THE STRENGTH OF A FAMILY: BREIA’S STORY

“She has a twinkle in her eye, like she just wants to tell you something,” Marlena says of her newborn daughter, Breia. “She has Dad wrapped around her finger already.” Besides appreciating her sassy personality, Breia’s family has also quickly learned one of her greatest qualities – her perseverance.

After being born at 32 weeks and weighing 2 pounds, 3 ounces, Breia has already gone through many medical procedures, including a blood transfusion. Through it all, she has shown great strength. “She’s only three weeks old, but she’s just showing us she’s strong,” Marlena said.

While Breia is embracing her inner strength and growing every day, Marlena, her dad, Terrance, and brothers Makaio and George are finding theirs just steps away at the Ronald McDonald House. Away from their home in Whiteriver, Arizona, the family cherishes the proximity to their newest addition. “I’m glad we could stay at Ronald McDonald House,” Marlena said. “I know that we’re just a short distance away from my daughter. Breia needs us here.”

Beyond ensuring that the family is never far from Breia’s bedside, the House is also a place for them to find family time outside of the hospital. While her brothers enjoy playing on the playground at the House, they also make sure her presence is known at their “home-away-from-home.” “When Makaio comes, the first thing he notices is the Ronald McDonald on the bench,” Marlena shares. “Every day we would come sit by Ronald and he would say, ‘Hi! Breia is doing good.’ ”

The daily updates to Ronald also serve as a reminder to Marlena of just how much togetherness means for her family right now. “Just having her brothers here with us is something special because they get to see her and talk to her, just being able to be beside her bedside with us,” Marlena said. “I’m glad I have their support.”

And Ronald McDonald House is also there to support the family on their journey.

“I know that we’re just a short distance away from my daughter. Breia needs us here.”

– Marlena, Breia’s mom

MISSION STATEMENT

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona is a welcoming “home-away-from-home” for families with children facing medical challenges, providing an atmosphere of comfort, hope and courage.
A Letter from the CEO

Life is funny. And interesting. And sometimes the paths you least expect to go down are the ones that take you exactly where you ought to be. Here I am, and I am enormously grateful and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona.

My career path has been varied, with each experience building on the one before. I thought that path had culminated some years ago when I was given the honor of being a McDonald’s owner/operator, running my own business, working with great and loyal team members and interacting directly with the people my business was serving. Those same descriptions apply to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona, but in a much more profound way (at least for me). And the opportunity proved too enticing to pass up. I’ve previously been a member of the Board of Directors for the House, have seen the positive – and yes – sometimes life-changing impact the House has on those we are privileged to serve. I am moved and motivated every day by the heroic families who come through our doors and am driven to provide the highest level of comfort and support to all those heroes – particularly the little ones who are receiving medical care.

I have finally found where I am truly meant to be and inspired by where we can go. While honoring its past, the transition into the CEO role provides a vital opportunity to move the organization forward with a fresh perspective. We will take what is good, and with the right infusion of new ideas, sound judgment, and inspirational leadership, allow Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona to achieve its full potential. With a solid financial foundation, a dedicated Board of Directors and passionate employees who drive our mission forward every day, our future is bright!

You, the Board, our staff and our families can be assured that you will have the full measure of my commitment, focus and enthusiasm, and I am energized by the potential for us, together, to fulfill the promise that the House offers.

In partnership and with gratitude,

Kerry Schulman
Chief Executive Officer
THANK YOU
to Our Generous Donors Who Make Our Mission Possible

COMMUNITY GRANTS
Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation ........................................ $25,000
Interest Ministries ........................................................................ $20,000
USAA ..................................................................................... $16,000
Macy’s .................................................................................... $10,000
APS ....................................................................................... $6,300
Becton, Dickinson & Company .................................................. $5,000
Sundt Corp. ............................................................................... $4,000
Executive Council Charities ....................................................... $3,000

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS
Village Green Splash Day ............................................................... $15,664
Facebook Fundraisers ................................................................ $6,918
Bashas’ Charity of the Month ....................................................... $4,440
Boot Dr. “Riding for Charity” ....................................................... $4,250
Passport Fundraiser .....................................................................
Executive Council Charities Support ......................................... $4,000
Arizona Youth (SAY) Campaign ................................................
David Weekley Homes Showcase ................................................ $3,480
CRC Group ............................................................................... $3,000
Healthcare Performance Group ................................................ $3,000
Pima Pavilions Car Shows ........................................................... $2,650
Arizona Coyotes Foundation 50/50 Raffle ................................. $2,350
Thunderbirds Charities - Birdies for Charity ............................... $1,974
The Hillman Group .................................................................... $1,850
Alpha Delta Pi Foundation .......................................................... $1,752
Kendra Scott ............................................................................. $1,616
Sunland Springs Village ............................................................. $1,600
Federated Insurance .................................................................... $1,000
NHL On-Ice Hat Trick Donated by ............................................. $1,000
Vinnie Hinostroza ......................................................................
Protective Life Insurance ............................................................ $892
Northwest Christian School ....................................................... $650
Great American Title Agency, Inc .............................................. $647
Fry’s Community Rewards ........................................................ $608
Thrivent Financial ....................................................................... $508

RAISING LOVE

For RMHC Board Member Mike Cardoso, using his favorite hobby to help families seemed like an easy fit.

As an avid motorcycle rider, Mike spends many weekends cruising the diverse roads of Arizona on his bike, making stops at his favorite restaurants with his buddies along the way.

Knowing that members of his community liked giving back the same way he did, Mike took advantage of the opportunity to support RMHC by creating the Boot Dr. Charity Stops Passport. Recruiting businesses throughout the state to sponsor an official “stop,” he put together an event similar to a scavenger hunt where participants earn points for each location they visit. Riders have the opportunity to win prizes, including an RMHC patch for their jackets, or donate right to the House.

Mike is an example of how you can use your time and talents to give back to the families RMHC serves. Whether it’s shooting baskets or baking cookies, you can make a difference.

For more information on how to get started with your fundraiser, please contact Community Engagement Manager Jami Carlson at jcarlson@rmhccnaz.org.
You’re Invited!

Join us for an adventurous evening at the annual A McNight to Remember Around the World in 80 Days Gala and After Party

November 2, 2019 at 6:00pm
Hosted at J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn Resort
5402 E. Lincoln Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Event Raffle

One lucky winner will select one of four fantastic vacation prize packages and create memories to last a lifetime!

RAFFLE DETAILS
Only 2,500 tickets will be sold!
$20 per ticket • $100 per 6-ticket pack

Drawing will be held November 2, 2019, at the Ronald McDonald House Gala - need not be present to win!

AROUND THE WORLD DESTINATION VACATION
• 7-night stay for 2 at your choice of participating luxury Fairmont and Swissotel properties in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, China, Japan, Australia, India, Kenya, Dubai, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, or Peru!
• Daily breakfast for 2
• $500 Fairmont gift card for dining and other activities
• $1,500 gift card toward airfare/travel costs

CANADIAN FAIRMONT RESORT GETAWAY
• 4-night stay for 2 in a Junior Suite at your choice of Fairmont Resorts in Banff or Lake Louise, Alberta
• 2-night stay for 2 in a Junior Suite at the Fairmont Palliser in Calgary, Alberta
• Daily breakfast for 2
• Round-trip coach class airfare for 2 to Calgary, Canada

SPELLBOUND NEW YORK! HARRY POTTER ON BROADWAY
• 5-night stay in a standard guest room at a Hilton, Hyatt or comparable hotel
• 2 orchestra/dress circle tickets to “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Part 1 and 2” at the Lyric Theatre (Recommended for children ages 10 and up)
• Round-trip coach class airfare for 2 to New York, NY

FLORIDA KENNEDY SPACE CENTER ASTRONAUT TRAINING
• 4-night stay in one standard guest room at Hyatt Place Orlando/Universal
• Kennedy Space Center Bus Tour for 4
• Lunch with an Astronaut!
• 2-Day Visitor Complex Admission for 4
• Round-trip coach class airfare for 4 to Orlando, FL

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
Visit rmhccnaz.org/gala for additional details and rules or call 602-798-5097.
The Heart of the House Awards are RMHC’s most significant community awards presented to individuals and organizations who have made a lasting impact on the organization. They exemplify the spirit of philanthropy and community service.

This year at the annual McNight to Remember Gala, we are delighted to recognize Marty Manning and Thunderbirds Charities who both are deeply supportive of RMHC and are champions of many non-profits within the community.

**Marty Manning** has always been a friend of RMHC, willing to lend his time and talent to broadcast - literally and figuratively - the mission of RMHC. His iconic voice is known to countless Arizonans through the radio and his public appearances for 99.9 KEZ, but he’s known to the RMHC family as a master of ceremonies at more than a dozen McNight Galas and special events. A profound storyteller, Marty also hosted and produced the Valley Views public affairs program where he conducted approximately 750 interviews with local organizations, including RMHC, providing an uplifting platform for many of the Valley’s non-profits to share their important work of making a difference in the Valley.

This past June, Marty retired from an impressive radio career spanning 50 years and more than 30 years with 99.9 KEZ, and he was inducted into the Arizona Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

**Thunderbirds Charities**, whose mission is to help children and families and improve the quality of life in our community, has made a tremendous philanthropic footprint at RMHC. Through grants and other support, including capital expansion gifts, contributions through their Birdies for Charity program, and in-kind donations to Gala auction packages, Thunderbirds Charities have helped bring comfort and care to thousands of RMHC families and children over the years. Their continued generosity inspires others to give and demonstrates a long-standing commitment to helping the community at-large, as evidenced by their support of hundreds of Arizona non-profits. RMHC’s success in helping children and families in the past and in the future is because of corporate/foundation heroes like Thunderbirds Charities.

Join us at the McNight to Remember Gala on November 2nd to shine a bright light on our two highly deserving Heart of the House Honorees!

**CO-CHAIR SPOTLIGHT**

Our annual McNight to Remember Gala is our largest fundraising event every year thanks in part to the amazing leadership of our event co-chairs. This year, we are proud to welcome **Chris Bates** and **Sebastien Reyes** as the leading champions of our Around the World in 80 Days Gala.

Both Chris and Sebastien serve as members of the RMHC Board of Directors and bring their exceptional skills, both professionally and personally, to the table. Chris said, “When they asked us to take up the helm of RMHC’s signature event the answer was quick and easy... YES!” With a strong committee and board behind them, the November 2nd gala is sure to be an adventurous and memorable evening.

If you’re interested in joining next year’s gala committee, please contact **Leslie Religioso at leslie@rmhccnaz.org.**
RMHC held its 5th Annual Greater Phoenix Pro-Am Golf Tournament on May 16, 2019 at Grayhawk Golf Club. The tournament welcomed 141 golfers, six Champion Tour Pros, and 29 local pros to raise over $194,700 in support of RMHC’s mission.

Proceeds from the tournament support the mission and services at the Valley’s three Ronald McDonald Houses, allowing families to stay together while seeking pediatric care for their children. Thank you to event chair Kevin Robinson, the golf committee, and our generous sponsors for making the tournament a “swinging” success for the families that call the House their “home-away-from-home.”

**Swinging “Fore” the Houses!**

We are excited to announce that the RMHC Pro-Am Tournament will be back on May 14, 2020! To learn more, email leslie@rmhccnaz.org or visit rmhccnaz.org/golf

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**Save the Date**

Thank you to our presenting sponsor

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**Local McDonald’s® Continue to Help Our Families**

We appreciate our local McDonald’s® restaurants for continually raising money and awareness for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona throughout the year. Here is how you can help next time you stop by a McDonald’s® to support the families who travel to the Valley and call RMHC their “home-away-from-home.”

**Happy Meals**

A portion of each Happy Meal sold is donated to RMHC.

**Round-Up for RMHC**

At select McDonald’s you can now choose to “round-up” your order total to the nearest dollar. That extra change will be donated to RMHC.

**Canisters**

Diners can donate directly to RMHC by depositing money in the canisters at their local restaurant.

**Newspapers**

A portion of USA Today and Arizona Republic newspaper sales at McDonald’s® restaurants are donated to RMHC.
Making a Difference

Give the Gift of Togetherness

In 2018, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona provided 17,566 nights of rest for the 1,046 families who called our House their “home-away-from-home.” This holiday season, you can help give even more families the gift of togetherness by making a year-end gift. Even better yet, your contribution to House is tax deductible!

Your contribution helps families during a time when they need it most. Thank you for your generosity!

Donating to RMHC is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. **Choose** your donation amount
   Reduce your direct state tax liability by $800 per couple or $400 per individual.
   RMHC qualifies through the Arizona Credit for Donations Made to Qualifying Charitable Organizations in Arizona.

2. **Mail** in your donation or donate online at rmhccnaz.org by December 31st!

3. **Benefit** from a dollar-for-dollar tax credit
   This credit is in addition to those you can receive for private school tuition and public school extra-curricular activities. You don’t need to itemize your deductions to benefit from the credit!
   Use QCO code 20400 when claiming your donation to RMHC on your state taxes.
   *Consult your tax advisor for details and advice on your specific situation.*

MAKE DONATING AUTOMATIC WITH WORKPLACE GIVING

Workplace giving campaigns empower you to help your community by automatically deducting donations from your payroll on a one-time or recurring basis.

It’s a great way to support the House year-round!

RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona currently participates in the following campaigns:

- United Way: ID# 0008
- Combined Federal Campaign: ID# 75292
- State of Arizona Employee Charitable Campaign: ID# ST730
- Maricopa County Combined Charitable Campaign
- SRP Boosters

To find out if your employer participates in a workplace giving campaign, contact your organization’s Human Resources Department.

DILLARD’S COOKBOOK | All proceeds benefit RMHC

Pick up your 2019 edition of Southern Living Christmas Cookbook at your local Dillard’s today! Featuring over 175 all-new recipes along with dozens of decorating ideas for year-round holidays, it is a perfect resource as we welcome the season of celebrations!

From the Heart of RMHC Families...

“At the hospital our family would come and go. But at the House they could spend days with us. It was a place where we could still be a family.”
-Mother of child receiving cancer treatment

“It is a community of other parents and other families who understand what you’re going through.”
-Mother of infant recovering from surgery

Our 35th Anniversary is Coming!

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona will celebrate a milestone anniversary on May 15, 2020, marking 35 years of providing togetherness for families who travel to the Valley for medical care for their children. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly e-news and follow us on social media to stay on top of all of our celebrations!

Do you have a House story from the past 35 years? We’d love to hear it! Email Development and Marketing Manager Laura Hallstrom at lhallstrom@rmhccnaz.org to share your story!
Please help keep our mailing information current!

Check any of the following that apply:

___ My name is misspelled
___ My address is incorrect
___ I received more than one copy
___ I wish to unsubscribe

Please clip and return your request in the enclosed envelope, or email your change to development@rmhccnaz.org.

If you would rather receive e-mail updates about what’s happening at the House, please send an email to development@rmhccnaz.org or sign up for our e-news updates online at rmhccnaz.org.

Use Your Fry’s V.I.P. Card TO SUPPORT RMHC!

Did you know you can help RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona keep families close just by grocery shopping?

Earn donations by registering your Fry’s VIP card today at FrysCommunityRewards.com using Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona’s ID #XA822.

Sign up for a tour of RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona

We’re so glad you stay connected through our newsletters. If you have never been to a House, or if it’s been a while, we’d love to give you (and your friends, too) a tour of any of our three Houses.

If you’re interested in getting involved, taking a tour and learning more about Ronald McDonald House Charities, contact Volunteer Manager Adam Smith at asmith@rmhccnaz.org.