



HEART BEATS

For individuals who are the very **HEART** of the organization — our volunteers!



April 2011



Celebrating our volunteers

For nearly 23 years, the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks has been providing stability and resources to families so they can keep their child healthy and happy, and we couldn't do it without our volunteers. Every single Ronald McDonald House Charities volunteer makes it possible to serve hundreds of families in the Ozarks each year. Whether it be on the Tooth Truck or in the Ronald House, we couldn't survive without our volunteers. In 2009, the Independent Sector announced that the value of a volunteer is \$20.85 per hour – which significantly saves our organization each year. In 2010 volunteers provided more than 9,500 hours dedication to our House and Tooth Truck.

Because of the work our volunteers do — cooking meals, cleaning kitchens and play areas, families have more time to spend with their sick children. We all know that research shows that family presence helps kids heal faster and cope better. Our volunteers help give families time by freeing them up to concentrate on their child.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS. You know who you are. We see you on the Tooth Truck helping kids find their smiles again. We see you in the front office stamping letters and making calls. We see you in the kitchen preparing home-cooked meals. And, we see you making a difference in the lives of the families and children we serve.

During this National Volunteer Month of April, we salute all 121 of our active volunteers who make our mission possible.

Save the date

April 28, 2011

Annual Volunteer Dinner

Please arrive at the Ronald House by 6 p.m.

You will then be transported to our secret destination.

And Then There Was a Smile

A poem meant for all our volunteers

A parent came with a burden to bear
They came looking for guidance
And perhaps a kind word

You saw their challenge
And decided to help
Your caring voice opened a door

A child came looking quite sad
And then another, with defiance
And you welcomed them all

They all came with stories
Which were all unique
You offered your help – and you listened

You may have provided a meal
You may have provided gifts
You may have provided guidance

You may have worked behind the scenes
But slowly a change came about
The mood seemed lighter

And then there was a smile,
Maybe first from you
Then maybe from a child, a parent

It made all the difference
to those you touched,
The child, the parent looked to you
And then there was a smile!

Thank you for the smiles you provide!

*Written by Laurie Eytel
of Fairfax County, Virginia*



From the staff

As we move into Spring, we look forward to the warmth of the sun and sight of flowers blooming. This time of year also brings great events like our volunteer dinner. We look forward to sharing these special times with all of you. It is because of your continued dedication that we are able to truly be the organization that we are. Our families are able to see how much they are cared for by the actions of our volunteers' open hearts. No matter the size of the contribution, it makes the heavy load that our families bear much lighter. Thank you for making the hardships and sadness easier.

HEART OF THE HOUSE

Lori Aduddell
 Merideth Aduddell
 Miles Aduddell
 Scott Aduddell
 Oana Bozek
 Martha Brooks
 Jessie Byrd
 Emily Campbell
 Vivian Carissimo
 Kellee Chamberlain
 Courtney Chandler
 Shane Clark
 Eveyln Close
 Taylor Coleman
 Heather Cottle-Dillon
 Hannah Cryer
 Bethany Davis
 Jan Dooly
 Judy Duncan
 Bill Duplisse
 Nancy Duplisse
 Sandy Emberton
 Meg Erickson
 Michelle Flehmer
 Kelsey Gann
 Judith Garson
 Carmen Gentes
 Shellie Gibson
 Becky Gillham
 Sharon Gillham
 Erin Gosney
 Shawn Gott
 Amanda Grassi
 Ann Griesemer
 Amy Grubaugh
 Darren Harrelson
 Laura Harrelson

Mackenzie Harrelson
 Chris Herman
 Jennifer Houston
 Carri Hummer
 Jessi Hummer
 Sarah Jemison
 Kathy Jenkins
 Brandon Jenson
 Jim Jones
 Clayton Keller
 Crosby Keller
 Kennedy Keller
 Savannah Keller
 Sharon Key
 Emily Kissinger
 Kate Kissinger
 Lilly Kissinger
 Betty Kniep
 Kylee Kunkel-Royston
 Mackenzie Kurth
 Wing Lam
 Debbie Lane
 Greg Lane
 Yvonne Lansdown
 Betty Laytham
 Gene Laytham
 Cheri Ledesma
 Andrea Mayberry
 Sandra McNeive
 Eileen Meinsen
 Larry Meinsen
 Nathan Nelson
 Skyler Pacheco
 Taylor Parks
 Dani Peterson
 Lora Pope

Kay Prost
 Sydney Reaves
 Sharon Redmon
 Linda Regan
 Cliff Ricketts
 Jan Ricketts
 Catherine Rucker
 Anthony Saitta
 Joan Schroeder
 Anne Schubert
 Susan Selsor
 Brenna Skelley
 Debbie Slocum
 Randy Slocum
 T.J Slocum
 Mary Smith
 Kim Stagner
 Brianna Steiert
 Joe Stephens
 Della Steward
 Jonathan Swearingin
 Kelsey Taylor
 Kristina Taylor
 Savanna Taber
 Sondra Uzzell
 Tristen Uzzell
 Abigail Weitzel
 Joanna Weitzel
 Scott Weitzel
 Sarah Westbrook
 Jessika Wiles
 Jess Williams
 Nathan Williams
 Shelby Williams
 Madison Wilson

RMHC STAFF

President & CEO

Bonnie Keller

House Program Director

Staci Holland

Tooth Truck Program Director

Mindy Muñoz

Event Coordinator

Adrienne McCoy

Communications & Marketing Director

Jill Finney

House Manager

Donnetta Ghys

Accounting Manager

Debbie Kinser

PT Administrative Assistant

Kim Booth

Assistant House Managers

Audrey Eagleburger

Lauren Divine

Morgan Gray

Bailey Shaw

Jennifer-Clare Singletary

Heart Beats is published monthly for volunteers of Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ozarks and The Tooth Truck, Inc.

Editor: Jill Finney

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Share a Heart breaks record

Once again, the Share a Heart campaign broke it's previous year's record. This year, the McDonald's and community partners, sold more than \$76,000 in hearts! Thank you McDonald's! Thank you community partners!

The Grand Prize Winners are:

Marshfield, MO

Total Hearts: \$11,283

(Owner/Operators: Chip & Teresa McGeehan)

Lebanon, MO

"Funds Raised Through Community Involvement" (\$2,902 of Total)

Total Raised: \$5,541

(Owner/Operators: Chip & Teresa McGeehan)

Battlefield Mall, Springfield, MO

"Most Hearts Sold Per 1,000 Transactions" (\$146)

Total Hearts: \$7,312

(Owner/Operators: Ken & Tracy Coleman)



Volunteer spotlight



For 13 years the Ronald House has filled a void for Tuesday night volunteer **Judy Duncan**. "When my son died, I needed to find a positive outlet and RMH filled that need," says Judy.

Judy likes to be a part of the quality care and nurturing of the families that the House provides. As a volunteer, she also feels special. "Volunteers are made to feel important," Judy says. "The fellowship with other volunteers and staff is also great."

As Judy continues her journey through life, she prides herself on having a positive attitude. "It's much better to see the glass half full," she says.

Judy's mantra: Don't worry about anything you can't do anything about.

meal groups

March

AT&T Pioneers
Ackfeld Family
Catering Creations
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS
Drury Pre-Health Professionals Club
Eckels Family
Emmaus Church
Evergreen Baptist Church
FedEx Trade Network
Finney Family
First Christian Church of Ash Grove

Glendale Christian Church
Greene County 4-H Teen Council
Heartland Covenant Church
Hillcrest Presbyterian Church
Home Depot
Hood United Methodist
Hopedale Youth Group
Just Friends
Kohl's A Team
Knights of Columbus
Knights Templar

MSU Women's Soccer
Old Missouri National Bank
Rogersville McDonald's Crew
Republic Rainbow Girls
Second Baptist Church
Southeast Mom's Club
The Girlfriends
Union Hill Church of Christ
Wade Family
Willingham Family

happy birthday!

April 01

Dr. Aaron Dannegger

April 04

Sarah Hammer
Catherine Rucker

April 05

Naoma Rehagan

April 06

Taylor Coleman
Angie Patrick

April 07

Savanna Taber

April 09

Darren Harrelson

April 12

Cheri Ledesma

April 13

Wing Lam

April 14

Staci Holland

April 17

Kelsey Taylor

April 18

Crosby Keller

April 21

Dr. Tom Hoff

April 23

Brandon Jenson

AROUND THE HOUSE

The Second Annual Taste of Adventure was a huge success!



Thanks to all the volunteers that helped!
We hope to see you all again next year!



Like BBQ? You can volunteer at Rock'n Ribs

Join us at Rock'n Ribs for mouth-watering BBQ, live music, a motorcycle exhibit and much more on the grounds of Bass Pro Shops on April 15-16. The 12th Annual event presented by the Rotary Clubs of Springfield is sure to be a great weekend!

Last year, the event raised \$160,000 for agencies that serve "Children of the Ozarks," including \$27,000 for

the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, bringing the total raised for the "Tooth Truck" to more than \$146,000. Other charities that benefit from Rock'n Ribs include: Boys & Girls Town of Missouri, Ozark Trails Council - Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch and Ozarks Regional YMCA. The funding is used to provide specific



programs and services to disadvantaged and at-risk children.

Ronald McDonald House Charities is in need of volunteers to help at the event Thursday, April 14

through Sunday, April 17. Volunteers will help with set-up, clean-up and ticket gates. To volunteer, check the sign-up sheet at the Ronald McDonald House or call Staci Holland at 417-875-3521. All volunteers get a free T-shirt and free entrance into the event after their shift. Friday and Saturday volunteers must be over the age of 21.

Welcome to the House

Kaitlyn, Della, Andrea & Jessie

Welcome to the House **Kaitlyn Rekowski**! Kaitlyn first started volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis with her family cooking meals and assisting with drives for the McGift Shoppe. When she moved to Springfield to attend Missouri State University she couldn't wait to get involved with our "home away from home"! She enjoys scrap booking and crafts, but most recently has been busy planning her upcoming wedding! Congratulations on your recent engagement and welcome to the Ronald House, Kaitlyn!

Della Stewart is a new Wednesday night volunteer and enjoys spending time volunteering! She learned about the House from family friends who were able to stay here during their child's hospitalization. They had such high remarks to share about the House that it sparked Della's interest to volunteer. She loves spending time with her kids and grand kids and looks forward to sharing her time with others at the House. We are thrilled to have you at the House, Della!

We would like to welcome **Andrea Mayberry** to the House! Andrea is a nursing student at Missouri State University and has been volunteering for the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks since February 2011. She loves to organize and stay active by volunteering in the community. You can find Andrea at the House working through our daily list each Friday with a smile on her face! We are glad to have you, Andrea!

Welcome new volunteer **Jessie Byrd**! Jesse graduated from Williams Baptist College in 2010 and is currently pursuing her master's degree in physical therapy from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. Her boyfriend's family stayed at the Ronald House in Little Rock, Ark., while he endured three heart surgeries. She is excited to have the opportunity to serve families during a difficult time. Jesse loves working with children and looks forward to each Thursday at the House. Welcome to the volunteer team, Jesse.

Wish List for Pediatric Kitchen at St. John's

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Snack-sized chip bags | Individual child snacks |
| Peanut butter crackers | Individual packages of cookies |
| Individual microwave meals | Drinks |
| Packaged fruit cups | Baby Food |
| Individual applesauce | Individual Child Snacks |



Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks

February 2011

Number of Families

31

Number of People Served

76

Number of Nights

270

Number of Missouri Families

25

Number of Families From Other States

6



Kid's Clothes Closet

February 2011

Number of Visits

17

Total Visits in 2011

51

Children Served in 2011

50

Wish List

- \$15 Payless Shoe Gift Cards
- Fall Clothing
- Children's Pajamas
- Teen Undergarments
- New Toddler Boy Clothing
- New Teen Girl Clothing
- New Teen Boy Clothing

tooth talk

Our smallest of patients

On board the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, we try to educate each child we see on proper brushing habits and the importance of healthy teeth. It is our hope to prevent future tooth decay as well as repair cavities for our patients. Tooth decay can start at a very young age and we see the effects every day on the Tooth Truck. This month we have been at several schools with pre-Kindergarten programs. At these sites, we have seen children as young as 3 and 4 with severe cases of early childhood cavities. It's hard to imagine such problems before a child even reaches Kindergarten but we are so grateful we can help.

During recent visits to Weaver and Williams Elementary Schools, we came across seven special little smiles that had a total of 59 cavities – all kids younger than kindergarten! This group of patients exhibited early childhood cavities that resulted from diets high in sugary liquids – often called “baby bottle decay.” This



Left: Dental Assistant Laura Polocoser gets a thumbs up for a great job brushing Paris' teeth.

Below left: Dr. Sarah helps Tyler find the perfect prize after his dental appointment.



situation is typically the result of parents putting their infants to bed with bottles. For most of these children, they can't even tie their own shoes, and yet

they have been given the sole responsibility for their oral hygiene care. Most of these patients and their parents reported diets high in sugar and poor



Above: Little DeeDee is tickled to practice her brushing skills on the tooth model.

parental supervision of brushing and flossing on their Tooth Truck application. As a result of the multitude of dental issues, many of these children were

Small patients continued...

embarrassed to smile and had areas of their mouth that hurt — making it hard to brush, eat, and focus in school — exasperating the problem.

The total dollar value for the seven pre-Kindergarten children

seen this month is \$11,369. With so many children being affected by these common dental concerns, it is easy to see why the Tooth Truck is such a blessing, especially for our youngest patients.

Welcome Sarah & Randi!

The Tooth Truck crew welcomes two new volunteers to our program.

Sarah Kaplan is a recent graduate of Missouri Science and Technology and is busy determining where she wants to attend dental school next fall. Over the past four years, she has worked as a dental assistant so she is already familiar with encouraging healthy brushing habits. She makes the commute from St. Robert to work with the Tooth Truck patients and to share her passion for dentistry. Welcome Sarah!

Randi Villines is a sophomore at MSU where she is focused on pre-dental studies. Randi learned of the Tooth Truck from the pre-dental society at school and felt it was the perfect fit for her. Not



New Volunteer Randi Villines poses with cousins Bradlee and Asiana at Williams Elementary. They were tickled over their matching crooked smiles from the sleepy juice used to repair their cavities. Together they had 19 cavities repaired for a value of just less than \$4,000.

only does Randi love volunteering, but also enjoys working closely with children. She has previously volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and Kids Against Hunger. The Tooth Truck staff welcomes Randi on board.

HEART OF THE TRUCK

Rosalyn Anderson
Chelsea Carroll
Pete Emberton
Molly Hague
Linda Heslin
Sarah Kaplan
Debbie Parman

Cassie Pirrone
Agaytha Pryer
Nick Reinagel
Amy Richards
Angela Rodgers
Heather Toney
Randi Villines
Drew Watkins



Ronald McDonald Care Mobile of the Ozarks

February 2011

Children treated

120

Dental Appointments Provided

265

Year-to-Date Dental Appointments

457

**Program-to-Date
Dental Appointments**

10,755

Children Who Received Treatment

Boys & Girls Town
Mark Twain Elementary
Robberson Elementary
Watkins Elementary
York Elementary

Staff

Program Director

Mindy Muñoz

General Dentist

Dr. Sarah Cimino

Temporary Dentists

Dr. Bill Brell, Pediatric Dentist

Dr. Aaron Dannegger

Dr. Tom Hoff

Dr. Craig Maxwell

Dr. Doug Smith

Dr. Wade Wheeler

President & CEO

Bonnie Keller

Office Manager

Davina Easter

Dental Assistants

Laura Polocoser

Megan Lambert

Part-Time Dental Assistant

Sarah Cartwright

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS

Each shift is three hours

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 BS 12	9 12 AS/JR 3 EC 6	9 EM/MLM 12 CL/JS 3 GL/BL 6 SG/JD	9 CR/AG 12 EC/JD/JG 3 YL/BG AG 6	9 MS/KP/CR 12 JB/JR 3 6 KJ/SR	9 12 3 SW 6	9 WL 12 OB/NN/AG 3 SS 6
10 9 BS 12 3 6	11 9 DP 12 AS 3 EC 6	12 9 EM/MLM 12 CL/JS 3 GL/BL 6 SG/JD	13 9 CR/AG 12 EC/JD/JG 3 YL/BG AG 6 SE	14 9 MS/KP 12 JB 3 KR 6 HCD/SR	15 9 AG 12 3 SW 6	16 9 12 OB/NN/AG 3 SS 6
17 9 BS 12 3 6	18 9 DP 12 AS 3 EC 6	19 9 EM/MLM 12 CL/JS 3 GL/BL 6 SG/JD	20 9 AG 12 EC/JD/JG 3 YL/BG AG 6 SE	21 9 MS/KP 12 JB/JR 3 6 KJ/SCD/SR	22 9 AG 12 3 SW 6	23 9 WL 12 OB/AG/NN 3 6
24 9 BS 12 3 6	25 9 12 AS/JR 3 EC 6	26 9 EM/MLM 12 CL/JS 3 GL/BL 6 SG/JD	27 9 AG 12 EC/JD/JG 3 YL/BG 6 SE	28 9 MS/KP 12 JB/JR 3 KR 6 VOLUNTEER DINNER	29 9 AG 12 3 SW 6	30 9 WL 12 OG/AG/NN 3 6



Heart Beats
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

