



# Helping Hand

*A Newsletter of Ronald McDonald Charity House*

*October 2011*

## Helping Those in Times of Need

**A**rianna Turnage  
For Dionne and Duane Turnage of  
Youngstown, Ohio, Ronald McDonald  
House is not only a “home away from home,” but  
also, according to Duane, “a  
life-changing community of  
support.” The Turnages are  
truly grateful that Ronald  
McDonald House was here  
for them during their fight  
to save their beautiful little  
Arianna.

Their journey began when  
Dionne went into labor with  
Arianna. Lymphatic tis-  
sue was blocking Arianna’s  
airway and, unless sup-  
ported by Dionne through  
the umbilical cord, Arianna  
would not be able to breathe  
on her own. With contrac-  
tions under way but well managed, Dionne and  
Duane were then transported by Life Flight from  
Akron Children’s to Cincinnati Children’s Hospi-  
tal Medical Center.

At Cincinnati Children’s, a team of medical spe-  
cialists performed a C-section and with mother  
and child still connected by the umbilical cord,  
surgically opened Arianna’s airway so she would

be able to breathe on her own. But Arianna would  
need continued medical care. And, Dionne and  
Duane would need a place to call “home” while  
they stayed close by her side.



Because of the emergency situ-  
ation under which the couple  
had arrived in Cincinnati,  
Duane explains, “I had arrived  
with nothing but the clothes on  
my back. Grandma had picked  
up our son, Jordan, and a friend  
was taking care of the dog. I  
didn’t know which end was up.”  
But thanks to Ronald McDon-  
ald House, Duane says, “I had  
home-cooked meals to return  
to and the support of volunteers  
and other families with sick  
children.” And, of course, hav-  
ing a quiet, comfortable room

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# Our Mission

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Guiding us in our mission are our core values:

- Focusing on the critical needs of children.
- Celebrating the diversity of the programs we offer and the staff, volunteers and donors who make them possible.
- Staying true to our heritage of more than 36 years of responsible stewardship.
- Operating with accountability and transparency.

## Vision

We believe that when you change a child's life, you change a family's, which can change a community, and ultimately the world.

We strive to be part of that change and part of the solution in improving the lives of children and their families by providing programs that strengthen families during their most difficult or challenging times. We extend our reach and impact by leveraging our 36 years of experience and strong relationships with local communities and people in the field to continually establish Chapters across the globe. We continually work to improve and expand our core programs, while also developing new services to address the unique needs of the communities we serve.

We don't do it alone. We rely on our Chapters to identify needs and carry out our mission on the ground. We rely on our strong relationships with the medical community to provide access to health care. We rely on strategic alliances with organizations that have the knowledge and infrastructure to extend our reach. We rely on you – our donors, volunteers, staff and friends.

## How You Can Help

### Donate

#### Your Dollars at Work

Broken down into real-life costs, 88 cents of every dollar\* is distributed to local Chapters who might then spend it on things like:

- Average cost to host a family for one night = \$85
- Daily electricity bill for an average House for one day = \$125
- Daily gas bill to keep appliances like a kitchen stove working = \$60
- 5 flu vaccinations on a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile = \$175
- Saving families from eating in the hospital cafeteria = \$25

\*based on 2010 numbers

### Volunteer

Volunteers make the difference in the lives of all the families that come through our doors - by cooking, by hosting, by listening, by nurturing, by simply being there and helping. We want to give them special thanks, recognize their extraordinary efforts helping children and their families and share their stories with you. We hope they inspire you as much as they inspire us.



# Calender Events



## Dates to Remember

Oct. 12 Hay ride

Oct. 15 Create a costume

Oct. 22 Field trip to pumkin patch

Oct. 31 Spook fest



Ronald McDonald  
House Charity  
1800 McDonald Ln  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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