



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE OF DALLAS FACT SHEET

Mission

"Existing to serve and sustain families when serious illness or injury strikes the most cherished part of their lives, their children."

The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, Inc. serves as a "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children who are hospitalized or receiving treatment in Dallas area hospitals. The House maintains a caring homelike atmosphere and provides a place where families receive strength and stability from others who share similar concerns.

History

The first Ronald McDonald House was opened in Philadelphia in 1974. It was largely the inspiration of Fred Hill, a Philadelphia Eagles football player whose daughter was undergoing treatment for leukemia. Recognizing the need for a supportive environment away from the hospital for families of seriously ill children, he enlisted the aid of his teammates and local McDonald's restaurant owners to raise funds to purchase and renovate the first house. The name Ronald McDonald House was selected not only because of McDonald's fund-raising support from restaurant owners, but also for the positive, hopeful and fun-loving feeling this well-known clown character could inspire in children.

Today Ronald McDonald House is international, with 307 facilities in 30 countries and regions, with 173 of those in the United States.

Ownership and Operation

Every Ronald McDonald House is autonomous and is owned by a not-for-profit corporation in the city in which it is located. The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas was founded in June 1978, and today is governed by a board of directors composed of physicians, representatives of area hospitals, community leaders, local McDonald's owner/operators, parents and other interested friends. The Dallas House is administered by a Chief Executive Officer who is assisted by several other staff members. More than 120 weekly volunteers also assist in the daily operation of the House.

In Dallas

The Dallas Ronald McDonald House is located in the Southwestern Medical District on land a short distance from Children's Medical Center. The House opened its doors in 1981 with the capacity to serve 10 families. In 1985 an expansion program doubled the size of the House. However, in 1993, more than 700 families were turned away because of lack of space. A second expansion program, completed in 1994, enabled the House to serve 30 families nightly. Because of growing demand, a capital campaign in 2007 funded the building of a new House which opened its doors debt-free in December 2009 with room to serve 58 families a night.

With approximately 60,000 square feet, the House contains quarters for a Resident Manager, a great room, multiple playrooms for kids of all ages and interests, a library, media room, chapel, meditation garden, and outdoor play areas. Two large communal kitchens and dining room provide opportunities for the families to share the evening meal, which is provided 3 times a day by community volunteers, or to prepare their own food if they choose.

Additionally, the House offers 52 private bedrooms and six apartments that are contained in the Stem Cell / Bone Marrow / Organ Transplant wing and are available for those families whose children cannot reside in a communal environment.

In 2011, the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas celebrates its 30th Anniversary as the only organization in Dallas that provides a temporary home-away-from-home for seriously ill children and their families. As the Southwestern Medical District continues to expand and Dallas continues to be recognized as a premier center for the treatment of pediatric illnesses, the House is committed to expanding its services to meet the growing needs of seriously ill children and their families.

Since opening its doors, the Dallas House has served more than 28,764 families. Although families are asked to contribute \$15 per family per night, no one has ever been turned away because of an inability to pay.

Utilization: 2010 Statistics

- 2055 families served with a total of 11,874 nights
- *Guests came from Texas (78%), Other States (20.5%), International (1.5%)
- *Average length of stay – 6 days
- Most commonly referred diagnoses:

Premature Birth (10%)	Neurology (12%)
Oncology (10%)	Gastroenterology (9%)
Orthopedic (11%)	Pulmonary (5%)
Cardiology (12%)	Trauma (6%)
- Highest percentage of hospital referrals:

Children’s Medical Center (58%)	Our Children’s House (7%)
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital (15%)	Parkland Memorial Hospital (5%)
Baylor Medical Center (8%)	Southwestern Medical Center (2%)
Medical City Hospital (5%)	

Funding

The Ray Kroc Foundation, now called Ronald McDonald House Charities, provided the initial \$25,000 grant to start the building fund for the Dallas Ronald McDonald House. The remainder of the funds raised to complete the present facility came from gifts made by the Crystal Charity Ball, foundations and corporations and from concerned individual contributors. The Dallas Ronald McDonald House is not owned by the McDonald’s Corporation or by any hospital or health care organization. Funding to sustain the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas comes from individual and corporate donors, community organizations, and special events. Approximately 7% of the annual operating budget comes from McDonald’s Corporation and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

* These statistics were not gathered for every month of 2010. Calculations were based on 7 months out of 12.