5,000 miles from home in Greece, 4-year-old Anna and mom Dina find strength in each other and from the love and support of many.
Ronald McDonald House New York provides a temporary “home-away-from-home” for pediatric cancer patients and their families. The House is a supportive and caring environment which encourages and nurtures the development of child-to-child and parent-to-parent support systems. Ronald McDonald House New York is the largest facility of its type in the world.

President’s Letter

The story of the Kaprou family is a touching one that explains our ongoing support of families from Greece. Our inspired teen rock band and chorus of children and parents, as well as our building reporters in Press Crew, are examples of the program enhancements that keep our activities fresh and lively for the families we serve.

Over the winter and early spring, fundraising for the House continued in full force with our 18th annual Skate With the Greats event, the representation of Team Ronald in the NYC Half-Marathon, a reception to introduce the graphic arts industry to the House, and our fifth annual participation in the New York Pops gala at Carnegie Hall.

As we pay tribute to our remarkable corps of 750 volunteers, who generously give their valuable time, we note with gratitude the sacrifices that so many make to support our special kids and families who are battling cancer. With our sincere appreciation, we salute each and every one of you!

Gratefully,

William T. Sullivan
President and Chief Executive Officer

Ronald McDonald House New York

George Simonsen
Vice President/Donor Communication Officer
Shelly S. Friedman, Esq.
Secretary
Vesna Harter
President Emeritus

Directors
John M. Angelo
Kathryn Beaul	MD
Steven J. Bensinger
Donna Doozan
Sachar Lainovic
William L. Carroll, MD
E. Randall Clouser

Bruce D. Colley
Jerry A. St. Peter
Alex Dunning
Randell A. Falco
James R. Fingeroit, Jr.
Cassy Gail
Peter C. Georgiopoulos
Judy Gilbert
Joseph R. Green
Robert Gramert
James A. Jacobson
Jacques Jha, Ph.D.
Thomas M. Joyce
Robert E. Le Blanc
Sacha Lainovic
Kenneth G. Langnas
Candace Loesch
James M. MacGillivary
Timothy J. Mahoney, Jr.
Edward J. Malloy
Ralph Monte
Tom Murray
Alex Dunning
Frank Pellegrino
David A. Preiser

Members at Large
Michael J. DeSola, Jr.
Barbara Eig
Anne Jahnke
Michael A. Weinher
Robert E. La Blanc
Robert Grubert

On the cover: Anna Kaprou spent her fourth birthday in the hospital in late February, but celebrated in style a week later after returning to the House. Her mom, Dina Falta, gives the delighted birthday girl a big hug and kiss. (Photo by Nina Friedman.)

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New Playroom Furniture

Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Furqan Tejani, playtime just got more interesting for the tots at the House. An elaborate new play kitchen, inviting tables and chairs, and arts and crafts materials galore have fired up imaginations and creativity in the tots’ playroom.

Dr. Tejani, a Thursday night volunteer at the House, is director of nuclear cardiology and the electrocardiograph lab at Downstate Medical Center, University Hospital, in Brooklyn. Over the past four years, he has made sure our various playrooms for tots, tweens and teens all have sturdy and attractive furniture to meet the needs and heavy use of the children at the House. We are deeply grateful for these thoughtful and generous contributions for a key activity area in the House.

Thank You

Thank you for your thoughtful donation of items that help to make the transition a little easier for families staying at Ronald McDonald House New York. Following is a list of items that are urgently needed.

For the Children
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- For the Moms and Dads
- Gift cards Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Target, Walgreens, Payless Shoe, JC Penny, Starbucks’
- For the Families
- Hand sanitizer bottles
- Postage stamps
- Umbrellas
- Rain ponchos
- Rain boots (all sizes)
- For the House
- HVAC cleaners
- DVD players (Blue Ray)
- Wi fi items
- Cordless hairboards with dryers
- Paper goods cups, plates, napkins
- Clear plastic storage containers
- Office supplies and pens
- Copy paper
- #10 Envelopes
- Dry erase markers
- Batteries (AAA, AA, C, D)
- Help a Family Today with a Special Gift!
- Sponsor a room night (85/- per night)
- Sponsor a birthday party or special program party
- Bulk Donations:
  - Items that are urgently needed
  - Items that are always needed

Bulk Donations:
- Items that are urgently needed
- Items that are always needed

For More Information, please contact Nelida Barreto, Director of Programs, at 212.639.0025 or nbarreto@rmh-newyork.org.

Lumber Liquidators
Lumber Liquidators, the largest retailer of hardwood floors in the U.S., is a proud supporter of Ronald McDonald House Charities. The company recently made available at cost 30,000 sq. ft. of flooring materials for the renovation of all 84 guest rooms at Ronald McDonald House New York (see related story, p. 4). About two years ago, when the second floor dining room was renovated, Lumber Liquidators made a partial donation of a Brazilian teak floor that “not only looks beautiful, but has also performed magnificently in a high-traffic area of the House,” said Building Engineer Mel Farrell. Our gratitude knows no bounds for these major assists in the renovations taking place at the House.

For Sale
- 2-Bedrooms — hard and collagenable
- Backpacks (regular and school)
- Arts & Crafts

For Beach and Pool
- Bath towels
- For the Tot Section
- Baby doll clothing and accessories
- Soft foam building blocks in assorted colors, shapes and sizes
- For the Teens
- iPods and DVD’s
- MDA Merit Cards (for school transportation)
- Sony Snap Lit (UP 14.98)

Macy’s Gift Registry
The RMH-New York “Wish List” is also available through Macy’s Gift Registry (first name: ronald last name: newyorkdonald). For more information, visit our wish list page at www.rmh-newyork.org/wishlist.

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Ronald McDonald House® New York has recently launched three important projects in ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the House’s facilities. As always, the new work is undertaken to make the House as safe, comfortable and efficient as possible for our families, volunteers, staff and visitors.

**Facade Repair in Compliance With Local Law 11**

New York City’s Local Law 11 wisely requires inspections every five years of the facades of all buildings over six floors high to ensure there is no danger to the public from falling masonry or debris. In compliance with the law, Ronald McDonald House New York has contracted the services of a licensed engineer to conduct a thorough inspection of the building’s exterior. Colgate Restoration, the same company that did an outstanding job repairing the House’s roof, terraces and sidewalks in recent years, began work in March on the rear of the building.

The company, hired after a competitive bidding process, is in the midst of repointing the brickwork with fresh mortar, replacing cracked or loose bricks, replacing windows and removing loose concrete to meet city standards. Work on the back of the building will be completed in time to open the terrace for summer use, and repair of the remaining three facades is scheduled to be finished by the end of August. While the necessary scaffolding may prevent a nuisance and an eyesore over the summer, it’s all for a very good purpose. We thank you for your understanding.

**Room Renovations Underway**

While work takes place on the exterior of our building, we’re also launching a major project inside the House to renovate all 84 guest rooms. Work began in April on the front room of rooms, with 42 expected for completion by the end of 2012. Plans include full replacement of bathrooms, flooring, closets, lighting and furnishings.

“We’re trying to maximize usable space for the guests and introduce materials that are durable, easy to maintain and safe for our children,” said Building Engineer Mel Farrell. Carpets will be replaced with wood-simulated vinyl flooring (donated in part by Lumber Liquidators), a related story on page 3) and furnishings will be leather-upholstered to make them easier to clean, he explained.

The room renovations will be done expeditiously, in small blocks, according to Director of Operations Wini Cudjoe, to maintain the impact on room availability for guests.

**House to Generate Its Own Energy, Greatly Reducing Costs**

Ronald McDonald House New York is taking steps to become energy independent by summer 2013. The House was awarded nearly $300,000 in funding from the New York State Energy Development Authority to build a power plant on the roof that will generate almost 80 percent of the building’s electricity needs.

“We will save more than $170,000 a year in energy costs,” said Wini Cudjoe, director of operations. Current costs exceed $300,000 a year, she noted.

“We’ll also be reducing our carbon footprint,” added Building Engineer Mel Farrell, explaining that natural gas will power the miniature plant. As an additional benefit, he said, waste heat produced by the power plant will be recovered to produce heat and hot water for the building, as well as chill it, at little cost. Seventy-five such power plants have been completed in New York Concepts has been contracted to design, build and equip the power plant. A compact structure on the roof will house the generator, boilers, cooling tower and chillers for air-conditioning, which will free 2,000 sq. ft. of space in the basement.

None of the construction or installation work associated with the power plant will interfere with operation of the House, said Ms. Cudjoe.

**A similar power plant will be installed on the House’s roof.**

**What made you decide to get more involved?**

In 2005, Ken Langone asked me to join the board. I came to visit the House and was blown away by all that was going on and by the level of support and involvement by the volunteers. I’ve rarely seen such generosity focused on one project. I joined the board thinking I’d assist the House financially and use my business experience to help it run more efficiently, which is a need at many charities. But at the House, Bill Sullivan and his team ran the place on budget, like clockwork. In my experience, efficient organizations tend to be cold, but that’s not the case at the House. We go out of our way to help people, make them feel welcome and cater to their needs — while staying on budget.

**What has your involvement with the House meant to your family?**

When I first joined the board, my wife, Rebecca, who’s a cancer survivor, was supportive, but didn’t want to become involved because it was too emotionally upsetting for her to handle. My daughter, Miki, on the other hand, was very interested in getting involved. Four years ago, she became a volunteer. Since then, she has volunteered every summer with Camp Ronald McDonald, and during the school year, she helps out every Wednesday evening. She loves working with the kids and comes home so happy.

Over time, with Rebecca coming to pick up Miki from the House, she gradually became familiar with it and has gotten involved, too. She and Miki helped organize the Spring Social and Winter Wonderland. Miki even ran two clothing drives at her high school to collect formal dresses and suits for the children and families to wear to the parties. Rebecca comes regularly to the House now to help with events. My son, Stefan, has been away at college, but he gave a hand with the clothing drive and attended the Spring Social.

**What are your goals for the House?**

For the near future, to accommodate as many families as possible and make them feel at home. I don’t know another organization like this one that offers so many activities and programs for the children and families. It’s what impressed me from the start and what makes this place so special. I often think it’s a pity it’s confined to this building. I’m interested in what else we can do with these resources to help more people.

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**What’s New at Your House?**
2012 Hope Awards Honor House’s Exceptional Volunteers

Ronald McDonald House® New York is beyond fortunate to have a corps of 750 volunteers who give generously of their time, resources and caring hearts to make a loving and loving home-away-from-home for our families with children battling cancer. There’s not a single day that our volunteers’ dedication and act of generosity and kindness aren’t deeply felt and appreciated by our guest families, visitors and staff members.

Once a year, during National Volunteer Week, we like to take time to formally honor the contributions of several who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism at the House by presenting them with the Hope Award. In a ceremony on April 17th, with board members, staff, families and other volunteers in attendance, this year’s Hope Awards were presented to four very special volunteers whose contributions to the House are as unique and treasurable as they are.

Clemencia “Clem” Colon-Neyland has been a weekly volunteer at the House since 2008. Every Thursday evening, she arrives with a smile on her face and arms open to the families. She and her team members offer conversation over dinner and lots of interaction with the children and their families through arts and crafts and games. Clem’s team members describe her as a “complete volunteer” because of her work on fundraising events and her efforts to introduce new donors to the House. For the past four years, she has served as co-chair of the Team Ronald volunteer fundraiser, slated this year for June 13th at Guastavino’s (last year’s volunteer fundraiser, slated this year for June 13th at Guastavino’s). Clem is known for her enthusiasm, her impeccable sense of style and eye for detail are very special gifts that have helped the House to accommodate its families in as many ways as we could never have imagined.

Edith Dolovich has dedicated herself to helping children with cancer for more than 50 years. She began her volunteer work at CancerCare and then the American Cancer Society. In 1985, she helped found the Guy M. Stewart Cancer Fund, which raises funds to support Ronald McDonald House and the pediatric unit at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Her colleagues at the Guy M. Stewart Fund consider her a tremendous motivator with contagious enthusiasm. Under Edith’s guidance, the Fund has hosted 27 annual luncheons and fashion shows — all accomplished while she worked full-time, until three years ago, at Brooklyns College. Now, at age 93, Edith continues to spend time helping to support the families at the House, and for that we are eternally grateful to her.

Ruth Schlossberg has been a regular volunteer at the House since the mid-1990s, and then, missing the House, she came back more than 10 years ago and has been a dedicated weekly volunteer since. As co-leader of the Sunday night team, she shares responsibility for planning special activities for the families. Since the children often have treatment on Monday, Sunday nights tend to be quieter and calmer in tone. The team often organizes arts and crafts, cooking, yoga or warm weather special treats on the terrace, such as tropical drinks, barbecues or even water balloon fights. Once a year, the team puts on a carnival with games, a tattoo artist, stilt walkers, and caricature artists.

Ruth’s efforts for the families extend outside the House, too. She has organized trips for kids and their parents to her office at Jones Apparel, where she’s in product development, and has secured donations of clothing for families at the House. We thank her for her enormous heart, her generosity in the time and caring that she has given to our families, and her special gift for connecting with our children.

Richard “Dick” Tegtmeyer and Tucker began volunteering at the House in 2007. They come faithfully every Wednesday evening when Dick and his best friend, Tucker, an 8-year-old Basenji Hound, visit with the children and their families. Everyone is happy to see Dick, but when he arrives with his canine sidekick, there’s a buzz as exclamations ring through the House: “Tucker is here!” The kids love playing with him, and he’s a buddy to parents, too, offering them much needed comfort and fort and joy.

Dick also donates air miles to the families at the House, and he recently donated a boat to the organization. His family owns a catering company, and every holiday season they bring a gingerbread house for the children and families to enjoy. His daughter, Christine, has generously sponsored the catering for the “Light a Light, Share a Night” holiday celebration.

There’s a special joy that comes with seeing Tucker when they’re greeted by our dedicated therapy dog volunteers, and Dick and Tucker’s contributions to life at the House have been tremendous.

House President and CEO Bill Sullivan (right) congratulates the 2012 Hope Award recipients, (from left) Richard Tegtmeyer with his Angel-on-a-Leash Tucker, Clemencia Colon-Neyland, Edith Dolovich and Ruth Schlossberg.

“Unstoppable” is the word that comes to mind after meeting the mother-daughter team of Dina Fata and Anna Kaprou. Anna and Dina have faced together since they have had cancer treatment, for the past four years. Five thousand miles from their home in Greece, they have made a life for themselves at Ronald McDonald House® New York for the past year, after thinking they would be here for just three months.

“Nothing to be okay,” is what Dina says to reassure Anna at difficult moments, such as when they’re missing the other half of their family — dad Dimitris and 6-year-old brother Spyros, who are in Athens. “Yes, Mommy, it’s going to be okay,” Anna responds in her grown up way. They have found resilience in each other and in drawing on the love and support of family and friends near and far, new and old.

“Being at the House, having access to the best medical treatment, finding strength and faith from everyone around us, we have all we need to win,” Dina said to the future p. Anna’s and her family positive outlook and deep sense of gratitude. “We have a good life here.”

Anna has been a weekly volunteer at the House since age 4, and Misses the House, she came back in 2010. Since then, Anna and her special gift for connecting with children.

Gaining access to a promising new treatment

From the moment Anna was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in October 2010, Anna and her family started searching for all the information they could find on the disease and available treatments.

Gaining access to the treatment, though, would require seeking financial assistance from the Greek government. Getting access to the treatment, though, would require seeking financial assistance from the Greek government. Last June, two months after Anna completed her full course of chemotherapy, she was accepted for enrollment in a promising new immunotherapy treatment that’s offered only at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). Anna’s oncologist endorsed the treatment, which would help finish the job chemotherapy began and put her cancer in remission. Getting access to the treatment, though, would require seeking financial assistance from the Greek government.

Last June, two months after Anna completed her full course of chemotherapy, she was accepted for enrollment in a promising new immunotherapy treatment that’s offered only at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC).
Anna Kaprou (continued)

Learning to “go step by step”

Once here, Anna was enrolled in the 3F8 antibody treatment trial at MSKCC. The treatment uses a mouse antibody to train the patient’s immune system to detect and destroy neuroblastoma cells that have survived chemotherapy or radiation. The two-year protocol would require five cycles of outpatient treatments at three-week intervals, with follow-up treatments every eight weeks. But before Anna could begin the 3F8 antibody treatment, she had to go inpatient for two more cycles of high-dose chemotherapy.

At the end of the first month here, Dimitris and Spyros flew home to Greece to resume work and prepare for starting kindergarten. Anna and Dina’s return, however, did not follow later in the fall as the family had anticipated. As they quickly came to learn, experimental cancer treatments don’t always follow a predictable pattern. In October, after Anna’s third cycle of immunotherapy, she had a reaction to the 3F8 antibody Treatment was put on hold while she received low-dose chemo to suppress the reaction. In December, she developed a bacterial infection in her intravenous catheter that further delayed her recent treatment. By late March, she was ready for another treatment.

Anna was treated. Kalliopi, close in age and birthday in the hospital, but the important thing was that treatment was moving forward.

The foundation of their strength, said Dina, is the support provided by her sisters, Athina and Mary, and by Dimitris’ brother, Makis. They have been present for the couple at every turn, helping whenever and wherever possible, especially with caring for Spyros while his mom is at Anna’s side. Their ordeal was also made lighter by an unexpected and very special friendship with a mom and daughter, Katerina and Kalopi, they met in the hospital in Athens where Anna was treated. Kalopi, close in age with Anna, was also diagnosed with neuroblastoma. She and her mom preceded Anna and Dina to New York for 3F8 antibody treatment, and their stays overlapped for a while at the House.

Anna made an agreement with each other that they would be strong and positive and enjoy their lives, even if apart indefinitely.

Anna and Dina have embraced — and been embraced by — the family at Ronald McDonald House New York. “This is not just a place to stay,” she reflected. “It’s a place to live with dignity. Everyone has respect for each other.”

Anna loves spending time in the lower-level playroom, where she cooks in the tots’ elaborate kitchen, enjoys painting and eagerly participates in “Weird Science” on Tuesday afternoons. Mother and daughter both look forward to reflexology on Saturdays in the House’s Macy’s Living Room. On warmer days, if Anna’s feeling well, they go to a neighborhood playground or to Central Park. And then there have been all the fun events and parties organized by the House, like the Halloween Big Boo, Winter Wonderland and birthday celebrations.

Anna enjoys the sense of community at the House and meeting other families. “Sometimes you want to share, other times not,” said Dina. “Every family has their moments of disappointment or anger, when they don’t want to talk.”

Anna Kaprou (continued)

Coping with separation

During Anna and Dina’s stay of nearly a year, as they’ve adjusted to the pace of treatment, they’ve also learned how to cope with living far from home and family. Dina said she and Dimitris then have you to be calm, not anxious. You can’t rush things.”

Good news came in February, when Anna was given the go-ahead to resume immunotherapy. She spent her fourth birthday in the hospital, but the important thing was that treatment was moving forward.

inpatient for two more cycles of high-dose chemotherapy. For the support of the Greek Children’s Foundation.

Anna loves her extended family (top) in Greece. At right, a loving moment with big brother Spyros.

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Anna Kaprou (continued)

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Before Anna’s illness, the young family (above) and their extended family (top) in Greece. At right, a loving moment with big brother Spyros.

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Community Snapshots

At the home-away-from-home for families coming from all over the world in their battle against cancer, our “community” is a broad one. Here are a few highlights of some of the people who have recently touched our hearts at Ronald McDonald House New York.

**Samsung Donates 11 Smart TVs**

Samsung Electronics America has helped introduce Smart TVs to Ronald McDonald House New York. The company donated 11 of their new flat-panel, LED backlit TVs, which feature high-def viewing on a minimally framed screen to create an all-picture look. The TV's Internet portal offers premium apps, video chatting capabilities, streaming services and easy searches for content.

The new TVs are currently located in the dining room, lower-level lounge, living room, offices and three guest rooms that offer additional functionality for children or family members with disabilities. “Samsung has indicated they'll look into providing Smart TVs for all 84 of our guest rooms,” said Wini Cadjoe, director of operations. The guest rooms currently have TVs, she explained, but they need to be updated. “Some of our children must be in isolation,” she added, “and we want them to have access to entertainment while they’re in their rooms. The Smart TVs, with their high-quality pictures and interactive capabilities, speak to younger kids.” Plans are underway, she reported, to create a central DVD library in the House so guests may access authorized content on the Smart TVs.

The House wishes to thank Ann Cudjoe, director of brand marketing at Samsung Electronics America (www.samsung.com), for making this generous donation possible.

**Love a Good Sidewalk Sale?**

As the days get longer and warmer, Ronald McDonald House New York hopes to expand the hours for its Sidewalk Sale, which are currently on Monday, noon to 3; Wednesday, 9 to 3; Saturday, 10 to 3; and Sunday, 10 to 1. More volunteers are needed to join the small corps of dedicated friends who manage the Sidewalk Sale and staff the tables. Donations are needed, too, of new, or used items, including toys, books, pictures and decorative objects, soft home furnishings and bulk goods that can be sold for under $10.

Thanks to all who are helping already with this important source of income for the House. If you’d like to join the effort, please contact Lucy Almonte at lalmonte@rmh-newyork.org.

**Mary Poppins Drops in for Visit and Makes Magic**

Thanks to the efforts of Ronald McDonald House New York’s newly formed board of associates, families at the House were treated to a magical evening in late March when cast members from the Broadway hit musical “Mary Poppins” dropped in for a visit. In an exuberant sing-along, the cast taught our families the words and choreographed gestures to the tongue-twisting number “Super-califragilisticexpialidocious.” Each child received a “Mary Poppins” tee shirt autographed by cast members and a hard-cover edition of the story of the magical English nanny.

An Italian feast from the kitchen of Tony’s DiNapoli added more warmth and fun to the evening and was served up by Board of Associates members Jose Cole (chairman), Michael Marrak, Guy Weltich and Joshua Glazer. Special thanks to Leslie Barrett, chair of the board of associates’ House Service Committee, for organizing the evening; to Serena Coyne and the agency’s CFO, Catherine Reid, for underwriting the dinner; and to Dave Elie and Disney Theatrical Productions for arranging the visit by the cast from “Mary Poppins.” Un-diddle-diddle! 🎈

**Wagner Middle School Features House Resident Antoinette in Production of “Guys and Dolls Jr.”**

The fan-base of Ms. Antoinette Fabian — a large mix of families, friends, volunteers and staff members from the House — filled the front two rows of Wagner Middle School’s auditorium one evening in March, when the sixth grader made her singing and dancing debut in “Guys and Dolls Jr.”

The effortless Californian, who has resided at the House for more than three years, returned to school this year for the first time since third grade. Wagner Middle School is one of several schools in the vicinity of Ronald McDonald House New York that welcomes the enrollment of our children who are long-term residents. Two teachers from Wagner who were involved in “Guys and Dolls Jr.” visited the House one afternoon to teach a song and dance routine from the show to other kids at the House.

Being in a big school musical was a thrill for Antoinette, who performs every chance she can get in music programs organized by the House — including concerts with The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and even as a back-up singer for rocker Alice Cooper (“School’s Out”) at his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Her appearance in “Guys and Dolls Jr.” was a dream come true for her ardent fans, too, who have watched her progress over the years in her battle against neurolastoma. Encore, Antoinette! And thank you, Wagner Middle School for being such a great neighbor.
Weekend of Nature and Fun at Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

Twelve families from Ronald McDonald House New York enjoyed a weekend of adventure, fun and friendship at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, in northeastern Connecticut. The camp, founded in 1988 by actor Paul Newman in a wooded area on the edge of a 44-acre lake, makes it possible for children coping with life-threatening illnesses to attend sleep-away camp in a safe and supportive setting at no cost to their families. During the summer, the camp offers weeklong sessions for children, and from fall through spring, it hosts weekends for families. Doctors and nurses are on staff to monitor medical needs.

Our families from the House, who visited the camp on one of the few weekends of spring, enjoyed fishing, arts and crafts, woodwork, crafting, climbing, camps, and lots of dancing and laughter, a hallmark of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp experience. Ronald McDonald House New York has developed a close relationship with the camp over the past five years. Each summer, some of our children are invited to attend camp for a week. Year-round, the camp’s hospital outreach specialists regularly visit the House with their Camp in a Staircase program, sharing fun activities such as claymation, mosaics and painting. We send thanks to everyone at the camp for providing our families with a memorable weekend away and to our friends at Fashions Delivers for outfitting children and parents with warm, comfortable clothing for the weekend’s activities.

From left, Dr. Sherrie Maricle, education director at The New York Pops, and resident Kevin Metzger on percussion; songwriter and former resident Cain Hartung on guitar; and chorus and band members relax in The Magic Shop sound-mixing room.

Q and A with Linda Dunham

McDonald's® House Charities answers our questions

Linda: I wish the same. Antoinette: If you were granted three wishes, what would they be? Linda: My second wish is to have cancer, and that those who lost the battle with cancer, and that those who lost the battle with cancer, and that those...
Gathered at the Tree of Life for the leaf dedication were (from left) Patrick Lenz, director of volunteer development; family friend Susan Merevicz; Annie’s sister, Ida Zhu; her dad, Craig Zhu; her mom, Diane Chen; Cheryl Frei, director of family support; Bill Sullivan, president and CEO; and Nikki Margarites, director of major gifts.

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 Around the House • Spring 2012

 Giving News

 Tree of Life Leaf Dedication in Honor of Annie Zhu

 The Tree of Life wall sculpture, found in the lobby of Ronald McDonald House New York, provides families with an opportunity to honor their loved ones and support the mission of the House. On February 26th, the family of Annie Zhu honored her memory on what would have been her 20th birthday by dedicating a leaf in her name for the Tree of Life.

 Annie passed away last December in her first year of study at the University of Pennsylvania. She traveled to New York City from her hometown of Flemington, NJ, for cancer treatment, and, as her father, Cheng, shared this remembrance:

 “Over the course of Annie’s nearly two years of treatment, we had countless stays in this wonderful House. It had become the extension of our home. Every time we came, we felt so much at home. Seeing the wonderful people at the House was like seeing our extended family again.”

 In what he characterized as a “homecoming” on Annie’s fifth leap-year birthday, he recalled how much she loved the House, and added “We love this House, we want to see this House full of happiness, inspiration and love forever and ever. Thank you, Ronald McDonald House New York and everyone in this House.”

 Each leaf dedication adds new detail to the rich history of our House and is a testimony to the love, support and sense of community that families have experienced here. The donations generated for the House from the Tree of Life enable us to continue to offer families much more than just a place to sleep when they travel to New York for their child’s cancer treatment. We are deeply grateful for the Zhu family’s generous gift.

 For more information on the Tree of Life or to purchase a leaf for your own loved one, please contact Nikki Margarites, director of major gifts, at 212-639-0207 or nmargarites@rmh-newyork.org.

 Let Your Electric Bill Help Support the House

 With deregulation of the delivery of electricity, you can now choose your electric service from a variety of energy supply companies and gain greater control over your household energy costs. By switching to Starion Energy, you can also help Ronald McDonald House New York every time you pay your monthly electric bill. Starion’s Energy Gift to Charity program offers an opportunity for our friends, volunteers and staff to save on your utility bill by switching the electric supply portion of your bill from the local utility company to Starion Energy. Your monthly bill will continue to be issued by your local utility while you opt to receive the benefit of reduced supply cost from Starion.

 When you switch to Starion Energy, the company will donate an initial gift of $10 per household ($25 per business) to Ronald McDonald House New York. As long as you remain a Starion customer, the program keeps on giving month after month and year after year. With each monthly bill, Starion will contribute $1 to $2 to the House.

 You can take advantage of this opportunity to reduce your monthly electric bill while helping to sustain the vital work of the House by visiting www.chosenstarion.com/rmhnewyork. You can learn more and sign up right there by calling Starion at 800-600-3040.

 Thank you for considering this additional, sustaining way to support the work of Ronald McDonald House New York.

 Cake-cutting by the House’s president and CEO, Bill Sullivan.

 Fundraising Events

 18th Annual Skate With the Greats

 On a mild mid-February evening, 900 enthusiastic supporters turned out at Rockefeller Center’s ice rink for Ronald McDonald House New York’s 18th annual Skate with the Greats. The evening’s draw, of course, was a chance to meet and glide around the ice with some of the current and former legends of the New York Rangers hockey team. No slap shots or hip checks. Instead, a magical evening of cocktails and dining, skating on one of the world’s most beautiful rinks, feverish bidding on auction items and endless autograph signing—all for the sake of a passionate cause.

 On hand were current Rangers Brandon Dubinsky, Artem Anisimov, Mike Rupp and John Mitchell, as well as alumni greats Rod Gilbert and Brian Leetch, who helped introduce the event 18 years ago and, through the Garden of Dreams Foundation, have been ardent supporters of the House ever since.

 The evening raised more than $700,000, surpassing last year’s event by more than $500,000, thanks to a robust live auction and the raffling of a brand new Honda Pilot SUV. Over the years, Skate with the Greats has helped raise more than $7 million to help the House provide a home away from home for families fighting pediatric cancer.

 The event was sponsored by RBC Capital Markets, Zurich Financial Services and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Members of the event committee included RBC’s Robert Grubert*, managing director; Deborah A. Frey*, chief operating officer-USA; Jennifer J. Hadamy, vice president, market structure strategy; Liz Wintirsch, vice president; Michael V. Marrone**, head of U.S. sales trading and sector strategy; John E. Beckwith; Hank Kertes; Sarah Dougherty, vice president, client and marketing strategy; and Ken Prischauer, as well as Jon F. Flanagan*, partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers; E. Randall Clouser**, executive vice president, Zurich Financial Services North America; Nick Botta, chief financial officer, Pershing Square Capital Management; Val DiFriso, chief executive officer, Deutch, Inc.; Dan Royal, James Capital Group; and Mike Woods, meteorologist, Fox 5 New York.

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 The House’s president and CEO, Bill Sullivan (left), with Jim Flanagan, partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers and treasurer of the House’s board of directors, and Ronald McDonald.

 Former New York Rangers team members (from left) John Mitchell, Artem Antisimov and Brandon Dubinsky.

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 Event Chairs Kathy Presto and Diane Romano with the House’s president and CEO, Bill Sullivan.

 Graphic Arts Industry Gathers to Support House

 In early March, more than 50 graphic arts industry executives and representatives of nearly 25 companies gathered at Ronald McDonald House New York to get their first look at the House and learn about its services and programs. The reception, which organizers plan to make an annual event, raised $14,000 for the House.

 Kathy B. Presto, vice president of strategic sourcing and marketing solutions for Williams Lea North America, and Diane Romano, president and chief operating officer of Hudson Yards, initiated and chaired the event. They were moved and inspired by their first visit to the House and wanted to share the experience with industry colleagues. The House looks forward to welcoming them back for more events and activities.


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Fundraising Events (continued)

Team Ronald Runners Raise $30,000 in Half-Marathon

With a perfect morning for running 13.1 miles, two dozen supporters of Ronald McDonald House New York donned the Team Ronald jersey for the NYC Half 2012 on Sunday, March 18th. They raised nearly $30,000 in contributions for the House, which was one of 75 official charity partners for the race, organized by the New York Road Runners Club. The Half-Marathon course took runners on a six-mile loop through Central Park; then down Seventh Avenue to Times Square; across 42nd Street to the West Side Highway for a riverside stretch of road to the Battery; and then through the underpasses to a celebratory finish on Water Street. A festival awaited the runners and their guests at South Street Seaport. Among the members of Team Ronald were Joan O’Hara, one of the company’s regular volunteers at the House. After the finish line, she waited to find a way to continue supporting the House, but it was difficult to volunteer regularly with her demanding schedule of work as an executive assistant at Cerner, a Latin American cement company. Joining Team Ronald for the half-marathon was a perfect opportunity “Running keeps me healthy, and this race is a way to give back to the House,” she said. Joan also ran the full marathon last fall for Team Ronald.

Save the Date

Ronal McDonald House
New York 20th Annual Gala
Monday, May 21, 2012
6:30-9:00 p.m.
Waldorf-Astoria
New York, NY

Seventh Annual Marsh Golf Tournament at Hudson National
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Registration: 10:30 a.m.
 Shotgun: 12:30 p.m.
Hudson National Golf Club
4 Arrowcrest Drive
Croton-on-Hudson, NY

“Open Arms” Team Ronald Annual Volunteer Event
Wednesday, June 13, 2012
6:00-11:00 p.m.
Gustavino’s
409 East 59th Street (Directly beneath the 59th Street Bridge)
New York, NY

2012 NYC Triathlon
Sunday, July 8, 2012
5:00 a.m.
Hudson River and 98th Street
New York, NY

Third Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament at Ridgewood Country Club
Monday, August 13, 2012
9:30 a.m. Registration
Ridgewood Country Club
609 Ridgewood Country Club Rd.
Ridgewood, NY

Seventh Annual Marsh Golf Tournament at Hudson National
Tuesday, June 12, 2012 • 10:30 a.m. Registration
Join us at Hudson National Golf Club as the insurance industry takes to the greens to support our mission. Presented by lead sponsor Marsh, the world’s leading insurance broker and strategic risk advisor, this year’s event will once again be chaired by Timothy J. Mahoney, Jr., president, Global Risk Management, at Marsh, Inc. Honored in Golf Digest’s Top 100 Golf Courses in America, Hudson National offers 260 pristine acres of outstanding beauty. For more information, please contact Director of Special Events Karen Kirk at 212-639-0130, or kkirk@rmh-newyork.org.

“The Open Arms” Team Ronald Annual Volunteer Event
Wednesday, June 13, 2012 • 6:00 p.m.
The love and dedication of our volunteers are vital ingredients in the success of Ronald McDonald House New York. These extraordinary individuals — now 750 of them — gather together one evening each year to celebrate their shared experience and to raise additional funds for activities for children and families at the House. This year’s gathering will feature a silent auction, raffle, dancing, open bar and food provided by Tony’s Di Napoli, general manager of Tony’s, is chair of the event; co-chairs are volunteers Jef Campion and Clemencia Colon-Neyland. For tickets and additional information, call Terri Eggers at teggers@rmh-newyork.org or (212) 639-0712.

Third Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament at Ridgewood Country Club
Monday, August 13, 2012 • 9:30 a.m. Registration
Ridgewood Country Club will serve as the new location for our third annual apparel industry golf outing. Participating foursomes from the industry will once again enjoy a day of golf alongside notable sports and entertainment celebrities. The event will honor Allen E. Sorkin, president and chief operating officer of Phillips-Van Heusen, and will once again be led by Event Chairman Frank T. Morewe, president of the Sports Wear Group, Wawasee, Inc. Committee members include Mr. Sorkin; Richard Wurzbach, vice president, Peerless Clothing; Michael J. Setola, president and CEO, G-III Apparel; Peter Hummer, president and publisher, Golf Digest; Ariane Romanno, director of sponsorship activation, Phillips-Van Heusen; and Keith Goodson, vice president and group divisional merchandise manager, Ross Stores. For more information, please contact Director of Special Events Karen Kirk at 212-639-0130, or kkirk@rmh-newyork.org.
The Vivian Harris Society

The Vivian Harris Society honors the memory of the founding president of Ronald McDonald House New York. During Vivian Harris’ 26-year tenure as president, she nurtured the families residing at the House and inspired our staff and volunteers. She was a tireless and gracious leader with an innovative vision for improving services for families battling childhood cancer.

Members of the Vivian Harris Society embody our founder’s triumphant spirit and help sustain her vision by including Ronald McDonald House New York in their planned giving. We invite you to join the Vivian Harris Society by making a gift to the House in your estate or retirement plan.

If you would like to know more, please contact Richard Martin, director of development, at 212-639-0206 or at rmartin@rmh-newyork.org. He can discuss with you how to arrange a gift that best meets the needs of your beneficiaries, supports your goals for asset protection and maximizes tax-savings. A discussion never places you under obligation.