# HOME NEWS

Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio, Texas, Inc.

Volume 26, Issue No. 22 Spring, 2007

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#### OPERATIONS MANAGER REBA COOPER

Having had an interest in the Ronald McDonald House Charities for a number of years, I was excited when I was offered the position of Operations Manager for the San Antonio Lewis Street House. I had worked for Baylor University for 28 years and fully expected to retire there; however, when I was interviewed and toured the three beautiful facilities in San Antonio my plans (and my life) changed. Here was an opportunity to serve in a place that is designed to house and help families as they struggle with all the problems that come with the serious illness of their children.

My first five months here have been a real learning and rewarding experience. I discovered that our staff members wear many hats and perform varied duties willingly and joyfully to keep "our house" a serene, cheerful and comfortable "home away from home". We may be plumbers, repairmen, housekeepers or data processors one hour and in the next hour we may have our arms wrapped around a distraught mother whose child is very ill. Who could ask for a more rewarding profession? Quickly we learn to love each family that arrives at our house, and any chore in which we find ourselves involved is no chore at all, but a labor of love.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to those responsible for allowing me, this wonderful experience.

# VAN DONATION

A special thank you to the The San Antonio Auto Dealers Association

who donated a much need van to the San Antonio Ronald McDonald House.



Members of the San Antonio Auto Dealers Association, Board Member Joe Shockney and Staff.

# SAVE THE DATE

# TERRY LABONTE Tour of Texas

June 8, 2007

Autographs, food, silent auction and much more.

For further details call (210) 614-2554

## KEEPING CURRENT BY PAT BIVIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director, Pat Bivin & Ronald McDonald

Wow! We have sure had a busy year so far, not to mention a busy end to 2006. Last December we celebrated the holidays at our three homes with the best and only real "Santa". His warm red suit and jolly disposition filled the hearts of our families, staff and guests and a wondeful holiday dinner was prepared by the local McDonald owners. Our stomachs have also been filled all year with delicious dinners provided by the Friends of the Ronald McDonald House, Junior League and countless others whose support and dedication to our homes always shines through. We would also like to thank the Friends for making our homes look festive with their creative holiday decorating and for keeping our home filled with homemake cookies from the cookie patrol.

Due to the generosity of the Kolitz family, we are very excited to have acquired the lot next door to our Lewis Street Ronald McDonald House. Thanks to them and numerous others, we have a fun new family play yard with a playhouse, two playscapes, beautiful landscaping and new lighting. We welcomed our new addition with a ribbon cutting ceremony and mini carnival on Saturday, March 31, 2007. The festivities included a stuff-a-bear machine, ring toss, fortuneteller, gold fish, moon walk and cookie walk, as well as hot dogs and hamburgers fresh from the grill! We also had a special visit from Ronald McDonald himself who always puts a smile on the faces of our families. A big thank you also to the Fire Fighters from Station #4 who took time our of their very busy schedules to bring a real fire engine for the children to play on and explore.

All and all it has been a wonderful and exciting time for us and we look forward to more wondeful things to come!

# SHARE YOUR HEART 2007

By Joyce Terk, VP Share Your Heart, Friends of Ronald McDonald House

The Friends of Ronald McDonald House sponsored the annual Share Your Heart campaign during the month of February. Forty - two school across the San Antonio area sold paper hearts for twenty-five cents. Together administrators, teachers, parents, and students helped raise over \$12,000.00 for the houses. That's a lot of quarters! Rayburn Elementary was awarded a plaque for the most contributed in proportion to number of enrolled students with Bellaire Elementary a close second. A big thank you goes out to all committee members and especially to all the schools for sharing their hearts.

**Bellaire** Elementary Burke Elementary **Collier** Elementary **Dellview** Elementary Eleanor Kolitz Academy Encino Park Elementary **Evers Elementary** Fernandez Elementary Fox Run Elementary Gallardo Elementary GALM Elementary Gillette Elementary **Glenoaks** Elementary Hardy Oaks Elementary Harlandale Middle School Harmony Elementary Hatchett Elementary Health Careers High Helotes Elementary Hidden Cove Elementary Highland Park Elementary Hobby Middle School Holy Spirit Catholic Huebner Elementary Incarnate Word High School Jordan Middle School Kriewald Elementary Rayburn Elementary Rhodes Elementary Rudder Middle School Schulze Elementary Southwest Elementary St. Anthony Catholic St. Benedict Catholic St. Paul Catholic Steubing Ranch Elementary Stone Oak Elementary Terrell Wells Middle School Valley Hi Elementary Windcrest Elementary Woodstone Elementary Wrenn Elementary



Rayburn Elementary Winning School



Bellarie Elementary School

# Let's Play - In Our New Playground

For more that twenty years our dream was to obtain the property adjacent to our Lewis Street Ronald McDonald House. Our dream came true when Sandi & Bob Koltiz purchased the land and donated it to our home. There are not words enough to express our sincere appreciation for their generosity and support.

Ground was broken on November 21, 2006. There was much work to be done. Leticia Zavala, a landscape architect, was contracted to draw up plans for the playground. With a playhouse as the focal point and playscapes at each side of the playground, the area took shape. Lighting, shrubs, flowers and "Ronald McDonald" benches donated by local McDonald owner/operators truly turned an area that was once a neighborhood eyesore into a fun and inviting show place. The finishing touch was a great entrance arch which reads "Kolitz Playground".



The weather cleared and the sun shone for our ribbon cutting on March 31, 2007. Ronald McDonald himself helped welcome our guests into the new playground. Volunteers from Southwest Airlines, St. Mary's Tri-Beta, Health Careers High School Interact, Martin Marietta, the San Antonio Fire Department, the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors and Staff all worked to make the day special - and it was!

Many thanks to all of our friends who helped our dreams come true.

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09-01-06 THRU 04-15-07

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Mr. David Zettner Bobbi & Richard Ravicz Mr. Ronald Zola, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Doug Fumagalli HAPPY GIFTS 09-01-06 THRU 04-15-07 Mrs. Heidi Addlestone - Birthday Mrs. Judy Lachman Ms. Natalee Aronson - Birthday Ms. Janice Aronson Ms. Colleen Barrett - Merry Christmas Mrs. Mary K. Reininger Joe & Patty Biederman - Merry Christmas Mr. Carey Chambers Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Cooper, Sr. Ryan, Heather & Pat Bivin Ms. Pat Bivin - Thank You Ms. Ruth Ann Nyander Ms. Pat Bivin - Merry Christmas Mrs. Ruby Hale Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Cooper, Sr. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Biederman Shannon & Jeanette Blankenship -In Honor George Blankenship Shereda Benfield Mr. & Mrs. John Bohling - In Honor Ms. Bobbie Hendrix Mr. Clarence Burnett - In Honor Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark Ms. Frances Burnett - In Honor Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark Chris Bush Family - Merry Christmas Rev. & Mrs. Jack Bush Rev. & Mrs. Jack Bush - Merry Christmas Ryan, Heather & Pat Bivin Mr. Carey Chambers Mr. & Mrs. James Carollo - Merry Christmas Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J. Baietti Mr. Sean Anthony Carollo - In Honor Mr. & Mrs. James Carollo Mrs. Araceli Čavazos - In Honor Personette & Associates, LLC Mr. Carey Chambers - Merry Christmas Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Cooper, Sr. Mrs. Ruby Hale Mr. & Mrs. Joe Biederman Mr. Carey Chambers - Birthday Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Cooper, Sr. Ms. Jessica Alison Contreras - In Honor Ms. Sandra Sepulveda Ms. Elizabeth Ashley Cook - In Honor Horace & Sylvia Mercer Mrs. Peggy Cookie - Happy Holidays Mr. & Mrs. Julian Aronson Ms. Sally Cooper - Birthday Mrs. Judy Lachman A. J. & Reba Cooper - Merry Christmas Ryan, Heather & Pat Bivin Mr. Carey Chambers Mr. & Mrs. Joe Biederman Mrs. Ruby Hale F.L. & Jacque Cooper - Merry Christmas Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Cooper, Sr.

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Mr. Larry Roberts -Congratulations on promotion Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors Ronald McDonald House Staff Ms. Janie Rodriguez - Birthday Susie & Bill Barrera Ronald McDonald House - Merry Christmas Mr. & Mrs. James Hale Ronald McDonald House - Thank You Mr. & Mrs. Jose Mireles Mr. & Mrs. Martin I. Roos - Merry Christmas Mrs. Mary K. Reininger The Rubino Family - Merry Christmas Ms. Minnie Weinberg Mr. & Mrs. Ted Seidenberg -Thank You Mrs. Judy Lachman Gregory M. Smith, D.D.S. - Happy Holidays Mr. & Mrs. Bill Huffer Mr. Arthur Solomon - Birthday Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman Mrs. Lois Solomon - Birthday Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman Mr. & Mrs. Jack Spector - Happy Holidavs Mrs. Doris Spector Mrs. Barbara Spigel - 60th Birthday Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Spigel Mrs. Paula Stallcup -Congratulations on promotion Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors Ronald McDonald House Staff Mr. Joe Straus, Jr. - 80th Birthday Mr. & Mrs. Oscar V. Ehrenberg Mr. Mike Sutton - Birthday Mrs. Judy Lachman Master Noah Joshua Thomas - In Honor of Birth Bobbi & Richard Ravicz Mr. Angelo Vela - Thank You Mr. & Mrs. Rogelio Vela DeAundre Walker - Thank You Ms. Crystal Walker Mr. & Mrs. Dan Webster - Merry Christmas Mr. & Mrs. James Hale Miss Julia Carolyn West - In Honor of Birth Bobbi & Richard Ravicz Mr. & Mrs. George Williams -Happy Holidays Ms. Majorie R. Marks Dr. Suzanne Williams - Ratutisla -In Honor & Thank You Ms. Marjorie R. Marks Mr. A.J. Wright - Thank You Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Billings



### Wish List

This is a list of "nice to have items" that the guests and staff can use to keep things running smoothly. Please call to help us. Downtown House 210-223-6014, Medical Center House 210-614-2554, Santa Rosa House 210-704-3860.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES Laundry Detergent Bleach Cleaning Products Fabric Softener Sheets Trash Can Liners Paper Products Dishwashing Detergent

BATH ITEMS Towels Washcloths Hand Towels KITCHEN ITEMS Silverware Aluminum Foil Zip Lock Bags Sugar Cooking Oil

MISCELLANEOUS Postage Stamps Tickets to events Vacuum Cleaner Calling Cards BEDROOM ITEMS Plastic Pillow Covers Quilted Pillow Covers Twin Plastic Mattress Covers Twin Size Blankets Full Size Plastic Mattress Covers Full Size Quilted Mattress Covers

# Thank you for the wonderful dinners and bake goods

THESE CHILDREN TOUCHED OUR LIVES FOR JUST A BRIEF TIME. WHILE THEY ARE NO LONGER HERE WITH US, THEY WILL REMAIN FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.





# Ronald McDonald House Staff

Executive Director Patricia Bivin

Executive Assistant Elizabeth Medina

Information Specialist Harriet Weyel

Volunteer Coordinator Guest Relations Heather Bivin

> House Manager Lewis St. Juanita Muniz

Operation Manager Lewis St. Reba Cooper

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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