



# Ronald McDonald House Charities of Morgantown, WV

841 Country Club Drive ♡ Morgantown, WV 26505 ♡ 304-598-0050

January 2012, Issue 1

## Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural edition of “The House News”. My name is Steve De Jesus and I have the honor and privilege of serving as the Executive Director and CEO of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Morgantown, WV (RMHC). Throughout these difficult economic times, RMHC has been able to fulfill its mission because of the support of numerous individuals, families, businesses and other charitable organizations.

To continue offering our services, I believe it is critical we keep our supporters well informed of the events at the house. To that end, we have committed to an aggressive public awareness and marketing campaign for 2012. In part, we continue to expand our presence on Facebook with 1000 followers and have begun to utilize Twitter more frequently.

We have also developed this quarterly newsletter, which will provide you with information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, family stories, donor acknowledgements, wish list items and so much more.

We have increased our staff size to provide greater assistance to our guests 24 hours a day. I was fortunate to create an amazing management team with Crystal Chisler, Operations Manager, MaChal Forbes, Development Director, Valerie Shank, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper and Heather Hudson, Volunteer Coordinator. We have also welcomed James “Jim” Hamrick as our Maintenance Engineer.

I am very excited to announce that RMHC has entered into an agreement with WVU Children’s Hospital to develop a Ronald McDonald Family Room (RMFR). The RMFR will provide services in the hospital itself allowing families with extremely critical children the ability to stay even closer.

While we say goodbye to a wonderful year, we look forward to the future and another year allowing us to care for the needs of those with critically ill children. I hope you have a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2012 and thank you again for all your support.



Steve De Jesus  
Executive Director & CEO

## Thank You

*The following companies are recognized for responding to the needs of our families through the generous financial support of our mission.*

Alpha Natural Resources  
Clear Mountain Bank  
Consol Energy  
Frontier Communication  
Gabriel Brothers, Inc.  
My Bank First United Bank & Trust

Triple S Harley-Davidson  
WesBanco  
West Virginia University  
Wheeling Nailers  
WVU Children’s Hospital  
WVU Healthcare

The House News

## Board of Directors

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Michelle Keith

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Rich Doane

## RMHC Staff

Steve De Jesus  
Executive Director  
& CEO

Crystal Chisler  
Operations  
Manager

MaChal Forbes  
Development  
Director

Heather Hudson  
Volunteer  
Coordinator

Valerie Shank  
Bookkeeper

Jena Booth

Lauren Frederick

Kate Hines

Jim Hamrick

Tom Meyers

Dick Ryan

Kayla Volz

Courtney Weber

# One Mother's Story



**Corbin Walker Caruthers**  
Feb. 2, 2011 – May 17, 2011

“The 81 days I stayed in the Ronald McDonald House were long and stressful, and sometimes I didn’t think I would make it. But it became home. The staff became my family. Simply having someone say “you can stay here, we will feed you, give you supplies, wash your clothes, and provide support” breaks your heart with happiness. I remember crying as we were given the tour of the house. I was so overwhelmed with the generosity and support we were shown, I couldn’t help but break down. The day my son passed away, the Ronald McDonald House staff cried with me. They knew there were no words to help, but they knew I appreciated them just sitting with me. My ending may not be a happy one, but I can truly say, I enjoyed my stay at the Ronald McDonald House. When you go through something so hard and challenging, you have to have a support team and I found mine. I will forever be grateful for the Ronald McDonald House and the staff that helped me through. Their love and support were a blessing to my husband and me as we helped our son fight for his life.”

Ruth Caruthers  
Corbin's Mother

## How You Can Help...

Become a **PERSONAL SHOPPER** for RMHC. Choose three items from our “wish list” and provide them monthly for our families.

Create a **MEAL TO GO**. MTGs are individually sized, pre-packaged and assembled breakfast, lunch or dinner bags for families including an entrée, side and beverage.

**DRIVE FOR A CAUSE**. Hosting over 1,800 families a year, the house amenities are well used. Organize a linen or food drive to keep our supplies fresh and pantry stocked.

## Wish List Items

Bath & hand towels  
Batteries (AA, AAA, C, 9V)  
Breakfast bars & cereal  
Canned ravioli & spaghetti-o's  
Coffee creamer  
Cotton bath mats  
Energy Saver Light Bulbs, 60 watt  
Garbage bags  
Grocery store gift cards  
Laundry detergent & fabric softener  
Styrofoam cups & plates  
Sugar

*If you would prefer that we purchase items on your behalf, please mail a check designated to “wish list” to the Ronald McDonald House Charities Morgantown*

## Our Mission

Founded in 1990, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Morgantown, WV was created to find and support programs that make an immediate and positive impact on the health and well-being of children. Guided by our core values, RMHC provides a "home-away-from-home", without the financial burden of a hotel for parents of critically-ill children. Yet, RMHC is more than a roof overhead. During this emotional time, the house offers the comforts of home while also providing support and encouragement.

With community support, we are able to fulfill our mission and help over 1,800 families each year. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, we are open to serve those traveling from West Virginia and surrounding states as well as internationally.

For the most up-to-date information, visit...

[www.rmhcmgtn.org](http://www.rmhcmgtn.org)



## What's in Store...

In 2012, you will see a lot of changes at the Ronald McDonald House. You will see new faces, new programs, new events and more. RMHC will be engaged in the community, generating more awareness about the charity as well as connecting with other local nonprofits.

RMHC is excited to introduce our newest Board Members: Rich Doane – a McDonald's Owner/Operator from Steubenville, Michelle Keith – the Director of Utilization Review at Mon General Hospital, Nicole Saffron – the Marketing & Events Manager at Triple S Harley-Davidson, Nancy Spiker – Director of Human Resources at Clear Mountain Bank and Ross Stoltz – a McDonald's Owner/Operator from Wheeling. Welcome aboard!

Thank you to David Bell, Nancy Bell, Susan Graves, Keith Jackson, Wayne Malone, Paul Scea, Winabeth Smith, Craig Walker and Pokey Weiss, who have fulfilled their board terms. We truly appreciate your dedication to RMHC.

Beginning in February, RMHC will kick off our first event for 2012. New events, like the Chef Challenge, Family Picnic and Battle of the Bakers, are designed to welcome the public into our house, while the upcoming Art Auction, Nemaocolin Golf Scramble and Mystery Dinner Theater allows RMHC to become involved in the regions outside of Morgantown who continuously support the charity. But don't worry – several events will still be held in Morgantown, including the annual 5K Red Shoe Run, Poker Run, Masquerade Ball and Basket Bingo. This year will definitely hold something for everyone!

Also new this spring - RMHC has contracted WV artisan Tennile Martin from [Handbags by Tennile](#), to create 100 limited edition handbags (50 everyday and 50 totes) for the Ronald McDonald House. Available in March, the purses will be sold online, at events and in-house.



## Save the Date!

**Chef Challenge**  
Sunday, February 5 at RMHC

**Purse Bingo**  
Sunday, March 18 at UHS

**Children's Consignment Sale**  
March 22-24 at Avery UMC

**Art Auction**  
Sunday, April 15, Location TBD

**5K Red Shoe Run**  
Saturday, April 28 at BoParc

**Nemaocolin Golf Scramble**  
Friday, May 18 at Nemaocolin Resort

## Follow Us



## For More Info

### General Information

Crystal Chisler  
[cchisler@rmhcmgtn.org](mailto:cchisler@rmhcmgtn.org)

### Volunteer Opportunities

Heather Hudson  
[hhudson@rmhcmgtn.org](mailto:hhudson@rmhcmgtn.org)

### Events & Fundraising

MaChal Forbes  
[mforbes@rmhcmgtn.org](mailto:mforbes@rmhcmgtn.org)