

Family Stays

Finding Familiarity in a Home Away from Home



“We ended up getting a call from a really nice lady, and she told us, ‘Whenever you guys can get here, that’s fine; I’ll wait for you.’ We ended up getting some food and meeting her there. It was almost one in the morning, and she still checked us in.”

- Lana Tartaglio

Shortly after birth, Morgan was airlifted from the Lake Ozark region to the MU Health Care Children’s Hospital to receive antibiotic treatment. Morgan’s parents Lana and Zachary left Iberia, MO for Columbia the same day to be with their daughter. “That was the only thing on my mind: Is my baby OK? Is my baby going to be alright?” said Lana.

After a day of travel, Lana and Zachary stayed at the mid-Missouri Ronald McDonald House. Before their stay, Lana knew about the Ronald McDonald House through the donation boxes at McDonald’s restaurants. The family spent 11 nights at the House while Morgan received the care she needed. “The rooms are very clean,” said Lana. “It made us feel less stressed out than we honestly could have been. I’m very grateful that we were able to experience this, and I definitely throw more than change in [the donation boxes] now.”

Throughout their stay, the family found respite at the House, enjoying walks, eating meals outside, doing anything to establish a sense of normalcy during this difficult time. “It’s hard to see your child like that - especially so quickly after you have them - for a mom or a dad,” said Lana.

Because of your ongoing support, Lana and Zachary were minutes away from Morgan as she underwent her medical journey. Thank you for providing a home away from home for families like theirs, all at no cost to them.

Spring 2026

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**Ronald
McDonald
House®**
Mid-Missouri

Family Stays™

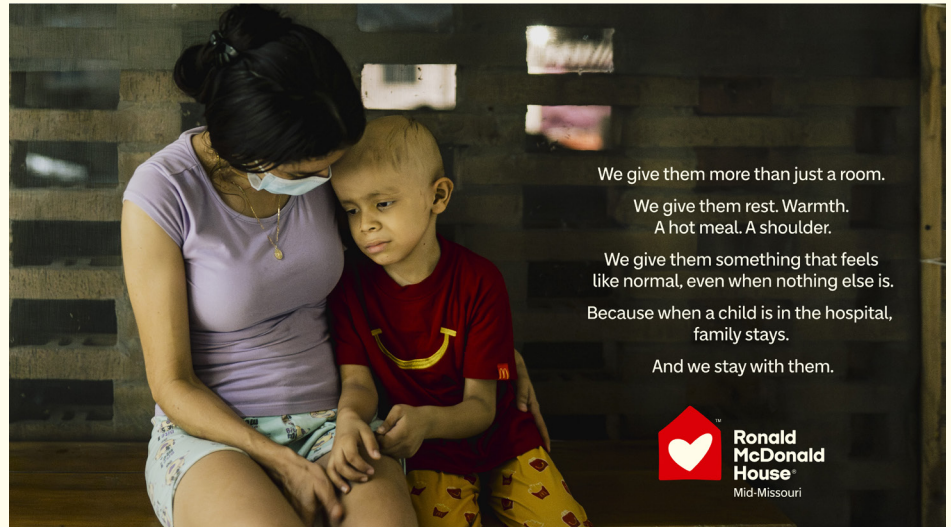
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Ronald McDonald House: A New Look

On October 15, 2025, Ronald McDonald House Charities® reestablished its brand, changing the organization's name to Ronald McDonald House®. Since then, local chapters have started the transition into the new branding - its name, iconography, color scheme, logo, tagline, and much more - to adapt to the global rebranding.

Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri is currently undergoing these changes too.

As seen in this edition of our biannual newsletter, we've adopted the new branding, along with the tagline, "Family Stays." We believe that when a child is in the hospital, family is not a visitor. They stick around for the long haul, and the Ronald McDonald House ensures it stays that way. Not only are the Ronald McDonald House® and Ronald McDonald House® Family Room places



for families to stay, but these family-centered services give them the power and comfort to be as present as possible for their ill or injured child.

While our image is changing, our mission remains the same: We provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare.

You will continue to see the adoption of the new brand at the Mid-Missouri chapter

throughout 2026. We are grateful for the support from our local McDonald's restaurants, our donors, volunteers, and community, all while providing the same level of care and kindness to the families we serve.

We are excited for this new chapter, and we appreciate each and every one of you for your ongoing engagement in our organization.

Five Ways to Support Ronald McDonald House Mid-Missouri



Provide a Meal



Give Monetarily



Send Supplies

ROUND UP
for Ronald McDonald House

Round UP at McDonald's



Volunteer

To learn more, visit www.rmhcmidmo.org

A Multi-Generational Journey: The Ferguson Family



“Being able to only sleep two minutes away from where he was staying at the NICU was really a huge blessing. There’s a few times that we walked back to the Ronald McDonald House from the NICU just to sleep.”

- Makiya Ferguson

Makiya went to the hospital for a routine checkup and ultrasound days before her due date when doctors discovered that, while Alexander’s heartbeat was healthy, there was no movement in the womb. That evening, Makiya underwent an emergency C-section at Boone Hospital.

“It went from just a regular doctor’s appointment that morning to him being born at 5:30 pm,” said Cameron, Alexander’s father.

Alexander was transferred to MU Health Care Children’s Hospital shortly after birth, and two days later Makiya was discharged from Boone Hospital.

The family checked into the Ronald McDonald House and stayed for 11 nights as Alexander received treatment in the NICU.

During their stay, Makiya’s family journeyed from Texas and stayed at the Ronald McDonald House for a few nights to see their new grandchild. Then, Cameron’s parents traveled an hour from north of Columbia to visit - which made their second stay at the Ronald McDonald House - as they stayed years prior for Cameron’s birth.

“We would definitely recommend the Ronald McDonald House for sure, because [it was] so amazing, letting us in so fast and letting us stay for as long as we needed,” said Makiya.

Thanks to your support, families like the Ferguson’s can stay close to their child as they receive the care they need.

A History of Philanthropy: The Story of ADPi

Alpha Delta Pi sorority has been a national philanthropic partner with Ronald McDonald House since 1979, and our local University of Missouri Alpha Gamma chapter has been supporting the mid-Missouri Ronald McDonald House for almost 40 years!

From their volunteerism for our mission programs, their annual fundraising efforts, and their contributions to providing meals, their altruism touches the hearts of our families facing their most difficult moments. Their kindness and compassion know no boundaries as they are always willing to lend a helping hand.

In 2025, they volunteered 300+ hours of service through our local events, Lunch on the House and Provide a Meal programs.

Our deepest thanks to the women of ADPi Mizzou for sharing your time and talent with us. Your generosity and charity is nothing short of extraordinary.



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Playground Coming to the Ronald McDonald House!



Children staying at the Ronald McDonald House® can expect a new outlet for fun this spring!

Serving kids ages 3-12, this playground will give children a great opportunity for outdoor play while they stay close to

their siblings or loved ones in the hospital.

This ADA-accessible area will feature a zero-entry, rubberized ground surface located in the fenced-in backyard of the Ronald McDonald House.

March: Social Work Month

During Social Work Month, we extend heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated professionals who support families staying at Ronald McDonald House Mid-Missouri each and every day.

Your compassion, guidance, and unwavering commitment make a difference in the lives of those navigating challenging times. Thank you for your invaluable care and support.



Save the Date for 2026 Events

**Sporting Clays
Tournament**

April 24, 2026

Midway Farms Inc
Fayette, MO

**BRUNCH
and bingo**

June 6, 2026

Country Club
of Missouri

**FORE^{the} HOUSE
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

September 28, 2026

Country Club
of Missouri

If you are interested in sponsoring an event in 2026, please contact Director of Development Steffanee Richardson at steffanee@rmhcmidmo.org. For event information, contact Director of Events Jessi Whitehurse at jessi@rmhcmidmo.org.

