

FROM THE HEART

Your generosity keeps the doors open to the House that Love Built.

A Family's Heartfelt Message to You

written in a father's words



Bishoy, age 6
Severe Kyphoscoliosis



4707 Bengal Street
Dallas, TX 75235
214.631.7354

www.rmhdallas.org

**To Me, the RMHD is
"A Heavenly Place on Earth."**

We are from Egypt and our story started when we sought medical treatment for my three-year-old son, Bishoy. He was born with severe Kyphoscoliosis, abnormal front-to-back and side-to-side curvature of the spine, and his doctors in Egypt told us that if they did surgery, Bishoy would be paralyzed.

For three years we talked to many doctors throughout Egypt trying to find a medical

treatment to help my son, but the answers were always the same. Bishoy's condition worsened and his frame began to press on his lungs and heart. It was very hard to see him like that and also hard to see his mom's tears when she bathed him. I prayed a lot that we would find a way to treat my son.

I didn't know that the solution would not only change my son's life, but the lives of my entire family -- forever.

Read the rest of the story on page 4.

Thank you for your support! We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you so much for allowing us to stay at the Ronald McDonald house while our son was visiting the orthopaedic clinic at the Scottish Rite Hospital. He will have three surgeries in the next year. We drove from Lubbock and having a place like RMH is such a life saver financially, emotionally, & physically. We have not been here long but we have been touched by the other families. It helps to know you are not alone caring for a child with a disability. And the volunteers & staff have been so kind! The night supervisor's passion & dedication after her own son passed away touched our hearts. To see so many people working towards helping families with kids with medical issues made us so appreciative!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Thank you for all you do, each & every day. Bless you all!
The Poeling family!



Thank You!
For giving my family a home away from home. While they wait for me to get better.
Austin
LW

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Margaret C. Shouse

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Since opening our doors in 1981, the RMHD has served over 33,000 families. In 2012, we served over 2,200 families totalling 16,635 nightly visits. Our families stay an average of 7 nights. Because of the strength of the Dallas area hospitals average occupancy is 79.75%, however the House is often at full capacity.

Our families come from all over the world, including 30 united states and 10 international countries.

Thank you for all you do!

What an incredible experience the past two months has been.

written by Diane Fullingim

Since arriving here in mid-January, I've had the profound privilege of meeting our committed and wonderful board members; hanging out with Ronald and Minions; getting to know our families and hearing their exceptional stories and working with the best staff ever — it's remarkable when everyone works together how things happen. I feel an enormous sense of gratitude and responsibility every day that I walk through the doors of the House that love built.

Of course I knew from my community volunteer days that Ronald McDonald House of Dallas was a great organization with an important mission, loyal volunteers and lots of community supporters. What I didn't know, was that we had volunteers cooking 3 meals a day, every day, 365 days a year. What? How is that possible? How do you find that many volunteers? Where do they come from and why? And what about all of those third party fundraisers? What do you mean the Addison Rotary Club throws one of the biggest golf tournaments in town on our behalf? How did a bunch of school kids in Mabank raise over \$44,000 for the House on their own? What exactly is going on here?



I pretty much realized the moment I entered those heart-shaped front doors the first time, that “the House that love built” wasn't just a catchy marketing message. Love is everywhere here and it is given and felt by everyone—our families, our staff, our volunteers, our board, our donors...everyone. When you have a child that is sick or loved one who is in trouble, there is an old saying that “you just love them through it”. The love at RMHD starts with our families and impacts everyone involved with our mission. It grows in our collective hearts and spreads throughout the community, everyone working together to support the families; and former families showing their love and appreciation in so many ways, years after their stay. That is amazing.

Since telling friends and co-workers back in December that I was making the move to Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, I've had so many people tell me that their sister, brother, daughter, grandson, neighbor was helped by a Ronald McDonald House and I can hear the heartwarming tone in their voice. What a special moment.

So, in case you were wondering...I love my new job and look forward to doing the best job I can do for the House and our families. Thank you for welcoming me into the family!

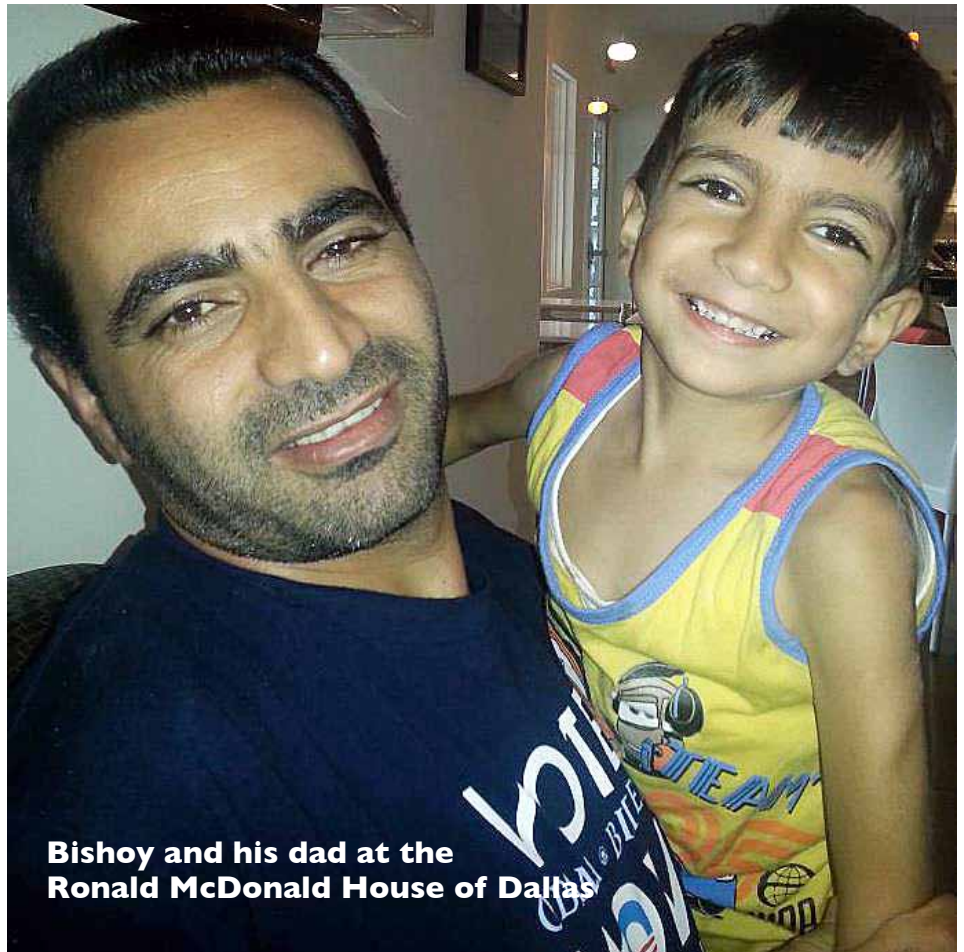
In a Father's Words, Continued

In 2011, I started searching on the internet for hospitals that help children with orthopedic problems. Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children popped up in the search. I emailed them and they replied the same day. It was amazing. We finally had hope.

We filled out the paperwork and waited months to get an answer. At first they turned us down because they said we could get treatment closer to home. But when we told them that we had been to all the doctors they recommended, they accepted us immediately. Appointments were made and we began preparing for the journey.

For us it was an easy decision — we had to move, leaving behind our jobs as teachers, our belongings, friends, and extended family. We didn't know anything about the U.S. — where we'd live, how long we'd be here, or what the outcome would be for my son — but we knew this was our only chance for a normal life for Bishoy.

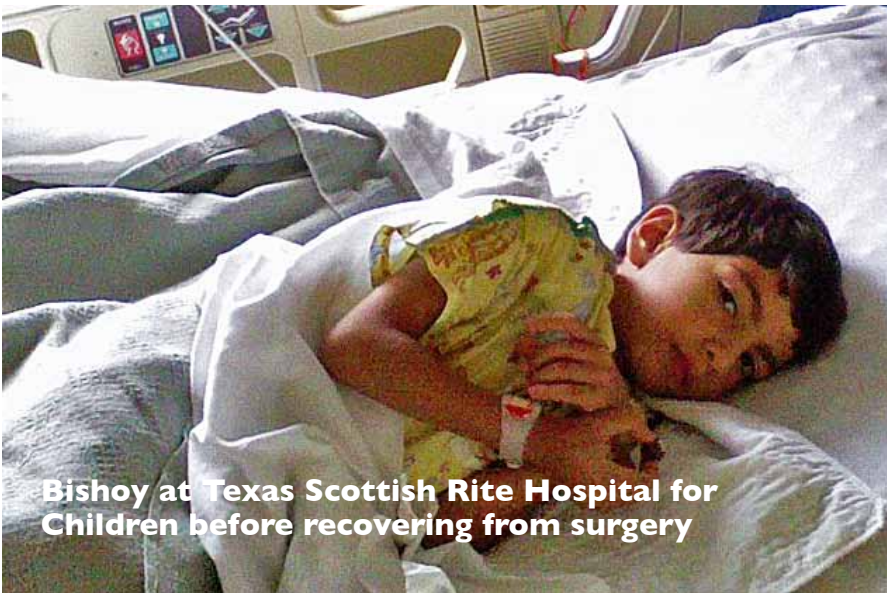
It wasn't until we had our first appointment at Scottish Rite that we learned about the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. We were grateful to find such an amazing place to stay where the staff and volunteers took care of everything for us so we could focus on Bishoy's treatment. We also knew we'd be allowed to stay here as long as we needed. We knew we had found a safe place in a big city, in a foreign country, and that took many of the stresses of our lives away. What we didn't know was how important the people we met at the House would become in our lives.



Bishoy and his dad at the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas



Bishoy's mom and new little brother, Steven



Bishoy at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children before recovering from surgery



Bishoy, after surgery, kicking a ball and playing on the Ronald McDonald House playground

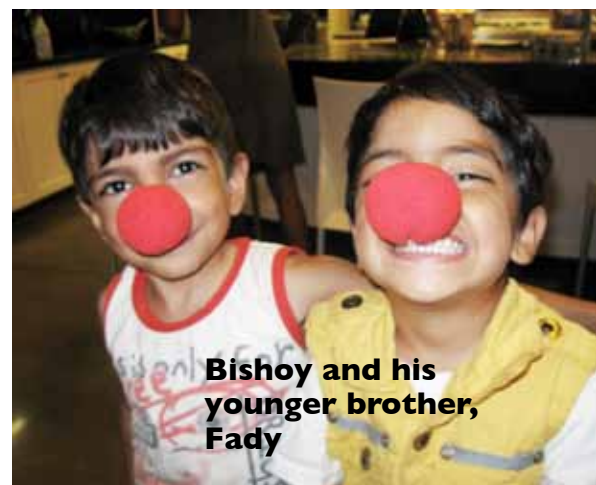
Since we've been here, Bishoy has had three surgeries. With the third surgery came the chance, that afterward, my son would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. It was hard to take that risk, but in the end we trusted the doctors, and a chance at recovery was why we were here.

I'll never forget the people who were there for us that day. The people who've been there for us throughout our time here. This House is not just a place to stay. It is a home, filled with people who are kind and caring and will help you with anything you need. The people here are my family.

We've been here for 10 months. We enrolled our boys in the school down the street. I am studying for my drivers test and working at odd jobs here and there. My wife gave birth to our third son in February. We are working on finding a permanent place to live.

My son is doing well. He will be in a cast for a year but he is walking and doing well. He will require many surgeries throughout his life; surgeries that cannot be performed in Egypt. Because of this we cannot leave Dallas.

From our hearts, we thank you so much for what you do for families like mine. We appreciate your love, kindness, generosity, and care. Because of you, my son will have a better life.



Bishoy and his younger brother, Fady

The Junior League of Dallas Helps RMHD Kids Celebrate Birthdays During their Stay



Thanks to the Junior League, each month a party is thrown for all the birthday kids at the House.

Pictured here is Kelsey Livingston from El Paso, Texas celebrating her 17th birthday.



Thank You to the Dallas Zoo for Delighting RMHD Kids with Their Animals for Over 10 Years!



Nastia Luikin Visits RMHD



Around the House

Thanks to Moroch, Stuart, the Minion, Visits RMHD and Brings Out Smiles from Everyone



The Teen Board Has Been Busy!

With over 150 members, the Teen Board has made a tremendous impact on the House this year. They are here at least 2 weekends a month volunteering for jobs like cleaning, organizing, cooking, and putting together goody bags for long days at the hospital.

Applications to be part of next year's Teen Board will be available on our website in the next few weeks.



Jonathan Chan Donates Memorable Experiences



Dallas Mavericks Total Experience

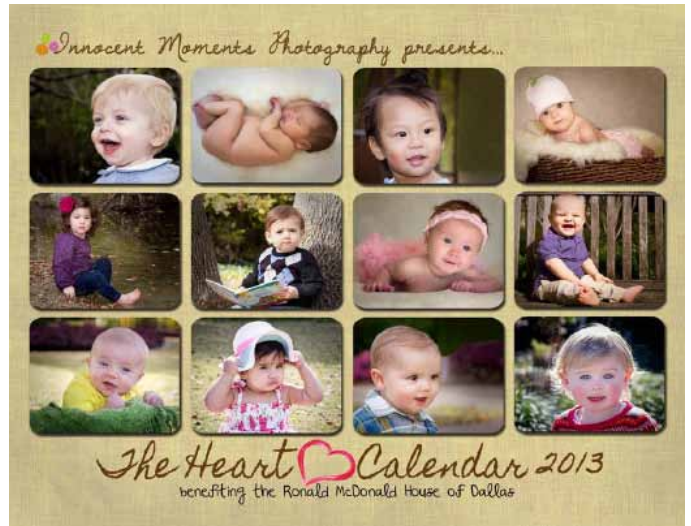
Each quarter Jonathan, a local McDonald's Owner/Operator plans and donates an "experience" families won't soon forget. Bert and his son, Ace, got to attend a Mavericks game with seats 4 rows from the floor, signed jerseys, and dinner.



Magician for a Day

Jonathan hired Jeff Black, a magician from California, to perform magic for RMHD families. He had a couple of shows, and also walked around and sat with families and performed one-on-one tricks from 11 a.m. to past 7 p.m.

Fairview Photographer Uses Her Love of Children and Photography to Support the RMHD Mission



The Heart Calendar is a project initiated by Fairview photographer Binny Marwaha, Innocent Moments Photography, as an effort to give back to local children charities. The theme of The Heart Calendar 2013 was "a heart full of..." to celebrate the innocence and beauty of little children. This beautiful calendar featuring artistic images of local children age 0-2 years raised \$3,555 for the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas.

Binny has also visited the House several times in the last two years and shot portraits for the families, completely free of charge.

"Photography is my passion and I love children. I am blessed to combine my passion and love to give back in pursuit of happiness.", says Binny Marwaha to sum up her sincere desire to put art to services.

Since this was the pilot project, all calendars were pre-sold. Binny plans to do the Heart Calendar project annually. Visit www.innocent-moments.net/Giving_Back to learn how you can be part of these efforts.

Thank you for your support!



The Beauty Bus Foundation chose RMHD for one of their recent National Bag of Beauty deliveries, hoping to provide respite, hope, and dignity to those living with terminal and chronic illness and their caretakers.



Brownie Troop 1323 from Plano donated two Birthday Boxes, one for a girl and one for a boy. Inside is everything you need to throw a birthday party.



Schneider Logistics charged employees to wear shorts and flip flops on Fridays and raised \$1,400 for RMHD.



Celina Middle School cheerleaders donated 36 \$20 gift cards, totaling \$720, with funds raised by charging students to throw a pie in a teacher's face. A donor matched the amount raised bringing their total donation to \$1460.

Ways to Help

- Buy RMHD-branded **merchandise** to show your support and spread awareness.
- Link your **Tom Thumb Rewards** Card to RMHD with our Good Neighbor number, 1080. Once you've linked your card to our number, 1% of your grocery purchases will be donated to RMHD.
- Donate a car, boat, recreational vehicle, yacht, truck or used motorcycle through **Action Donations Services** and receive the maximum legal tax deduction and possibly a partial cash payment. Call 1 (866) 244-8464 for more information.
- Name RMHD in your **will or estate plan**. For more information on options that can benefit you now, as well as later, please call 214-624-5365.
- As your organization plans its philanthropic activities, please consider **organizing a fundraiser** to benefit the RMHD.

There are as many ways to make a donation as there are needs to be met. You can find details on any of these ways to help and much more by visiting www.rmhdallas.org or calling 214-631-7354.

More than 90% of our Funding Comes from Generous People Like You!

The Trains at NorthPark Raised Nearly \$480,000 for RMHD!



It takes an army to pull off the Trains at NorthPark. Thank you to Cate and Jeremy Ford, chairs of the event pictured above, for everything they did to make the event successful. And thank you to the 1,200 volunteers who helped make the daily operation of the exhibit possible. The next exhibit will run from November 22 to January 5.

Purchasing a personalized railcar is a great way to support the event and add to your collection. We had over 600 railcars running on tracks and lining the walls. Check our website, www.rmhdallas.org, in the summer months for information on purchasing your 2013 railcar. We hope you'll join us again this year!

The 2013 Hot Chocolate Race Was A Lot of Fun. Thank You to the 11,000 Runners and Hundreds of Volunteers Who Helped Make it a Huge Success.



Hope to See You Next Year!

Thank You for Your Support!



Whatever you're planning to do on May 17 — work, school, vacation, gym, grocery store — wear your "Share the Love" t-shirt and proclaim to your community that you're sharing the love of the Ronald McDonald House mission.

Order a Shirt Today!

Families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas or Fort Worth, are asked to contribute \$15 a night toward the cost of their stay. However, families who are unable to pay are never turned away. When you purchase a "Share the Love" t-shirt for \$15, you're providing a night's stay for a family with a sick or injured child.

To order a shirt, visit www.rmhdallas.org to download an order form or contact Diane Fullingim at 214-624-5365.

Involve Your Community

Ask your friends, students and faculty at your school, or employees of your business to participate by buying and wearing a "Share the Love" t-shirt! Help us spread the word in this way and we'll add your group's name to our supporter list on our website.

Wear It and Share It

On May 17, use **#isharethelove** to share photos of yourself and/or your group out in the community in your shirts. Just another way to "Share the Love".

A Night Honoring Lauri and Mike Hainsfurther



Pictured from left to right: Beth Ewing, Lauri Hainsfurther, Mike Hainsfurther, Melissa Utley, and Jill Cumnock.

Moonlight Ball sponsors gathered at the home of Beth and Fin Ewing in celebration of the 2013 Moonlight Ball benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas. At the gathering, event co-chair Melissa Utley thanked sponsors and honorary chairmen Lauri and Mike Hainsfurther for their devotion to the organization.

Attendees dined and sipped on cocktails as they mingled and chatted about the April 6 Gala. In attendance were Vera Bangs, Cecilie and Ronnie Holman, Nancy and Michael Kerr, Pam and Jeff Ellerman, Pam and Matt Mattingly, Sandra and Henry Estess, Emilyynn and Claude Wilson, and Amy and Scott Hatfield.

Be sure to check our website, www.rmhdallas.org, in mid April to see photos of the event.

The Addison Rotary Open is Now Accepting Sponsorships!



The 23rd Annual Addison Rotary Open presented by GLM DFW, Inc. will be held September 9, at the Gleneagles Country Club in Plano, Texas.

The After Tournament Party will follow with dinner, raffle drawing for a Mediterranean Cruise, and the live and silent auctions. Proceeds from this event benefit the RMHD.

Please visit addisonrotaryopen.org for more information.



Ronald McDonald House of Dallas

4707 Bengal Street
Dallas, TX 75235

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Together We Can Make a Difference

Your Gifts Matter

Families who call the House “home”, are asked to contribute just \$15 per night for their stay, but no family has ever been turned away for an inability to pay. Your gift, regardless of the amount, supports RMHD families so they can focus on what really matters - their child’s healing. **Please consider using the envelope provided in this newsletter to donate to our Annual Fund.**

Since 1981 your support has helped over 33,000 families stay together and stay strong through difficult circumstances. Because of the strength of the Dallas area hospitals, the House is often at full capacity as families travel from all over the world, including 30 states and 10 international countries.

Over 40% of the RMHD annual operating budget comes from fundraisers hosted by the Dallas community and individual donations.

- \$5,500 helps cover the operating costs of a guest room for a year.
- \$2,500 helps us light and warm our 60,000 sq. ft. home for a week.
- \$1,000 helps us provide 3 meals daily for each House guest every week.
- \$500 helps us provide family activities and cable TV for a month.
- \$250 helps us supply 2 kitchens and 63 bathrooms with paper products for a week.
- \$100 helps a family pay their room contribution for a week.

Mission

The Ronald McDonald House of Dallas serves as a “home-away-from-home” for families of seriously ill or injured 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.

Stay In Touch!

