



Ronald McDonald House Charities® Central & Northern Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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U-HAUL VP SEBASTIEN REYES, LA-Z-BOY ARIZONA VP CHRIS BATES WILL CO-CHAIR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE “MCNIGHT TO REMEMBER GALA”

PHOENIX, Ariz. (May 13, 2019): Sebastien Reyes, Vice President of Communications for Phoenix-based U-Haul International, and Chris Bates, Vice President of Marketing and Merchandising for La-Z-Boy Arizona, have been named co-chairs for ***A McNight to Remember Gala***, Nov. 2 at the J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn, 5402 E. Lincoln Drive in Scottsdale.

The annual black-tie-optional event is the largest single fund-raising event of the year for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona (RMHC-CNAZ). Last year, the event broke records for both attendance, with more than 700 people on hand, and fund-raising, with patrons helping to raise more than \$500,000 to support families staying at one of the Valley’s three Ronald McDonald Houses while their children undergo often life-saving medical care.

“Sebastien and Chris bring a unique perspective to this leadership role because you don’t often see two men co-chairing fund-raising galas for nonprofit organizations,” said RMHC-CNAZ CEO Nancy Roach. “And, they’ve hit the ground running.”

Susan Casper, a co-host of ABC 15’s Sonoran Living, will emcee the event. Individual and corporate honorees this year will be officially announced at a later date.

Both Reyes and Bates are members of the RMHC-CNAZ board of directors. At U-Haul, Reyes is responsible for external and internal communications, investor and community relations and corporate sustainability for more than 21,000 retail locations serving millions of U-Haul customers.

He also is a City Commissioner for Phoenix Sister Cities and a member of the Men's Arts Council at Phoenix Art Museum. He is a past executive board member of Phoenix Suns Charities 88 and has been recognized by The Arizona Republic's inaugural class of "Who's Next" as one of the "State's Next Great Communicators" and the Phoenix Business Journal as a member of its "40 Under 40 Class." He also was PR News' 2018 Community Relations Executive of the Year. He and his family live in North Central Phoenix.

Bates, who lives with his family in Phoenix, is a respected leader in the furniture industry. La-Z-Boy Arizona consistently fields four of the top 10 retail locations in North America in the La-Z-Boy Galleries Network. Skilled in retail, sales, marketing, team building, and lean and account management, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communications, Business from Arizona State University.

A McNight to Remember begins at 6 p.m. with a silent auction with dinner auction and awards presentations to follow. The event will be followed by the After Party, hosted by the Red Shoe Society, a group of young professionals supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Sponsorships for ***A McNight to Remember*** are available, beginning at \$5,000. Tables of ten are \$3,000 and individual tickets are \$300 each and include the After Party. After Party-only tickets are \$50.

For more information about sponsorships, contact RMHC-CNAZ Development Manager Leslie Religioso at leslie@rmhccnaz.org or by calling (602) 264-2654.

For more information about RMHC-CNAZ, visit www.rmhccnaz.org.

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About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona, Inc. provides a “home-away-from-home” for children and their families who travel to metropolitan Phoenix to receive treatment for serious, often life-threatening illnesses and injuries. The three houses operated in metropolitan Phoenix can accommodate up to 78 families a night. Families stay for days, weeks, sometimes months at a time while their children receive care. Since opening its doors in 1985, families from across the state and around the world have checked into the Ronald McDonald House more than 53,000 times. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona, a non-profit organization supported by individual, corporate and foundation donations, never turns away a family if they cannot afford the \$15 nightly fee requested. For more information, visit www.rmhccnaz.org.