



a Year in Review

2025



Letter from the President & CEO

Nirupa Netram



Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2025, I am deeply grateful for the incredible support from each of you in helping Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southwest Florida achieve our mission. This year, your generosity, kindness, and commitment have enabled us to continue providing comfort, care, and support to families as they navigate some of life's most challenging moments.

Thanks to you, countless families found a "home-away-from-home" at Ronald McDonald House, where they could stay close to their child who is undergoing medical treatment, surrounded by compassion, comfort, and understanding. Your support also made it possible for parents to find peace and strength in our Ronald McDonald Family Room® at Golisano Children's Hospital, while steps away from their child's bedside. Your commitment fueled our Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® Program, helping underserved children in their neighborhoods maintain healthy smiles for years to come. Every meal shared, every sigh of relief, and every smile is a tribute to the incredible difference your generosity has made in the life of a family and child.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are thrilled to celebrate a remarkable milestone: our 30th Anniversary. For three decades, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida has stood as a beacon of hope for families in need, and this anniversary is a tribute to our community's unwavering support. With your continued partnership, we will honor this legacy by deepening our impact on the next generation of families.

Thank you for being the heart of our mission. Wishing you a 2026 filled with joy, good health, and meaningful moments. Together, let's make 2026 a milestone of hope and impact for every family we serve.

With Gratitude,

Nirupa Netram
President & CEO

Our 2025 Impact

Ronald McDonald House Charities® SWFL provides essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare. When a child is sick,

the entire family needs comfort and support. We strongly believe that when families are together, they cope better, which is why we make it our mission that no family has to deal with their child's medical crisis alone. Thank you for helping us make a positive impact!

Note: These figures reflect data from January through November 2025.

Final numbers will be updated after the new year.



Ronald McDonald House®

- Family Night Stays: 3,052
- Average Length of Stay: 42 nights



Ronald McDonald Family Room®

- Patient Family Visits: 5,056
- Grab + Go Meals Provided: 2,708



Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® Program (operating in Collier, Lee, & Hendry Counties)

- Screenings: 2,200+
- Sealants: 2,400+
- Varnish: 2,100+
- Total Visits: Over 7,500+ kids helped!
- Patient Assessments: 1,600+
- Caries Risk Assessments: 1,600+
- Fluoride: 1,200+



Volunteer Program:

- House Volunteers: 878 at 4,315 Total Hours
- Meal Volunteers: 1,924 at 4,810 Total Hours
- Family Room Volunteers: 957 at 2,081 Total Hours
- Event Volunteers: 78 at 498 Total Hours
- Volunteer services valued at \$407,182.14!



Family Meal Program:

- Meals Provided by Volunteers: 328



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Southwest Florida

Celebrating 30 Years



Our Team

Full-Time Staff



Nirupa Netram

President & CEO



Karen Marshall

Director, House
Operations & Services



Leanna Gonzalez

Director, Business &
Finance



Illeny Farese

Director, Volunteer &
Family Services



Amy Velez

Director, Marketing &
Creative Design



Jess Bucci

Program Coordinator



Gina Lombardo

Director of Philanthropy



Lucy Walters

Director of Development,
Community Engagement
& Events

Part-Time Staff

Weekend Managers

- Christine Jabczynski
- Nancy Pavlik
- Rachelle Downey
- Debra Blumenschein

2025 Board

Executive Committee

David Koester, President
Elizabeth Cameratta, Vice President
Gabrielle O'Boyle, Secretary
Cindy Cross, Treasurer
Ron Scudder, Parliamentarian
Richard DeStefano, Past President

Members

Sandra Aguilar
Mary Colina-Fowler
Deana Homsi
Michelle Macias
Melissa Montes Blanco
Carey Randall
Bryan Rodriguez
Susan Ryckman
Emad Salman, MD
Harold Weeks

It Takes a Village

At the heart of our mission is the belief that nothing is more healing than having family close by. Our dedicated healthcare partners make this possible by referring families to our programs, collaborating on care, and supporting our efforts to ease the burdens families face during medical crises. Their compassion and commitment help us create a true home-away-from-home. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership in keeping families strong and supported when it matters most.

- Calmar Pain Relief Therapy
- Cape Coral Hospital
- Caring Medical
- Family Health Centers of SWFL
- Golisano Children's Hospital
- Gulf Coast Medical Center
- Healthcare Network
- HealthPark Hospital
- Johns Hopkins
- Lee Memorial Hospital
- Naples Comprehensive Health
- NeuroWerks
- Pediatric Orthopedics



To Our Dedicated Volunteers

As this year comes to a close, we want to pause and acknowledge the steady presence you bring into our House. Your time, consistency, and care quietly shape families' experience during some of the most uncertain moments of their lives. Whether you cooked a meal, baked alongside others, welcomed a family with a smile, or simply showed up when needed, your impact reached far beyond what you could see in the moment.

Volunteering here is about reliability, warmth, and choosing compassion again and again. You help create a space that feels less clinical and more human, more like home. We are deeply grateful for the role you play in making that possible, and we are better because you are part of this community.

Thank you for walking alongside our families and for being part of this year's story.



Meals Made with Love

This year, our kitchen was filled with the warmth and comfort only a home-cooked meal can bring. Thanks to generous volunteers, community groups, businesses, families, and friends, hundreds of meals were prepared and shared with the families staying at the

Ronald McDonald House®. Each dish offered more than nourishment; it offered a moment of relief, connection, and care during an incredibly challenging time. These meals reminded our families that their community is standing beside them, supporting their strength and helping them focus on what matters most: being together.



29th Annual Storybook Ball

The 29th Annual Storybook Ball "Pirates of the Caribbean" was an incredible evening, and we are thrilled to share that over \$350,000 gross revenue was raised to support RMHC SWFL programs. With more than 250 guests in attendance, the night was filled with heartfelt moments, generosity, and community spirit. A special congratulations to our 2025 Storybook Ball Honorees, The Woods-Henderson Family of California Closets. This unforgettable evening would not have been possible without the dedication and support of so many:

A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors:

- Grand Patron Sponsor
 - First Horizon Foundation
- Platinum Sponsor
 - Michele Heisner
- Diamond Sponsor
 - Grampy's Charities
- Media Sponsor
 - Gulfshore Life
- In-Kind Sponsors
 - Norman Love Chocolates
 - Heisner Enterprises- Volunteer Breakfast
 - Rustic Family Foods- Volunteer Dinner
- Sapphire Sponsor
 - Golisano Children's Hospital - Lee Health
- Ruby Sponsors
 - Martin-Brower (3)
 - Aubuchon Team of Companies
 - Suncoast Credit Union
- Emerald Sponsors
 - Arch Management
 - Nisbet Enterprises
 - Turano Florida Bun
 - Cameratta Companies
 - Fidelity Investments Wealth Management
 - AWA Insurance
 - The Cugliotta Family
 - The O'Melia Family

- Silver Sponsors
 - Healthcare Network
 - The Ryckman Family
 - Wynn Properties
- Wine/Prosecco Sponsor
 - Carey Randall
- Bronze Sponsors
 - The Community Foundation
 - HSC/Tuscan & Company, P.A.
 - US Sugar
 - Blue Knights XVI
 - Grandma's Grove RV Park
 - Colina Law

And a thank you to our event partners:

- Emcees- WINK TV's Matt Devitt and Amanda Hall
- Auctioneer- Joe Girvan
- Venue- Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa
- AV- Encore
- Mobile-Bidding- OneCause
- Trips + Experiences- AmFund
- DJ/Band- DJ Maudy & "The Get Down" Fusion Band - Curate Entertainment
- Cocktail Hour Entertainment- POWERHOUSE
- Photography- Dipp Photography
- Flowers + Decor- Something Borrowed Event Rentals + Something Bloomed Florals
- Decor- Exclusive Affair Rentals
- Volunteers, staff, Board of Directors, RMHC SWFL families, McDonald's- our Founding & Forever Partners, attendees, and supporters!

SAVE THE DATE to celebrate our 30th Annual Storybook Ball on Saturday, March 7, 2026!
Visit rmhcswfl.org/storybook-ball for information, tickets, sponsorships, and more!



Having a Blast at the Sporting Clay Shoot

What an incredible day at our 5th Annual Clay Shoot supporting RMHC Southwest Florida! We surpassed our net revenue goal of \$65,000! Every dollar raised helps us continue providing a home-away-from-home for families with sick or injured children receiving care nearby. A heartfelt THANK YOU to our generous sponsors, event partners, supporters, volunteers, staff, and vendors who made the day such a huge success.

From a fantastic morning on the course, to exciting raffle and auction items, and ending with a delicious BBQ lunch and awards celebration, it was a day full of fun, generosity, and community. Special thanks to our incredible venue and course operators for hosting us and running a smooth, safe, and enjoyable shoot! Congratulations to our award winners!

Thank you, sponsors and partners!

- Grampy's Charities
- Kids and Clays Foundation
- Key Private Bank
- Aubuchon Team of Companies
- Besnard Insurance
- Collier Electric Company of Fort Myers, Inc.
- The Brilex Group
- Bill Canning
- H + K International
- Martin Brower
- The Stevens Family Foundation, Inc.
- Frost Companies
- Turano Florida Bun
- Nisbet Enterprises
- Service Contracting Solutions
- Gulf Harbour Rod & Gun Club
- Submerged Consultants
- Patrick Martin
- Sarasota Trap, Skeet & Clays

SAVE THE DATE to celebrate our 6th Annual Grampy's Charities Clay Shoot on Thursday, March 26, 2026! Visit rmhcswfl.org/sporting-clays for information, sponsorships, & more!



Denim + Diamonds

Our Denim + Diamonds event in December was truly something special. From the incredible energy in the room to the generosity of our supporters, the evening was filled with connection, celebration, and purpose. Thanks to our fantastic community, we surpassed our goal in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwest Florida and the families we serve.

We'd like to thank our passionate Chairpersons, Carly Schwartzel and Suzanne Costa-Kustka. Their vision and dedication helped bring Denim + Diamonds to life in a truly remarkable way.

We extend our sincere thanks to Ferrari of Naples for generously providing the venue, International Diamond Center for the stunning diamonds and watches, Dwayne Bergmann Interiors for the beautiful décor, Warren for the bourbon and private tasting experience, Gulfshore Life for media support, and Seed to Table for the delicious barbecue.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors whose generosity made this night a success:

Royal Diamond Sponsors

- Alessio Companies
- Dr. Steven and Mrs. Pat Bander with Suzanne Costa Interiors

Marquis Sponsors

- Dorothy Fitzgerald + Friends
- Garramone Plastic Surgery
- Grampy's Charities
- Carly and Jim Schwartzel
- Stock Development

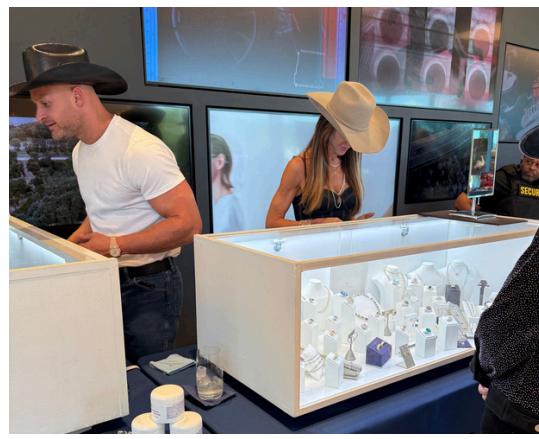
Rhinestone Royalty Sponsor

- Martin-Brower

Diamond Sponsors

- Golisano Children's Hospital – Lee Health
- MHK Architecture
- Nor-Tech Hi-Performance Boats
- Waterside Builders
- Wayne and Laurye Omelia

A heartfelt thank you to our RMHC SWFL team, dedicated volunteers, Board of Directors, sponsors, partners, and every guest who joined us for this special evening. Your support helps ensure families with hospitalized children have a place of comfort, care, and support when they need it most.



A Tee-rific Day at our Golf Event

Our 8th Annual Grampy's + RMHC SWFL Golf Tournament in December brought together friends, partners, and supporters for a beautiful day on the Fiddlesticks golf course in support of our mission. With great weather, friendly competition, and an outpour of generosity, the event was an incredible success, surpassing our goal and a true testament to the strength of our community.

We are deeply grateful to our event sponsor, Grampy's Charities, for their continued commitment and leadership, and to our Premier Sponsor, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, for their generous support.

Thank you to our valued sponsors who helped make the day possible.

Title Sponsor

- Anonymous

Presenting Sponsor

- Aubuchon Team of Companies

Eagle Sponsors

- First Horizon Foundation
- Golisano Children's Hospital – Lee Health
- Martin Brower
- Turano Florida Bun

Lunch Sponsor

- California Closets

Putting Contest Sponsors

- Richard DeStefano
- Shoes For Crews

Beverage Cart Sponsor

- Stickboy

A sincere thank you to our RMHC SWFL team, volunteers, Board of Directors, partners, sponsors, golfers, and everyone who joined us on the course. Your support helps provide essential services and a sense of comfort for families with children receiving medical care.

From the first tee to the final putt, this tournament was a meaningful reminder of the impact we can make together.



Making Seasons Bright

This holiday season filled our House with so much joy, generosity, and gratitude.

We were blown away by the kindness of our community during our Holiday Wishlist drive. Thanks to the generosity of so many local groups, families, and businesses, including Devonwood Community, Macy's, Make-A-Wish Southern Florida, Gulf Coast Town Center, The Landings 18 Hole Ladies Golf League, Gulf Harbor Steel tennis Teams, Bishop Verot Catholic High School, Hertz Working Families Group, Danno's 6th Annual Grinch Ride, Coco Bay Community, Reflection Key Community, SEI, the Rocque and Fewster families, and SO many more, more than 300 children experienced the joy of receiving a gift this Christmas, many who may not have otherwise.

We had the chance to celebrate the heart of our mission, our incredible volunteers, at a festive holiday party. We ate delicious food and goodies, thanks to our friends at Rustic Family Foods; we laughed, had great conversations, and just kept building relationships with our incredible volunteers!

We're also deeply thankful for the incredible \$25,000 gift from the Helping Hands for the Holidays annual event, hosted by the Aubuchon Team of Companies, which will continue to make a meaningful difference for families who need us most.

And of course, we loved partnering once again with the Florida Farm Bureau Federation for their always-fun holiday basket contest, and it's become a tradition we truly cherish. This season reminded us that when a community comes together with heart, amazing things happen. From all of us at RMHC SWFL, thank you for being part of this season of giving. We wish you and your loved ones a very happy, peaceful holiday season.







~ TUESDAY

- Wraps
- Chicken Strips
- Nuggets

"Our experience in the house was simply incredible. It has been a blessing for our family. The house is cozy, with a beautiful atmosphere and attention to every detail. For Joaquin, it has been a privilege to have this support and to focus on his therapies; it has made an important difference in his development. The staff, besides being professional, are truly special and have an extraordinary sense of service. We are grateful for and amazed by all the volunteers who give their time every day and do it with so much love. We would like to give a special shout-out to Illeny, Christine, Karen, and Nirupa for their special attention. This time, we have especially taken Bianca into our hearts, a joyful, loving young volunteer." -The Contreras Family

Family Story

"On July 7th, 2025, our baby girl was born 2 months ahead of schedule, and our NICU life began at Golisano. Baby and I were separated for 5 days in different hospitals, so Dad stayed with the baby as I requested. Our NICU life was not ideal, but the love and support our nurses gave us was phenomenal. Our social worker suggested we apply for the Ronald McDonald House.

I felt we weren't worthy of staying there because our daughter was achieving her milestones. The social worker reassured me, and we were put on the waiting list. We stayed at the hospital every night except once a week, to reload on clothes, and I felt my heart ripping from my chest the further away we were from the hospital. Close to the end of our NICU stay, they moved us to a room where there was no sofa, only two chairs. My heart sank. The social worker called me the next day and informed us that the Ronald McDonald House was available, which was perfect timing. I immediately called my husband and told him. When I tell you that from the moment I stepped foot in the door, I felt the love and presence from complete strangers. They made me feel at home right away. When my husband joined me after work, he felt the same way. It was like we all knew each other. It was warm and inviting. We stayed for 12 days, and in that time, we made friends for a lifetime. My husband and I cannot begin to say how grateful and blessed we are for the Ronald McDonald House and the beautiful souls who run it! When we thought we were going to be able to bring our girl home, they cheered for us and warned us just in case. Luckily, they did, because she had bradycardia and they had to keep her for another 72 hours. When that day came they were excited for us again. We came back to the Ronald McDonald House with our sweet girl and the excitement we were greeted with was as equal to when our families found out we were coming home. We plan to visit in the future and volunteer our time somehow. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for not only such an amazing place but for the amazing, beautiful, and wonderful people that are there!" - Elisenda Roberson



Audrey's Children Movie Night

We had the incredible honor of hosting a private screening of *Audrey's Children*, the powerful film about Dr. Audrey Evans, the visionary pediatric oncologist and co-founder of Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Before its official release, our RMHC SWFL family, including supporters, staff, Board members, volunteers, and families, came together for a special evening to celebrate the inspiring woman behind the mission that fuels our work every day.

Starring Natalie Dormer (Game of Thrones), the film beautifully tells the story of Dr. Evans and her groundbreaking work in pediatric cancer care, as well as her mission to support families during their most difficult moments. Her dream began with one House in 1974 and has since grown into a global network of love and support.

We left the theater feeling deeply moved and more committed than ever to our mission. If you haven't seen Audrey's Children yet, we highly recommend it! [Click here](#) to see where you can watch it or visit audreyschildren.com/watch



Community Collab

Caring for children and families extends far beyond the walls of our House. Through our Community Collab initiative, we help connect families to essential local services while also giving our staff the opportunity to support other community nonprofits. Many of these organizations serve the same families we do, so by volunteering, partnering, and sharing resources, we strengthen the full continuum of care available across Southwest Florida. Our staff volunteers quarterly at partner organizations. We highlight local resources in our Family App. We also connect generous community members with charities that may benefit more directly from specific in-kind donations. By working together, we ensure families have access to the right support, at the right time, from the right place. [Collab with us!](#)



Florida Summit in Pensacola

Our annual Florida summit was filled with meaningful collaboration, insightful sessions, and plenty of inspiration as we worked together to find even better ways to serve families across our state. There's something so special about gathering with others with the same passion and purpose! We're walking away energized and full of ideas to drive even more significant impact.

A huge thank you to our friends at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northwest Florida for planning and hosting such an incredible event! From welcoming us into their beautiful Ronald McDonald House and Family Room to planning a seamless summit experience on the beach, we're so grateful for your hospitality and hard work.

On our way home, we even had the chance to stop by the Ronald McDonald House in Tallahassee. It was a perfect way to round out a week of connection and inspiration.

We are proud to be RMHC Florida Strong.



Florida Strong

Ronald McDonald House Charities® supports families with children who are ill or injured through its programs, including The Ronald McDonald House, Family Rooms, Care Mobiles, Hospitality Carts, and various support services. There are eight Ronald McDonald House Charities Chapters in Florida. While each is an individual 501 (c) (3) organization with its own independent board and local fundraising efforts, we collaborate to ensure that all families who live in or visit Florida for pediatric healthcare have access to the essential services they need. [Click here](#) to check out all the Florida Chapters or visit rmhcflorida.org



Miami



Ft. Myers



Jacksonville



Orlando



Orlando



Orlando



Tampa/ St. Pete



Tampa/ St. Pete



Tampa/ St. Pete



Pensacola



Gainsville



Tallahassee

Two Families. One Mission.

Two Families. One Mission. Generations of Love. We are honored to celebrate not one, but two extraordinary families whose legacies are deeply rooted in the heart of RMHC SWFL: the Fewster and Rocque families. The Fewster Family has been part of RMHC SWFL since before the House existed. Barbara Fewster, a former Board and Executive Committee member, multi-time Storybook Ball Chair, and Eat Clay Love "celebrity painter," was a true founding force. She and her husband, Tom Sr., helped bring both the Columbus House and the Southwest Florida House to life.

Their legacy continued through their daughter-in-law, Beverly Fewster (formerly Rocque), who has chaired major events, served on the Board and Executive Committee, and volunteered tirelessly alongside her husband, Tom Jr. Both Barbara and Beverly received the RMHC SWFL President's Award for their extraordinary service. Tom Jr., who passed away recently, is remembered with deep gratitude for the kindness, humility, and steady generosity he shared with everyone at the House.

Today, the next generations proudly carry the torch. Kiley and Connor grew up volunteering. Kiley even attended board meetings as a baby. Now, Kiley and Connor support the mission with their families. Kiley and her husband, Brett, attend the Storybook Ball each year, and their daughter, Baby Rylee, already "helps" in the kitchen with Grandma Beverly. Brett's family has also joined in by donating Girl Scout Cookies for our families.

Connor and his wife, Lauren, regularly cook and bake for families and attend our events. Lauren began volunteering in high school and has remained part of the RMHC family ever since. This year, Connor encouraged his employer, Fidelity, to sponsor a Storybook Ball table. Even Lauren's sister Lily has volunteered at events.

The Rocque Family has also long supported our mission. Bob and Vivian Rocque were early champions, longtime Storybook Ball attendees, and represented RMHC Global at several McDonald's Worldwide Conventions. Their impact now spans generations: Stacey, who once stayed at a Ronald McDonald House as a baby, recently turned to a Family Room while caring for her own infant. Her parents, now Southwest Florida residents, will begin cooking meals for our families this summer.

From luminaries to galas, booth duty to baking, the Fewster and Rocque families have given their time, heart, and love for decades. To every generation of these two remarkable families, and to the memory of Barbara, Tom Sr., and Tom Jr., thank you. You all have helped make our House a home for thousands of families.



Founding + Forever Partner

We're grateful for the incredible partnership with McDonald's and their many vendors who generously support Ronald McDonald House Charities SWFL. Their combined efforts help us provide a warm, supportive place for families when they need it most. Whether it's by cooking a meal or sponsoring an event, we couldn't do it without our McDonald's family! We especially thank our local McDonald's restaurants for all the ways they help raise funds and awareness, including:

- Round-Up for RMHC, raising over \$100,000 in 2025 for the Southwest Florida Chapter!
 - Round-Up is now available on the McDonald's app!
- Fixed mobile donations
- Canister collections
- Penny per Happy Meal and Pound of French Fries (select stores)
- Bundles campaigns
- Shamrock Shake

Together, these contributions make a powerful impact in keeping families close during challenging times. We couldn't do it without you and our generous community!



More to come in 2026!

Looking ahead to 2026, our team is preparing for a milestone year. As we celebrate 30 years of serving families in Southwest Florida,

the entire year will be filled with meaningful moments, special initiatives, and opportunities to come together in new ways, building toward a culminating anniversary celebration. October will mark the official rollout of our refreshed brand, reflecting who we are today and the future we're boldly stepping into. And this is just the beginning because 2026 holds even more exciting announcements, experiences, and impact still to come!





Together
WE CAN DO BIG THINGS.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Southwest Florida

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RMHCSWFL.ORG/DONATE

AMAZON WISHLIST:
[CLICK HERE TO VISIT](#)

30
years



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