

# Hearts & Hands

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OF MID-MISSOURI

SPRING 2025

## A Home for Ongoing Care

Within a few months after their son's birth, Whitney and Jacob realized there was something wrong.

"We noticed that he was having delays, not meeting milestones, and so around the six-month mark is when we really had a big push to see specialists and get involved in therapy," said Whitney.

Their son, Harrison, was diagnosed with epilepsy right before his first birthday.

Living in Marshfield, MO, the family looked for solutions in nearby Springfield, but when there were no options within their insurance network, they brought Harrison to Columbia for treatment.

Harrison now goes to therapy two times a year, four weeks at a time, five days per week. Because of the therapy Harrison receives in Columbia, Whitney believes there's been much quicker improvements.

"It's easier to see a lot more progress quickly when he has so much therapy every day," said Whitney. "We really love intensive therapy and hope that we can continue doing that. I know this round he has really progressed with his eating."

In addition to therapy, Harrison is also on a ketogenic diet, which has helped decrease the frequency of his seizures.

**Living hours away, the family is grateful to the Ronald McDonald House for providing a sense of safety, essential resources, and a caring place to come home to after long hours of therapy.**

Jacob shared that while Whitney, Harrison and their daughter, Liliana, travel to Columbia for therapy, he stays back to work, pay bills and care for their home and dog. He added that the Ronald McDonald House's safety for his family has helped ease some of the pressure during this time.

"If we didn't have the Ronald McDonald House or someplace like that to stay at, we would not have been able to come up here for therapy," Whitney said. "Because financially, we wouldn't be able to afford a hotel room for four weeks, twice a year for him to have therapy."

**The time in the hospital, cost for medical bills, and the uncertainty of treatment results place a giant burden on parents. Because of your ongoing support, families like the Minors can experience a caring environment and a sense of hope during times of duress.**



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**RMHC**  
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1110 South College Avenue  
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# 5 WAYS TO SUPPORT

the mid-Missouri  
Ronald McDonald  
House

1



Provide a Meal



Give Monetarily

2

3



Send Supplies



Round-Up for RMHC

4

5



Volunteer

To learn more, visit:  
[rmhcmidmo.org](http://rmhcmidmo.org)

*Serving more families, better*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Scott Maledy and Kyle George



Scott Maledy



Kyle George

Emcee extraordinaire. The amazing auctioneer. These terms help describe Scott Maledy and Kyle George respectively.

Since 2015, Scott and Kyle have volunteered their time and talents at the annual Red Shoe Gala. Scott serves as Emcee of the event while Kyle, a professional auctioneer, keeps the bidding going during Bid for a Cause and the live auction segment of the program.

"Both Scott and Kyle add a dynamic and fun component to our Red Shoe Gala," says Terri Gray, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities Mid-Missouri.

Together they have helped raise over \$1 million for RMHC Mid-Missouri programs and were recognized at the recent Red Shoe Gala held February 20th.

Funds raised through the Red Shoe Gala and other RMHC signature events help support RMHC mission programs. "With their help, we're able to raise much needed funds to operate the Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room," adds Gray. "They've helped us serve and support thousands of families and children over the last 10 years, and we appreciate their commitment to our mission."

## Make a Meal. Make a Difference.

**We are so excited to welcome volunteers into our kitchen!**

Offering a home-cooked meal is one of the most important ways volunteers can provide our guest families with the comfort of home, especially after a long day at the hospital caring for their sick or injured child. Thanks to our Provide a Meal Program, dinners are prepared by volunteer groups at the House every evening.

We need your help to continue providing this source of comfort to those who call the Ronald McDonald House their home away from home.

**Currently, this is our greatest volunteer need!**

By signing up to cook a meal, your group will select the menu, provide the ingredients, and prepare a meal at the House for 35-55 people on your scheduled day (depending on our occupancy).



To volunteer, visit [rmhcmidmo.org/provide-a-meal](http://rmhcmidmo.org/provide-a-meal).

If you have any questions, please contact Alex Hedges, Volunteer Manager at [alex@rmhcmidmo.org](mailto:alex@rmhcmidmo.org) or (573) 554-5455.

# ROUGH BEGINNINGS, JOYFUL ENDINGS

Soon after the completion of the new mid-Missouri Ronald McDonald House, Julie Kaut and her family started their stay after she experienced complications during her child's birth. **Julie's daughter, Genesis, was diagnosed with Meconium Aspiration Syndrome (MAS)**, which caused breathing issues during birth, and she experienced a kinked umbilical cord. This caused her to be placed into incubation, where more scar tissue was discovered in her airway.

Those 11 days at the Ronald McDonald House calmed some of the worries that Julie and her family experienced during her child's recovery.

**"When we first got here, I wasn't expecting to stay in the hospital very long,"** said Julie. "I was hoping for a smooth delivery and whatnot, but I didn't have soap or a toothbrush, or any of the necessary hygiene products, and RMHC provided that for us."

Only a few days after they had left the House, Julie and her family returned, dealing with further complications. Living an hour south of Rolla - about three hours away from Columbia - Julie is appreciative of the staff, volunteers, and accommodations that helped her family during this time.

"It's been very nice. It does bring some of the comfort from home, just to allow ourselves to relax and have some time to cope on that day-to-day stuff, because there are days that are extremely hard," she said.

The Kaut family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House for **110 days** while Genesis recovered and grew stronger.

**Everyday, families travel to Columbia to get the best medical care possible for their child. Because of you, they have a place to stay that feels like home, at no cost to them.**



## It takes a lot of ❤️ to operate the Ronald McDonald House!

*We would like to thank our recurring local partners who help fulfill basic needs for the Ronald McDonald House® and the Ronald McDonald Family Room®:*



**Atkins**  
Pest Control



**Aurora Organic Dairy**  
Coffee Creamer and Dairy  
Products



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Water Softener



**McDonald's Local  
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**Prairie Farms Dairy - Central**  
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**The little things make a BIG difference, and we couldn't do it without you. Thank you!**

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# Mission Moments



Boone Electric Community Trust provides a grant for the House

Thanks to Boone Electric Community Trust for a grant to purchase a floor scrubber for the House! Your support helps us keep the House clean and welcoming for families.



The Becker Family goes home

After 26 days at the Ronald McDonald House, the Becker family went home. We wish you all the best!



Lunch on the House adds a 3rd day of free sack lunches per week

With the help of our volunteers, Lunch on the House is now delivered to families in the hospital every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



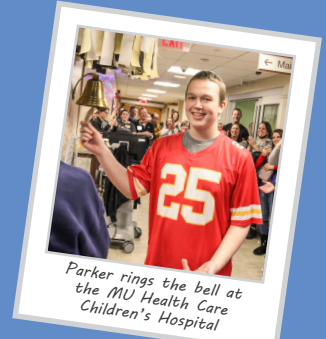
SuretyBonds.com Gift Donation

We are appreciative of SuretyBonds.com in Columbia, MO for their beautifully wrapped gifts, helping make the holidays brighter for our families.



Recognizing our volunteers: Mary Anne Graham

Mary Anne Graham was recognized at our recent Volunteer Breakfast for 153 hours of service in 2024. We thank you for all you do for RMHC!



Parker rings the bell at the MU Health Care Children's Hospital

We're so happy for Parker and his family as he rang the bell celebrating being cancer-free! Parker's family stayed at the House for over 100 days in 2024.

# 2025 EVENTS



April 25, 2025

Midway Farms - Fayette, MO



June 7, 2025

Country Club of Missouri



September 15, 2025

Country Club of Missouri

For more information, visit [rmhcmidmo.org/events](http://rmhcmidmo.org/events) or contact Jessi Whitehurse, Director of Events, at [jessi@rmhcmidmo.org](mailto:jessi@rmhcmidmo.org).