



# Gratitude Report | Spring 2026

**45**  
years



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Southern Arizona

## To our most trusted supporters:

In the 365 days since our last Gratitude Report, much has changed at the Ronald McDonald House and in the world at large.

In that time, we have experienced the first full year of the **Sibling Center**, a resource our families have needed for a long time. The **Ronald McDonald House** in Tucson served more families in 2025 than in any other year in our history. And our **Ronald McDonald Family Room** and **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile** programs found new avenues to serve families through the Caring Cart and Pima County school initiatives, to name just a few.

We are also entering the second year of our Board of Directors' three-year strategic plan which aims to prioritize people, serve more families better, enhance collaboration, and drive engagement with our mission. The plan has already proven to be an undeniable success, and we will remain on course, together. Through the strategic plan, we are thoughtfully planning for the future, ensuring every step is rooted in our mission and values. We look forward to our progress ahead in the next two years.

Although we face uncertainty in how healthcare is funded, one thing will remain constant: thanks to our compassionate volunteers and donors (that's you!), the Ronald McDonald House will always open its arms to children and families who need us, just as we have for the past 45 years in Southern Arizona.

You'll notice that this edition of the Gratitude Report is a bit shorter than in years past. That's because we are saving something special for you later this year. Keep your eyes on your mailboxes, social feeds, and our events in October 2026 for some exciting announcements. What you'll see might look a little different, but the heart, the love, and the commitment from the Ronald McDonald House will be the same as it always has been.

*With Gratitude,*



**Adam Melton**  
Chair, Board of Directors



**Scott Matlick**  
President & CEO



Ronald McDonald House cares for families with children who are ill or injured.



## House Program

# 6,751

nights of rest provided



# ↑27%

increase from last year

## Every family's stay is different

# 26

families had to stay in the hospital for more than two months



One family stayed with us

# 33

 times

The House helped families save **\$2,200,000 +**

## Care Mobile Programs

# 1,673



dental cleanings, screenings, and procedures



Chiricahua Community Health Centers



Marana Health

## Family Care Programs

located inside Tucson Medical Center & Banner Diamond Children's



Family Room at TMC



Sibling Center at Banner



Family Room at Banner

# 10,687

 visits

# A Threshold Between Chaos and Calm

*“There’s something about grabbing the handle outside the House and you’re like, ‘Okay. We made it through another day.’”*

The first time Jonathan Strickland reached for the front door of the Ronald McDonald House was in 2022 after he and his wife, Samantha, and their daughter, Amanda, welcomed baby Magnolia into the world. She was 10 weeks early and so little. They couldn’t bear the thought of leaving her in the newborn intensive care unit (NICU) alone while commuting 90 miles between the hospital and their home in Sierra Vista.

Their pastors back home, who cared for their own NICU baby a couple years earlier, suggested they stay at the House. Jonathan and Samantha knew they could follow their pastors’ advice, but they had no idea what to expect.

For 50 nights, the House took care of them so they could take care of Magnolia. It was a place filled with comfort in the form of meals made with love, relaxing bedrooms, and other parents who were also caring for a sick child.

*Outside the front door felt chaotic, but the inside of the House held a sense of calm for the entirety of their stay.*

Soon life returned to normal and they headed home. Then three years later in 2025, Samantha was once again placed on bed rest at the hospital in Tucson, while awaiting the couple’s third child. This time, they were better prepared.

With Amanda and little Maggie in tow, Jonathan returned to the Ronald McDonald House. They quickly settled into their own special routine.

They spent their days in the hospital with mom, breaking for snacks and naptimes in the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

At night, they would head back to the House, excited for dinner together and playtime in the Center for Adventure playroom. For 10 minutes before bedtime, they would watch the fish. Then they would rest up and do it all again the next day.

When baby Rockland was born, the family added something new to their routine: daily visits to the Sibling Center. This new program opened in 2024 and provides siblings of hospitalized patients with up to two hours of supervised, therapeutic play with Child Life assistants inside Banner Diamond Children’s Medical Center.

Here, Amanda and Maggie painted pictures for mom and dad, made colorful and gooey slime, and built castles out of LEGO® bricks. While they played, mom and dad had a couple hours of alone time to rest, talk with doctors, and bond with their son in the NICU.

*“It’s still stressful, but it’s a lot less stressful without having to worry about what the girls are doing, if they’re being good, or if they’re being taken care of—because we know that they are,” said Samantha.*

At the Sibling Center, they knew that their girls were getting all the attention siblings of hospitalized kids need.

With mom and dad by his side, baby Rockland flew past his NICU milestones. After four weeks, his doctors gave his family the best news: he was strong enough to head home to Sierra Vista.

The family packed their bags after their nearly three month stay and reached for the handle of the Ronald McDonald House front door one last time with gratitude in their hearts.



# Every Step Filled with Gratitude



Melissa Williams has been a key member of our Walk for Kids planning committee since 2020, joining shortly after moving to Tucson. In this role, she helps shape the event into an energetic, family-friendly morning that brings the community together to celebrate health and wellness.

Event planning is not new to Melissa. Before moving to Tucson, she organized 5Ks in honor of her father's battle with pancreatic cancer, channeling her grief into meaningful action. But what really inspired her to join the committee was her own Ronald McDonald House experience.

Thirteen years ago, when Melissa's family was living in San Diego, her first son, Chase, was born three months early and spent six weeks in the NICU. During that

time, she and her husband stayed at a Ronald McDonald House connected to the hospital where they could be just steps from Chase, day or night.

***“From that moment on, I always said I was going to volunteer with a Ronald McDonald House someday. It’s all about giving back so that sick kids can have their parents with them.”***

Today, she fulfills that promise to herself through the Walk for Kids. Each year, she walks alongside Chase and her family, a powerful reminder of why she continues to give back.

*“It’s so cool to have my once three-pound baby—who’s now as tall as I am—walking with me. It’s a proud full-circle moment.”*

# HOUSE PARTY

PRESENTED BY   
Banner  
University Medicine

**OCTOBER 9, 2026**

An upscale block party at the  
Ronald McDonald House



**NOVEMBER 21, 2026**

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



# WALK FOR KIDS

PRESENTED BY   
JNL  
PROPERTIES

**DECEMBER 6, 2026**

1-mile family fun walk at Kino  
Sports Complex North



# The Best Feeling Ever

*“I can see firsthand how my donations are helping families.”*

That’s what Sharon Crowder tells us when we ask her why she supports Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona.

Sharon is a tenacious fundraiser with a joyful laugh. She and her Desert Ladies Golf Group organize an annual golf tournament with the proceeds benefiting the Tucson Ronald McDonald House. This year will mark 19 years consecutive years!

After every tournament, Sharon takes the proceeds, goes shopping with our wish list, and brings it all to the House. That’s when she sees the impact of supporting an organization she loves.

When Sharon thinks about her future and the legacy she wants to leave, the Ronald McDonald House is at the top of the list. She wants to continue helping vulnerable families even after her lifetime. So, she has included Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona in her will.

*“It’s the best feeling ever! Knowing I will always be helping children and their families.”*

Sharon is now a member of our Legacy of Love Society. If you would like information on how you can leave Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona in your will or trust, please contact Nancy Kirk, Chief Development Officer, at (520) 326-0060, or visit our website at [www.rmhc Tucson legacy.org](http://www.rmhc Tucson legacy.org).





## 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!)

We always recommend that you consult with your tax professional before making any financial decisions.

Learn more  
about Arizona's  
Charitable Tax Credit



## For tax year 2026 the maximums have increased.

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Single/Head of Household  
**\$506 Maximum**

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Married filing jointly  
**\$1,009 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.

Lindsey Baker and Josh Baker

Laura and Arch Brown

Laurel and Frank Brown

Byers Living Trust

Phyllis and John Capp

In Memory of Herbert Cowgill  
and Nancy Causbie

Nelie and Paul Dias

Dittmann Family Fund

Sheryl and Allen Freed

The Harden, Clements, Simpson  
and Paschall Families

Becky and Sid Johnson

The Johnston Family

The Lundtvedt Family  
In Memory of Anna

Craig MacKay

Wendie and Greg Nelson

Del Norton  
In memory of Jodi Norton

Schmidt – Barton Family Fund

Southwest Section of the PGA

The Stonewall Fund of the  
Community Foundation  
for Southern Arizona

Lynn and Mark Thomas

Marsha Thrall

In Memory of John and  
Sally Wenaas

What If Media Group

Willingham Foundation

# Community **Champions**

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.

ACE Hardware, Joe Findysz and Family

ADP

Advantage Air Mechanical

Alpha Delta Pi

Banner — University Medicine

Bill Block Foundation

Borderland Construction

Connie Hillman Family Foundation

Desert Diamond Casinos

Dias Management dba McDonald's

Ginny L Clements Charitable Trust

Gray Management dba McDonald's

HSL Properties

Linda and John Hughes

IT Solutions

Lyons Roofing

McDonald's Local Owner Operators

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Pioneer Title

Realty Executives Arizona Territory

Reinhaus Family Foundation

Roche Tissue Diagnostics

Southwest Section of the PGA

Steven's Haven Charitable Foundation

The Stonewall Fund of the Community  
Foundation for Southern Arizona

Tempur Sealy International, Inc.

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TMC Health

Trader Joes 88



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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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