



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Central & Northern Arizona

straight from the

Spring 2023



Hope and Home: The Joy Family

An “inevitable miscarriage.” The words were unfathomable, and yet that was the reality Ally and her husband Adrian were facing.

At 19 weeks pregnant, Ally was experiencing complications her local regional hospital in northern Arizona was not equipped to handle.

The 150 minute car ride to Phoenix was excruciating for the anxious couple, but their hopes became a reality when doctors at St. Joseph’s Hospital assured them they were equipped, and ready, to bring their son safely into this world. With their support system hours away in Flagstaff, Adrian and Ally had many worrisome questions. How and where would they stay together as a family during this crisis? And would they be able to afford a long-term stay at a Phoenix-area hotel or apartment? After all, they knew their son was facing a lengthy recovery in the NICU after he was born.

Then social workers told the couple there was a place they could stay, free of charge, for as long as they needed that was just steps away from the hospital: Ronald McDonald House. Once Ally and Adrian realized lodging, food, and all their basic needs would be taken care of, they were able to focus all their energy on preparing for their newborn’s arrival and the many medical unknowns he still faced.

Baby Theodore was eventually born at 27 weeks. Weighing just 2lbs 9oz, he was considered “big” for his gestation. During the next 100+ days that

Theodore spent in the NICU, he developed a brain bleed and an eye disease, among many other complications. Plus, the tiny newborn also needed oxygen to thrive.

Thankfully, from the moment he was born, his family was able to stay right by his side. “I don’t know what we would have done without Ronald McDonald House,” Ally shared. “Each day brought new challenges that required us to make important decisions alongside his care team. I know that having us there full-time vs. on the weekends made a huge difference in his overall outcome.”

Along with providing a welcoming place to stay at no cost, the House also provided another necessity for the family – the gift of togetherness. “I’m so grateful that she’s allowed to be here with us,” Adrian shared, referring to Theodore’s big sister, Hera. “It will be cool to show her pictures and look back on this chapter. It’s going to be part of our story forever.”



In This Issue:

- New Upstairs Family Room
- Mission in My Words
- Unforgettable Experiences
- Financial Relief for Families

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.

Kerry's Corner: A Note From Our CEO

A well-balanced diet, along with enough sleep, and drinking plenty of water are the fuel that allows us to stay well, look after ourselves, and for caregivers to tend to those who need them.

As we navigate life after the global pandemic, many things have changed. Here at the House, we don't have as many volunteers coming back to participate in our Dinnertime Heroes program.



We need your help.

Dinnertime Heroes are essential to our mission. After a long day in and out of appointments at the hospital, there is something really special about coming "home" to a home-cooked dinner, a meal that is carefully prepared with love.

In 2023, only 48% of our dinner volunteer shifts have been filled. Because we believe a nourishing meal is so important for our families' well-being, we have been subsidizing the program by purchasing additional meals and asking our staff to prepare dinner when a volunteer group is not scheduled. As you can imagine, this has caused a tremendous strain on our resources and is not sustainable over time.

We're asking you to gather your friends, families, or colleagues and sign up to be a Dinnertime Hero. I promise you the time you give and the meal you offer will be appreciated by our guest families more than you imagine.

We hope to see you soon! Thank you in advance for making a difference for families in need.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kerry Schulman".

Kerry Schulman



Scan to learn more or visit rmhccnaz.org/meals

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME

Thanks to our generous community, these RMHC families had experiences they won't soon forget.



TOUCHDOWN! Thanks to our global partnership with DIRECTV, Trevor Zerilli and his family were able to attend the 2023 Super Bowl in Glendale.



Photos courtesy of the Phoenix Suns

Devin shoots. Mateo scores! In celebration of the Devin Booker Starting 5 Grant, 10-year-old Mateo was invited to the Suns game to meet the superstar.



Start your engines! NASCAR driver Ryan Ellis invited Braxton and his mom to Phoenix Raceway for a VIP pit experience.

More Room for Family

The families we serve are often stressed and in crisis. Sometimes, they don't even have a chance to pack a change of clothes or essentials for extended out-of-town stays. Having clean clothes is a must-have, especially for families with little kids. That's why having access to conveniently located laundry facilities is super important, especially when they're far away from home.

Luckily, the Del E. Webb Foundation couldn't agree more! Thanks to a generous grant of \$102,000, a storage room on the second floor of our Roanoke House has been completely re-purposed and revamped to provide convenient access to a brand new laundry room. The space has been outfitted with shiny new washers and dryers, a built-in ironing board, as well as new shelving and counter tops. On top of that, funding from the Del E. Webb Foundation was also used to construct a family room immediately adjacent to the laundry room.

Family rooms are important at all three of our Houses. They give families a place to unwind after a tough day at the hospital. It's also a great spot for siblings to do homework or play games. But most importantly, family rooms let families come together and support each other in a comfy and relaxed setting.

Our CEO, Kerry Schulman, can't thank the Del E. Webb Foundation enough for their support. "Having laundry facilities so close by is a game changer for families staying on the second floor of Roanoke House. This is a big deal, especially for families with

little ones. The Del E. Webb Foundation has helped us fill a really important, basic need for our families. And when you're taking care of a sick or injured child, it's the little things - the basic things - that become essential to your well-being."



AFTER



Average Cost Savings for a Family

While some families are planning and budgeting for their summer vacations, others are planning a trip to Phoenix so that their children can receive the critical medical treatment they need. Luckily, each family we serve is spared from at least some of the financial burden of being away from home.

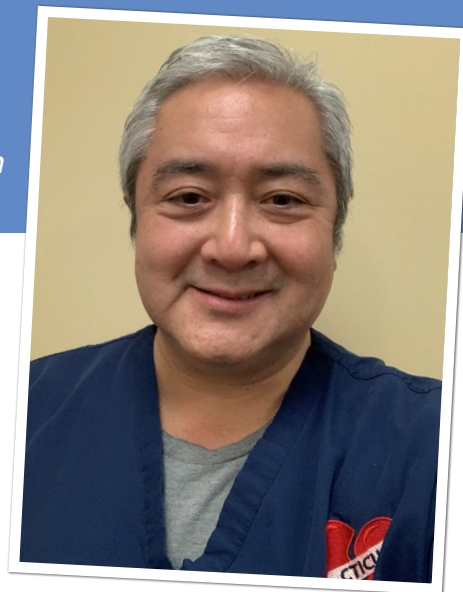
Here is the average cost savings for a family breakdown that YOUR donations make possible:

NIGHTLY COST SAVINGS	
Hotel Rate <i>(avg rate within 5 miles of RMHC)</i>	\$232
Dinner Cost <i>(avg cost for a family of 3)</i>	\$36
TOTAL	\$268

AVERAGE STAY (10 NIGHTS) COST SAVINGS	
Hotel Cost <i>(avg rate within 5 miles of RMHC)</i>	\$2,320
Nightly Dinner Cost <i>(avg cost for a family of 3)</i>	\$360
TOTAL	\$2,680

MISSION IN MY WORDS

As the Chief Medical Officer at Banner Desert Medical Center, Dr. David Moromisato has a unique perspective on the importance of RMHC. Learn what our mission means to him.



Tell us a little bit about your connection to Ronald McDonald House.

Being a pediatric critical care physician, I have long admired and been grateful to Ronald McDonald House Charities for the support they provide to the families of seriously ill children under our team's care. RMHC's mission to provide comfort, care, and support to families when they need it most allows the parents to be with their child and be truly present, knowing that housing and geography can take a backseat to their child's medical, spiritual, and emotional needs. Most recently, I have had the honor of being part of the RMHCCNAZ Board and it gave me the opportunity to give back to the organization that made the lives of my patients and their families better. It was an absolute joy to serve alongside the dedicated and passionate RMHC staff, and my committed Board colleagues.

From your perspective, why is the RMHC mission so important?

A child's potential to have a long fulfilling life is instilled with hope and promise. And when he/she

is faced with serious illness, the pediatric healthcare team rallies to the child's medical needs. However, as a physician, if I offer medical care to a child, but there is no support for their family, then the care is incomplete; healthcare for children must encompass the child's body, mind, and soul. The RMHC mission is to play a major role in realizing this holistic need for a child's care and recovery.

What do you want people to know about Ronald McDonald House?

Ronald McDonald House plays a key role in access to care and in the road to recovery and complete healing for children by supporting and caring for the most important people in the child's life: the family.



It costs the House \$107 to host a family for one night, so it is your generosity that makes each family's visit possible. We recently launched our Hearts of Hope Monthly Giving Program to inspire House supporters like YOU to make an ongoing commitment to our mission.

With monthly gifts of any amount that fits your budget, you impact our organization long-term. Your donations go further, resulting in more nights of rest for families during their hardest journeys.

Use the QR code or visit rmhccnaz.org/monthlygiving to learn more.



Keep In Touch!

follow us on:



sign up for emails:
rmhccnaz.org/enews

update your contact info:
email.development@rmhccnaz.org