



July 2025

Love Notes

News & Updates from Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Triangle

Dr. Falletta: **Founder and Devoted Friend of RMH**



As a pediatric oncologist, John Falletta knew sick children need family-centered care.

With this in mind, Dr. Falletta began the process of organizing the volunteer leadership to open the state's first Ronald McDonald House. The year was 1978, and Dr. Falletta understood how crucial this decision would be to tens of thousands of families across NC and beyond in the years to come.

Dr. Falletta shared his idea of family hospitality with a local mother, Carolyn Ketner Penny, whose daughter he was treating.

"I knew very well how hard it is to be the parent of a young cancer patient. To travel from out of town for treatment places an extra burden on parents who already face so much," Penny recalls.

Carolyn and Dr. Falletta went to work rallying support for the first NC hospitality house for families of sick children. It was incorporated as Pediatric Family Center of NC and soon after became Ronald McDonald House.

From the start, Dr. Falletta's focus on family-centered care reflected his values and his insistence that patients and their entire families be known and understood by their physicians.

In order to care for somebody, you have to care about them. You have to understand the challenges that they're facing.

This philosophy would follow him throughout his career. *(Continued)*



Above: Carolyn Penny and John Falletta attend the 2015 Ronald McDonald House of Durham 35th anniversary celebration.

Left: Dr. Falletta with former patient Carolyn Leigh, the daughter of Carolyn Ketner Penny, nearly 40 years after her treatment.

Falletta continued

Dr. Falletta served several terms on the Durham Ronald McDonald House board. His leadership extended to Ronald McDonald House Charities Global in Chicago, where his family-centered-care perspective benefited the growing international organization.

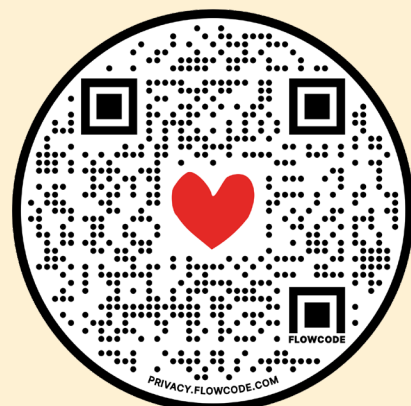
He was respected locally and globally as a caring physician and humble leader.

On January 31, 2025, Dr. Falletta died unexpectedly at his home in Chapel Hill, leaving a legacy of family-centered care and, most of all, love. Our community and our world are much brighter because of this kind and committed friend.

HONORING JOHN FALLETTA

Ronald McDonald House is raising \$50,000 to recognize Dr. Falletta's decades of service to the mission through a permanent endowment.

To participate, scan the QR code below, or mail a check made payable to RMHC of the Triangle to 506 Alexander Ave, Durham, NC 27705.



Above: A now grown Steele enjoys French fries with pasta.

Below: Sarah and her late husband, Flaminio, proudly sport their Heart of Steele T-shirts.



Sarah's Heart of Steele

Like many volunteers, Sarah Sanchez has a personal connection to the mission. In 2015, her youngest grandson, Steele, was born with a dangerous heart defect. He had three open heart surgeries beginning at just one week old.

Steele's family stayed at Ronald McDonald House in Palo Alto so they could be near him when he was in the hospital. Sarah even joined them at Ronald McDonald House.

When she moved to the Triangle, Sarah looked for ways to pay forward the hospitality her family was shown during Steele's health crises. You'll find her on Friday mornings at Ronald McDonald House of Durham, welcoming families as a front-desk volunteer. Sarah understands personally how meaningful a kind smile and a kind word can be to families as they begin their day.

Fast forward ten years, and Steele is starting fifth grade. He faces future surgeries, including a possible heart transplant. For now, he enjoys golf and video games, and he loves math.

Celebrating Volunteers



Volunteers are the hearts and hands that make Ronald McDonald House programs possible. They answer phones, welcome families “home” at the end of long days at the hospital, and prepare nourishing meals. There would be no RMH without these caring friends. Here are just a few of the thousands of everyday angels we thank for their selfless service.



Gene

Ronald McDonald
House of Chapel Hill

Gene has volunteered at Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill for more than seven years.

Each Monday morning she welcomes families with a warm smile and a kind heart. This makes Gene the perfect breakfast greeter.

Gene's compassion and commitment shine in everything she does.



Mike

Ronald McDonald
Family Room and
Hospitality Kiosk at UNC

Mike may consider himself “behind the scenes,” but his work supporting the UNC Family Room and Hospitality Kiosk is front-stage. Mike loads and delivers snacks and supplies to the hospital, always with efficiency and a smile.

No matter the weather or season, he ensures the families of pediatric patients receive sustenance and care.



Joan

Ronald McDonald
Family Room at
WakeMed

Joan has two sets of WakeMed ID badges: one for her shifts as a NICU nurse and the other for her volunteer role at the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

In 2013, Joan wanted to find more ways to support patient families. That's when she joined the volunteer team. Joan enjoys encouraging parents and celebrating patient progress.

She always takes extra care to keep snacks and drinks stocked for parents and caregivers.

Join the Volunteer Team!

rmhctriangle.org/volunteer/

Opportunities in Raleigh, Durham & Chapel Hill

Annual Gratitude Report



Overwhelm the world with goodness.

Visit any news channel or start even a casual conversation with family or friends. These days that's all it takes to suddenly feel overwhelmed, even if you agree with the voices in the room.

A day at Ronald McDonald House Charities is the antidote to so much of the discomfort of the world. Our volunteers, generous donors, corporate partners, and our Top-5 team show up every single day with one goal in mind: bring good to the families we serve.

Your acts of goodness are everything — from greeting guest families at the door who didn't expect to be here, to collecting snacks to fill our pantries, to preparing homemade meals for the parents and siblings of young patients at the end of long, difficult days.

I spoke with a family this week who lost their young son several weeks after a terrible accident. They are leaving without their child, and nothing we can do will change that. At the same time, their experience of love and embrace at RMHC Triangle will also remain with them forever. Your acts of goodness gave them hope when nothing else could.

Thank you for the goodness, love, and hope you bring to so many families you may never meet who are forever changed because of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Oie".

Oie Osterkamp is CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Triangle.



Your Impact in 2024

Finley's family stayed at Ronald McDonald House for 88 days while she was in the hospital.

Born with Down syndrome and weighing just two pounds, Finley faced multiple challenges. Her father Tim, a US Army Aviation Operations Officer, shared, "One of the reasons the doctors said that Finley came home at all was because both Ashley and I were able to be there every day – every time the medical team did the rounds, every time she needed a bottle feed we [could] be there."

Watch their heartwarming story:
bit.ly/rmhcfmley



1,653
families
welcomed for
residential
hospitality



29,190
cost-free
nights of
care for
families



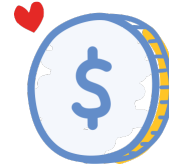
58,070
meals served
to children &
families



22,564
in-hospital
respite visits
for families



5,518
volunteers &
30,667
hours of service



\$5.4M
cost savings
to families
for meals &
lodging alone

Incalculable
cups of coffee &
loads of laundry



The invaluable
support of our community
of love

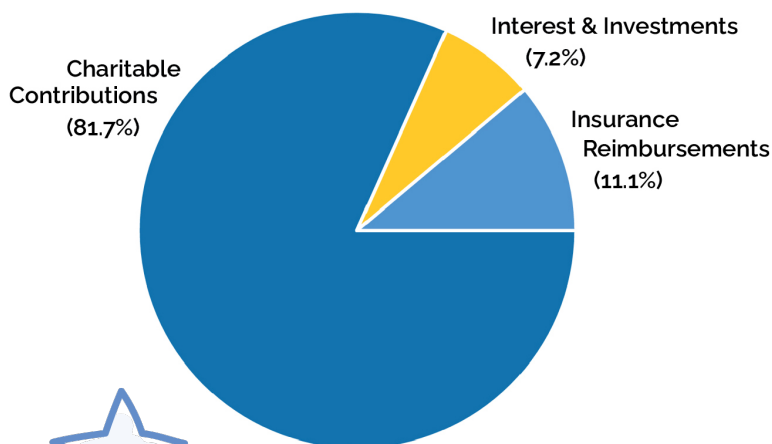
Key pediatric treatment areas

Neonatal ICU, Cardiology, Hematology/Oncology,
Pediatric ICU, Blood and Marrow Transplant

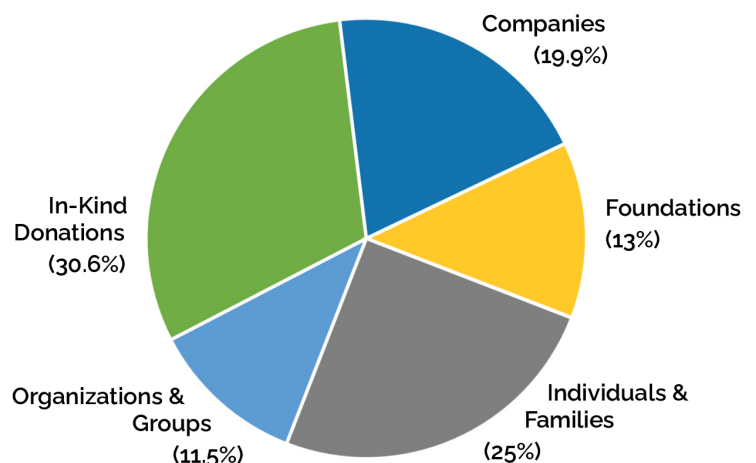
Guest family hometowns

94 NC Counties, 31 U.S. States, and 3 Countries

Support & Revenue: \$8,024,010



Donation Sources



Visit **RMHCTriangle.org** to see our **2024 audited financials** and **IRS Form 990**.

Honoring **Impact Donors**

The Red Shoe Crew

You've likely seen them at RMHC events or in the community. The Red Shoe Crew is the iconic corporate leadership team for RMHC Triangle.



Cara Greening, CHAIR
T.A. Loving Company

Siler Ransmeier, VICE CHAIR
HH Architecture

Joseph Bakey
Connect Cause

Anthony Bastardi
WSP USA

Morgan Beam
Gilbane

Colleen Becker
HEAPY

Mary Kate Bedell
Fresh Air Designs

Paul Bender
Connect Cause

Christina Blaszczyk

Greg Boone
Jani-King of Raleigh/Durham

Jeffery Bottomley
Shepley Bulfinch

Mark Bouck
BioBridges

Matt Boyer
Proyco LLC

Jamie Brueggeman
Walter P Moore

Tom Cavender
WakeMed Health & Hospitals

Steve Couch
Couch Oil Co.

Andy Crawford
Fractional Procurement
Group

Hannah Cresimore
Thrifty Office Furniture

Bo Crouse-Feuerhelm
JE Dunn Construction

Mike Dare
Robins & Morton

Jennifer Dauphinais
Consigli

Jason Deshayes
Cook Wealth

Jennifer Dix
Trammell Crow Company

Shawnak Doshi
Brasfield & Gorrie

Ann Dyer
BDO

David Dyer
Danis

Nikki Edmonds
Clancy & Theys

Matt Elliott
The Data Bull

Jeff Endrusick
McDonald's Owner/Operator

Lili Engelhardt
Edward Jones

Susan Farrell
Bonitz

Aaron Fleming
Alamance-Burlington School
System

Jeffrey Fuller
Monteith

Heather Kuttler Gallagher
UBS

Brandi Gerew
Pinnacle Financial Partners

Joel Gillis
Thrifty Office Furniture

Jim Goodwin
McDonald's Owner/Operator
(Retired)

Espy Harper
LS3P

Kevin Haynes
Page

Ashley Head
Duke Health

Sarah Hernandez
Ci Design

Britni Holman
Riley Contracting Group

Emily Hughes
East Coast Rigging &
Scaffolding

Elizabeth Johannessen
Robins & Morton

Steven Keating-Burch
DLR Group

Rebekah Laney

James Larkin
Whiting-Turner

Dave Legg
Southern Elevator

Tom Maltais
UNC Health

Teresa Mansfield
Labcorp

Mary Martin
Duke University Hospital

Kristi Matthews
Affiliated Engineers

Brooks Mayberry
DPR Construction

Peyton Maynard
DLR Group

Wendy Mayo
Express Employment
Professionals

Kate McGinn
The Bold Stripe

Jerry Merritt
HKS

Kelly Monroe
Williams Realty & Building
Company

Mike Munson
Munson Law Firm

Josh Neal
CMS Controls

Cory Newton
Sentinel

Jason Norman

Katherine Norman

Kirstie Nugent
SSR

Casey O'Keefe
Aprio

Nick Parsatoon
Accenture

Daniel Perry
McAdams

Matt Pickens
SCP Health

Mike Putnam
Sequence

Heather Rhodes
Merz Therapeutics

Bryan Roof
Cumming Group

Tia Rose
Bordeaux Construction

Matthew Rougeux
Duke University Hospital

Tom Ryan
RGD Project Management

Ray Santos
McDonald's Owner/Operator

Dominic Scarfo
Bordeaux Construction

Holly Scott
3form

Jenny Sharp
IQVIA

Will Tattersall
Siemens

Jessica Throneburg
Little Details

Karen Tobin
BSA LifeStructures

Tim Tompkins
Smith Anderson

Rachel Urban
First National Insurance
Agency

Blair Watkins
Aggregate Group

Josh Watson
Window World

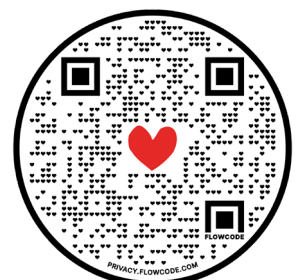
Charles Wilkins
Falcon Engineering

Devon Williams
Ward and Smith P.A.



NICU alumnus and 2025 "Courageous Kid," Ford keeps the mission front and center for the Red Shoe Crew.

Learn more or
join the crew.



In 2024, RMHC friends gave nearly **\$6.6M in cash and in-kind donations** to support the families of seriously ill children.

See the **complete donor listing, including Sustainers of Hope**, at RMHCTriangle.org.

Room + Area Sponsors

Room Sponsors in Raleigh, Durham & Chapel Hill

Anonymous | Aggregate Group, LLC | The Anne Family | BioBridges | The Brinley Family in Honor of Tom & Marian Brinley | The Cain Family & Team Wells | Carolina Orthodontics & Children's Dentistry | Castelloe Family Foundation | Chiesi | Choate Construction Company | Edward & Melissa Conder | CRB Builders | Julie Curd | Wade & Dana Dixon | Duke Hospital Auxiliary | Duke OB-GYN | East Chapel Hill High School Ronald McDonald House Club | Doug & Michelle Farrell | The Flagg Family | Grifols | David & Sheila Groves | The Guerriere Family | Timothy Hanley | David & Rachel Jacob | Chloe Joyner | The Kamineni Family | The Kelm Family | Amy Kissam-Sands | Brent & Jennifer Kitchens | Labcorp | Connie Lamb | Lee Lamb | Miranda & Kathy Lee | Little Details Boutique | Tom & Mollie Lotrecchiano | Greg Maunz in Memory of Donna Maunz | John & Marie Mitchell | Gary & Marie O'Neil | Riley Contracting Group | The Roberts Foundation | Laura Shannon | Brian & Melissa Short | Richard & Joyce Tabor | Talbert Building Supply | WakeMed Health & Hospitals | Your Help Counts Foundation

House Common Area Sponsors

The Cain Family & Team Wells (Durham Dining Room) | Little Details Boutique (Chapel Hill Hearth Kitchen) | John & Mary Beth Parker (Durham Kitchen)

House Heroes

Anonymous Friends | Alpha Delta Pi Foundation | Brenda Brodie | C10 Fall Revival/Perez Family | Chiesi | Duke Children's Hospital | John & Nikki Huebner | ICAP Energy | Chad & Karen Ice | Kean Hartquist Foundation | The Leon Levine Foundation | McDonald's | Mead Family Foundation | Merck | RGD Project Management | Rosenbaum Family Foundation | UBS | UNC Health | James & Jane Wells | Yardi



Zeke and his mom and dad have stayed at Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill for 117 days.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Officers

PRESIDENT

Jim Goodwin | JGD Enterprises/McDonald's (Retired)

SECRETARY

Brenda Schafer | McDonald's (Retired)

TREASURER

Kim Clark | Cook Wealth

PAST PRESIDENT

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Williams Realty & Building Company

Johnny Moore |

NC Sports Hall of Fame

Art Pappas |

Pappas Capital

Matthew Rougeux |

Duke University Hospital

Cheryl Russell | CZR Strategic Marketing (Retired)

Ray Santos | Santos Foods/McDonald's

Charles Wilkins | Falcon Engineering



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
of the Triangle

Business Office
506 Alexander Avenue
Durham, NC 27705

**Christmas in July,
Lights of Love,
and other acts of
goodness enclosed.**



JULY 19-31

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

A Summer Wish-List Extravaganza
for Ronald McDonald House



Surf Amazon TODAY:
bit.ly/rmhcyjuly25

LIGHTS of LOVE



Lights of Love is a community initiative sharing love and comfort with families facing serious childhood illness & injury.

- Friends & family teams
- Local house parties
- Corporate teams
- Corporate sponsorship
- Retail campaigns for businesses of all sizes
- A holiday market
- Family-friendly activities & more!

Will you join us?

LightsofLove@RMHCTriangle.org



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
of the Triangle

SHINE

through your individual or team involvement.

SPARK

community support by inviting others to join the campaign.

SUPPORT

Ronald McDonald House children & families.

SPOTLIGHT

our success at a community celebration.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
4:00-7:00 PM

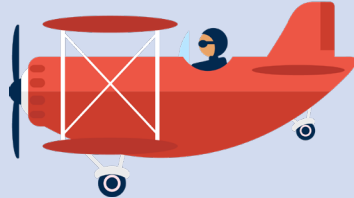
Durham Bulls Athletic Park

Free Admission



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

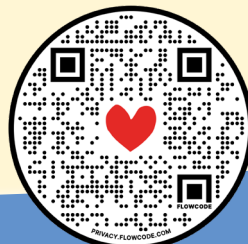
A Summer Wish-List Extravaganza
for Ronald McDonald House



JULY 19-31

****SWEET TREATS & PHOTOS WITH SANTA****
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 3:00-5:00 PM

Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill
101 Old Mason Farm Road 27517



KITCHEN & PANTRY

- ~ Individual bags of chips
- ~ Individual cookie packs
- ~ Individual cracker packs
- ~ Individual trail mix/mixed nuts
- ~ Granola bars
- ~ Breakfast bars
- ~ Pop Tarts
- ~ Shelf-stable microwave meals
[Easy Mac, Chef Boyardee, single-serve soup/noodle cups]
- ~ Tuna & chicken salad kits with crackers
- ~ Coffee pods/K-Cups
- ~ Hot tea & decaf pods/K-Cups
- ~ Coffee creamer cups
- ~ Sugar packets
- ~ Paper plates & cereal bowls

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

- ~ Laundry pods [free & clear]
- ~ Bleach [half-gallon bottles]
- ~ Dishwasher pods
- ~ Multisurface cleaner
- ~ Sanitizing wipes
- ~ Swiffer wet cloths
- ~ 13-gallon trash bags
- ~ Gallon & sandwich-size food-storage bags
- ~ 3-compartment to-go boxes
- ~ Toilet paper
- ~ Paper towels

bit.ly/rmhcjuly25



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
of the Triangle

Jasmin@RMHCTriangle.org

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

RMH of Chapel Hill, 101 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill 27517
RMH of Durham, 506 Alexander Avenue, Durham 27705