



Akron

Care Cables

Spring - Summer 2008

Ronald McDonald House of Akron's Newsletter to Friends

Small Miracles for the Dieter Family

When Bob and Courtney Dieter's daughters Kathryn and Remington arrived on May 16, 2007 they were 14 weeks early. For twins, premature births are not unusual. Fortunately, while they had obstacles to overcome, their parents were surrounded by caring individuals at the hospital, their circle of friends and family, and the new friends they met at Ronald McDonald House of Akron.

"Kate" was 1 pound 12 ounces at birth but by day two she dropped to 1 pound 4 ounces. That's a little less than a jar of Jif peanut butter. Her sister, "Remi", weighed 1 pound 10 ounces. They were both 13 inches long. Courtney remembers that the girls' first obstacle was gaining weight. The second obstacle was that both girls had a heart murmur. Thankfully, medication cured that obstacle. At week 32 both girls received blood transfusions and responded well.

Kate had ROP, retinopathy of prematurity. When babies are born before 26 weeks, the blood vessels in their eyes aren't developed. If rapid development of the vessels occurs, retina detachment will take place unless laser surgery is performed. If the retina detaches (as it began to do in Kate's case), it cannot be re-attached (as it can in adults). On July 14, the surgeon performed laser surgery which cleared out the bad veins all the way around the back of her eye. In September, Kate had another surgery and, since that time, has been wearing baby glasses.

Initially both girls were on a big and bulky c-pap making it difficult for Bob and Courtney to hold them. Around 4 weeks, they were put on vapotherm which made them easier to hold.



Remington (left) and Kathryn (right)

When the girls were able to go home, they were on apnea monitors and Remi was on oxygen. But four months after going home, they were taken off the monitors and oxygen.

Today the girls are healthy and doing well. Remi is 15 pounds, 11 ounces and Kate is 15 pounds, 9 ounces. Both are working on teeth!

continued - page 2

Lend Your Support with *Share a night*

For almost half the families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Akron, even our nominal \$10 daily rate is more than they can afford. However, our doors remain open to everyone—regardless of their ability to pay. To help assist families who cannot afford the daily charge, our Share a Night Fund was set up to cover these fees.

We hope you will consider "sponsoring a night" for a family in need. **Every \$10 that you contribute will help underwrite the cost of accommodations and meals for one family for a day—and provide them with comfort and peace of mind knowing that their hospitalized child is only moments away.** Please see the Share a Night insert for details on how to donate.

Courtney told us that when friends who saw the babies in the NICU see them now, they are amazed at the transformation in a little less than a year. “The babies truly are a miracle,” says Courtney.

When asked how our Ronald McDonald House helped them during the time the babies were in the NICU, Courtney said, “Everyone at the house was so friendly. The staff and volunteers would ask us how things were going. While family and friends would ask us how things were going, it was nice having someone from the outside take an interest in us.” Courtney

went on to say that the meals were incredible. “It was great not having to think about what we were going to have for dinner each evening.”

In December, Courtney’s school, Black River High School’s National Honor Society brought in a large donation of Wish List items, which we appreciated. It was their way of thanking us for taking care of a very special Honor Society Advisor and her family.

For Courtney, Bob, Kathryn and Remington, this is a very happy story of two little babies who, against great obstacles, are healthy and active today. The Ronald

McDonald House of Akron staff and volunteers wish the Dieter family the very best as they watch Kathryn and Remington grow and mature in the days ahead.

“Everyone at the house was so friendly. ... the meals were incredible. It was great not having to think about what we were going to have for dinner each evening.”

RICHARD HEIDMAN, Board Member and McDonald’s Owner 1921 - 2008

as large as Akron where so many McDonald’s were under one owner.

Last year, at age 86, Heidman sold his interest in 22 of his final 23 restaurants to longtime partner and Ronald McDonald House Board Member, John Blickle. He co-owned the Montrose McDonald’s with his daughter, Lea.

“Richard was one of McDonald’s true ‘living legends,’ a pioneer who helped build the brand to what it is today, through his steadfast commitment to McDonald’s values of quality, service and cleanliness (QSC),” said Debbie Mossa, Vice President – QSC for McDonald’s Ohio Region, based in Columbus.

According to Shirley Rogers-Reece, McDonald’s Vice President & General Manager in Columbus, Richard’s unwavering dedication to people – including his crew and managers, suppliers and customers – set him apart as a leader in the company and the community.

“Dick always lived by the motto that McDonald’s is more than just

a hamburger business – it’s a people business,” says Rogers-Reece.

Richard attended milestone restaurant openings all over the globe: the 3,000th restaurant in London; the 5,000th in Japan; the 6,000th in Munich; and the 9,000th in Australia.

Richard gave back to the community by employing over 50,000 people. His workers made more than minimum wage and had access to health care benefits. He also offered his workers help with college tuition. Young people – many of whom are doctors, lawyers, policemen and teachers – started their work experience at McDonald’s in Akron.

In addition to these many accomplishments, Richard Heidman helped to build the Ronald McDonald House of Akron. We are grateful for his many years as a supporter of the House that Love Built and recognize his many achievements.



Richard Heidman with Ronald McDonald

On March 3, Richard Heidman, a dear friend of our House, passed away. In November 2009, he would have celebrated 50 years as a McDonald’s owner, having brought McDonald’s to Akron in 1959. Richard was a founding member of our House and generously supported our efforts.

At one time, Heidman owned more than 30 restaurants. McDonald’s founder Ray Kroc noted that there wasn’t another city in the world

NEW RONALD MCDONALD BOARD MEMBERS



Peg Deemer



Heather Jalbert



Ken Rusinoff

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Northeastern Ohio (RMHC-NEO)

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio has been a main supporter of our Ronald McDonald House of Akron since our House was established. Last year, 2007, marked the 20th anniversary of RMHC-NEO's commitment to children and families. Since 1987, RMHC-NEO has awarded over \$550,000 in direct financial support to our Ronald McDonald House. Quarterly financial donations to our House help supply needed funds for projects as well as offset the cost of maintaining day-to-day operations.

The local McDonald's Owner/Operators donate products and paper goods to our House and generally support the House in many ways. Three McDonald's Owners are board members: Rosie Perez, John Blicke and Robert Bobbitt.

Our current President of the Board, Roberta Kleinman DeBarr;



From left to right: John Blicke (McDonald's Owner and RMH Board Member), Ronald, Sara Watkins (Resident Manger), and Rosie Perez (McDonald's Owner and RMH Board Member).

Vice President, Cindy Misheff; and Board member/owner/operator, Rosie Perez; serve as board members of RMHC-NEO representing our House.

During the past World Children's Day, held every November, RMHC-NEO not only made a financial contribution to the House, but they brought Ronald McDonald, who visited with a number of families.

THE 24TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

The **Junior Women's Civic Club**, along with **KeyBank**, **Akron Children's Hospital** and **McDonald's of Greater Akron** will host the **24th Annual Golf Classic** at the **Portage Country Club on Monday, June 30, 2008**. For more information and an invitation, please contact Donna Pulling, JWCC Golf Classic Chairman, at **330-928-5929** or rmhgolfclassic@yahoo.com



MISSION: Accomplished

Providing a “home away from home” for the families of children who are being treated at Akron Children’s Hospital is our mission. When we receive words of thanks from grateful families, it helps affirm that we are fulfilling our objective. If you would like to share your personal experiences at Ronald McDonald House of Akron, or a picture of your child, please send your letters and photos by email to sara@rmhakron.org.



1. Addyson and brother, Aeron, are happy and doing well. Mom and Dad were here with us while the twins were in the NICU.
2. Crystal and Roger Waring visited us with their healthy, happy and active triplets; Madalyn, Jacquelyn, and Vivian.
3. Former heart patient Lucas and brother, Jack, enjoy the holidays.
4. Melissa, Morris and Santa enjoy the holidays with baby, James. Mom and Dad spent many days at our house.
5. Madalyn is a healthy 2 year old who started out as a premie.
6. Macy’s mom and dad spent many days at our House, after her birth.
7. NICU alumni, Michael and Owen, are healthy and happy.

2008 Meal Donors

Many thanks to the following eating establishments, organizations and individuals who have provided meals to the Ronald McDonald House of Akron this year:

- ♥ Altrusa International
- ♥ Amelia Malek
- ♥ Amy Geiser & friends
- ♥ Beta Sigma Phi
- ♥ Bobbi Krannich
- ♥ Brenda & Alex Mathers
- ♥ Bucca di Beppo
- ♥ BW-3
- ♥ Capri Pizza & Wings
- ♥ Crooked River Grill
- ♥ Crown Plaza, Quaker Square
- ♥ DeVitis Italian Market & Deli
- ♥ Diamond Marcum
- ♥ East Elm Grove Church
- ♥ Elaine Hawthorne
- ♥ Ellet High School - FTA
- ♥ Emma Yoder
- ♥ Giant Eagle
- ♥ Greystone Catering
- ♥ House of Hunan
- ♥ Jasper's
- ♥ Jennifer Kupiec & friends
- ♥ Jesse Neidert & friends
- ♥ Junior Women's Club of Stow, Munroe Falls & Silver Lake
- ♥ Junior Women's Civic Club
- ♥ Kathy Dieckman, Peggy Tobias & Connie Moyers
- ♥ Kirbie Family Meats & Catering
- ♥ Little Caesars Pizza
- ♥ McDonald's
- ♥ Maria Plouse
- ♥ Maureen Vastagh
- ♥ Menches Brothers Restaurant
- ♥ Moe's Restaurant
- ♥ Mt. Hope New Order Fellowship
- ♥ Mustard Seed Market & Café
- ♥ National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- ♥ Nick Triola Family
- ♥ Pizza Hut



The DeVitis Family accepts a plaque from Don McCardle (center).

- ♥ Rhodes Catering
- ♥ Rizzi's Ristorante & Pizzeria
- ♥ Rocco's Pizza
- ♥ Sharon Kohler
- ♥ Shisler's Cheese House
- ♥ Stephanie Allen
- ♥ Stow-Munroe Falls High School
- ♥ Stutzman's Bi-Rite
- ♥ Subway
- ♥ Tangier's Restaurant
- ♥ Temple Israel-8th Grade Class
- ♥ The Spaghetti Warehouse
- ♥ Todaro's Party Center
- ♥ United Automatic of Ferguson
- ♥ Vikki & Rodney Shadie & family
- ♥ Vinceen Davis & Jen Hajdu, et al.
- ♥ Waterloo Restaurant
- ♥ White House Chicken
- ♥ Yocono's Restaurant



Mark (left) from Tangier's Restaurant accepts a plaque from Don McCardle.



Don McCardle (left) presents a plaque to Pizza Hut employees



Don McCardle (left) presents a plaque to Steve Henderson of BW-3.



Our Wish List

Please check this list of items and foods that we so often need at our House. We're thankful for all the businesses, groups and individuals who refill our pantry and storerooms.

Before making a large donation, we ask that you call 330-253-5400 to set up a delivery time.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Stouffer's or Lean Cuisine entrees
<i>(individual servings)</i> | Napkins |
| Juices
<i>(individual servings)</i> | Manwich |
| Cheese
<i>(shredded, slices or blocks)</i> | Vegetable soup |
| Fresh fruit | Cream of celery soup |
| Potato chips, pretzels, etc.
<i>(individual servings)</i> | White vinegar |
| Green beans | Corn muffin mixes |
| Peas | Boxed cereal |
| Salad dressing
<i>(Ranch, French, etc.)</i> | Canned cranberries |
| Hellman's Mayonnaise | Canned fruit |
| Baked beans
<i>(Bush's, etc.)</i> | Canned pineapple slices |
| Barbecue sauce | Cooking oil |
| Durkee's French fried onions | Sugar |
| Parmesan cheese | Nuts for baking |
| Beef broth | Frosting
<i>(canned)</i> |
| Boxed potato mixes
<i>(scalloped, au gratin, etc.)</i> | Paper towels |
| | Dish soap
<i>(Dawn, Palmolive, etc.)</i> |
| | Laundry detergent |
| | Phone cards |
| | Grocery store gift certificates |
| | B J's gift certificates |

The Spirit of Community

The Ronald McDonald House of Akron has been truly blessed by the generosity of many individuals, organizations and businesses from Akron and the surrounding communities who have given donations of food and materials, as well as their time. These pictures represent just a few of the generous people who donate to our House.

Below is a list of just some of the groups and individuals who have supported our House in the past few months. To them, and the countless others who have also lent a helping hand to our House, we offer our heartfelt thanks.

- ♥ AAA - Akron Auto Club
- ♥ Aeropostle
- ♥ Agape Word & Worship Center
- ♥ Akron Beacon Journal
- ♥ Alpha Delta Pi
- ♥ American Business Women - Summit Chapter
- ♥ Anne Casey
- ♥ Bakers Square
- ♥ Barbara Crites
- ♥ Belfor USA Group Inc.
- ♥ Bell Music Company
- ♥ Beverley & Fred Foit
- ♥ BJ's
- ♥ Brandywine Grange
- ♥ Brownie Troop #480
- ♥ Carol & Bernie Ruhaak
- ♥ Cintas
- ♥ Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Akron
- ♥ Coventry Brownie Troop #23
- ♥ Darlene Fischer
- ♥ Davis Printing
- ♥ Dean & Roberta Vough
- ♥ Dunkin' Donuts
- ♥ Eastern Elementary School
- ♥ Frank Ceravolo
- ♥ Fuenning Family
- ♥ Gehm & Sons Ltd.
- ♥ Good Cheer Hallmark Club
- ♥ Great Catholic Union Lodge #644
- ♥ Great Lakes Baking
- ♥ Hall's Auto Holiday Inn Cruise-in
- ♥ James & Jennifer Shaver
- ♥ Jerry & Nan Von Allman
- ♥ Jerry Bennett
- ♥ Joan Veverka
- ♥ JoAnn Fabric & Craft Stores
- ♥ John & Debra Alpeter
- ♥ John Butler
- ♥ K.I.S.S. Quilters
- ♥ Kenneth & Peggy Shear
- ♥ Krispy Kreme Donuts
- ♥ Lee Ann Geary
- ♥ Leroy & Marjorie Martin
- ♥ Lynne & Ivan Jackson
- ♥ Margaret Banker
- ♥ Marie Birch
- ♥ Martin Miller
- ♥ Michelle Campana
- ♥ Montessori School of Wooster
- ♥ National Association of Letter Carriers
- ♥ Nelva Lattocha
- ♥ Organization for Children's Healthcare
- ♥ Pat Harrold
- ♥ Paula Haigler
- ♥ Rittman Middle School Grades 6 & 7
- ♥ Rocco & Renee Maiorca
- ♥ Ronald DeVault
- ♥ Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio
- ♥ Rose Lee Snavely
- ♥ Roswell Kent Middle School
- ♥ Rubber City Arches
- ♥ Sally Brown
- ♥ Sam's Club
- ♥ Select Comfort
- ♥ Sharon & Colin Crites
- ♥ Sherry & Brad Teuton



Scott Ziemann (left) of Little Caesars accepts a plaque from Don McCardle.



Betty Jane School staff deliver wish list items to the House.



Coca Cola employee (left) accepts a plaque from Don McCardle.



KISS Quilters give quilts to our house on a regular basis.

- ♥ Sisters Two
- ♥ St. Joseph Elementary School
- ♥ St. Paul's Moore Memorial United Methodist Church
- ♥ State Farm Insurance
- ♥ Steve Emerick
- ♥ Stuver Auto Spring Co.
- ♥ Susan & Brad Kollar
- ♥ Tallmadge Kiddie Kollege
- ♥ Tami & Harold Hood
- ♥ Temperature Control
- ♥ Timothy & Rebecca Kirsch
- ♥ TNT Exterminators
- ♥ Tuesday Crochet & Craft Club
- ♥ Warren Rupp, Inc.
- ♥ Winking Lizard
- ♥ Yoder Brothers



UofA Circle K students take a break with Ronald after working outside on lawns.



J.C. Penney employee gets pie in the face for a RMH fundraiser.

A Message From Our President

As the snow melts slowly, the sun begins to shine and Spring will be right around the corner with new beginnings. As my term as President begins, it saddens me to say that our McDonald's family has lost a generous soul and founding partner. Richard Heidman passed away Monday, March 3rd. I had the honor of working with Dick and the other McDonald's Owner/Operators over the last seven years. Dick brought Akron's first McDonald's to town in 1959. In working with him, I learned that his entrepreneurial spirit was just the "icing" on the years of generosity he gave to the Ronald McDonald House of Akron. I gained so much respect for Dick as a businessman, a loving father and the kindest soul whose selfless donations were endless. Since founding our House in 1984, Dick was an integral part, not only contributing financially, but also through the many food and non-perishable donations that helped so many families that stayed over the years. Dick's heart was truly a part of the "love" that built our house. His innovative ideas and ongoing generosity will be dearly missed. Our prayers are with his family and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank

him with all the gratitude we have in our hearts as he passes through those "Golden Arches." God Bless you Richard Heidman!

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of attending the RMHC International Conference in Chicago. What an amazing experience that provided a lifeline of ideas that will enhance our House and allow us to grow into the future. I also want to thank Darryl Fieldman for his prior two years as Board President. As a representative for the Board, I am honored to be a piece of the "wholeness" that allows our board to work so seamlessly. So many years of experience, knowledge and wisdom are present through each individual's contribution. Moreover, our dedicated and loyal staff are faced with situations on a daily basis that I pray I never have to experience as a mother. Their gift of compassion truly helps our residents during tragic times and provides strength and hope to each family. During hard times, it is truly the "icing on the cake" details our volunteers provide that make life so sweet! Just having a home-cooked meal, loving advice, or being greeted with a smile after hours of being bedside at the hospital, our volunteers offer all of this at the

dawn of each day and the end of each night. It is their precious details to everyday life that provide the loving environment for a "home away from home." In my short term, I have already experienced the overwhelming outpouring of love through the many blessings given by so many. I extend my thanks to the Board of Trustees for your confidence. I will continue to strive, as the many presidents before me, and with my passion help contribute to the dynamic growth we have yet to experience.

Thank you for your support!

Roberta Kleinman DeBarr,
President of the Ronald
McDonald House of Akron



TNT Exterminator employees accept plaque from Don McCardle (left).



National Society of Collegiate Scholars make a dinner for our residents.



Brian Thomas (left) receives a plaque from Don McCardle (right) as AAA employees look on.



Kathy Seward (left) accepts a check from Madison Haskell (right) who sold baked goods at a yard sale.



Sisters Flower Haus & Sisters Flower Haus Two accept a plaque from Don McCardle.



Ronald McDonald House® of Akron, Inc.
 245 Locust Street
 Akron, OH 44302

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Akron, Ohio
 Permit No. 534

Return service requested

Check if appropriate:

- My name is misspelled
- My address is incorrect
- I received more than one copy
- I no longer wish to receive Care Cables

*Please clip your label and mail it to us,
 noting your request.*

Ronald McDonald House of Akron

Board of Trustees Officers:

Roberta Kleinman
 DeBarr
President

Cindy Misheff
Vice President

Nancy Walker
 Gerbetz
Secretary

Nicholas Reynolds
Treasurer

Members:

Sheldon Barlette
 John Blickle
 Robert Bobbitt
 William Considine
 Steve Cox
 Peg Deemer
 Jenny DelMedico
 Donna Early
 Darryl Fieldman
 Dale Freygang
 Sharyl Ginther
 Donna Grigas
 Jeffrey Hord, M.D.
 Casey Hughes
 Heather Jalbert
 Keith Kilgore
 Don McCardle
 Rosie Perez
 Emily Petrarca
 Mary Redle
 Ken Rusinoff
 Sally Scala
 John Shaffer
 Mike Soful
 Jim Stroble
 Mary Yanko
 Dana Zahuranec
 John Zoilo

Honorary Members:
 Robert Klein, M.D.

Staff:

Sara Watkins
 Kathy Seward
 Mary Merendino
 Lori Esposito

Care Cables:

TRIAD
 Communications Inc.
Designer

Care Cables is published by **RMH of Akron Inc.** (Ronald McDonald House of Akron Inc.), an association founded by Akron area families to provide and operate a Ronald McDonald House for those who have family members at Akron Children's Hospital.



© Copyright 2007. All rights reserved.

Who to Call

For **volunteer opportunities** – either on a regular basis or for special needs – call Sara Watkins or Kathy Seward at 330.253.5400.

For information on organizing a **fundraising event**, call Sheldon Barlette at 330.253.5400.

If your group or organization needs a **speaker** to discuss our mission, call Sara Watkins at 330.253.5400.

Mission

The Ronald McDonald House of Akron was founded by families for the purpose of providing for those who have loved ones at Akron Children's Hospital. Our home provides emotional, spiritual and mental support to all who live within these walls.