



HOME NEWS

Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, Texas Inc.

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CALISE

Hi! My name is Calise, and I am three years old. If you ask me, I can even spell my name. My little sister, Taryn, doesn't talk yet, but Mom says I talk enough for both of us. Some of my favorite things are reading stories, talking, singing, making pictures, talking, the color purple, watching movies, and talking. Although I have red hair now, my mommy says it will fall out soon. It's a good thing that our friends and family have sent me hats!

I had been sick for a long time when my doctor in Victoria sent us to see a specialist in San Antonio. Within a few weeks, my new doctor admitted me to the hospital and I got a "port". I like to show it to people I meet, because my nurse said it makes me special and makes getting my treatments easier. When I got out of the hospital, Mommy was very worried when the doctor told her we would have to stay in San Antonio for my chemotherapy. See, I have leukemia and have to go to the doctor's office several times each week to receive treatments and to check my blood counts.



When we first arrived at the Ronald McDonald House, I saw Ronald waiting for us outside and knew we would like it here. There are places to play inside and outside when I feel good, and there are lots of books and movies when I don't feel so good. They even let me feed the fish! It's a little known fact that fish like to play peek-a-boo. Mommy lets me help in the kitchen and with our chores. I am a good helper.

The best thing about this special place is all the friends we have made. It is really nice to play with other kids who understand why I have to wear a mask for germs. Mommy says she doesn't know what she would do without the wonderful staff and volunteers to help us. She says it is great to be able to talk with other families, sharing the hard things and laughing about the silly things.

When we are surrounded by people who care, it is easy to realize that this truly is "The House That Love Built"!

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Picture this ... rolling hills, sunshine, auction items, and Ronald McDonald. This was the scene Monday, February 25th at the Sonterra Golf Club.

Over 200 golf enthusiasts gathered at the club to register and collect their goody-bags. A short time later as the sun peeked through the clouds they set off to play 18 holes. Ronald McDonald was on hand for pictures and to distract the players from the occasional sand trap or water hazard. After an enjoyable round of golf, the players congregated around the tables for a spirited silent auction and dinner. They tried to one up each other by bidding on items that ranged from Spurs tickets and poker chips to artwork and overnights, but it was all in good fun with all of the proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House!

We would like to thank all of the golfers, sponsors, donors, staff, volunteers and of course our title sponsor MCDONALD'S. Thank you all for your time and dedication to our homes!

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NATALEE'S GARDEN

BY HEATHER BIVIN

Over the past twenty-three years we have been fortunate enough to have had a lot of wonderful volunteers who have touched the lives of the many families who have stayed at the San Antonio Ronald McDonald Houses. We not only appreciate their service, but also genuinely enjoyed their company. If it were not for every one of them, the houses would not be what they are today.

Two such wonderful people are Natalee and Julian Aronson. They were fixtures at the Lewis street house beginning in the mid-eighties. They both love children and the mission of the charity. They spent countless hours at the House acting as surrogate grandparents to the patients and their siblings as well as building toy boxes and soliciting in-kind donations from the public. They were always there willing to do anything from offering a hug or a shoulder to cry on to hanging pictures and unclogging toilets all with smiles on their faces. They were truly dedicated to our organization and really became part of our Ronald McDonald House family.

Last year, Natalee became ill and passed away. Everyone has missed her and her love of the charity. A few months later her husband, Julian, noticed that the back yard at the Lewis street house really needed some love and attention. Together with the Executive Director an idea was born. "Natalee's Garden".

The area was made up of an old playscape, a green house that was on its last leg, and an arbor that was not in any better condition. Mr. Aronson saw this and said "This just will not do". He then became very passionate about turning it into something beautiful that the families could enjoy and that would properly honor his late wife.

With the hard work of our new facilities manager, T.J. , the project was underway! It started with the assembly of a shady relaxing gazebo. During one of his trips to the house Mr. Aronson noticed that the green house and arbor took away from the nice new gazebo. With this thought in mind, he suggested removing the old structures and replacing them with a new arbor and lattice work. When this was complete there was just one thing missing: Landscaping.

Before we knew it, flowers were planted, mulch was spread, and statues were placed in their respective areas.

Needless to say, the back yard looks beautiful and provides our families with a pleasant little oasis. What a fitting tribute to such a wonderful, generous, loving, kind, and selfless woman who has meant so much to the Ronald McDonald House.

KEEPING CURRENT

BY PAT BIVIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WOW! What an exciting few months this has been. Our San Antonio Ronald McDonald Houses have been all a-buzz lately. This past February was a very busy month for us and quite a few of our friends. As some of you know, our wonderful partners at McDonald's sponsored a golf tournament for our houses at Sonterra Golf Club. This was topped off with a dinner and silent auction. Last February also brought our annual Style Show and Luncheon sponsored by Julian Gold and organized and put on by a group who truly are our Friends; The Friends of Ronald McDonald House. This enjoyable event was even better this year with the participation of some of our children from the Houses as guest models!

We also have a beautiful new garden area with a gazebo at our Lewis Street House that will forever be known as "Natalee's Garden" to honor a very special volunteer who passed away last year. We will have a dedication ceremony this April. This April the Lewis street House is also receiving a very special gift on flag day. Our retiring resident manager's husband is donating his brother's flag to our house and we could not feel more privileged. Also thanks to a donation from Lumber Liquidators and Benjamin-Moore the Lewis street house is getting a much needed make-over! We are in the process of installing new flooring and paint throughout the house. We are also saying good bye to one of our resident managers, Reba Cooper, and her husband, A. J., as they are retiring. We would also like to welcome T. J. Speer who is our very first facilities manager. We know he will be great addition to our Ronald McDonald House family. I would like to close with a quote I feel is relative not only to our charity but to society as a whole. As Mother Teresa so eloquently stated, "In this life we cannot always do great things, but we can do small things with great love". Thank you all for you continued support of the Ronald McDonald Houses, and we look forward to sharing more good news with you all in the future.



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Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. Carey Chambers - Merry Christmas
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Cherney - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Ms. Marjorie Marks

Mr. & Mrs. Elliott Cohen - Anniversary
Mrs. Judy Lachman
A. J. & Reba Cooper - Merry Christmas

Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. & Mrs. William Kline
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cowen - 55th Anniversary
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Alisa Stahl & Marco Cummino - Wedding
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Portnoy & Family
Ms. Tina Curtis - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. & Mrs. William Kline
Ms. Melissa DeFina - H.S. Graduation
Mark & Nancy Schiff
Dr. Byron N. Dooley - Father's Day
Kristen & Roberto Benavides
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Dooley
Dr. Byron N. Dooley - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Dooley
Dr. Byron N. Dooley - Merry Christmas
Kristen & Roberto Benavides
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Dooley
Mrs. Marilyn Engelking - Birthday
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Ms. Marcia Epner - Special Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Rene Escobedo - Get Well
Mr. & Mrs. Jorge Escobedo
Mr. & Mrs. Monty Flader - Wedding
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Holzhausen
Geoff & Carloyn Fowler - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. Alvin Frieden - Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mrs. Jeannie Frieden - Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Frieden - Anniversary
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mr. John Gehringer - Happy Holidays
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Huffer
Baby David George - In Honor
Ingram, Shocker, Gill & Friends
Ms. Courtney Gil - Birthday
Ms. Susan Diaz-Martinez
Tracy Gilmer - In Honor
David K. & Jacqueline B. Cohn
Ms. Judy Goldstein - 60th Birthday
Karen & Phil Heintz
Delia & Israel Gonzalez - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. & Mrs. James Gorman - 55th Anniversary
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mrs. Ruby Hale - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. & Mrs. William Kline

Mrs. Betty Hamner - Birthday
Ms. Marjorie R. Marks
Dwayne & Mary Harral - Merry Christmas
Ms. Freda Peek
Mr. Glen Harral - Merry Christmas
Ms. Freda Peek
Dudley & Debbie Harral - Merry Christmas
Ms. Freda Peek
Aaron Hartranft - In Honor
Capital Group Co. Charitable Foundation
HEB Central Market - In Honor
Alamo City Council Beta Sigma Phi
Dr. Curtis Heinrich - Get Well
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Portnoy & Family
Ms. Janelle Holman - Mother's Day
Mr. Tom Holman
Ms. Janelle Holman - Birthday
Mr. Tom Holman
Mr. Al Honigblom - Speedy Recovery
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Paul & Michelle Hoskins - On behalf
Mr. Eduardo A. Navarro
Ms. Alma Pisano Hunter - Birthday
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Ms. Ada Jacobs - Get Well
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Portnoy & Family
Dr. & Mrs. S. S. Kalter - Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Harris Sterling
Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Karasek - In Honor
Mrs. Danetta A. Powell
Ms. Prissy Kaufman
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mr. Jeffrey Kelfer - Special Birthday
Karen & Phil Heintz
Ms. Barbara Keyser - Special Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kline - Merry Christmas
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Biederman
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.
Ms. Rudy Hale
Mr. Bill Kline - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.
Ms. Elsie Kline - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.
Mrs. Sandie Kowitz - Playhouse
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Birnbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Goldstein
Karen & Phil Heintz
Ms. Roxanna Kelfer
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Kornman
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Novick
Ms. Sandra Weingart
Mrs. Sandi Kowitz - 50th Birthday
Ms. Leslie Foley
Ms. Lisa Kopecky
Ms. Bonnie Kornman - Birthday
Karen & Phil Heintz
Mr. & Mrs. John Krueger - Christmas
Dorothy & Jeffrey Reinhard
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Linghner - Marriage
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Portnoy & Family
Mr. Pete R. Martinez - 70th Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Valdespino

Leslie & Chris McGlamery - In Honor
Lana & Toby Summers Charitable Trust
Ms. Karlie McMahon - In Honor
A Five Oh 4 Uplifting
Mrs. June McMichael - Merry Christmas
Dorothy & Jeffrey Reinhard
Ms. Lee Ann McMichael - Merry Christmas
Dorothy & Jeffrey Reinhard
Ms. Louise Michelson - Special Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Mr. Mickey Miller - Get Well
Mrs. Doris Spector
Dr. Sam Miller - Speedy Recovery
Mrs. Pearl Gossen
Mrs. Judy Morton - Merry Christmas
Marilyn & Sam Parnes
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman - Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Solomon
Mrs. Harriet Neuman - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Solomon
Mr. Ralph Noll - 80th Birthday
Martin & Judy Treuhaft
Mrs. Ruth Ann Nyander - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. & Mrs. William Kline
Mrs. Sherry O'Kelly - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Ms. Marjorie R. Marks
Melissa & John Odell - Merry Christmas
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.
Mr. Dylan Pascoe - In Honor
Stacy & John Famegia
Griffin
Mrs. Betty Pisano - In Thanksgiving
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Miss Isabel Pisano - Birthday
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Laurie & Louis Pisano - Anniversary
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Mr. Victor Pisano, Jr. - Birthday
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Mrs. Danetta Powell - Merry Christmas
Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Karasek
Mr. Allen Pullen - Get Well
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman
Mrs. Judy Rackley - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mrs. Judy Rackley - Speedy Recovery
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Ethan & Rela Ratner - In Honor of Hanukkah
Sara & Ellison Ratner
Mrs. Joel Rautiola - Good Recovery
Ms. Marjorie R. Marks
Dr. & Mrs. Joel Rautiola - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Ms. Marjorie R. Marks
Ronald McDonald House - Holiday Gift
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Otto
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Salazar - In Honor
GE Capital Franchise Finance Corp.
Ms. Anita Lopez Saldina - Thank You
Ms. LaRhea Nichols

Mr. Steve Sanchez - Birthday
Ms. Maurine McLean
Ms. Lisa Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schiff - Anniversary
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Irma & Dan Sciaraffa - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Ms. Pat Sheehy - Thank You
Paul & Bill Gowen & Family's
Ms. Linda Shuler - Birthday
Mrs. Betty Lou Pisano
Mr. Gregory M. Smith, D.D.S. - Happy Holidays
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Huffer
Mr. & Mrs. Madison Smith - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Ms. Marjorie R. Marks
Mr. Arthur Solomon - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman
Mrs. Lois Solomon - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman
T. J. Speers - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.
Mr. Charles Sugerman - Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Ms. Cindy Timmins & Family - Merry Christmas
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Kenneth Train - Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Harris Sterling
Ms. Angelo Vela - Thank You
Mr. & Mrs. Rogelio Vela
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Vollbrecht - Merry Christmas
Dorothy & Jeffrey Reinhard
Mr. Andrew Weinberg - Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Master Matthew Weinstein - His birth
Bobbi & Richard Ravicz
Ms. Harriet Weyel - Speedy Recovery
Ms. Pat Bivin
Mr. Carey Chambers
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Cooper, Sr.
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Ronald McDonald House
Mr. & Mrs. George Williams - Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Ms. Marjorie R. Marks
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Williams - Merry Christmas
Dorothy & Jeffrey Reinhard
Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Wolff - 55th Anniversary
Mrs. Judy Lachman
Ms. Sylvia Wolff - Birthday
Mrs. Judy Lachman

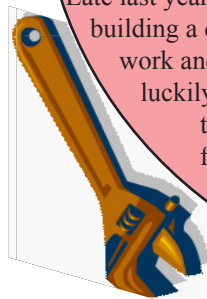
V o l u n t e e r s ...Thanks For Taking Time To Care



A NEW FACE

This January brought about several changes. A new year began, strange weather patterns emerged, and our charity was privileged to acquire a new employee at our houses. For sometime now, our Medical Center and Lewis St. houses have been in need of someone's special help. As you might imagine, houses this large that house the number of people we do will experience some wear and tear. After careful consideration, the position of facilities manager was created. But who could fill this position? The duties would include everything from plumbing and electrical work to construction and painting projects. The facilities manager would also be responsible for the day to day maintenance at the houses and the upkeep of our company vehicles.

Late last year, a contractor, T. J. Speer, was hired to erect a gazebo, as well as building a deck and arbor plus doing some landscaping. After seeing his work and noticing his work ethic, T. J. was offered the position and luckily for us, he accepted! T. J. has been a wonderful addition to our Ronald McDonald House family and we look forward to his creativity and wide range of skills for years to come!



*These children touched our
live for just a brief time.
While they are no longer here
with us, they will remain
forever in our hearts*

*Daihlany Barrientos
Luke Becka
Joel Beltran
Anghelo Carraman
Kyle Connelly
Baby Girl Contreras
Y'Alandra McCutcheon
Julian Medrano
Alissa Nelson
Angel Mia Rodriguez
Ashley Vielma*

BITTERSWEET

This year has marked many happy times at our Ronald McDonald Houses. We have housed wonderful families, had several very successful fund raisers, and welcomed a few new employees. This year will, however, mark a sad time for our houses as well. As of the end of this April, our Lewis St. Resident Manager, Reba Cooper, will retire.

Reba and her husband, A. J., have made the Ronald McDonald House their home and are sad to leave. "I am really going to miss it here", says Reba whenever she speaks of the move. It has been a hard decision, but one made for the right reason. At age 81 and having worked full-time for many years, Reba decided that it was time to relax and put her feet up. During her time here, she touched the lives of not only the families staying at the House, but also all of us. Her warmth never went unnoticed, she was never without a smile, and always took the time to listen and make everyone she met feel special. Thank you Reba, for your warm heart, open arms, and caring soul. It has meant the world to all of us, and you will be greatly missed.

Ronald McDonald House Staff

Executive Director

Pat Bivin

Executive Assistant

Elizabeth Medina

Information Specialist

Harriet Weyel

Volunteer Coordinator/Guest Relations

Heather Bivin

House Manager - Lewis St.

Juanita Muniz

Operations Manager - Lewis St.

Evening Manager - Lewis St.

Natalie Avalos

House Manager - Medical Center

Susie Valdez

Evening Manager - Medical Center

Lori Rodriguez

House Manager - Christus Santa Rosa

Ryan Bivin

Evening Manager - Christus Santa Rosa

Valerie DeLeon

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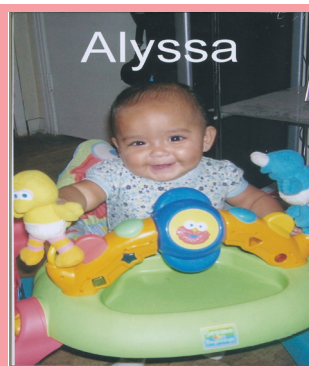
*Tel: (210) 614-2554
Fax: (210) 614-2905*



Angelica Lizcano



John Howell & Family



Alyssa

WISH LIST

This is a list of "nice to have items" that the guest and staff can use to keep things running smoothly.

Please call to help us.

Downtown (210) 223-6014,
Medical Center (210) 614-2554,
Santa Rosa House (210) 704-3860

Laundry Detergent
Bleach
Cleaning Products
Trash Can Liners
Paper Products
Dish washing Detergent
Towels
Washcloths
Hand Towels
Silverware
Aluminum Foil
Zip Lock Bags
Cooking Oil
Sugar
Plastic Pillow Covers
Quilted Pillow Covers
Twin Size Blankets
Full/Queen Size Quilted Mattress Covers

INTERESTED IN A WEEKEND JOB?

CALL (210) 614-2554

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