



Ronald McDonald House Charities®

One Kroc Drive, Oak Brook IL 60523
630.623.7048 tel 630.623.7488 fax

www.rmhc.org

Ronald McDonald Family Room® Provides In-Hospital Respite for Families

Comfortable Havens Offer Sanctuary Just Steps Away From Child's Bedside

NEWS RELEASE

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OAK BROOK, ILL. — For the parent of a child who is seriously ill, trips away from a child's bedside are few and far between. For this reason, Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are built just steps from a hospital's pediatric unit, providing families with a comfortable place to eat, nap, take a shower or even do laundry.

Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are designed to be comfortable and inviting spaces, offering families a chance to read, nap, eat, take a shower—even do laundry. The Family Room can also be a welcome relief from the sometimes chaotic and clinical environment of a hospital setting. The close proximity allows families to spend more time together, which helps in the healing process, and can give parents a sense of relief and security, knowing that they are only a short distance away from their child.

"I felt terrified and vulnerable," says Alison, mother of eight-year-old Henry, who was admitted to the hospital for diagnostic testing to determine the cause of chronic nosebleeds, headaches and vomiting. "The hospital environment is frightening when you feel so helpless." However, during this time, Alison was able to stay in a Ronald McDonald Family Room just off the pediatric ward. "The facility was invaluable and allowed me to remain close to Harry," she says. "The amount of support gained from the company of others in the same situation is incredible."

There are 137 Family Rooms in 15 countries and regions: Australia, Canada, Chile, England, Guatemala, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United States. The Family Room program is one of the three core programs of Ronald McDonald House Charities. The others are Ronald McDonald House, the cornerstone program of Ronald McDonald House Charities, and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Both the House and Family Room programs are supported by nearly 30,000 volunteers who annually donate more than three million hours of their time.

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Ronald McDonald House Charities®, a non-profit, 501(c)(3), that creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. To date, RMHC® and its global network of local Chapters have awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in grants and program services to children's nonprofit organizations worldwide.

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