



Ronald McDonald House Charities® Central & Northern Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES RECEIVES \$50,000 IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES FROM NORTHERN ARIZONA

PHOENIX, Ariz. (Oct. 30, 2018): Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona (RMHC-CNAZ) has received grants totaling \$50,000 from three Northern Arizona funders to support families from Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, Apache and Coconino counties staying at the Valley's three Ronald McDonald Houses.

The RMHC-CNAZ Help-A-Family program received \$43,000 from the Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation (NAHF), \$5,000 from the Capstone Health Fund and \$2,000 from the Geile Charitable Foundation.

In 2017, 518 families from the five counties stayed a total of 5,981 nights while their children underwent often lifesaving medical care in the Valley. Of those totals, which represent 47 percent of all families served in 2017, 172 families were from Mohave County, 113 from Navajo County, 106 from Yavapai County, 65 from Apache County and 62 from Coconino County.

An NAHF healthcare assessment study, in conjunction with the Arizona Community Foundation of Flagstaff and in collaboration with Northern Arizona University Center for Health Equity Research, found a need for access to healthcare, including a shortage of providers "especially for children, (requiring) residents to travel long distances," often outside the region.

"Distance from home can be a barrier for a family seeking medical care for their child, especially if that healthcare facility is many miles away," said RMHC-CNAZ CEO Nancy Roach. "The Help-A-Family program gives families access to pediatric care by offering them a

temporary home base where they can take care of their daily needs. The program not only enables families to access pediatric care, but also enables parents and caregivers to tend to their own health by getting rest, nourishing meals and access to further support services.”

Families staying at Ronald McDonald House must have their permanent residence at least 30 miles from one of the three Houses in the Valley, two in Phoenix and one in Mesa.

No family is ever turned away for being unable to pay the \$15 nightly fee that is asked. The cost to Ronald McDonald House to house a family for one night is \$76. Financial support from the community, through direct donations, grants, fund-raising events and third-party fundraisers, help cover those costs.

“Our mission is to ensure, as best we can, that families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses are able to rest, relax and refresh,” Roach said. “This deeply generous support from Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation, Capstone Health Fund and Geile Charitable Foundation will help reduce or eliminate additional financial stress for those families.”

In 2017, nearly 1,100 families from 15 Arizona counties and 26 states stayed at one of the three Valley Ronald McDonald Houses. Ninety percent of families were from Arizona.

For more information about Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona, 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 50,000 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.