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STUDENTS AT POND ELEMENTARY COLLECTED ALUMINUM CAN TAB TOPS TO SUPPORT A FAMILY AT THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE FOR TWO MONTHS

St. Louis, January 30, 2008 - Students at Pond Elementary, located in Wildwood, MO, have collected more than 341,000 aluminum can tab tops, allowing the St. Louis Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) to cover the costs of 60 nights for a family in need. The RMHC Tab Top Program is an annual fundraiser where tab tops are collected, recycled and turned into cash that covers some of the costs associated with providing a “home-away-from-home”.

Students began collecting tab tops in September, “I have never seen a response like this before,” said Ms. Diane Dressel, Kindergarten Teacher at Pond Elementary. “It’s unbelievable, we are running out of space for these canisters that are full of tabs!”

This Thursday, January 31, 2008, McDonald’s will honor Mrs. Swartz 4th grade class for collecting the most tab tops in Pond Elementary’s tab top collection. At 12:35pm McDonald’s will provide lunch to the entire class while Ronald McDonald visits to congratulate the kids.

“It has been a great experience for all grade levels. Not only have we been able to teach the kids about caring for others in the community, but it has given us a great opportunity to challenge the kids math skills when calculating the tabs,” said Dressel.

Pond Elementary will continue to collect tab tops throughout the second semester and is planning to compete in this year’s RMHC Tab Top Pandemonium in May. For more information on Tab Top Pandemonium please visit www.rmhcstl.com.

The **Ronald McDonald House** of St. Louis serves as a home away from home for families with critically ill children. Since the St. Louis House first opened its doors in 1981, over 20,000 families from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries have benefited from the services and hospitality provided by volunteers and staff of the House. *For more information about the RMHC of Metro St. Louis visit: www.rmhcstl.com.*

McDonald’s is the leading global foodservice retailer, with 154 restaurants in the St. Louis and Metro East Area. More than 80 percent of McDonald’s 13,700 U.S. restaurants are independently owned and operated by local franchisees. McDonald’s USA, LLC, is the leading foodservice provider in the United States serving a variety of wholesome foods made from quality ingredients to millions of customers every day. *For more information on St. Louis/Metro East McDonald’s visit: www.mcdonaldsStl.com*

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