



AKRON

Care Cables

Ronald McDonald House of Akron's Newsletter to Friends

www.rmhakron.org

Spring 2011

THE *Love* HOUSE

McDonald's Owner/Operators Help Families in Need

Kim Hill died on March 5, 2011, after a long battle against leukemia and the after-effects of the treatment for that disease. She was 44 years old. While her life was short by conventional measures, the impact made by Kim, her family, and the community of people around her has been huge.

At the age of three, Kim was diagnosed with leukemia. After aggressive treatment, her cancer went into remission. Then her father—a tight end for the Philadelphia Eagles—along with the Eagles organization and local McDonald's® restaurant owner/operators, decided to do something to help other families with sick children. At the urging of Dr. Audrey Evans at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, they decided to find a way to provide short-term lodging for families whose children were being treated for cancer in the Philadelphia area. The local McDonald's outlets agreed to donate all the proceeds from their Shamrock Shakes to fund the project, thus the house became known as the Ronald McDonald House® (RMH). This began the Ronald McDonald House concept, and Ronald McDonald House Charities® now operates 302 houses in 30 countries around the world.

John Blicke, owner of 22 local McDonald's, was involved with raising funds for the Akron House in 1983. Blicke and his business partner, Richard Heidman, along with 140 area McDonald's restaurants, pledged \$200,000 to the House, paid for largely through proceeds from Shamrock Shakes.

The support by local McDonald's restaurants for the Akron and Cleveland Houses does not end once the Houses are built. In 1988, Ali Mandovi, owner of seven restaurants in Lake County, had an in-store fundraiser, selling tickets to take a picture with Santa Claus with the proceeds going to the Cleveland House. All of his managers make monthly or quarterly donations to the House from the House's Wish List.

Rosie Perez, owner of a McDonald's in downtown Akron, stopped by the Akron House

shortly after she became an owner/operator to offer her services. She is now on the Board of Trustees for the House and donates her time serving on committees as well as donating Happy Meal® toys, gift certificates to reward volunteers, and a monthly lunch to the House.

In Cleveland, the Northeastern Ohio McDonald's Owner/Operators CoOp have made a direct contribution to help build a new wing for the House, pledging \$1 million over two and a half years to the project.

Donations are also collected via donation boxes located in the drive thru and on the front counter of local McDonald's restaurants, the proceeds of which are sent to Ronald McDonald House Charities to be distributed to the Houses. Lea Heidman, Richard Heidman's daughter, now owns four McDonald's restaurants in the Medina/Akron area. Her restaurants have been on the top earnings list for generating donations through the RMHC donation boxes.

But if you speak to the McDonald's owner/operators individually, a fuller picture begins to emerge.

Rosie Perez has had a personal experience: her cousin has a daughter with Spina Bifida and has stayed at Ronald McDonald Houses in Akron, Cleveland and Chicago during her daughter's many surgeries. All of this has had an impact on the "deep feeling of appreciation and love for everything that the House offers," and has influenced Perez's level of support.

Lea Heidman states, "I became most familiar with it when my father was part of the building of the Akron (RMH) House. During some of my home visits from college and thereafter, I occasionally cooked meals and volunteered. (The House) was always a passion and dear to my father's heart."

Perhaps the most passionate support for the Ronald McDonald House concept came from Sal Baglieri, who owns three McDonald's in the Hudson area, and has been involved with McDonald's and the Ronald McDonald House for 40 years, the last 21 as an owner/operator. He feels that the mission of the McDonald's franchise owners is to "take our success and do something good with it. We are doing the work that the good Lord wanted us to do—taking care of each other." In his eyes, the children that he and the Ronald McDonald Houses around the world help are our "angels on loan," and his message is simple: "There is always hope."

On March 5, 2011, one of those angels went home.



In 1979, the community came together around one little girl, Kim Hill. Today, communities around the world, made up of families, volunteers, corporate donors, and McDonald's owner/operators, have come together for one singular purpose: to support children and families in need.

The Lipjanics. The real super heroes.

Three-year-old Jimmy Lipjanic is all boy. He loves riding his bike and his ATV and playing basketball and baseball. He loves Buzz Lightyear and superhero action figures. He especially loves Diesel, the Chihuahua rescue dog he got from Santa Claus this past Christmas. Watching him playing at the Ronald McDonald House in Akron this past winter, he is a normal three-year-old boy, a picture of health. But this hasn't always been the case.

The first signs of trouble began in June of 2009. It started with fever, abdominal pain and vomiting. After his parents took him to the Boardman campus of Akron Children's Hospital, Jimmy was transferred by ambulance to Akron with a possible bowel obstruction. Three days and numerous tests later, Jimmy went home with his parents—Candace, an insurance agent, and James, a Culinary Institute of America-trained chef turned insurance agent—with no answers as to why he got sick.

A month later, Jimmy, his parents, and his brother Andrew and sister Lindsay were on their way home from a family vacation to the Jersey shore. In the midst of a traffic jam just outside of Philadelphia, Jimmy began to develop a troubling, yet familiar symptom: abdominal pain that became increasingly severe. By the time Candace and James got him to a nearby fire station, he had begun

“Being able to walk in the door and have someone know just how you are feeling and just what to say to comfort you was such a blessing.”

— James Lipjanic



Candace holding Jimmy.

vomiting. A decision was made to take Jimmy to the nearest children's hospital, the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

After many questions from hospital staff and doctors, a battery of tests, and many frantic hours of waiting, the decision was made to perform an exploratory surgery. Just four days shy of his second birthday, Jimmy was headed for emergency abdominal surgery.

A few tense hours after the surgery began, the doctor emerged to tell Candace and James that everything had gone well and that Jimmy had what is called an intestinal malrotation and a blockage. In other words, he had an abnormally rotated, or twisted, part of his bowel. While the surgery had corrected this problem, Jimmy and his parents would need to stay at Hershey Children's Hospital for observation and a follow-up surgery in three days.

The Lipjanics made arrangements for their two older children, along with their car, to be taken home, while they remained alone in Hershey with no family or support. One of Jimmy's nurses contacted the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey and found them a room. “We were lucky enough to be given a room and one of the workers stayed and waited for us to arrive at approximately 3 am. She was an angel—she comforted my wife when she arrived...” In James' words, “This was the beginning of our relationship with the Ronald McDonald Houses.”

A week later, James, Candace and Jimmy were discharged from the hospital. While Jimmy was frail and had lost weight, he was still a rambunctious two-year-old, and his parents were told that he should have no further trouble with his intestinal malrotation.

With Jimmy gaining strength and energy, the Lipjanics decided to take a scheduled family trip to Disney World in August of 2009. Upon returning home from Florida—in fact, before they could even unpack their bags—Jimmy began showing the same ominous signs: increasingly severe abdominal pain and vomiting. After he was seen once again at the Boardman campus of Akron Children's Hospital, he and his father were sent by Air Bear life flight to Akron for emergency abdominal surgery, this time to remove scar tissue that had caused an intestinal blockage.

As soon as Jimmy was safely through surgery and on the road to recovery, his parents called the Ronald McDonald House in Akron. As James says, “They welcomed us in and gave us a room for the week. We received the same love and compassion showed us in Hershey. We were so relieved to be able to stay so close and keep such a watchful eye on Jimmy.” In fact, during the seven days that Jimmy remained at Akron Children's Hospital, one of his parents remained with him each night while the other would take advantage of a warm shower and a good night's sleep at the Ronald McDonald House.

This could be where the story of this amazing family ends. Only it isn't. Since his surgery in Akron in August of 2009, Jimmy has had no further complications or illnesses related to his intestinal malrotation. He has gained weight and now weighs 32 pounds. He is able to enjoy his favorite foods, spaghetti and meatballs and cotton candy ice cream with



The Lipjanic family at the Ronald McDonald House after preparing dinner.

sprinkles. And his parents (remember, his father is a trained chef) now volunteer at both Ronald McDonald Houses by making dinner for other families who are going through some of the same experiences they went through.

These are James' words: “Being able to walk in the door and have someone know just how you are feeling and just what to say to comfort you was such a blessing. We truly know that it is the people who work and volunteer at the house that make the house special, not the building itself. We remain thankful to this day and as such, we now volunteer ourselves to prepare meals for the house. We have prepared one meal for Hershey this past summer, an outdoor barbeque of ribs and chicken with all the trimmings, and we have prepared four meals for the Akron house. We try to prepare something that the families don't get very often—and we try to prepare it in such a way one would expect sitting down at their favorite restaurant.

We prepare everything from scratch for that true home-cooked flavor with a professional Chef's touch! We will continue to support the Ronald McDonald House in a variety of ways, one of which will be to continue to prepare meals for the families as often as we can. We consider this a privilege for all the House has done for us!”

MEAL DONORS

Many thanks to the following dining establishments, organizations and individuals who have provided meals to the Ronald McDonald House of Akron this year:

- ♥ 356th Fighter Group
- ♥ Alpha Phi Omega, Kent St.
- ♥ Altrusa Int'l
- ♥ Amy Geiser & friends
- ♥ Applebee's
- ♥ Berlin NE Church
- ♥ Beta Sigma Phi, Akron
- ♥ Beta Sigma Phi, Medina
- ♥ BJ's Wholesale Club
- ♥ Bob Evans Restaurant
- ♥ Bravo!
- ♥ BW-3
- ♥ Capri Pizza
- ♥ Cathy Schrock & friends
- ♥ Charlotte Hosey & friends
- ♥ Chick-fil-A
- ♥ Christ Child
- ♥ Circle Café Catering
- ♥ Colleen Toussant & family
- ♥ Connie Moyers, Kathy Dieckman, Peggy Tobias
- ♥ Daughters of Penelope
- ♥ Debbie Smith
- ♥ DeVitis Italian Market & Deli
- ♥ Diamond Marcum & family
- ♥ Dr. Jessie Turnbull & friends
- ♥ Elaine Hawthorne
- ♥ Emma Yoder
- ♥ F. Esposito Culinary Events
- ♥ Falls Deli
- ♥ First Apostolic Faith Church
- ♥ Foresters Group
- ♥ Giant Eagle, Fairlawn
- ♥ Golden Alliance McDonald's
- ♥ Greek Orthodox Church Ladies
- ♥ Highland Baking Co.
- ♥ Insphere Insurance Solutions
- ♥ Islamic Medical Students - NEUCOM
- ♥ James Lipjanic
- ♥ Jane Comunale
- ♥ Jennie Richards & Trent, Sheryl Musser
- ♥ Jenny Jurkovic
- ♥ Jesse Neidert & friends
- ♥ Joleen Finn
- ♥ Julie LeFever
- ♥ Julie Pratt & Western Reserve Students
- ♥ JWCC
- ♥ Katie Evans & girl scout troop
- ♥ Katie Wright, Dana Kiefer & friends
- ♥ Kirbie Family Meats & Catering
- ♥ Laura Tucci
- ♥ Lisa Donnelly
- ♥ Lisa Landon & family
- ♥ Little Caesars Pizza
- ♥ Mande Schlabach & friends
- ♥ Menches Brothers Restaurant
- ♥ Michelle Boldt
- ♥ Mickey Whitehurst
- ♥ Moe's Restaurant
- ♥ MOMs Club of West Akron
- ♥ MOMs Club of Cuyahoga Falls
- ♥ Mosaic
- ♥ Mothers' Study Club IV
- ♥ Mustard Seed
- ♥ Nancy Ferrato
- ♥ Nancy Peacock
- ♥ Naomi Troyer (Mrs. Merle)
- ♥ Newman Center Parish
- ♥ Nick Triola Family, Allstate, & friends
- ♥ Northeast Ohio Audiology Consortium
- ♥ O'Charley's
- ♥ Olive Garden
- ♥ Penn Station - Kent
- ♥ Philoptochos Society
- ♥ Pizza Hut - Munroe Falls
- ♥ Pizza Hut - E. Market St.
- ♥ R. A. Perez, Inc. - McDonald's
- ♥ Real Life Bible Study, Grace Church
- ♥ Rhodes Catering
- ♥ Rizzi's Ristorante & Pizzeria
- ♥ Rocco's Pizza
- ♥ Rubber City Grill
- ♥ Sally Casenhiser
- ♥ Sandy Adkins
- ♥ Sharon & Mark Kohler
- ♥ Shisler's Cheese House
- ♥ Stephanie Allen & family
- ♥ Stutzman's Bi-Rite
- ♥ Subway
- ♥ Tap House
- ♥ The Spaghetti Warehouse
- ♥ Todaro's Party Center
- ♥ Vikki & Rodney Shadie
- ♥ Waterloo Restaurant
- ♥ White House Chicken
- ♥ Windemere Elementary School
- ♥ Yocono's Restaurant
- ♥ Zepppe's Pizzeria



Reading, Writing, Math, Pop tabs?

It has been a busy year for the eight and nine-year-olds at Hartville Elementary School. They have been studying geography, reading chapter books, and learning about decimals and multiplication tables. But one of the most important things they are learning does not involve memorization or homework. Because of the inspiration of teacher Cindy Mullen, all third-graders are learning about building character and showing civic responsibility through their pop tab program to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Akron.

Since the beginning of this school year, the 125 children in the third-grade at Hartville Elementary have taken on the challenge of collecting as many pop tabs as possible for the House. They have advertised their project through posters and Power Point demonstrations, and they were even featured in an article in the Akron Beacon Journal last fall.

The response to their effort has been overwhelming. Not only have they involved all grade levels in their school, but they have had people from Wadsworth, Medina, Cuyahoga Falls and Akron bring pop tabs to them.

At 45 to 60 cents per pound, the pop tab program has had an impact on the Ronald McDonald House. All funds collected go toward a project that directly benefits its residents; past funds were used to purchase a computer for their use.

To date, the Hartville third-graders have collected over 250,000 pop tabs—so many

Hartville third-graders have collected over 250,000 pop tabs—so many that a second container is in the process of being built to store them.



Hartville Elementary School third grade teachers with Meri Skiera.



Hartville Elementary School Third Graders.

that a second container is in the process of being built to store them.

This project has taught the students a lot. They have learned about the act of giving without expecting something in return. They have learned about preserving the environment through recycling. They have learned how to calculate the number of pop tabs collected by counting the number of pop tabs needed to fill one inch of the box they use as a model and multiplying from there. And the third-grade teachers have helped their students learn about volunteering their time for a good cause, and about how a small act—collecting one pop tab at a time—can come together to do big things for those in need.

A Message From Our President, Cindy Misheff

If 2010 was the year of milestones as we celebrated 25 years of caring, then 2011 begins the next 25 years of growth. But as we all know, with growth comes change and change is good.

In preparing us for the many changes we will face, the Board has unanimously named Anne Collins as our first Executive Director. Anne has served as Resident Manager for the past two years and clearly demonstrates outstanding leadership, vision and commitment to the House. Please join me in congratulating Anne and supporting her in her expanded role.

We continue diligently working in tandem with Akron Children's Hospital on the development, location, and design of a much larger Ronald McDonald House—one that will better serve our current and future needs. While we may have just completed 25 years of successfully serving families of sick children, we are confident that with the right leadership now in place and the community's continued support, we will be taking some exciting and positive “steps to the future.”



A Message From Our Executive Director, Anne Collins



Spring is here—it certainly has been a long winter! We are well into our 26th year here at the Ronald McDonald House of Akron. Last year we were busy with our 25th Anniversary celebrations, and now we find ourselves planning for a new

house. While we are still very much in the planning stages, we have committed to building a new and larger house.

Though it is nice to think about all the updates and conveniences that will come with a new house, the true luxury will be not having to tell parents with sick children we are not able to help them because we do not have the room for them to stay. In 2010 we had to turn away 3760 families simply because we were not able to provide them with a room. I think this statistic alone explains the dire need for a larger house. Once again I ask you to please join and support us as we take these important footsteps to the future. Come visit us and see firsthand what we are all about, we need your help.

On a personal note I would like to share with you that our Board of Trustees has given me the privilege and honor of becoming the first Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald House of Akron. I want to thank the Board, Staff and all our Volunteers who have helped me on this journey; I would not be here without the support and kindness you have shown me.

As you read through this issue of Care Cables we hope you enjoy our new format. Let us hear from you and tell us what you think. I want to give special thanks to Board Member Casey Hughes for the hard work and dedication she puts into this newsletter with each issue.

HUGE Thanks!

A huge thanks to Dillard's department store. During the 2010 holiday season, Dillard's stores nationwide sold Southern Living Christmas Cookbooks, donating a portion of the proceeds to Ronald McDonald Houses. Dillard's Summit Mall presented a check in the amount of \$13,121.82 to Cindy Misheff, Board President for the Ronald McDonald House of Akron, and Don McCardle, volunteer and board member, for the Akron House.





Ronald McDonald House® of Akron, Inc.
245 Locust Street, Akron, OH 44302

Visit us at: www.rmhakron.org

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Care Cables is published by RMH of Akron Inc. (Ronald McDonald House of Akron Inc.), an association founded by Akron area families to provide and operate a Ronald McDonald House for those who have family members at Akron Children's Hospital.

The Ronald McDonald House of Akron does not share your personal information (i.e., name, address).

Looking for a way to help?



Since the Ronald McDonald House of Akron opened on January 13, 1985, it has been a mission of the staff and volunteers to provide a warm and comforting meal to the residents each evening.

With the downturn in the economy, this has become more of a challenge. So if you have been looking for a way to show your love for the "House That Love Built," you can help us to FILL THE FREEZER for the Ronald McDonald House of Akron by donating a gift card from Giant Eagle, Acme, BJ's or Sam's Club to the House.

Gift cards can be donated by sending them to: Ronald McDonald House of Akron, 245 Locust Street, Akron, Ohio, 44302, attention: Anne Collins or Kathy Seward.

Who to Call

For volunteer opportunities, either on a regular basis or for special needs, call Meri Skiera at 330.253.5400.

For information on organizing a fundraising event, call Sheldon Barlette at 330.253.5400.

If your group or organization needs a speaker to discuss our mission, call Meri Skiera at 330.253.5400.

Food Donation Wish List:

- ♥ Pop tabs
- ♥ Stouffer's or Lean Cuisine entrees (individual servings)
- ♥ Potato chips, pretzels, etc. (individual servings)
- ♥ Canned mushrooms
- ♥ Salad dressing (Ranch, French, etc.)
- ♥ Chicken & beef broth
- ♥ Beef gravy
- ♥ Barbecue sauce
- ♥ Boxed potato mixes (scalloped, au gratin, etc.)
- ♥ Cream of celery soup
- ♥ Olives
- ♥ Sweet pickles
- ♥ Boxed cereal
- ♥ Pop tarts
- ♥ Granola bars
- ♥ Fruit Roll-ups
- ♥ Canned fruit (15 oz - 29 oz cans)
- ♥ Fruit juices
- ♥ Cheese (shredded, slices or blocks)
- ♥ Fresh fruit & vegetables
- ♥ Canned frosting
- ♥ Brownie mixes
- ♥ Baking nuts
- ♥ Cherry pie filling
- ♥ Chocolate chips
- ♥ Cooking oil
- ♥ Napkins
- ♥ Ziplock bags (any size)
- ♥ Dryer sheets
- ♥ Paper towels
- ♥ Laundry detergent
- ♥ Grocery Store gift certificates
- ♥ B J's gift certificates
- ♥ Sam's Club gift certificates



Mission

The Ronald McDonald House of Akron was founded by families for the purpose of providing a temporary house for those who have loved ones at Akron Children's Hospital.

The Spirit of Community

The Ronald McDonald House of Akron has been truly blessed by the generosity of many individuals, organizations and businesses from Akron and the surrounding communities who have given donations of food and materials, as well as their time. These are names of just a few of the generous people who donate to our House.

Below is a list of just some of the groups and individuals who have supported our House in the past few months. To them, and the countless others who have also lent a helping hand to our House, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| AAA - Akron Auto Club | Brown Mackie College | Dean Rinehart | ISEC Foundation | Mike Zoccali | St. Jacob's Lutheran Church |
| Academy at Robinson | Brubaker Family Foundation | Dillard's, Inc. | James Martin | Mount Liberty Baptist Church | St. Joseph's Catholic Grade School |
| Akron Beacon Journal | Buckeye Trail High School | DJ Family Foundation | Jean Gadd | Nancy J. Hopes | St. Sebastian School |
| Akron Children's Hospital | Canton Mothers of Multiples | Dunbar Elementary | Jerry Albright | Patricia Dorn | Stern Advertising |
| Akron Pediatric Surgical Assoc., Inc. | Cascade Quilting Guild | Dunkin' Donuts | Jim & Sally Casenhiser | Prime | Steve Emerick |
| Akron-Summit County Public Library | Cheryl Chisler | Eastern Star, Falls Chapter | Joan Andreoli | Reiter Dairy | T.S.O. Management - Interim Healthcare |
| Alpha Delta Pi | Christ Child 20 Year Club | Eastside Maytag | Joe Burger | Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc. | Talia Hodge |
| American Legion | Cintas | Edmiston Family | JWCC | Richard & Pat O'Desky | Temperature Control |
| Anderson DuBose Co. | Cleveland Vicon Co., Inc. | Evanich Children | K.I.S.S. Quilters | RMHC of Northeastern Ohio | TNT Exterminators |
| Aris Horticulture | Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Akron | F O E #555 | Kevin Callahan | Rose Packing Company, Inc. | Tom Bonifas family |
| Associated Field Services | Color Our Rainbow Academy | Figaro Fresh Farms | King Elementary School | Rotary Club of Wadsworth | Twigs #9 |
| Bellevue High School - FCCLA | ConKerr Cancer | Freshway Market | Knights of Columbus #13517 | Ruth Stefanik | United Disability Services |
| Bill & Bonnie Wojno | Country Pure Foods, Inc. | George R. Galehouse, D.D.S. | Krispy Kreme Donuts | Sam's Club #4750 | Vietnam Veterans of America #717 |
| Bissell Homecare, Inc. | Craig Stutzman | Gervasi Vineyard & Italian Bistrot | Land O'Lakes | Select Specialty Hospital | Walmart #1895 |
| Bolich Middle School | Dancing Butterfly Foundation | Girl Scouts #393, #624, #1384, #90368, #90991 | Larry Deem | Shearer Foods Inc. | Wayside Furniture |
| Boy Scout Troops #385, #3132 & #777 | David & Sally Riede | Gladys Rado | Lincoln Elementary School | Shelly Tekautz | Windemere Elementary School |
| Bradley Teuton | David Showers | Harry Higgins | Marie Campanale | Signs to Go | Winking Lizard |
| Brand Source | | Insphere Insurance Solutions | Mary Dobrindt | St. George Antiochian Church | |
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