



straight from the

HEART

NEWSLETTER FROM RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ARIZONA

FAMILY STRONG: ADDELYN'S STORY

Content, silly, and very loving – just a few words Melia uses to describe her 19-month-old daughter Addelyn. Those characteristics serve her well, considering the medical obstacles she faces. At 19 weeks pregnant, parents Melia and Reagan from Thatcher, Arizona, discovered their daughter had fluid on her brain. Tests later revealed that she had a rare diagnosis of chromosomal deletions on parts of her DNA. After birth, these deletions have presented Addelyn with many medical challenges, including seizures and epilepsy. She has also undergone shunt, heart, and eye surgery.

But during every step of the unknown path the family travels, Ronald McDonald House has guaranteed a precious treasure – togetherness. “It’s been nice to just have that resting place to come and wrap your head around everything that she’s been diagnosed with or the scariness of all the unknowns,” Melia said. “These appointments are emotionally and physically exhausting. Ronald McDonald House helps hold our family together.”

For Addelyn’s dad Reagan, little activities that volunteers and House staff organize have provided

a needed escape. Reflecting on a day when the family sat down to make Valentine’s Day cards, Reagan said, “It didn’t have anything medically involved and I felt like this was home. It was a time when I could actually relax and focus on doing a little something together.”

Addelyn’s 4-year-old sister, Chloe, the “energizer bunny and then some” of the family has also found joy in the House. Her favorite thing – “playing outside” with new friends she makes.

To Addelyn’s family, Ronald McDonald House is more than a place to sleep and eat. “This is OUR family,” Reagan said. “These experiences bring out the best in us as families. We’re not in this alone.” Melia added, “It’s been a treasure.” Through stress and uncertainty, the House is dedicated to providing families with a soft place to land when they need it most.

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.

“Ronald McDonald House helps hold our family together.” – Melia, Addelyn’s mom



Left: Sisters Chloe and Addelyn on the RMHC playground.
Right: Dad Reagan, mom Melia, and sisters Addelyn and Chloe.



Introducing Our New Chief Operations Officer



We are excited to introduce our new Chief Operations Officer Kerry Schulman, who has been a champion of Ronald McDonald House for several years.

Kerry is a former McDonald's owner-operator and joins Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona after serving as a co-chair of the 2018 McNight to Remember Gala, as well as on our Board of Directors for three years.

"Kerry brings an incredible combination of experience, talent and passion to her new role at the House," said

RMHC CEO Nancy Roach. "Her skills as a business owner and her obvious commitment to Ronald McDonald House Charities will make an immediate impact on our mission to provide a 'home-away-from-home' to families whose children are undergoing medical care in the Valley. We're so pleased to have her as part of our team."

Kerry will manage day-to-day operations and the staff members who run our three Houses, where every night of the year up to 78 families can stay together and close to the medical resources their child needs.

"I am honored and blessed to serve as COO for RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona," Kerry said. "I love our mission and I am so excited to work for such a wonderful organization and move our mission forward."

Prior to becoming a McDonald's owner-operator in 2016, Kerry's experience included responsibilities with Cardinal Health and Johnson & Johnson.

Kerry and her husband, Brian, a partner at Ballard Spahr law firm in Phoenix, have been married for 25 years. They have three children: Rachael and Ethan are high school seniors who in the fall will attend the University of Missouri School of Journalism and the University of Arizona, respectively; Jonathan is a high school sophomore. **Welcome to the RMHC team, Kerry!**

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CHARITY NAVIGATOR

RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona was named a Four-Star Charity by Charity Navigator for the fourth year in a row. Only 12% of all charities rated receive this honor for four consecutive years.



Community Support

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COMMUNITY GRANTS

Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation.....	\$43,000
Patricia H. Jager Charitable Fund.....	\$33,745
BHHS Legacy Foundation.....	\$25,000
Corwin Charitable Pass-Through Grant Fund of the FM Area Foundation.....	\$25,000
General Mills Foundation.....	\$25,000
Golden State Foods Foundation.....	\$25,000
Thunderbirds Charities.....	\$25,000
The Arizona Republic's Season for Sharing.....	\$15,000
Arizona Cardinals Charities.....	\$10,000
Yuma Community Foundation.....	\$6,000
Capstone Health Fund.....	\$5,000
Phoenix Suns Charities.....	\$5,000
The Sundt Foundation.....	\$5,000
Howard & Geraldine Knaack Foundation.....	\$3,000
Toyota Motor Credit Corporation.....	\$2,500
Gagnon Charitable Trust.....	\$2,000
Geile Charitable Foundation.....	\$2,000
Executive Council Charities.....	\$1,500
DeBusk Family Making Smiles Foundation.....	\$1,000
Dillon Family Foundation.....	\$1,000
Feuerstein Marer Family Foundation.....	\$1,000
LogMeln Charitable Fund at the Boston Foundation..	\$1,000
Tim and Beth Hopkins Renaissance Charitable Foundation.....	\$500

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Leslie's Pools Charitable Foundation.....	\$20,000
Dillard's Cookbook.....	\$14,522
Facebook Fundraisers.....	\$4,033
Arizona Coyotes Foundation 50/50 Raffle.....	\$3,363
Wreaths for Life.....	\$2,323
Estrella Vista STEM Academy.....	\$1,856
Southwest Microwave.....	\$1,720
Cadillac LaSalle Club Car Show.....	\$1,540
Village Green Splash Day.....	\$1,345
DriveTime.....	\$1,250
Emily Helm.....	\$1,063
Novartis 5K.....	\$1,030
AFC Physical Medicine & Chiropractic Centers.....	\$1,000
Bank of America.....	\$1,000
Colten Cowell Foundation.....	\$1,000
CHAMP Cancer 5K.....	\$870
Wells Fargo Community Fundraiser.....	\$659
Fry's Community Rewards.....	\$615
Great American Title Agency Outreach Program.....	\$571
Happy Valley School.....	\$524
AmazonSmile Foundation.....	\$506
La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries of Arizona.....	\$500



Host Your Own Fundraiser

Thanks to the incredible generosity of companies and community groups who host activities and events to raise awareness and funds in support of our mission, Ronald McDonald House is able to keep hundreds of families close each year. Whether it's a special sales promotion, food festival, office event, car show, or golf tournament, there are countless ways you or a group can raise funds to help RMHC provide a "home-away-from-home" for every family who needs us.

If you are interested in hosting a Community Fundraiser as a special way to support the House at your business, school, organization or church, contact Jami Carlson at **(602) 798-5099** or jcarlson@rmhccnaz.org.

AMAZONSMILE

Support the House While You Shop while you shop! Amazon will donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona when you register with AmazonSmile. Visit smile.amazon.com to designate RMHC CNAZ today!

FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

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**.

FACEBOOK FUNDRAISERS

Turn your birthday or special occasion into a celebration of RMHC's mission of keeping families together and close to the medical resources they need. Instead of presents, ask your friends and family to make a gift that gives back. It's easier than ever when you set up a Facebook Fundraiser with just a few simple steps. Visit facebook.com/rmhccphoenix/fundraisers to start your fundraiser.

House Happenings

The Fortoul Brothers: Making Ordinary Extraordinary



One of the most powerful features of the Roanoke House is the reception area mural done by the Fortoul Brothers. Completed in late 2016 as part of the main house renovation, artists Gabriel and Isaac Fortoul gifted the House with a lasting piece of art that reflects the atmosphere of hope, courage and family togetherness that are sewn into the fabric of Ronald McDonald House.

Originally from Union City, New Jersey, the Fortoul brothers sought a fresh perspective by moving to the Valley, a place they had no physical connection to. Much like the experience of the families who first

stay at Ronald McDonald House, Gabriel and Isaac arrived in Arizona expecting to stay temporarily. Instead, they found something much more meaningful. “This was meant to be a stop, onto maybe others, but it ended up being the source of a lot of inspiration,” Gabriel said. “We’ve come and gone since then, but it always remains a home.”

The brothers wanted their art to provide the same sense of community and joy that the House provides to families. Using whimsical and colorful images of families and nature, Isaac describes the piece as portraying “a breath a fresh air,” and results in “a combination of the ordinary with the suggestions of the extraordinary.” Gabriel’s hope is that the mural provokes feelings of “diversity, community, and a ‘home-away-from-home,’ because that’s what it is here.”

They also made a conscious decision not to fight the unique angles and dimensions of the House lobby and dining room, but rather make

it part of the experience. “It gets the kids to look up and around, move around,” Isaac said. “I think it also gives some life to the space, almost as if it’s part of the building and the structure,” Gabriel added. More than four walls, the House gives families a place to grow and heal together, a feeling that Gabriel believes is mirrored in the uncommon features of the project. “The walls start coming to life. It’s a living entity with its own energies, bringing life as much as we can with our art.”

The brothers value the opportunity to be part of the House experience for each and every family that comes to call the House their “home,” even if just for a short time. “Just by being here and talking to people, you realize the magnitude of what is done here,” Isaac said. “So we’re proud to help and be part of it in some way.”



SAVE THE DATE!

5th Annual Ronald McDonald House
Greater Phoenix Pro-Am Golf Tournament

May 16, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. shotgun start
Grayhawk Golf Club



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona will hold its fifth annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament on May 16, 2019, at Grayhawk Golf Club. Presented by La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries, the tournament features an exciting swag bag, awards luncheon, and fantastic silent auction.

This exhilarating day of golf also holds the opportunity to play with local pros and golf greats including Kirk Triplett, Tom Purtzer, Howard Twitty and Willie Wood. Please join us in supporting our mission of serving families in their time of need at our three Houses across the Valley. We can’t wait to see you on the green!

Golfer spots are still available! Purchase your individual spot or foursome at rmhccnaz.org/golf.

For questions, please contact Leslie Religioso at leslie@rmhccnaz.org or (602) 798-5097.

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How You Can Help



Volunteer Spotlight: Shining the light on Mark Kramer

Our families find comfort and a “home-away-from-home” at Ronald McDonald House thanks to the hearts and hands that are dedicated to making our mission come to life. The anchor of the organization is volunteers like Mark Kramer.

Mark first began giving to the House through his job at ACN seven years ago. Looking to get more involved, he began donating his time to the House once a week. From restocking rooms with towels, sheets, and welcome bags, to cleaning air filters, Mark has now been a dedicated volunteer for a year. Knowing that his tasks are helping more families is what keeps him coming back week after week. “What I like best about volunteering with RMHC is the fact that it saves an hourly wage that is able to be put back into helping our families with their stay,” Mark said.

Mark’s advice for someone interested in volunteering: “Just do it! It is all worth it.”

For more information on how to get involved visit us online at rmhccnaz.org or contact our Volunteer Manager at volunteer@rmhccnaz.org.

THE SPECIAL TOUCH OF WELCOME BAGS



As part of creating a home-like experience from start to finish, each family that stays at Ronald McDonald House receives a welcome bag when they arrive. The bags, donated by Thirty-One Gifts, are full of many essentials families need when they’re away from home: a toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, and other hygiene items. But the special additions that are generously donated from members of the community, like art kits and stuffed animals, provide an extra touch of magic for our youngest guests. Having made several visits to the House, the Mullenau family (see their story on Page 1) has found the bags to be especially useful. “That’s the first thing my daughter goes to when we come,” mom Melia said. “When quiet time is needed, it’s super helpful to have something in the room that can keep her occupied that we can do with her.”

Looking to help stock our shelves with items to support our families? Visit our Amazon Wish List at bit.ly/rmhccnazwishlist or email development@rmhccnaz.org for a comprehensive wish list.



Red Shoe Society

RMHC’s Red Shoe Society (RSS) is a group of young professionals dedicated to serving the House. Through mission-focused volunteer events, planning activities to enhance the family experience at the House, raising awareness for the organization, and hosting fundraisers for RMHC, these individuals help create a “home-away-from-home” for the families we serve.

If you are a young professional or know of someone looking to get more involved in the community, we would love for you to consider RSS! For more information contact Laura Hallstrom at redshoe@rmhccnaz.org or check us out online at rmhccnaz.org/get-involved/redshoesociety.

LOCAL MCDONALD’S® CONTINUE TO HELP OUR FAMILIES

Every day, our friends at local McDonald’s® restaurants provide opportunities for employees and patrons to raise money and awareness for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central and Northern Arizona.

Here is how you can help support our mission next time you stop by your local McDonald’s®.

Canisters

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

Happy Meals

A portion of each Happy Meal purchased is donated to RMHC

Newspapers

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



A McNight to Remember: Beauty and the Beast Gala

Ronald McDonald House Gala honors Sara Begley and SRP



Left: Gala guests Robin and Frank Neal. Middle: The table settings designed by Brian Vetter, Christie Cothrun, and the Arizona State Florists Association. Right: Associate General Manager & Chief Financial Executive Officer Aidan McSheffrey accepting the Heart of the House Award on behalf of SRP with Marty Manning, Nancy Roach, and Connie Colla.

RMHC's Beauty and the Beast-themed signature Gala—A McNight to Remember—was a terrific success thanks to the more than 690 guests who attended the annual giving celebration at the J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn Resort on Saturday, November 10, 2018. Valued sponsors, including presenting sponsor CopperPoint Insurance Companies, dedicated committee members led by Chairs **Kerry Schulman** and **Chiko Swiney**, hard-working volunteers and everyone in attendance, all contributed to a truly amazing evening that raised more than \$565,000 to provide families with a “home-away-from-home” at the Ronald McDonald Houses!

Upon arriving at the Gala, guests waltzed into the enchanted castle where they met storybook friends, Belle, the Beast, and everyone's favorite candelabra, Lumiere! The atmosphere in the silent auction room was overflowing with energy as guests placed bids, hoping to win one of many fabulous silent auction packages! Ronald McDonald, who's always ready for an adventure, was of course on hand for photo-ops and “selfies.”

Guests were then led to the luxurious ballroom where they were welcomed by emcees—**Connie Colla** and **Marty Manning**!

An always exciting and heart-warming point of the evening is the Live Auction and Help-A-Family Appeal. Auctioneer Jennie Heal got the crowd's attention auctioning experience packages, including an Alpine Getaway in Sun Valley, Idaho; a culinary feast of historical proportion at the Price House catered by Hotel Valley Ho Executive Chef Russell LaCasce; an exclusive opportunity to attend the live finale taping of the 38th season of Survivor; a beach vacation in sunny Destin, Florida; an Emerald Isle dream golf adventure in Ireland; and

back by popular demand the “Everyday Heroes: First Responders” experience to go behind-the-scenes, for a first-hand, exclusive look at public safety, generously donated by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, City of Phoenix Fire Department, City of Phoenix Police Department, and U.S. Marshals Service.

Guests showed an overwhelming expression of support with “donation bids” to sponsor nights for families at Ronald McDonald House totaling more than \$85,000.

The night would not be complete without taking a moment to recognize RMHC's Heart of the House honorees:

Sara Begley and **SRP**. Each of our honorees are prime examples of what it means to be a champion for Ronald McDonald House. Their numerous gifts and contributions to the cause have made a tangible difference and it was an honor to bring focus on the impact they make on the Ronald McDonald House mission.

The party didn't stop once the Gala ended! **The Enchanted After Party** hosted by **Red Shoe Society** kept the good times rolling with music, dancing, entertainment, late-night charcuterie and the very popular Mystery Box Prize Raffle!

Thank you to everyone who made a difference in the lives of RMHC families through their thoughtful and kind gestures of support at the McNight Gala!



McNight Recap



Top: Heart of the House Honoree Sara Begley with Marty Manning, Nancy Roach, and Connie Colla.

Bottom: Brian Schulman and Elkin and Brenda Diaz with Gala Co-Chairs Kerry Schulman and Chiko Swiney.

Around The World in 80 Days Gala



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 2, 2019

J.W. Marriott Camelback Inn Resort

We look forward to a thrilling Gala this year, as we explore the exciting adventure of the storybook, Around the World in 80 Days. We hope you will join us and our **2019 Gala Co-Chairs Chris Bates and Sebastien Reyes** as we honor **Marty Manning and Thunderbirds Charities!**

If you are interested in joining the McNight Gala Planning Committee, becoming a sponsor or donating to the auction, please contact Leslie Religioso at **(602) 798-5097** or **leslie@rmhccnaz.org**.

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Keeping Families Close®

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- Include a gift (bequest) to RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona in your will
- Leave RMHC of Central and Northern Arizona a percentage of your retirement plan assets
- Use a life insurance policy to give back

We look forward to thanking you and expressing the importance of your gift. We respect your wishes to remain anonymous, if you so choose, and any details of your gift that you disclose are held in confidence.

To learn more or let us know your estate plans for RMHC, contact Jerry Diaz at jerry@rmhccnaz.org or by calling **(602) 798-5092**.



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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, email volunteer@rmhccnaz.org.