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For Immediate Release

25TH ANNUAL BANDANA BALL RAISES \$530,000 TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN

AUSTIN, TX (March 26, 2014) -- Over 880 guests, decked out in their best western attire, arrived at the enchanting Wild Onion Ranch on March 22 and raised \$530,000 at Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Texas' 25th Annual Bandana Ball and Auction. All proceeds will support families with critically ill or injured children in Austin-area hospitals.

“It was amazing to see 880 people coming together to support Ronald McDonald House Charities at the 25th Annual Bandana Ball,” commented Carolyn Schwarz, executive director. “We are overwhelmed by their generosity and it is their support that allows us to care for thousands of families with hospitalized children each year.”

Adds Schwarz, “We are deeply grateful to our co-chairs, Debbie and Sandeep Kumar, and the hundreds of individuals that donated their time to help with every detail of the Bandana Ball. We simply would not be able to host this fantastic event without their support.”

Not your ordinary gala, the Bandana Ball is Ronald McDonald House Charities' signature fundraiser that is touted as one of the coolest, yet sophisticated annual events that delivers on its promise for a fun evening. The Bandana Ball has raised over \$5.5 million since its debut in 1989.

As guests arrived at the Wild Onion Ranch, they were greeted with a refreshing beverage and welcomed into an evening that featured exceptional food provided by 2Dine4 Catering, over 175 silent auction items and a live auction under the tent. True to form, auctioneer Gayle Stallings energized the crowd to lift their bid paddles high to raise \$200,000. Seven fabulous live auction packages raised \$40,000 and Sponsor A Family donations raised a record \$160,000. Guests hit the dance floor as The Spazmatics turned up volume to celebrate the event's success. The evening was made complete with a Hey Cupcake! bar and fresh coffee by Ruta Maya.

Helping more than 1700 families in 2013, Ronald McDonald House Charities provides a “home-away-from-home” for families with children in Austin-area hospitals. Special guests at the Bandana Ball were Terri and Chris Lowery and their six-year old daughter, Rebecca. The Lowerys called Ronald McDonald House Charities home for nearly three weeks when Rebecca was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis when she was four months old.

The Bandana Ball’s presenting sponsors were McDonald’s Owners/Operators, Silicon Labs and The Edgerton Family/Wild Onion Ranch. Ronald McDonald House Charities gives special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and committee members that helped plan and organize the event.

For more information about RMHC Central Texas, please visit www.rmhc-austin.org.

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Lowery Family 2 Photo Caption: Terri and Christopher Lowery called the Ronald McDonald House home for 16 days while their daughter Rebecca was in the hospital. The Lowerys were the 2014 Bandana Ball Ambassador Family. (L to R) Becky Stewart, grandmother, Rebecca Lowery, Terri Lowery and Christopher Lowery.

Kumar & Guest Photo Caption: Co-Chairs, Debbie and Sandeep Kumar (right) welcome guests Thomas and Cindi Fowler (left) to the Bandana Ball at the enchanting Wild Onion Ranch.

Legan Photo Caption: Tom and Joy Legan capture a photo memory at the 2014 Bandana Ball.

Paula & Friends Photo Caption: (L to R) Melissa Perry, Debbie Campsmith, Stephanie Lee, Anne Tiedt, Paula Duke, Stacey Hardy and Stacy Tokar enjoyed the festivities at the 2014 Bandana Ball.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. Through its Ronald McDonald House® and Ronald McDonald Family Room® programs, RMHC Central Texas provides stability and resources to families to keep them together as their critically ill or injured children receive treatment in Austin-area hospitals. The Ronald McDonald House is a 30 guest room, nurturing home-like environment and the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are located within three Austin hospitals. RMHC Central Texas’ Healing Hearts program provides burial assistance and bereavement support for families who have lost a child. For more information, visit www.rmhc-austin.org.