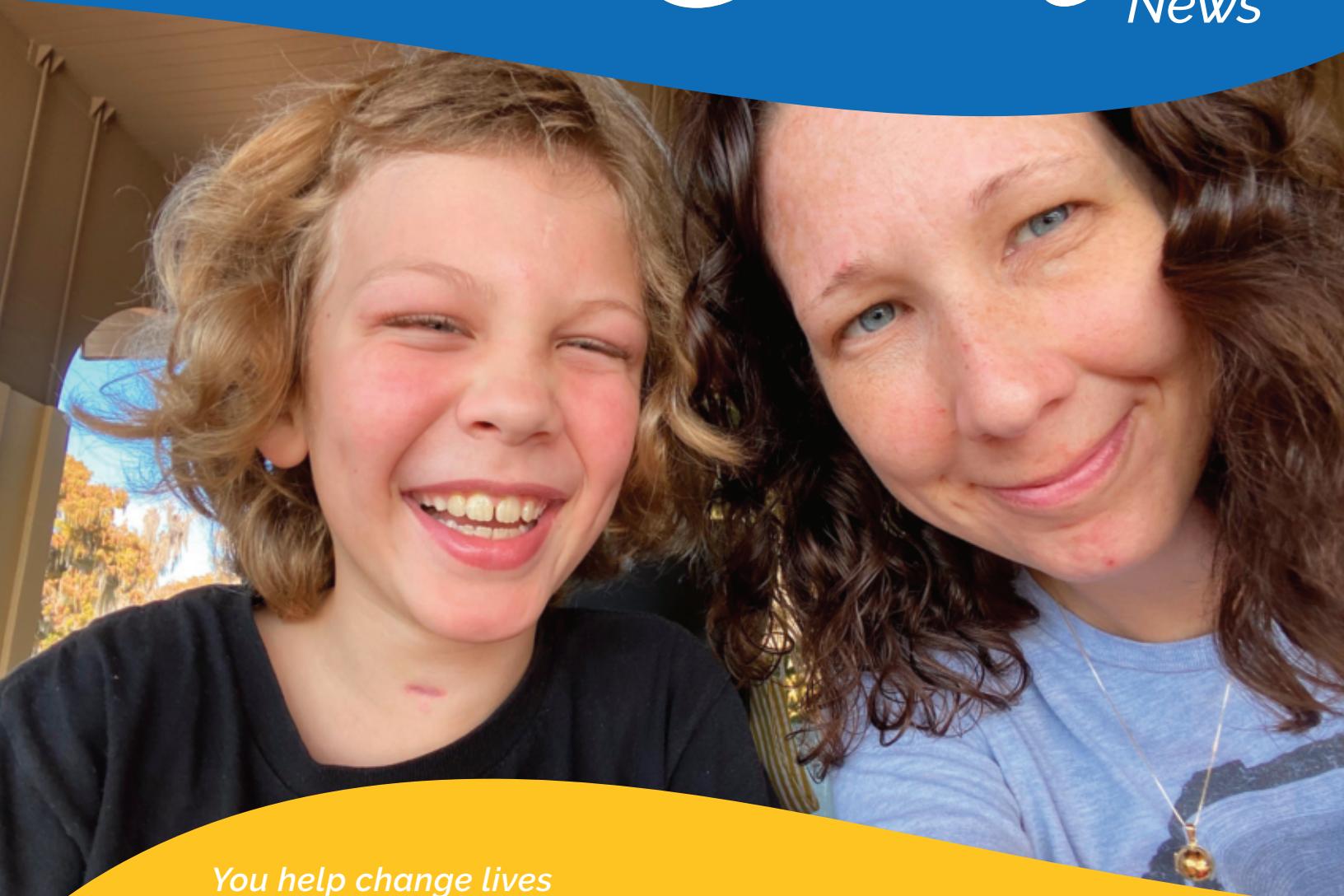


Spring 2022

Heart Strings

Keeping families close®

News



You help change lives

Thank You for Helping Keep Elliot Close to Mom Ashley

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Heart Strings

SPRING 2022

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE
CHARITIES ANN ARBOR

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For more information or to share comments, please email
mmoffett@rmhcannarbor.org.



Kim Kelly
Executive Director

'Season of New Beginnings and Change'

Dear Friends of RMHCAA,

Spring is the season of new beginnings and change. Here at Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor (RMHCAA), we are especially excited for those changes. As all of us negotiate the new "normal," RMHCAA is thrilled to be able to once again welcome volunteers into our Houses. We look forward to the support of the wonderful volunteers who help us keep the pantries stocked and organized, prepare home-cooked meals, and lend their hearts and hands to our families.

An exciting addition to our programs is a new partnership with St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor. To further extend our mission of providing comfort and care to families of hospitalized children, we are delivering care bags to the NICU at the hospital. The bags are filled with toiletries, blankets, snacks, and comfort items for families staying bedside with their sick child. RMHCAA is proud and honored to be able to partner with another local hospital that is keeping families close.

As always, we are grateful for the support of our donors, our community, our volunteers, and our health care partners. Your commitment and support allow RMHCAA to help families focus on what is most important: their sick child.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Kelly".

Kim Kelly
Executive Director
Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor

Thank you and a fond farewell to the following Board members that are concluding their term on the RMHCAA Board of Directors. We thank you for your service, support, and dedication to the RMHCAA mission:

AC Ganger
Chad Nyitray

Matt Dejanovich
Michelle McAllister



After Ashley Ampersee's son Elliot was in a car accident, she spent two months at the Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor Mott House. "It was a very scary time and I had nothing with me," Ashley said. "It was so comforting that I could be that close and run back to his room easily at any time."

A Mott House Family Story

Ashley Ampersee's son Elliot, now 9 years old, was in a car accident with his dad and brother, and was the only survivor. He fought for his life at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital for more than two months.

"It was a very scary time and I had nothing with me," Ashley said. "Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor provided me with a place to sleep, cry, shower, and recharge so I could best care for my son and make decisions on his behalf. They also had shampoo and toothpaste and things that made me feel human again."

She was able to stay at the RMHC Mott House, "which was amazing," she added. "It was so comforting that I could be that close and run back to his room easily at any time. It was such a blessing to be cared for and every little thing felt so big- the hot cup of coffee in the morning, being able to store food and being able to wash my clothes. I still cry thinking about how it felt to be cared for in such a big way."

Ashley stayed at the Mott House for two months. During that time, Elliot had five surgeries and "having that quiet

place to wait was really nice," Ashley said. "I was so overwhelmed that I didn't want to be around people or noise."

She added that the biggest impact was having an actual bed to sleep in. And the laundry was also ideal to have since this was an emergency visit and she didn't have time to pack much.

The best part of being so close to Elliot's room was Ashley could run back to his room at any hour of the day or night. "I didn't have to worry something would happen without me," she said. "The fact that I was so close actually allowed me to get some solid rest, too."

The car accident was more than six months ago. And now Elliot has been home for four months and is doing well.

"He has the best attitude imaginable and is letting nothing hold him back," Ashley said. "Anything he wants to do, he figures out a way to do it. He is a miracle. Thank you to every single person who helped us."

Spring into Helping RMHC Ann Arbor

1 **Make a donation** to Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor. Any amount helps to make a difference for the families we serve. Did you know that: \$25 provides coffee for our families for one day; \$50 helps to purchase fresh towels or pillows for one guest room; and \$100 will pay for a night's stay at one of our two Houses for a family? Donations can be made:

- Online at www.rmhcanarbor.org
- By mailing a check to RMHCAA, 1600 Washington Hts., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
- Or by calling our Development Office at (734) 998-6532



2 **Adopt A Room** from your family to one of ours! With a gift of \$2,500, you can Adopt A Room for the year and provide families with a private bedroom and bathroom, laundry facilities, transportation, meals, and play area. For more information, contact Kristina Behncke kbehncke@rmhcannarbor.org or call (734) 998-1798.

3 **Volunteer.** At RMHCAA we could not provide support to families in need without our incredible volunteers. If you are looking to make an impact in the lives of families in need by donating your time, we encourage you to get the process started. The first step is to complete a volunteer application which can be found on our website at www.rmhcanarbor.org under "how to help> contribute your time." For questions, please contact Nancy Bailey at nbailey@rmhcannarbor.org or call (734) 998-2103.

4 **Donate a vehicle.** You hold the keys to keeping families close. Vehicle donations provide funds that RMHCAA can use to support the organization's programs and services for families. To donate a vehicle, visit www.CarsHelp.org or call toll free at 855-CarsHelp (227-7435).

5 **Collect Pop Tabs.** It's an easy way do something good and make a difference for the family of a seriously ill child. Use a clean container and start collecting your tabs! It could be a jar, bucket, or plastic bag. Get your family, friends, classmates, and co-workers to help. Pop tab donations can be dropped off weekdays and weekends from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and placed in the Pop Tab Hut in RMHCAA's parking lot. Or you can save them and drop them off during the month of November to help us win the Pop Tab Battle against OSU and the Columbus House.



6 **Meals Matter** and make our families feel comforted and cared for. Our dinner group program has returned with some changes to provide families with a nutritious meal using fresh ingredients. Volunteers are invited to create a wonderful, home-cooked meal for our guest families, in the comfort of the fully equipped Main House kitchen, under the guidance of our certified food handlers. Select a date, make the required monetary donation to cover the cost of the food, and RMHCAA staff will create the menu, purchase ingredients, and get the kitchen ready for your arrival. Recipes are appropriate for all cooking skill levels. On your scheduled day, all you will need to do is show up ready to cook! For more details on the program or to schedule a date, contact Nancy Bailey at nbailey@rmhcannarbor.org or call (734) 998-2103.

More ways to give. There are many other ways to support RMHC Ann Arbor! Head over to rmhcannarbor.org.



Our New Partnership: Trinity Health St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor

RMHCAA's Board of Directors and staff are committed to our strategic goal of expanding reach to support ALL families in the region when their child is hospitalized and in need of medical care. This goal includes reaching out to other health systems and community partners.

We are happy to announce that we have begun a partnership with Trinity Health St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor to provide comfort and care to parents while their babies are in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). RMHCAA staff and volunteers prepare and deliver Comfort Bags to the hospital that are then distributed to parents. The bags are stocked with items to help parents during the long hours while their children are hospitalized and include things such as fleece blankets, fuzzy socks, activity books, snacks, and water bottles.

"This is something that we didn't expect but absolutely love."
- Trinity Health St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor NICU Family

Donor Spotlight: Mark Van Sumeren



Mark Van Sumeren and his wife Kate have been supporters of RMHCAA for several years and have volunteered since returning to their college town of Ann Arbor just over three years ago. Mark and Kate are wonderful supporters of the Red Shoe Affair and founding members of the Heroes of Hope program. Mark also sits on the RMHCAA Advisory Council and will be joining our Board of Directors in fall 2022.

In addition to RMHCAA, Mark has been active in supporting C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, including deep involvement in the Griese-Hutchinson-Woodson Champions for Children's Hearts fundraising efforts to build the then new hospital, serving on the National Advisor Board to the Congenital Heart Center, and providing a grant in support of Dr. John Charpie's innovative new infant catheter.

As the Managing Director of Health Industry Advisor LLC, Mark tracks and reports pandemic trends, and has been an important advisor to RMHCAA, helping keep families and staff safe and healthy during the past two years.

Presented By



McDonald's Michigan Operators
Business Association

Red Shoe Affair

7 p.m.
Friday, September 16, 2022
Barton Hills Country Club, Ann Arbor

Cheers to 10 Years of Red Shoe Affair!



The 2022 Red Shoe Affair is the 10th year of the annual fundraiser that provides critical financial support for the organization's operations. The first *Red Shoe Affair* was held in 2013 and was started as an opportunity to build awareness in the community about the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor (RMHCAA) and raise funds for our operations.

In the last nine years, funds raised by the *Red Shoe Affair* event total more than \$2.3 million. The funds have supported more than 23,000 nights for families, keeping them close to their hospitalized child during perhaps the most difficult time in their lives.

The 10th Annual *Red Shoe Affair* will be held on Friday, September 16, 2022, at 7 p.m. at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor. Guests will enjoy a strolling

dinner, and silent and live auctions in the elegant surroundings of the Barton Hills clubhouse. The event will end with the popular Afterglow party sponsored by Ganger Dermatology and featuring dancing to the high-energy music of the band FiftyAmpFuse. This year's event is black-tie optional. Red shoes are highly encouraged but not required.

Red Shoe Affair sponsorships are available now. There are a number to choose from that offer varying levels of recognition and associated ticket quantities. To purchase a sponsorship or for more information, visit www.rmhcanarbor.org or email event coordinator, Mary Moffett at mmoffett@rmhcannarbor.org or call (734) 998-6531. Individual tickets will be available for \$250 each and will go on sale this summer.





Join Our Heroes of Hope Giving Program

By becoming a Heroes of Hope donor, you make a lasting and meaningful impact by providing much needed ongoing support to the families who call our Houses "home". As a member, your ongoing generosity enables us to provide the services and support that bring comfort and hope to families in need of your help, 24 hours of the day, 365 days of the year.

Your multi-year gift will make an important difference in the lives of critically ill children and their families. Members who join before December 2022 will be recognized as Founding Members of the Heroes of Hope Giving Circle. For more information, contact RMHCAA's Development Director Julaine LeDuc at jleduc@rmhcannarbor.org or (734) 998-6532.

Take a Mission Tour of RMHC Ann Arbor

Would you like to learn more about Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor? Are you interested in learning how our organization serves families?

Join us for an inspiring look at our Main House and the Mott House of Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor. Experience stories of parents who are focusing on the most important thing – their child – during the most difficult time in their child's life. Discover the impact of a home away from home when your child is struggling with a life-threatening illness and how you can help us support our families, and keep families close.



Schedule Your Tour Now

Virtual tours are offered for individuals or groups at your convenience. To learn more or schedule a tour, contact Mary Moffett at mmoffett@rmhcannarbor.org or (734) 998-6531.

Ronald McDonald House of Ann Arbor
1600 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Ways You Can Help Keep Our Families Close to Their Seriously Ill Children

Host a Fundraising Event

Hosting a fundraiser allows you the opportunity to share a message of hope about Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor while raising support for the families we serve. Every dollar raised goes towards helping to provide our families with a warm meal, a comfortable bed, a hot shower, and a sense of hope.

Anyone can host a fundraiser for RMHCAA, and the spring and summer months are a great time to do it! Here are just a few ideas:

- Car wash
- Jeans-day at the office
- Bake sale or lemonade stand
- Host a house/patio party
- A run or walk
- Zoom bingo or trivia contest
- Golf outing
- Bike-a-thon



Interested in hosting a fundraiser? RMHCAA staff is able to work with you and provide support to make sure your event is a success. For more information or help getting started, contact Development and Events Manager, Mary Moffett at mmoffett@rmhcannarbor.org or call (734) 998-6531.

Host a Birthday Facebook Fundraiser

Celebrate your birthday by helping to keep families close to their children who are hospitalized due to serious illness or injury. Anyone with a Facebook page can host a fundraiser. It's super easy to set up and for people to donate. Just follow these easy steps:

- 1) Click on "fundraiser" in the left menu of your News Feed
- 2) Click on "raise money"
- 3) Select non-profit or charity
- 4) Select Ronald McDonald House Charities Ann Arbor (we are Facebook approved)
- 5) Complete the rest of the required information and click "create" and then share with your family and friends!
- 6) Celebrate your birthday knowing you have helped families during one of the most difficult times of their lives by supporting RMHCAA and the programs and services we provide.



All funds donated will automatically be sent to RMHCAA by Facebook, so no need to handle any money. Happy birthday and thank you!



Ronald McDonald House Charities
Ann Arbor
1600 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Ronald McDonald House *within*
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital
1540 East Hospital Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Phone: 734-994-4442
Fax: 734-994-4919
RMHCAnnArbor.org



#keepingfamiliesclose

Donate
Now

RMHCAnnArbor.org/donate