behalf of all of those we serve, our board of directors, and our program staff, here's to another ambitious year fostering a healthier and better-connected community. I am so thankful we can do this together—and that you've welcomed us into your heart as well.

With gratitude,



**Scott Matlick**

President & CEO

*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona*

# Serving the Community

## Along the Continuum of Care



| HOPE                |   |
|---------------------|---|
| A Fresh Start       | 1 |
| The Sibling Center  | 2 |
| One Smile at a Time | 4 |



| JOURNEY                                  |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Siblings' Guide to NICU Life             | 6  |
| About Our Families                       | 8  |
| Not Just a Room Number                   | 10 |
| A Little Off the Top, A Lot Off the Mind | 12 |
| Putting People First                     | 13 |
| Perfect 10: The House Party              | 14 |
| Save the Date: Events                    | 15 |



| HEALING                               |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Cover Story: A Cuddle of Strength     | 16 |
| A Savvy Approach to Charitable Giving | 18 |
| Legacy of Love                        | 19 |
| Just What the Doctor Ordered          | 20 |
| Our Community Partners                | 22 |





Irasema Plaza and her family.



## A Fresh Start

As the old saying goes, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

That’s exactly why Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona (RMHC-SA) is partnering with local health centers to ensure as many children as possible have equal access to first-rate dental care.

Children with poor dental health may have more difficulty chewing their food, developing proper speech patterns, and getting a good night’s sleep. School-age children who have poor oral hygiene miss more days of school and have poorer grades than children with healthy teeth.

Most of Southern Arizona is rated as a “Dental Health Provider Shortage area,” so RMHC-SA has partnered with Chiricahua Community Health Centers in Cochise County and MHC Healthcare in Pima County to make dental care more accessible and more affordable for children and their families.

Our two 40-foot mobile dental units (affectionately known as “Ron” and “Big Mac”)

visit schools and health centers that are close to where these rural families live.

**“I’m so grateful that we found it,” Irasema Plaza said. “Everyone is kind and attentive to my three kids, and it was only 10 minutes from home!”**

The bright, friendly spaces help kids feel relaxed while they establish long-term oral hygiene habits. The dentists and hygienists on board can do more than routine cleanings. Both vehicles have panoramic X-ray machines to identify hidden issues, and they’ve even fixed chipped teeth to send kids on their way with more confident smiles.

Studies have shown that better oral health is closely tied to better overall health and mental well-being. We can make it easier to find that “ounce of prevention,” and leave both families and the communities they live in healthier, and happier.



# The Sibling Center



Jessica Schillinger is no stranger to managing childcare in delicate medical situations. When her son Avery was born eight years ago without functioning kidneys, Jessica had to travel to Phoenix where she stayed at the Ronald McDonald House with her two-year-old daughter, Audrey. Back then, she needed to find daycare options for Audrey, along with caring for her baby's life-threatening condition. It's more than anyone should have to deal with on their own.

"We didn't know anyone there, but we found a sitter," Jessica said. "It was hard for me to leave her. She was only two."

Eight years later, Avery is thriving, but hospital care is still part of the family's routine—this time closer to home in Tucson. And with each appointment, Jessica is reminded of the quiet balancing act: tending to the needs of one child without letting the other fade into the background.

"Audrey being in Avery's room for several hours

a day is a little tiring for her. It's not really doing anything to expand her mind. Mind you, she is also her own person, too. You know, it's her childhood, too."

Thankfully, the Schillingers don't have to worry anymore. On December 11, 2024, the RMHC of Southern Arizona Sibling Center at Banner Diamond Children's Medical Center opened its doors. It's at the entrance to the new Play Zone, a dedicated area for recreation and therapeutic play to support pediatric patients' cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being during recovery.

**"The Play Zone is more than just a play area. It's a vital part of our mission to help children heal holistically," said Hadley Trull, associate director of the hospital's child life program. "It is an opportunity for kids to express themselves creatively, work through difficult emotions, and feel more like a regular kid."**



RMHC-SA funded the construction of the Sibling Center as well as the ongoing costs of staffing and supplies. RMHC-SA will work in tandem with the Banner – University Medicine Child Life Services team on the long-term success of the space.

The Sibling Center now offers siblings of pediatric patients the opportunity to flex their creative muscles in an area where it's all about them. They can engage with Child Life assistants who, in addition to planning fun, imaginative activities, can also refer the kids to specialists if they need a little help understanding what's happening with their brother or sister.

The Sibling Center is a vibrant room that includes cozy reading nooks, an eight-foot by six-foot Lite-Brite, arts and craft tables in both little- and big-kid sizes, a huge kite that runs the length of the wall, and much more.

**“This represents a significant step in fulfilling our vision of a world where all families have what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for *all* of their children”**

“This represents a significant step in fulfilling our vision of a world where all families have what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for all of their children,” said Scott Matlick, RMHC-SA President and CEO.

“We are so proud to partner with Banner – University Medicine on this and other projects as we continue to support first-rate, family-centered care to families living in and visiting Southern Arizona.”





# One Smile at a Time

The first thing you notice when you step into the Ronald McDonald House isn't just the warmth of the space, it's the warmth of a smile from a volunteer. On Thursday nights, that volunteer might be college sophomore Kloe Davis.

"My cousin's a long-term patient at Phoenix Children's Hospital," Kloe said. Though her cousin never needed to stay at a Ronald McDonald House, Kloe saw how much the House helped other families. "I've seen all the good they do, and I was like, I want to be a part of that."

When she moved to Tucson to study medicine at the University of Arizona, she applied to volunteer right away. Now she supports the House by answering phones, cleaning up after dinner, and creating a caring atmosphere. She says it helps her as much as it helps those staying here.

"I think sometimes when you're so focused on all these STEM classes, it's really easy to lose sight of what's important. I think coming here grounds me in that."

Kloe was so touched by her weekly experience at the House that she took on an extra shift—hosting Friday Family Fun. While her classmates are out unwinding

from a tough week, Kloe spends her Friday nights helping families do the same.

Whether it's a cozy movie night with fresh-popped popcorn or a spirited game night, she creates a space for families to relax and connect. Kloe loves seeing families laugh and bond, even for just a little while.

**"It's such a family here. It's so much more than just a job that I come to do. I can't wait to come back every single week and do more."**

For Kloe, volunteering is about creating moments that matter. And at the Ronald McDonald House, she's found a way to make a difference, one smile at a time.









JOURNEY

# Siblings' Guide to NICU Life

“Can I have my birthday party here?”

Four-year-old Wyatt Jackson asked his parents this question while playing with his siblings at the Ronald McDonald House last fall. “It’s so fun here!”

The Ronald McDonald House was designed with families like the Jacksons in mind. The bright spaces, the family-style dining room, and most importantly, areas designed just for kids made it a perfect fit for Wyatt and his siblings Cameron, 8; Gracelyn, 6; and Logan, 2; after their newest addition, a baby girl named Eliza, was born prematurely.

“I was really scared,” said mom Amy. Eliza needed specialized care in the NICU at Banner — University Medical Center, nearly 80 miles from their home in Sierra Vista. “Luckily, I had my husband Stephen there. We were just praying.”

Before the kids came up to join them, they wondered how they would make it work. As a blended family, their time together is something they cherish, and making the drive back and forth would mean less time with Eliza, something they couldn’t even imagine.

**“The more that we could hold Eliza the sooner she would get to come home,” said Stephen.**

Thankfully, Amy knew what to do. She and her parents stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson thirteen years ago when her little brother was first diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

So, she called the House and asked if there was room for not only them, but also their four kids.





The answer was “absolutely.”

**“The kids spent most of their days here on the playground and riding bikes in the back, while one of us goes and sees Eliza and is with her,” described Amy. She and Stephen switched off midday so they both had plenty of time with all their kids.**

Inside the House, the Center for Adventure playroom quickly became a family favorite, offering a make-believe grocery store, a dress-up corner, and a light table with building blocks. Across the hall is a cozy living room with big, comfy couches for movie nights.

Weekend brunches were another highlight where the kids could stack their plates with pancakes, eggs, and fruit. But weekends weren’t just about food.

Every weekend starts with Friday Family Fun, a special night featuring activities for families to do together, like board games, painting, or crafts.



On Saturday, there are rotating engagements hosted by our community partners—arts and crafts with Project Sunshine and STEAM projects with Children’s Museum Tucson. The Jackson siblings were especially excited for nature walks in the garden followed by drawing pictures of their favorite plants.

“It makes it more enjoyable for them to come up here,” said Amy, who knows that their development during this time is important too. The activities allowed them all to use creative play to cope with the uncertainty of having their sister in the hospital.

At six months old, Eliza finally passed her biggest milestone yet — her first hug and handhold from her siblings. She continues to grow stronger each day with her entire family by her side.



# About Our Families

Ronald McDonald House

AVERAGE FAMILY STAYED  
17 Nights

ROOM NIGHTS IN 2024  
5,313

LONGEST STAY  
309 Nights

\$1,512,511

Estimated benefit to families  
(in lodging, food & incidentals)



## WHY THEY STAY

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| NICU/High Risk Pregnancy | 37% |
| Cancer                   | 9%  |
| Respiratory              | 6%  |
| All Other Diagnoses      | 48% |

## WHERE THEY'RE FROM

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Arizona        | 80% |
| Out of State   | 10% |
| Out of Country | 10% |



## Ronald McDonald Family Rooms

COMBINED VISITS AT OUR  
TWO PROGRAMS IN 2024

26,583

HOURS THAT VOLUNTEERS  
PROVIDED CARE

4,032

## Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles

CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED  
DENTAL CARE IN 2024

1,075

DENTAL VISITS

1,871



# Not Just a Room Number



Gibson Stapleton is an outgoing and independent 17-year-old. He loves films and works at the movie theatre in Willcox, AZ, using the money he earns there to spend the weekends out-and-about with his friends.

One day last August, he asked his parents Luther and Mindy if he could borrow the Ford pickup truck to drive to Safford to spend time with his friend. They gave him a curfew, handed him the keys, and kissed him goodbye.

A few hours later, Luther's phone rang.

"They said we need to get to the hospital. Gibson's been in an accident," recalled Luther. Gibson had lost control of the truck, rolling it three times before he was ejected. His friend, who sustained minor injuries, flagged down a passing vehicle to call 911.

"I thought he was dead," said Mindy through tears, remembering that harrowing phone call.

Gibson sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI). The emergency room doctors knew that he would need specialty care and intensive rehab, so they stabilized him and sent him to Banner — University Medical Center in Tucson, more than 80 miles from home. Luther and Mindy followed close behind.

"It was frightening because you really don't know how bad it is. We are a big family of faith, so we immediately started praying and calling families and friends," said Luther. One of those friends urged them to contact the Ronald McDonald House, knowing the House would be able to take care of them so that they could take care of Gibson.

**"We were physically, mentally exhausted when we came to the House," said Mindy. "It was so nice to come here and have a nice bed and a warm shower and food that we didn't have to worry about. It was like a breath of fresh air and it felt like we were at home."**



The House became their anchor, offering everything they needed, not just physically, but emotionally, to stay strong for Gibson. The compassionate people they met reminded them they were not alone.

“We’re not just a room number. We’re not just someone staying here. They know us and they know Gibson. They had never even met him, and they knew him.”

Mindy struggled when she realized they would be spending Christmas at the Ronald McDonald House. Then, seemingly overnight (and with the help of numerous volunteers), the House turned into a holiday haven. Twinkling lights, festive decorations, and the smell of fresh baked goods from the kitchen. Mindy’s favorite decoration was the Family Christmas tree,

where guest families could hang homemade ornaments together.

“We got to take an ornament craft kit to make at the hospital.” Piece by piece, Gibson carefully put together a popsicle stick snowman. It took him an hour due to the impact of his TBI on his dexterity, and he was so proud when he finished it. “We put it on the Family tree. That was special.”

Over the course of five months, Gibson went from being told that he might never breathe on his own again to walking himself out of rehab. His recovery was nothing short of remarkable.

The week before the accident, Luther recalled Gibson saying, “You know what makes us such a strong family? It’s because we’re so close.”



That connection became their greatest strength throughout Gibson’s rehabilitation. They leaned on each other through every setback and celebrated every victory together.

In January, after a long and difficult journey, Gibson was cleared to return home to Willcox. While he has returned to Tucson for critical follow-up care, his parents found comfort in knowing that the Ronald McDonald House would always be a place of unwavering support for them when it mattered most.

“You know what makes us such a strong family? It’s because we’re so close.”

# A Little Off the Top, A Lot Off the Mind

On most Wednesday nights, you can find Lucy Vasquez in the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Tucson Medical Center, facilitating a NICU parent support group. She's there for moms and dads feeling worried, scared, and overwhelmed—emotions she remembers all too well from when her son was born prematurely in 2013.

“What happens in the NICU, nobody gets it unless you’ve been in it,” said Lucy. “The doctor is telling you, this can happen and that can happen, and you’re so flustered with emotions.”

At the weekly support group, Lucy listens as parents share their fears. She offers words of encouragement, reminding them that they’re not alone. Her own son, born at 30 weeks and now 12 years old, is proof that there’s hope beyond the NICU.

One evening, a mother mentioned she was staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Lucy asked, “Are you doing anything for yourself?

Because that’s so important.” The mom hesitated before admitting, “No, but I’d love a haircut.”

Lucy, who happens to be a licensed cosmetologist, smiled. “I know someone.”

A few days later, she arrived at the House with her scissors and styling kit. The moment the mom saw her, she laughed. “It was you!”

As Lucy trimmed and styled, they talked, and for a little while, the stress of the NICU faded. When she finished, another mom asked for a haircut. Then a dad. Word spread, and before Lucy knew it, she had found a new way to support families.

“It’s life changing for some people and it just makes them feel so much better,” she says. “That’s the blessing in it, to see these women, parents, kids even, get all excited about it.”

For Lucy, volunteering is about more than haircuts. It’s about reminding families that their mental well-being matters. And that even in the hardest moments, a little care can go a long way.

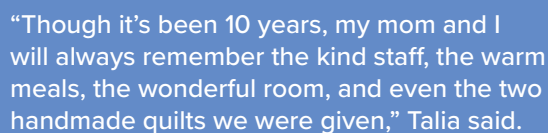




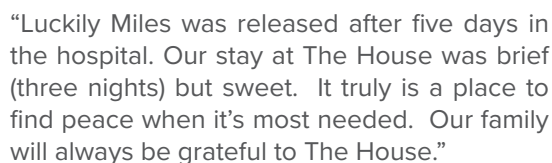
# Putting **People** First

The relationship between Ronald McDonald House Charities and our “founding-and-forever-partner” McDonald’s® has been thriving for 50 years. A big reason why is our shared commitment to the most central component of our organizations: the people. Whether that be those we serve (in many senses of the word) or those who provide the service, it is our people that inspire us to work harder and strive for more every day.

One of those people important to both missions is Talia Retana. Talia has been part of the Dias Management McDonald’s team for many years. One day in March 2015, when she was living in Bisbee, her son Miles was experiencing severe breathing difficulties, and 24 hours later, he was on a helicopter headed for Tucson Medical Center. Talia, her husband, her mom, and their younger son Lee (pictured below) followed by car, and shortly afterward checked into the Ronald McDonald House.



“Though it’s been 10 years, my mom and I will always remember the kind staff, the warm meals, the wonderful room, and even the two handmade quilts we were given,” Talia said.



“Luckily Miles was released after five days in the hospital. Our stay at The House was brief (three nights) but sweet. It truly is a place to find peace when it’s most needed. Our family will always be grateful to The House.”

And so, the Ronald McDonald House cared for Talia. Talia cares for her “McFamily” at home and at work. The McDonald’s team takes care of the Ronald McDonald House by cooking for the families and volunteering at events. Last year, they raised more than \$400,000 through the Round-Up for RMHC program.

It’s a cycle born of a people-first culture that has been cultivated for 50 years and will only grow over the next fifty.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Local McDonald’s restaurants helped raise **\$400,000** for RMHC of Southern Arizona in 2024, **15%** of our total budget.

# Perfect 10: The House Party



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the House Party, our annual signature event. It has blossomed into so much more than just a great party. (Although it is a great party!) What makes it truly special is where it takes place: right here at the Ronald McDonald House.

**Here, guests can experience our mission firsthand. Families staying at the House get to take a “night off” to breathe and ease the pressure of being in the hospital all day. Our dedicated House volunteers take pride in becoming tour guides for the night.**

It’s also more than just a fundraiser. It’s an opportunity for friends of the House to connect with one another over their passion for supporting children. For one spectacular

evening, the hope that lives in the Ronald McDonald House is amplified, broadcast, and celebrated!

And this year will be a “perfect 10.” We’re holding the 10th House Party on October 10, and our title sponsor, Banner — University Medicine, is commemorating their 10th anniversary in Tucson. From groundbreaking medicine at the teaching hospital to an intense focus on family-first experiences, our collaboration has helped make life better for families with sick children.

At the House Party, you’ll see exactly how this powerful partnership helps families heal — and why 10 years is just the beginning.

Visit [rmhctucson.org/our-events](https://rmhctucson.org/our-events) for sponsorships, tickets, and more.





Banner  
University Medicine

# HOUSE PARTY

**OCTOBER 10, 2025**

An upscale block party at the  
Ronald McDonald House.

*Celebrating 10 years!*



**NOVEMBER 22, 2025**

Ride or run with Team RMHC for  
the 5K, the 100-mile, and every  
distance in-between.



**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

3K family fun walk and celebration at  
Kino Sports Complex North.

*New location!*



## COVER STORY: A Cuddle of **Strength**

Marina Arriola Borbon arrived at Banner — University Medical Center Tucson with her mom, Guadalupe, by her side. A first-time mom-to-be from Nogales, Marina already knew that her pregnancy was high-risk, but doctors also told her that her baby would be born with congenital differences in both feet and hands.

“The three doctors that were attending to me back in Nogales said, ‘You need to go to the United States. There are no hospitals in Mexico that can care for the baby.’”

Once in Tucson, doctors confirmed Marina’s need for close monitoring and specialized care for her baby. With no place to stay, a social worker introduced them to the Ronald McDonald House. They were amazed by how welcoming it felt.

“We arrived around 6 PM and there were volunteers cooking in the kitchen. It was a special dinner and it was so fancy,” Marina remembered. “I thought I was at a five-star hotel. Every single area of the House made us feel like we were at home.”

After staying at the Ronald McDonald House for a month, Marina went into labor and was at the hospital within minutes for the birth of her son, Idris. He spent two weeks in the NICU, where tests confirmed that he would one day need an amputation and prosthesis to help him walk. Marina’s worry felt endless.

**“I thought I was alone. I thought that every door was closed. I didn’t know what to do and where to go.”**

Marina and Guadalupe returned to the Ronald McDonald House where they found a community. They spoke with other parents who understood the fear, uncertainty, and hope that comes with caring for a sick child.

“I felt that warmth, that cuddle of strength that we gave each other,” said Guadalupe. “It was like family.”

When it was time to leave the Ronald McDonald House, Marina was gifted a care package full of items like diapers, onesies, and breast pump supplies. All things she still uses today.

**“I really felt like I was touched by the hands of God when I received these gifts.”**

As Idris grows, Marina knows they’ll return to Tucson many times for follow-up care. But no matter how long the road ahead, Marina knows one thing for sure: every visit back to the Ronald McDonald House feels like returning to a family embrace.







## What is **Post-Stay Support**?

Leaving the Ronald McDonald House is a joyous milestone, but it's not the end of a family's medical journey. After weeks or months away from home, settling back into everyday life can feel overwhelming. That's why we make sure families know they still have our support during their transition back home.

Every family checks out with a visit to the Take Home Pantry, where a freezer holds frozen meats and shelves are stocked with staples like pasta, canned vegetables, and jarred sauces. These items are available to families at no cost, easing the urgency of their next grocery trip.

They also receive a ready-to-heat casserole, perfect for the family's first meal at home.

For new parents, there's something extra: a New Baby Bag filled with essentials like diapers, onesies, and self-care items—because caring for baby starts with caring for yourself.

Families who have stayed 14 nights or longer often experience additional financial stress. We make sure they have gas to get home, some help at the grocery store to restock their pantry, and a meal on the drive home, usually from our friends at McDonald's.

Support for these families continues even after they arrive home. At two weeks and six weeks post-stay, our Family Support Specialist checks in to see how families are adjusting and offers connections to helpful resources in their home communities.

Because at the Ronald McDonald House, we know that care doesn't end when a family checks out. No matter how far they travel, they're always a part of our RMHC family.



# A Savvy Approach to Charitable Giving



Marsha Thrall and Jack Bona have been longtime donors of the Ronald McDonald House. After Jack passed away, Marsha kept up her support, not only to help families, but to honor Jack's memory. Every donation she makes is a tribute to him and his legacy.

Having worked in the financial world for most of her life, Marsha is pretty savvy when it comes to philanthropy. She takes advantage of the IRA rollover option, which allows her to donate her Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly to a charitable organization. It's a win-win because her favorite charities get a donation and it reduces her taxable income.

**"There are so many ways to support your favorite charity without having to write a check," Marsha often says.**

She's also familiar with the Legacy IRA Act, which allows IRA owners 70½ or older to make a one-time qualified charitable distribution to fund a life income gift, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust or a Charitable Gift Annuity. She encourages those who are eligible to research this option—it's a wonderful way to generate income for yourself and to eventually make a charitable donation.

Always consult with your financial advisor to find the best giving options for you.



# Legacy of Love

Our Legacy of Love Society recognizes individuals who have included Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona in their estate plans by naming RMHC-SA as a beneficiary in a will, trust, insurance policy, or retirement plan.

Thank you to the following donors who have included RMHC-SA in their estate plans to help provide for families in the future:

Ron and Christy Caldwell

Sharon Crowder

Michael Cyrino

Paul and Nelie Dias

Cindy and Jim Evers

Kyle A. Gannon

Don and Catherine Hatcher

Marsha Thrall

Thomas P. and Anne C. Kresler

Linda McNeel

Tara Radke, MPH

Anonymous (10)



If you would like information about how to make a planned gift, please contact **Nancy Kirk**, Chief Development Officer, (520) 326-0060 or [nkirk@rmhctucson.org](mailto:nkirk@rmhctucson.org).





# Just What the Doctor Ordered

Kathey and Kelly Kasper know a thing or two about giving back to their community. At their veterinary clinic in Casa Grande, they care for furry, four-legged family members. Kathey is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Kelly is the hospital's financial and accounting manager. They know how a sick family member can affect the entire family.



That's one reason they have been happy to send their Arizona Charitable Tax Credit donation to RMHC-SA every year. Another big reason is the experience they had at the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson 13 years ago, when their son Kelly Jr. was born.

Kathey and Kelly Sr. had been hoping to adopt a baby, and one day in September 2012, they got the phone call they had been so desperately hoping for. A baby was born that needed loving parents, and the couple needed to come down to Tucson immediately. The baby would need six weeks of hospitalization. The Kaspers had no time to plan.

"It was scary," Kathey recalled recently. "We didn't know anything yet, we just knew we needed to be there for him." So they spent the next month and a half in Tucson at the Ronald McDonald House.

**When you walked in, you felt a sense of relief," Kelly said. "There was no tension. You could take a deep breath, gather your thoughts, and prepare for the next day." It's an experience the family carries with them, mostly emotionally, but also**

**physically, in the case of the quilts that were on the beds. Twelve years later, they still have them in their home.**

Last year they came down to Tucson on New Year's Day with Kelly Jr. (now 12) and brother Kolten, 11, to cook for the families at the House. Kathey couldn't emphasize enough how much the boys loved it. They have also collected blankets and scooters to donate to the kids and families.

Kathey would love for others to know that this is "a local charity, and you can see how your donations are used. They are much needed, and much appreciated."







## Support your favorite charity AND reduce your tax liability.

### Yes, it's true!

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

You can choose to direct your tax dollars to the causes you care about, such as Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona. This is not a deduction but a full one-to-one return. Every dollar you donate, up to the maximum allowed (see below), could come right back to you in the form of a reduced tax bill or an increased refund.

### So how does this work?

You can find our comprehensive Charitable Tax Credits Guide by visiting [rmhctucson.org/tax-credit-info](https://rmhctucson.org/tax-credit-info) or by scanning the QR code below. There you'll find detailed answers to common questions, such as:

- How do I know if my gift is eligible?
- I don't usually have to pay the State each April. Could I still benefit. (YES!)
- I already donate to my child's school. Can I claim this credit too? (YES!)

Learn more  
about Arizona's  
Charitable Tax Credit



### For tax year 2025 the maximums have increased.

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Single/Head of Household  
**\$495 Maximum**

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Married filing jointly  
**\$987 Maximum**

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Donate all at once or spread your donations out monthly. Gifts through tax day in April can count toward the previous year's return.

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

# 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.

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Community Champions help Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona in a big way. We are grateful to these wonderful donors who are incredibly committed to the children and families we serve.

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- Tucson Electric Power/UniSource Energy Services
- TMC Health
- Trader Joes 88
- WaterTec of Tucson

For information about our Adopt-a-Room program or becoming a Community Champion, please contact Nancy Kirk, Chief Development Officer, at (520) 326-0060 or [nkirk@rmhctucson.org](mailto:nkirk@rmhctucson.org).



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