



Ronald McDonald House Charities® of South Louisiana

Keeping families close®

*The year 2020 was a year unlike any other experienced, but we never wavered from the RMHC-SLA mission of providing programs that give comfort, compassion and care to children and their families.*



## New House expansion

In January CCS Fundraising is hired to study our plans for a House expansion and relocation to the campus of Children's Hospital New Orleans. Once the relocation is complete, Ronald McDonald House® New Orleans will provide 22 comfortable guestrooms with private baths, six of them ADA-compliant, a kitchen with 64-seat dining room, welcome and check-in area, family food storage and pantry, indoor playroom, two laundry facilities, meeting/activity room, offices, family living room and breakfast nook, magic (toy) room, game room, library and computer area (quiet space), outdoor deck with barbecue area, and more.



# COVID-19 pandemic



In March as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across Louisiana, our country and the world, Ronald McDonald House New Orleans closes for an already scheduled termite fumigation. Food pantry items are donated to Second Harvest although little do we know the House will remain closed for over five months.

Throughout the remainder of spring, RMHC-SLA prepares for reopening the House with enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols and other safety measures. The current House layout with community bathrooms that were shared by families prior to the pandemic, means a reduced

occupancy once open to ensure families have the safe space needed while staying at RMH New Orleans.



# Online fundraising

*Giving Tuesday Now* and *GiveNOLA Day* in May and June replenishes the food pantry and supports the charity financially since other fundraisers have had to cancel. USA Dueling Pianos performs a Facebook Live concert on the porch of Ronald McDonald House New Orleans as part of the *GiveNOLA Day* fundraiser.



# Comforts of Home program begins



Summertime sees the creation of Comforts of Home to reach families at area hospitals who are experiencing financial and emotional distress because of a medical emergency. Donors support this program so that Comfort bags can be filled with hand selected items for the neonatal or pediatric patient and their parents or siblings, including restaurant or gas gift cards, games, soft blankets, books and other toiletries, and delivered to hospital social workers for distribution.



# Meals From the Heart pivots to meal delivery

Despite ongoing pandemic and multiple hurricane threats, Ronald McDonald House New Orleans reopens in September to a maximum of five families at any one time.

With the volunteer program temporarily suspended and the House kitchen closed to outside cooking groups due to the pandemic, all meals are prepared by local restaurants and delivered to the House, thanks to funds provided by our Meals From The Heart sponsors.



# McDonald's shows support

RMHC's founding mission partner, McDonald's, steps up to help, with a Coca Cola Sleeves for Support fundraiser held across south



Louisiana in August netting over \$27,000 in proceeds. Additionally, McDonald's owner operators network to help our charity through the sale of McDonald's masks, and Round-Up for RMHC and restaurant canister donations.



# Golf Classic returns to Bayou Oaks

Our annual Golf Classic held in mid October raises 30 percent more than in 2019, thanks to the generosity of 35 sponsors, including presenting sponsor Children's Hospital New Orleans.



The social distanced golf fundraiser means

everything is held outside, as golfers enjoy food and beverages provided by local food truck vendors.



# Program Expansion plans continue

The plans for Ronald McDonald House New Orleans to expand and relocate are further refined with groundbreaking planned for early 2021 when construction at the new location can commence.

Additionally, the charity explores other opportunities for expansion in southwest Louisiana, as it continues to serve families staying at Ronald McDonald House New Orleans or supported through its Comforts of Home outreach program.

