



To honor the 64 parishes we serve across the state of Louisiana, we are inviting YOU to become one of our first 64 Sunshine Circle supporters with your monthly gift of \$6.40 or more!

Each donor at the \$6.40+ level will receive an exclusive year-end thank you gift as well as special updates & recognition throughout the year!

To make your recurring gift, please visit: https://rmhc-sla.org/donate

Be sure to click the monthly option & input your gift's custom amount of \$6.40 or higher to join!

# THANK YOU!

## **Gratitude from Grace**

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the remarkable journey of Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Louisiana (RMHC-SLA) in 2023, the recurring theme is nothing short of a breathtaking metamorphosis.

Your support of our mission of care and compassion, embracing **505** families and **1,394** individuals facing medical challenges has been truly phenomenal! For **7,242** nights, your kindness provided them with a haven where hope flourished, and healing became a shared journey.

Your generosity extended beyond shelter, feeding our families 0ver **72,000** meals. It reached across borders, comforting visitors from **7** countries, **16** states, and **41** Louisiana parishes.

You celebrated with us during milestones like our 40th birthday, Annual Christmas Party, and the "one-derful" 1st birthday of our Family Room in Lafayette. Thank you for helping us to create cherished memories in the tapestry of our year.

In 2023, your dedication also fueled the launch of our new Locals' Day Program, offering our local families much needed rest and support in our House. To complement this new program, we expanded our team, welcoming a new Community Resources Specialist (CRS). Our CRS, funded through the generosity of **The Eugenie & Joseph Jones Family Foundation**, will wrap arms of support around our in-House residential families <u>and</u> local families utilizing our House during day hours to equip them with the necessary resources to navigate the uncertainties of their child's medical journey.

We entered 2023 with high hopes for transformative progress and looking back, we are elated to announce that it not only met but surpassed our expectations, emerging as our best year yet. Today, we stand in our strongest and most stable position ever, a testament to your enduring support. However, we're not content to rest on our laurels; our path forward continues, and with your continued support, we are poised to reach new heights.

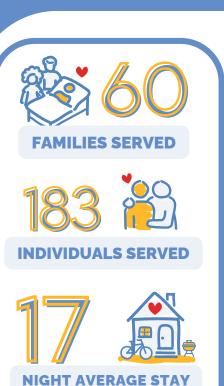
We want to express our deepest gratitude for being an integral part of this extraordinary journey. Your commitment has propelled us toward success and empowered us to create lasting impact.

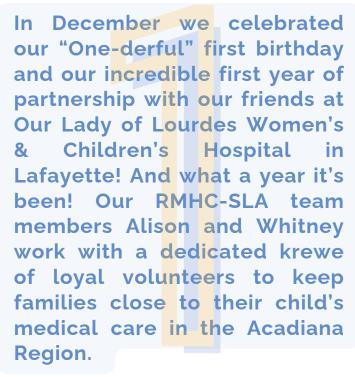
With heartfelt thanks and excitement for the future,

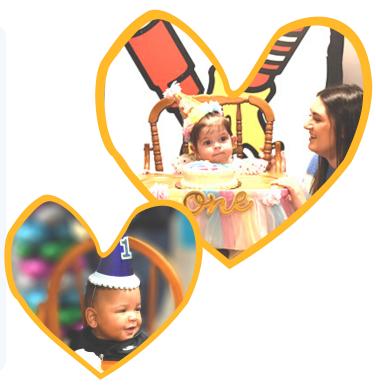
Grace McIntosh, MSW, MPA

**Executive Director** 

Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Louisiana









**OVERNIGHT STAYS** 



4 4 6 -

VOLUNTEER HOURS



### WE'RE ALL FAMILY AT THE FAMILY ROOM

Henry Jacobs was born June 10, 2023, at 28 weeks and was transferred to Our Lady of Lourdes Women's & Children's from Lake Charles since he was on oxygen and not taking a bottle. He was born with chronic lung disease due to his lungs not being fully formed in the womb. He had successful G-Tube surgery and his family waited for his lungs to fully develop so they could bring him home.

The family was able to check in to the Family Room in October and stay through Henry's discharge in early November. His mom Kourtney, and dad Nathan both appreciated not having to drive almost 3 hours back and forth from Pitkin, while not incurring costs for hotel stays. They both felt peace of mind being so close to Henry while finding community.

Nathan said, "It is like the firehouse. You are with family and don't have to go through this alone". Kourtney agreed saying, "It was a great environment to stay in. It felt like family because we were surrounded by people who understand this whole situation."



788

**VOLUNTEERS** 

1,394

VOLUNTEER HOURS

•

7010

**OVERNIGHT STAYS** 

\$113,970

**VOLUNTEER VALUE** 

15 3





**STATES SERVED** 

**NIGHT AVERAGE STAY** 







LOUISIANA PARISHES SERVED

RMHC-SLA's COST PER FAMILY of 4/PER NIGHT



TOTAL SAVINGS FOR FAMILIES

**WHAT FAMILIES PAY** 





December was a big month for us! Not only did our Family Room in Lafayette have its first birthday, but our Chapter is now 40 years old! And we celebrated with our friends at the Porsche Club Mardi Gras Region, the New Orleans Saints, Saints Cheer Krewe and Gumbo, as well as the phenomenal team at Outback Steakhouse! Our House looked spectacular for the event as it was fully decorated by Santa's elvesthe Kiwanis Club of New Orleans, Jackson State University Alumni, and our expert elf decorator extraordinaire Rhonda Combel along with the entire Combel's Customs Cruisers' crew.

December also graced us once again with our deliciously festive annual partnership with Ralph's on the Park, once again offering their infamous Champagne in the Oaks cocktail to benefit RMHC-SLA!





#### Meet Our Newest Board Members



Charles Stewart
Commercial Relationship Mgr.
First Horizon Bank



Eric Hoffman CEO, Hoffman Media



Jason LeBlanc, CPA, CHFP, CGMA Partner, Lester, Miller & Wells

## LOCALS' DAY PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Our House in New Orleans is truly a haven for families traveling to be with their ill or injured child. Seeing a need to meet our local families with that same care, comfort and compassion offered to our overnight guests, we've launched our Locals' Day program!

Our Executive Director, Grace McIntosh, has this to say about the Locals' Day program, "This is the final piece of our puzzle, families who live in the Greater New Orleans area do not want to be away from their child. Our day program invites local families into our House, where they can get a meal, relax, siblings can play, and they can all learn about services to assist them once their child leaves the hospital. The most important thing we can give families is the gift of the opportunity to recharge so that they can be more available and present for their child."

To learn more about the Locals' Day program, please visit our website. Families wishing to participate should reach out to their social worker for a referral.

# INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER: DENISE PARKER, COMMUNITY RESOURCES SPECIALIST

Denise Parker, BSW, began her journey with RMHC-SLA 18 months ago. After more than 30 years in the government sector assisting differently-abled people throughout our community, Denise became a loyal and dedicated volunteer. Always one to put the needs of others first and work to help them reach their fullest potential, Denise is a fantastic asset to our team.



In her new role as Community Resources Specialist, Denise will assist both our residential <u>and</u> local visiting families while in our care and during their transition home; sharing resources to aid in navigating their child's medical journey. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a certified budget coach and a finance ministry leader with New Orleans Bible Fellowship Baptist Church. We are thrilled to have Denise as a member of our team and an advocate for our amazing families in need. Welcome aboard, Denise!



## **♥4,796 MILES FOR TYLER**

21-month-old Tyler drowned in a pool at 13 months old and his parents found him without any signs of life. Miraculously, first aid was performed on him and he was resuscitated after almost 20 minutes. Following the drowning, Tyler was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy by Hypoxia.

His family traveled from Sao Pedro de Alcantara, Brazil to become patients for treatments and stayed with us for the duration of his medical care.

Mom and dad were so grateful to be with us and they had this to say, "Our stay at the House has been wonderful. We manage to be at peace even in the situation that left our family very sad with the health condition of our baby. Really everyone here at the Ronald McDonald House acts as if we were in our own home."

In October we hosted our 1st Patron Par-tee sponsored by our good friends at EMR Metal Recycling and our 22nd Annual Fore the Families Golf Classic presented by our partners Children's Hospital New Orleans.

The Par-tee was held in City Park at the Louisiana Children's Museum at sunset and it was a stunning success! Our golf classic was once again on the beautiful English Turn course and broke all our previous records!





Local family enjoying Pi(e) Day in our backyard



1st Annual
Volunteer Appreciation
Crawfish Boil



Gumbo comforting a child at Snoball Smash



Mrs. Theresa Gifted Healthcare Volunteer



Golf Sponsor Eagan Insurance

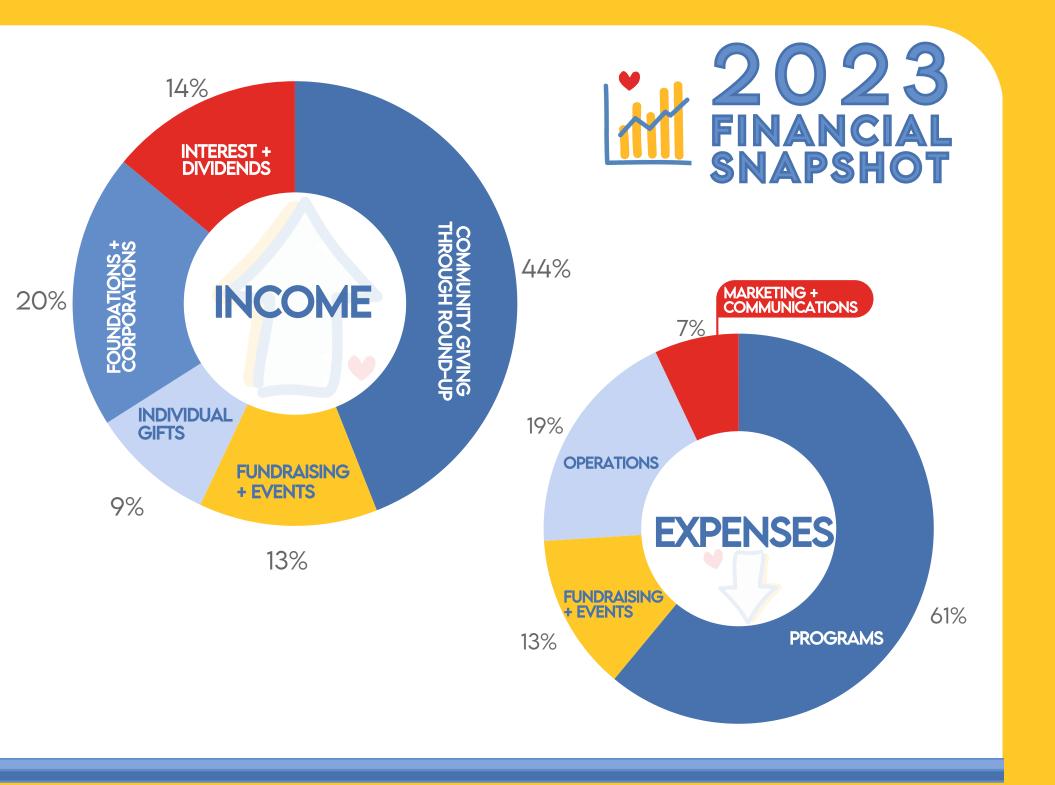


Optimist Club
of the West Bank's
Crescent City Talent
Showcase



In March, we held our 1st Kids + Clays Patron Party at the Marsh House on gorgeous Avery Island with our lovely McIlhenny Family hosts. The sporting clays event was held on Jefferson Island the following morning. We were delighted to offer a new fundraiser for our friends in the Acadiana region and adjacent cities and a fabulous time was had by all!





**Anonymous** 

**Cheryl & Ray Egan** 

**Combel's Customs Cruisers** 

Cox

**Delta Fraternity of Westwego** 

**EMR Southern Recycling** 

Family & Friends of George Randall Frost

Harch Hyperbarics, Inc.

**Harvey Gulf International Marine** 

In honor of Byron F. Bennett by Ginny Bennett & the Tony Herques Family

John & Rhonda Combel

John, Nicolas, and Michael Valluzzo

Kathy & Ray Masker Jr., Tammi & Ray Masker III

**Kiwanis Club of New Orleans** 

**Krewe of Bacchus** 

**Libby Dufour Fund** 

Mike Flynn, CPA

Platta Temple No. 15, Prince Hall Shriners

**RMHC Global** 

South Louisiana McDonald's Owner/ Operators

Cornerstone Society laid the foundation and made our new House at State and Tchoupitoulas possible. We will forever be grateful and always honor those who facilitated this vital expansion, as our House is more than just a physical structure. It embodies the love, hope, and peace that is extended to our visiting families and all who pass through our doorway.

Terry, Carita & Samuel Wilburn
The Chris & Lentriese Bardell Family Foundation
The Colin Family
The Eugenie & Joseph Jones Family Foundation
The Goldring Family Foundation
The Goodenough Family Charitable Trust
The Jamjomar, Thrower & Fisher Families
The Krampe Family
The Marks Family
The Miller Family in honor of Rudy & Freda Miller
The Sue & Clarke Montgomery Family Fund
The Whitman Family Foundation

CORNERSTONESOCIETY



Virginia Bennett

**Marianne Graffam** 

Alpha Delta Pi Foundation

**Blaze Express Courier Service** 

Children's Hospital New Orleans

**Delta Fraternity of Westwego** 

Dillard's Inc.

**EMR Southern Recycling** 

Françoise Billion Richardson Foundation

Gabriel Billion Richardson Foundation

**Goodenough Family Charitable Trust** 

Kids and Clays Foundation

**Libby Dufour Fund** 

Optimist Club of the Westbank

Storyville

The Eugenie & Joseph Jones Family Foundation

The Goldring Family Foundation

The Krampe Family

The Martin Brower Company

South Louisiana McDonald's Owner/Operators

The Sue and Clarke Montgomery Family Fund

The Whitman Family Foundation

**Thrower Fisher Families** 

**Treasure Chest Casino** 

Valero Meraux Refinery



**Anonymous** 

900 City Park Avenue LLC

Arthur J. Foundation

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

**Becker Family Foundation** 

**Besnard Insurance** 

**Bowling Christiansen Law Firm, APLC** 

Cargill

O

Children's Clinic of SWLA. Inc

Coca-Cola Company

Combel's Customs Cruisers

Crescent River Port Pilots' Foundation

Didriksen, Saucier, and Woods, PLC

**Douglas Cook Enterprises LLC** 

Festival International de Louisiane

First Horizon Foundation

**Gulf Coast Bank & Trust** 

H & K International

H/L Agency

**Helm Paint** 

JJ Fund of Fidelity Charitable

JP Morgan Chase

Lafayette Parish School System

Lamarque Automotive Complex

Lopez Dorada Foods

Louisiana Airstream Club

Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

Magnolia Management Services

**Marks Organization** 

Max Foods Management Inc.

Mayhall Fondren Blaze llc

McDonald's Dallas Field Office

McDonough Marine Service

National Council of Jewish Women

New Orleans Rotary Fund, Inc.

Platta Temple No. 15

Resurrection of our Lord

**Rouses Enterprises, LLC** 

Shell Oil Hero

Sobe Promos, LLC

**TFGroup LLC** 

The Alden and Margaret Laborde Foundation

The Charles B. & Louis R. Perini Family Foundation

**The Domain Companies** 

The Gray Insurance Co.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation

The Ryan School of Irish Dance

Trey Woods Law Firm, PLC

**TripSpark** 

**Tyson Foods** 

Dr. Ellis Arjmand

Wanda Blakeley

Meaghan and Joe Bonavita

**Becky and Stephen Bonnecarrere** 

Douglas Brooks

Kelli and Dr. Robert Cazayoux

Janis Chopin

**Betsy and Steve Clement** 

The Colin Family

Melissa and Brian Dunlay

Cheryl Egan

Ronald J. Evans

Mike Flvnn

**Christine Fulton** 

**Tony Herques** 

Katherine and Eric Hoffman

**Annie Janise Nash** 

**Chris Krampe** 

Theresa Lanier

Chad Lentz

Olivia and Archie Manning

The Masker Family

Haley Miller

Michael Pugh

Danielle and Jordan Parker

Jacquelyn Marks Rollins

Philip F. Schmidt

Mary Ann Schnur

Wayne Traina

Celeste and Michael Valluzzo

**Grace Williamson** 

