



RMHC  
Atlanta



40 Years: Honoring Our Past and Looking Ahead

**Since 1979, nearly 60,000 families have been served by Atlanta RMHC.**



# INTRODUCTION

It's been 40 years since this journey began, 40 years since visionaries whose hearts were filled with love, compassion and tenacity turned a dream into reality.

That dream dared to consider meaningful ways the Atlanta community could help sick children and their families. It challenged conventional thinking and continued to ask, "What if?"

In 1979, just five years after the the national charity was founded, Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities began our mission to serve families with ill and injured children receiving nearby medical care. Guided by the singular premise that families dealing with children's health crises should only have to focus on their child rather than where they can afford to stay or where they'll get their next meal, Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities has served nearly 60,000 families.

This commitment to keeping families together and supporting their emotional and psychological well-being along with their physical needs, has drawn strength from a community who has championed this mission every step of the way.

From leadership that's continued to envision an even better future for our families to volunteers and donors who've ensured all the needs were generously met, we are a 40-year testament to what devotion can accomplish. From eight to 81 bedrooms, 352 families served per year to more than 3,500, this is a legacy of equal parts love and perseverance.

This year's annual report pays homage to everything and everyone along the way — all the work that has resulted in two state-of-the-art Ronald McDonald Houses, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Scottish Rite, and the staff member responsible for more smiles per second, Chief Happiness Officer Betty Lou, the Golden Retriever.

We invite you to join us as we honor our past and look ahead to a future where more families are kept close, recover together and experience the joy of making their own memories.



# 40 Years: Honoring Our Past and Looking Ahead

**M**uch has changed since we began this 40th anniversary annual report. The world is a different place today, we've all witnessed how this pandemic is impacting our families, communities and our daily way of life. But Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities is a testament to hope, and these last few months have proven once again that the *House that Love Built* is as resilient and capable as ever.

I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of support we have seen since COVID-19 became part of our lives. The generosity of our donors ensures we are able to keep families together even during this crisis, offering them a place to rest and replenish so that they can meet their own health challenges with strength.

In fact, it is strength that these pages reflect — strength of will, dedication, spirit and resolve. From the families we've served over the years to the staff, volunteers and donors who've made it possible, these 40 years bear witness to fortitude.

When we began in 1979, we had one House with eight bedrooms that helped keep 352 families together. Today, our two Houses provide 81 bedrooms that in 2019 served 3,518 families.

Also in 2019 with your help, Atlanta RMHC:

- Served families from 39 U.S. states and 144 Georgia counties
- Helped families save \$4.6 million in lodging and meal costs
- Hosted 40,170 family visits at our Ronald McDonald Family Room at Scottish Rite
- Treated 766 children at 11 metro public schools with our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, more than doubling the number of students served in 2018

To our community of leaders, donors and volunteers who give selflessly in good and bad times, **thank you.** You are the family behind our families, ensuring this organization thrives so that they can have a home away from home. As we remember the past and look ahead, I hope you'll be inspired by the happiness, support, confidence and optimism your diligence has consistently provided through the years.

More than ever before, I am honored to stand beside you and serve with you as we move forward in love and purpose, offering comfort and hope for better tomorrows.

In service,

**Beth Howell**  
President & CEO







# Rounding Up with a Big Impact

## Persistence Is Key for McDonald's Crew Member

The request is simple and the immediate return may be modest, but the reward is proving to be extraordinary.

"Would you like to round up for the Ronald McDonald House?" asks **Jeff Nichelson**. It's an unassuming question, as humble and earnest as the man behind the counter posing it. But there's a resolve behind the friendly smile as he waits, and either way you answer, he'll say the same thing: "Thank you very much and have a good day."

His good nature and persistence is paying off. The Windermere Parkway McDonald's in Cumming, Georgia, where Jeff works, is leading other stores in metro Atlanta for money raised in the **Round Up for Ronald McDonald House Charities** program. From late August to the end of 2019, Jeff's efforts resulted in \$3,567.88 in proceeds.

That's just from asking every customer every time, "Would you like to round up for the Ronald McDonald House?"

Jeff says it's easy when he imagines what it would be like for kids or their parents facing a health crisis. Though he's never visited the House, he's heard stories of how it's helped people—sometimes the very ones who tell him they'd like to round up.

"It touches me and just warms my heart to think about everything the House helps families with," he says. "As long as McDonald's does it, I'm going to help."

Jeff, or "Mr. Jeff" as his nametag reads and his regulars know him, is a 12-year employee at the Windermere Parkway restaurant. It's amusing now, but both his general manager and supervisor say they worried something was wrong with the system when



they first saw how out of sync their numbers were in relation to other stores.

"We thought something must be off," says General Manager **Richard Lee Mook**. "Then we realized that the amounts were different on the days Jeff was working compared to those he was off. Jeff was the answer."

**Wayne Highfield**, the store's supervisor, says it was Jeff who took on ushering in Round-Up after years of asking for donations for its predecessor, Give a Hand.

"He's built relationships with our customers over the years. He sees the same people daily and they know him," Highfield says. "This is natural for him."

Jeff's not only dedicated to asking each customer during his eight-hour shift, but also recording favorable responses. He keeps meticulous records of each positive transaction. Forty cents, 86 cents, 53 cents, 22 cents—handwritten digits jam his notebook's pages—and at the end of the day he adds them all up. While most days hover around \$50 in proceeds, some days stand out.

"This was a very good day," he smiles as he points out a shift that ended with just over \$99.

In fact, he's outracing his 2019 daily pace by about two-thirds. At this rate he's on track to raise more than \$11,000 by the end of the year.

"It's just something I love doing," Jeff says. "And I hope I'm around for a long time so I can keep doing it."





## Marathon Stay of 385 Days

# Journey Creates New Family and Friends at Home Away from Home

**T**iny **Callie Butler** had some big help getting started in this world, and while many who rallied around her had lofty titles, her leading champion goes by “Mom.”

For the journey of miracles that continues for Callie, **Candace Austin** — or “Mom” — credits the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House for sustaining her family during a marathon stay of 385 days.

“I could never say enough thank-yous for it, because we wouldn’t have been able to do this without them.” Candace says of everyone who makes the House a possibility.

Born at 23 weeks, Callie weighed just 1 pound, 6 ounces when she announced herself June 7, 2018, at Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital in Columbus, Georgia. The next phase proved a prolonged exercise in doggedness for the entire family. Candace, her husband, **Roy Butler**, and their two sons, **Colton** and **Camden** (now 8 and 7, respectively), all lived baby Callie’s moment-by-moment existence.

“It was day-to-day and week-to-week,” Candace says, remembering that looking toward the future often meant thinking, “If she makes it to next week.”

But Callie proved herself a warrior, which might have some genetic roots. Despite the physical and emotional toll, it was Candace who ensured her fragile daughter had the best chance for a successful transfer to Atlanta’s Egleston Hospital 17 weeks after her birth.

“She is supposed to be here. I just never let negativity come around,” Candace says, matter-of-factly.

Infants born as early as Callie deal with a host of complications, including conditions like the bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD)



that Callie faced because her lungs were underdeveloped. Callie needed the expert care at Children’s Healthcare, but BPD and associated pulmonary hypertension made the trip too risky. Until Candace stepped in, that is.

After researching and finding a hospital in Ohio with a BPD stabilization protocol, she called and jumped through the hoops to connect all the right people. “I stayed on the phone until I could connect [Callie’s] doctors with theirs and get their protocol lined up so she could be stable enough to travel,” Candace says.

So began Callie’s Atlanta phase, which stretched from October 2018 until December 2019, giving the family the dubious honor of Atlanta RHMC’s longest 2019 stay. While Candace stayed close to Callie, Roy managed life with the boys in Hamilton, Georgia, visiting on the weekends.

“When you’re in this kind of situation, you’re basically living two lives as a family. The House helped us manage that,” Candace says. “In addition to a place to lay my head, just knowing I was so close and that it wouldn’t even take me two minutes to get there if they called, I can’t explain what that all meant.”

Memories overwhelm her; it’s hard to isolate just one, Candace says. She rattles off names of staff and volunteers who buoyed her along the way and shares how someone once finished and folded her laundry when she got called away to the hospital.

“These people became family,” she says, voice trailing a touch. “I’ve held their hands; they held mine. It all means so much.”

Callie continues to amaze doctors and her family. She’s growing and despite some ongoing health challenges stemming from her premature birth, she is a happy baby. “We take every day at a time,” says Candace.



# Despite Tough Path, Mother-Daughter Duo Looking to Future

Listen carefully to **Jael Arroyo's** story about what the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House has offered through the years, and you'll hear something exceptional.

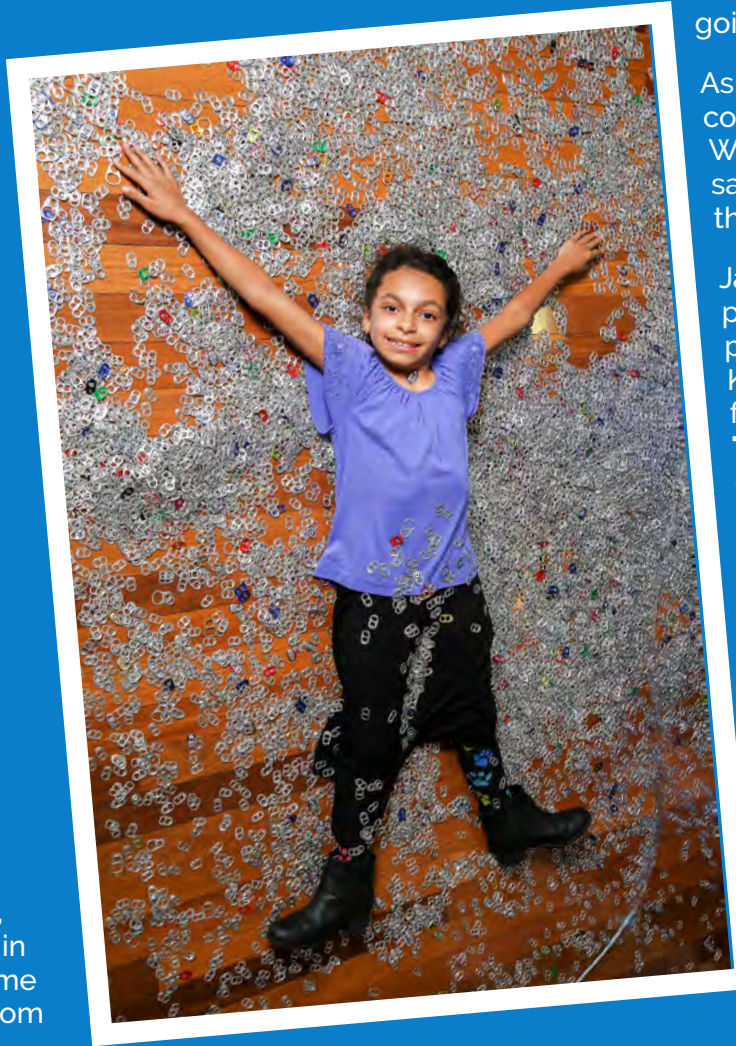
Tucked between the usual praise for the comfortable rooms and delicious meals is Jael's gratitude for how the House has helped her and her daughter, **Jaelynn**, grow as people and deepened their appreciation for the things they have.

"The love of the community is so special there," Jael says about the Gatewood House. "Jaelynn learns compassion and it's opened my eyes to things. In sharing with other people, you find you are not alone, and many are dealing with things that are much harder than your own issues."

To be clear, their path is not an easy one. Now 9 years old, Jaelynn, who is autistic and deals with eating disorders and related growth issues, has been coming to Atlanta's Marcus Autism Center from her home in Ocala, Florida, since she was 2. The treatments often require lengthy visits, making it necessary for the Arroyos to stay in town for days and even weeks at a time. Time away from work is challenging for single mom Jael, who has stared down more insurance and financial hurdles than she can count.

After a long day of uncomfortable and anxiety-inducing therapies, Jael says the House's respite is something she and Jaelynn look forward to. And beyond the relief from having to find money for hotels and food, it's little things that mean the most.

"As a single mom, it's just so nice to always have someone to talk to. There are always other people who are going through what I'm



going through," she says.

As a result, the two actively look for ways to contribute to the House's needs these days. When planning for a trip to Atlanta, Jael says that includes thinking about items they can bring to donate.

Jaelynn has also embraced the philanthropic spirit. In addition to helping people through her local Kids Helping Kids chapter, she's become a champion for Atlanta Ronald McDonald House's **Pop Tab Program**. The program, which has collected more than \$151,000 since its 1998 launch, caught Jaelynn's attention during one of her visits when she saw the pop tab pile.

In her mission to collect the tabs for the House, the otherwise reserved girl has appealed to Ocala radio listeners, walked up to strangers and even commandeered a microphone at a conference she'd accompanied her mother to.

While her appreciation for the House's creature comforts is evident, Jael continues to circle back on something more subtle but also ultimately more important to her: Her child who has

enormous challenges of her own, is learning that she is not alone in those struggles and that she also has the ability to help others in meaningful ways.

As she looks down the road at the journey ahead, Jael says she's comforted knowing that she and Jaelynn can lean on their home-away-from-home for all their needs — the cozy rooms, the hot meals, the books to read, and the inspiration yet to be found in the House's standout treasure, its people.



# Generous Hearts





# Reclaiming Lives

## Family Dealing with Upheaval After Accident Credits House for Helping Them

**W**hen so much about their lives changed abruptly, it's what stayed the same that proved the most reassuring to the **DeMott family**.

Topping that list was that their family unit remained intact despite an accident that threatened to take 7-year-old **Tripp DeMott** away from his parents, **Elizah** and **Scotty**, and little sister, **Shiloh**. That togetherness has proved vital to Tripp's long recovery, and the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House is at the center of their story, says Elizah.

"If a family is going to have to go through something like this, you want to be at the [Atlanta Ronald McDonald House]," Elizah says, adding that it's the entirety of what makes the House home — the staff, volunteers and other families — that has meant so much. "It's everyone there that you meet along this journey who offer you so much compassion. They really just hold your hand when you feel like you can't do this on your own."

There have been many times the DeMotts have needed those hands since September 11, 2019, when Tripp was hit by a car while riding his bicycle in front of their Moultrie, Georgia, home. Airlifted to Tallahassee (Florida) Memorial Healthcare, Tripp underwent surgeries to manage a broken leg, broken pelvis and most seriously, a shattered cranium that required doctors remove pieces of his skull from brain tissue. Some of the young family's tensest times immediately followed when Tripp's brain swelled dangerously, then miraculously contracted then swelled again before he finally stabilized for good.

After several weeks of progress, Tripp was ready for rehab at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite, where he'd begin the next phase of healing, including therapy to retrain multiple motor skills. It was during this time that Elizah and Scotty were introduced to



the Peachtree Dunwoody Atlanta Ronald McDonald House, a place they say became their home away from home and allowed them to reclaim some normalcy.

Once Tripp entered the outpatient rehab program, the couple decided one parent would be with one child at all times, so Scotty stayed with Tripp in Atlanta while Elizah returned to Moultrie to care for 5-year-old Shiloh. The family would reunite each weekend at the House when Elizah and Shiloh would drive to Atlanta.

Elizah says she and Scotty were "blown away" by the House's amenities — the comfortable beds, alone, were a luxury after weeks of sleeping on pull-out plastic chairs — and found true peace in an environment that was mindful of the entire family's needs, from toys and fun areas for kids to relaxing spaces for parents.

Without hesitation, she calls the House "a blessing," underscoring that the short- and long-term impact every donation has on families is invaluable.

"It means everything to us as parents to see them smile again after we've gone through some really hard stuff. I think Tripp has loved it so much that he hasn't missed home that much," Elizah says. "It's like a mini vacation for him. It's like he goes to bootcamp during the day and he gets to come home to this magical place at night."

After four months at Scottish Rite's Day Rehab program, Tripp was discharged and returned home to Moultrie full time, where he transitioned to an outpatient facility. He will continue to visit Scottish Rite over the next several months for rehab sessions, and the DeMott family plans to stay at the Peachtree Dunwoody Atlanta Ronald McDonald House during those trips.



## Personal Experience Transforms How Advisory Council Member, James Nelson, and Family View Ronald McDonald House

Last year changed how **James Nelson** sees a lot of things.

If you'd asked the Advisory Council member in June 2019 his opinion of the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House, he would've provided a sincere and professional portrait of the good it does and why donations make meaningful differences for families facing health crises.

Today, James and his wife, **Kizmet**, speak as one of those families and the case they make is a powerful and personal story about how the House saves lives.

At 19, their son, **Jayden**, a previously healthy HOPE scholar who'd just finished his freshman year at Georgia State University, found himself fighting for his life. On July 18, his body seemed to turn on him, terrifying them and confusing doctors.

Eventually diagnosed with lupus, an inflammatory disease caused when the immune system attacks itself, Jayden's particular case manifested in an onslaught of symptoms that showered down in a series of life-threatening events that included organ failure and required multiple surgeries and interventions, including two brain surgeries, an open heart surgery, thyroid and kidney surgeries, a blood transfusion, dialysis, and intubation with ventilator.

"He almost died three times," says Kizmet, recalling how Jayden's status would change abruptly. "It was emotionally draining, physically draining, and mentally draining because you just never knew and were constantly on guard because every little thing you wanted to notice. Every change was significant and was potentially life-changing for him."



For the first few weeks, the Nelsons commuted from their McDonough home to Scottish Rite, but the grind took its toll, says James, who as head of institutional product strategy and development at the Atlanta-based investment firm Invesco, was also trying to tread professional water. "We couldn't have realistically maintained that schedule, and it would have hurt us to our core if we hadn't been able to be there because so many things were happening."

The Nelsons remember how'd they'd often just get home when the hospital would call sharing that Jayden had taken a turn for the worse. The Peachtree Dunwoody House became their respite and very possibly, they say, saved Jayden's life.

"There were kids who didn't have their families there and that affected them because they didn't have someone to advocate for them," James says. "It really puts you in a vital position in the care of your child to be that information source. I didn't realize that."

"Grateful is how we feel," Kizmet adds. "Being able to be at the House was such a blessing. We were able to stay by his side."

James says the experience has intensified his commitment to an organization he's long supported.

"I'm going to be a lifelong supporter and advocate because of the multiple layers of impact you can have not only on a child and their well-being, but on an entire family," he says. "The impact is immediate, longlasting, and this organization — the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House — is one of the most caring, professional, high-quality organizations in existence."

Now 20, Jayden is adjusting to life with lupus and taking his recovery one day at a time. "It's a slow process, but he's getting better every day," says Kizmet.



# A Year of Change





# Better Days

## Four-time Cancer Survivor Remembers How House Helped Him Look Ahead

**A**nticipation has always been a type of saving grace for **Ryan Hamner**.

The combination of hope, expectancy and an occasional surprise proved a worthy adversary to the anxiety and dread of chemo when Ryan was 6, then 9, then 11 and again at 21. Looking toward better times and envisioning himself doing something fun afterward was always the way the Columbus, Georgia, native got through the frequent Atlanta trips to treat the Hodgkin lymphoma that kept intruding on his childhood.

Now in his 40s and clear of cancer since a bone marrow transplant when he was 21, Ryan is using his experience to help sick kids. In December he launched **BambaBox**, which sends care packages to hospitalized children and their parents. It's a nod to the support system he credits for his own recovery and specifically his grandmother, whom he called "Bamba," who'd collect trinkets and surprises for him.

"I never wanted to know what it would be," says Ryan about the gifts friends and family would bring to his bedside. "The surprise was always the fun of it, and it helped me get through it all and even gave me something to look forward to when I knew I was going to be so sick."

Ryan stayed multiple times at the original Houston Mill Atlanta Ronald McDonald House and remembers that despite the debilitating nausea and accompanying exhaustion, the House was special for his entire family and was the difference between dealing with sickness in the comfort of a



bed rather than in a car.

"We'd have this window of time to get from the hospital and back to the House before it would hit," he says, remembering chemo's side effects. "It was awful but being able to stay at the House was huge for us. It meant my mom could relax and talk to people who were going through the same thing. And it meant I didn't have to dry-heave in a car."

In addition to four-time cancer survivor and entrepreneur, Ryan, who now lives in Jacksonville, Florida, can also

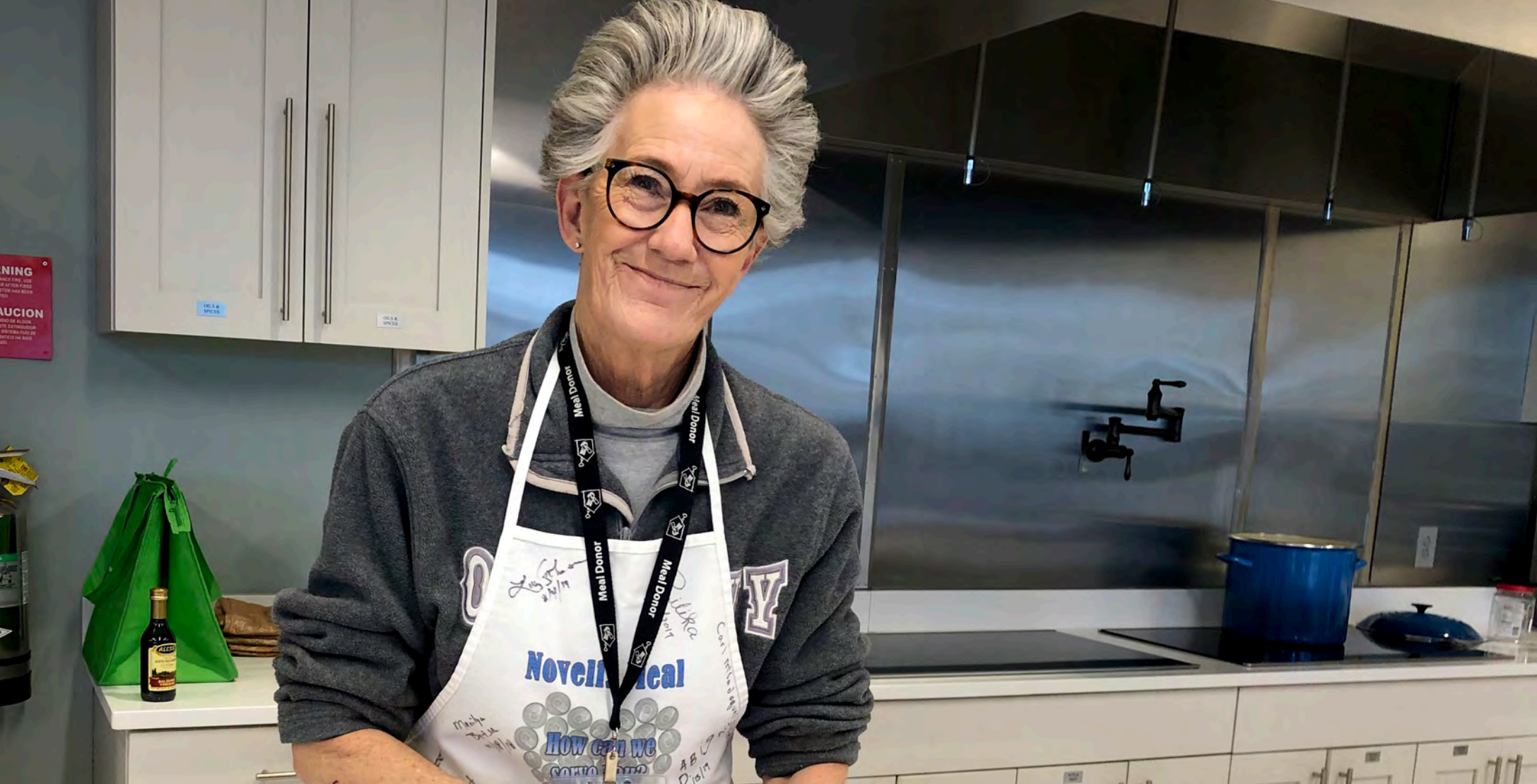
add musician, recording artist and published author to his résumé. In 2010, he released his album, "Between the Lines," and in 2011 recorded two singles for the American Cancer Society. He has a children's book about dealing with cancer, "You'll Be All Right, Buddy," and his memoir, "This is Remission," was published in 2019.

Much of these accomplishments are the direct result of where he focused his attention during recovery, he says. From learning to play the guitar to writing lyrics and later books, Ryan is adamant that moving forward is the best way to survive and finding hobbies is critical to recovery.

And for its role in supporting his family and providing a framework of normalcy, the House occupies a special place in Ryan's heart.

"It's not just a place to spend the night. It can minimize the impact of all the stress and bad memories of treatment," Ryan says. "It's a life changer. It's a place where you go and make friends, recover and then get ready for better times ahead."





# Novelis Employees Share Joys of Volunteering and Supporting Atlanta RMHC

Its conference rooms may be where **Novelis'** corporate responsibility is preached, but Atlanta Ronald McDonald House families can attest that this is where those ambitions are practiced.

For years, the Atlanta-based global industrial aluminum company has been an unflinching corporate champion of the House's mission. Novelis employees rotate via a robust meals program to feed families twice a month, and the organization commits to annually sponsoring both the Hearts and Hands Gala as well as the full expenses of a guest room's upkeep through the **Adopt-a-Room** program.

Employees **Marco Palmieri** and **Mary Stockstill** are proud of their company and colleagues' commitment. Both also emphasize how valuable the experience has been for teambuilding and bonding with coworkers.

"I am grateful to have met many of the families staying at the House and hear from them how meaningful it is to have a place to stay during a difficult time," says **Palmieri**, Senior Vice President and President of Novelis, North America.

Atlanta Ronald McDonald House's mission holds a special place in **Palmieri's** heart. As a child, he dealt with an eye disorder that required travel for treatment away from his home in Brazil to a facility where he stayed for three days a month. Though he had relatives to stay with, he recognizes the gap the House fills for families who would otherwise have to find other arrangements.

**Palmieri's** first experience with Atlanta Ronald McDonald House came in 2013 when he attended the Hearts and Hands Gala,



sponsored by Novelis. Since then, he and his wife, **Danila**, have increased their personal support and are part of the company's more than 130 volunteers who help cook and serve meals at the Peachtree Dunwoody House twice monthly.

"I am inspired by our Novelis employees for the service they provide every month by donating and cooking meals," Palmieri says, who specifically praises **Stockstill's** efforts for not just launching the meals initiative at Novelis but also nurturing

it into the dynamic program it is today.

"I was blown away by the response of my colleagues," says **Stockstill**, a finance specialist for Novelis' North America. She adds that the volunteer base quickly grew when associates wanted their families to participate. "It definitely builds teamwork, and I really enjoy serving with associates I may never come in contact with during a normal workday."

These days the program is so well coordinated that families often enjoy themed dinners, like Italian and baseball cookout fare. **Stockstill** points to consistent internal communication for keeping colleagues motivated. She always takes pictures then shares them along with short stories in office emails after dinners, she explains.

"Learning their stories and knowing our meal made their day easier is the motivation I need to ensure that we continue," **Stockstill** says. "I have seen the faces of the families light up when they walk in from a long day of therapy and testing to see a home-cooked meal waiting for them, and I've had many tell me how relieved they were to know that they didn't have to buy fast food or cafeteria meals when they are dealing with so many health-related bills."

# Corporate Responsibility





# Baking Enables Brother-Sister Duo To Help Others, Have Fun and Spend Time Together

Everyone knows when brother-sister baking duo, **Mike Smith** and **Pam Flowe**, are in the Peachtree Dunwoody House. The scent wafting from the kitchen is unmistakable, and their baked goods have become legendary among families who've had the pleasure of tasting their monthly treats.

But the story behind the story is that the duo began their now-celebrated visits to the House so that they could ensure they saw each other regularly after both parents had passed away. While **Smith** had been a regular volunteer since 2009, he invited his sister to join him in 2016.

"She was just 15 miles away, but hey, this is Atlanta and it was hard to get together without putting something on the schedule," he says.

**Flowe** says their mission feels like something they do to honor their parents.

"Our mother was a great cook, and Dad, well, he was a great eater," she says through a chuckle, adding that spending time with her brother while reaching out to people is "truly wonderful."

For both **Smith** and **Flowe**, the benefits these days



extend far beyond the joy of seeing each other. Families' stories of strength and endurance are now a part of their own shared experience at the House, making for memories that strengthen their bond.

"I feel like they let me come and be a part of this," says **Flowe**, adding that there hasn't been one visit when she hasn't been moved to tears.

"It's small, but I feel like the thing I can offer is a shoulder and a listening ear. They can share things with me as a stranger without feeling they're burdening me. It's an honor to be able to help in that way," she says.

**Smith** agrees with his sister that the families have offered more to them than the reverse.

"I've had no other volunteer opportunity like this one. Every visit I get to hear some of the behind-the-scenes stories from these families," **Smith** said. "I continue to be amazed at their strength. Being a small part of the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House is so rewarding."

# Icing on the Cake



# Celebrating a 40-Year Partnership with Alpha Delta Pi

In the history of the *House that Love Built*, the sisters of **Alpha Delta Pi** stand as primary contractors.

The national sorority chose Ronald McDonald House Charities as its official philanthropy in 1979, which has translated over the years to a particularly robust relationship between metro-area chapters and the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House.

Today, six of Georgia's 10 **ADPi** chapters contribute directly to the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House by way of time and funds. Additionally, alumnae who've made Atlanta home have ensured the Gatewood and Peachtree Dunwoody Houses continue to thrive.

"When we talk with other local RMHCs about the Alpha Delta Pi partnership, we often point to Atlanta as one of our models for how they interact and recognize our members for all they do," says **Sarah Davis-Candeto**, international vice president of Alpha Delta Pi's Grand Council and former Alpha Delta Pi Foundation trustee.

Georgia Institute of Technology's **Maddie Beatty** says her time volunteering with ADPi's **Zeta Omicron** chapter has been a standout part of her college experience. The senior says she's been humbled by her time at the House over the last four years, from serving food to entertaining children by dressing up as Disney princesses Belle and Moana.

"Whether I am serving at the House or raising money at our chapter's philanthropy events, I am reminded of the good work that it does, and that my impact matters," Beatty says. "Everyone who serves dinner or goes to an activity night comes back renewed by the experience of giving back to the community alongside fellow ADPis."

In the 2018-19 school year, **Georgia Tech's** ADPi sisters volunteered



255 hours and raised more than \$30,000 for Atlanta RMHC. Together with contributions from the **University of Georgia, Emory University, Brenau University** and **Shorter University** chapters, the House received just shy of \$44,000 last year.

Since the relationship began, the sorority has raised and given more than \$15 million to Ronald McDonald Houses internationally.

Davis-Candeto has personally worked to keep ADPi collegians involved with the House after graduation. A member of the **Epsilon Psi** chapter at **Tennessee Tech University**, Davis-Candeto pledged the same year that ADPi partnered with RMHC and credits her chapter's support for sparking her own love of the charity. She and her husband

have continued their personal support over the years, including co-chairing a local golf tournament that raised more than \$800,000 between 2010-2017 for Atlanta RMHC.

"Those eight years exposed many collegians and alumnae to Atlanta RMHC and many continue to support it today," she says, adding that continuing service is fundamental to the sorority. "Our members are passionate about this and value the opportunity to have hands-on service, and not just raise money."

As for Georgia Tech's Beatty, her service experience has underscored how much Atlanta Ronald McDonald Houses offer families and how important donations of time and funds are to that mission.

"Atlanta RMHC is a savior for families with children being treated at Atlanta's hospitals," she says. "I have seen firsthand how transformational the House can be to the kind of care available to a child."



## Partnership of Love & Support



# Dickerson Middle School Celebrates Anniversary By Helping Our Families

**W**ith creativity, commitment and generosity, **Dickerson Middle School** used its own 40th anniversary to live up to its motto, lead by example.

Harnessing the momentum of its yearlong celebration, the Cobb County public school reached out in 2019 to help Atlanta RMHC and raised more than \$15,000.

"Once we figured out we were both marking 40 years, we liked the connection and decided to celebrate both anniversaries throughout the year," says **Dr. Sunny Williams**, Dickerson Middle teacher and Pay It Forward Club sponsor. "It seemed like the perfect thread to tie our efforts together."

Promoted through the school's Pay it Forward Club, the Share a Night campaign ran throughout the year and emphasized the House's commitment to helping families stay together no matter their ability to pay. Share a Night asked Dickerson contributors to donate to help offset the operating cost of guest rooms.

In addition to raising money and awareness for the



House's mission, the campaign galvanized a burgeoning relationship between the school and Atlanta RMHC, says Sunny, who has been organizing other ways for students to support the House, including serving meals and collecting pop tabs for the Pop Tab program.

"We have always had generous students who donate for our fundraising activities; however, it has been wonderful to see them actually at the House

servicing," Williams says, adding that the volunteering opportunities have sparked interest in the House from siblings of students, even if they're not at Dickerson themselves.

She says it's helped students recognize need around them and understand that helping others is something that's well within their grasp and not just an adult endeavor.

"All of us are touched by our interactions with those staying at the House," Williams says. "Their stories touch our hearts and make it clear why volunteering is so important."

# Leading by Example







# Our 2019 Impact

Serving **3,518** families through our Ronald McDonald Houses, Ronald McDonald Family Room and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile



## Our Volunteers

### \$1.25 Million

Donated in time and services

**49,141** Hours donated by all our guest services, activity and meal group volunteers

## Ronald McDonald Houses



# \$4.6 million

Saved by families staying at our two Ronald McDonald Houses

## 385 nights

Longest stay by one family, Candace, Roy, Colton, Camden and Baby Callie



## 2,926

Total number of family visits

## 19,870

Nights of rest provided to families

## 39

U.S. states

## 144

Georgia counties



## Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

## 766

Children treated



## 1,346

Asthma visits

## 22

Telemedicine visits

## 11

Atlanta Public Schools



## Ronald McDonald Family Room

# 40,170

Total family visits, including

## 1,092

Families from

## 24

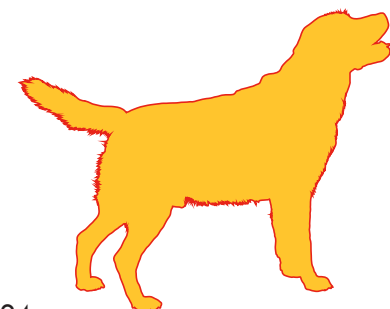
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## Betty Lou

# 3,840

Smiles created by our Chief Happiness Officer



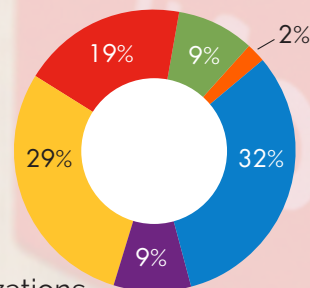




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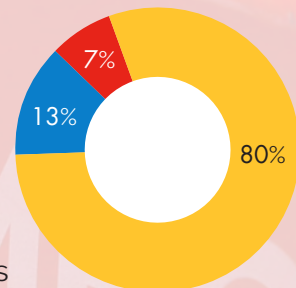
### Revenue 2019

- Individuals
- Special Events
- McDonald's Owner/ Operators & Customers
- Foundations
- Corporations & Civic Organizations
- Guest Families



### Expenditures 2019

- Programs
- Fundraising
- General & Administrative



\*2019 Preliminary financials excluding investment earnings

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