

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ronald McDonald House Charities® Asks St. Louis Residents to Help Welcome a Third Ronald McDonald House® to Area

RMHC Reaching Out to St. Louis Residents Willing to Volunteer, Cook Meals, or Donate Items

St. Louis, MO— With the newest Ronald McDonald House nearing completion at St. John’s Mercy Children’s Hospital, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis looks to St. Louis residents to help make the opening of the new House a community effort.

RMHC knows dedicated St. Louis residents can help turn the third Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis – and the 300th in the world - into a home. Commitment from community members can range from volunteering at the new House to donating wish list items.

The House, opening September 29, will provide a “home-away-from-home” for 20 families each night whose children are being treated at St. Louis hospitals. With an average length of stay of ten days, more than 700 families will be helped each year. The Ronald McDonald House keeps families close to their sick children, which helps the children heal better and more quickly.

“We are so incredibly excited to open the third St. Louis Ronald McDonald House and the 300th House in the world,” RMHC President Dan Harbaugh said. “Now, we hope the St. Louis community will embrace the new House and make it a home by volunteering, donating wish list items, or making a donation to help us open the House.”

The new House comes to St. Louis’ West County during a surge in construction projects, and RMHC hopes the construction of the new House will continue to energize the St. Louis community as a whole. Steve Unser, Chief Building Official for the City of Creve Coeur, said, “During these difficult economic times, we are very pleased that RMHC was able to push forward with this important project.”

But before RMHC can cut the ribbon to open the new House on September 29th, they are looking to the community for help. For RMHC, providing a “home-away-from-home” would not be possible without volunteers. Volunteers can help House Managers around the new House, assist with maintenance and service projects, or participate in the Family Dinner Program by preparing warm meals for the families.

For those who want to help, but do not have time to spare, RMHC is also registered with Bed Bath & Beyond. Go online at www.bedbathandbeyond.com under registry #5588588 (First Name: “Ronald McDonald” and Last Name: “House West County”).

For more information about helping the new Ronald McDonald House, please e-mail Lori Henrotay at lhenrotay@rmhcstl.com or visit www.rmhcstl.com.

###MORE###

About RMHC of Metro St. Louis

Since 1981, RMHC of Metro St. Louis has served as a “home-away-from-home” for more than 30,000 families traveling to St. Louis with seriously ill children. The Houses provide a comfortable bed, warm meals, hot showers, and a network of families who share the similar burden of having a seriously ill child. In addition, three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms have provided comfort and care to more than 10,000 families of pediatric inpatients at St. Louis hospitals since 2005. Ronald McDonald Family Rooms provide many of the same comforts of the House, but within the hospital.

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