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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HOUSE PARTY 2014 RAISES \$34,500 TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN**

*Proceeds Benefit Families Served by Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Texas*

**AUSTIN, Texas (June 19, 2014)** – Over 300 of Austin’s young professionals dressed to impress as they got down and gave back at Wanderlust Live on June 14 to raise over \$34,500 at Friends of the House’s third annual House Party. Proceeds will support the construction of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas’ (RMHC Central Texas) fourth [Ronald McDonald Family Room®](#) slated to open later this year at Seton Medical Center Austin.

"We are excited about the success of House Party and honored to have the support of the young professionals who came together to make a difference for families in Central Texas," commented Shannon Ferguson, social chair for Friends of the House. "We exceeded what we raised last year and increased awareness for Friends of the House and the work we do to support families with children healing in the neonatal intensive care units."

Guests enjoyed music by Trey the DJ and hors d'oeuvres from Emily's Catering. Spirits were flowing from the open bar provided by Live Soda, Treaty Oak Distilling Company, Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association and The Beer Alliance of Texas. Guests also enjoyed hand-drawn portraits at the Quick Draw photo booth.

"RMHC Central Texas is so grateful for the dedication and leadership of our young professionals group, Friends of the House," said Carolyn Schwarz, executive director of RMHC Central Texas. "Their tireless dedication to the families we serve sets them apart as one of the best and most philanthropic young professional groups in Austin!"

In 2013, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas' three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms served 783 families and had more than 31,100 visits. The Family Rooms provide an environment where families can rest and regroup while staying moments away from their children in the neonatal or pediatric intensive care units.

House Party's sponsors included Ricoh, Loewy Law Firm, Midtown Independence Title, Wells Fargo, World Wide Technology Inc. and Alexis Simon. Friends of the House gives thanks to all the volunteers and committee members who helped organize and plan the event.

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### **About Friends of the House**

Friends of the House are young, vibrant community-focused professionals making a difference for families in Central Texas by supporting families served by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas. Friends of the House has several levels of engagement including monthly, yearly and annual memberships which include benefits such as cook team opportunities, quarterly speaker series, happy

hours, exclusive volunteer opportunities, discounted admission to fundraising events and leadership opportunities.

For more information about Friends of the House, visit [www.rmhc-austin.com/friends](http://www.rmhc-austin.com/friends), follow Friends on Twitter ([@RMHCFriends](https://twitter.com/RMHCFriends)), or like Friends on Facebook ([facebook.com/FriendsoftheHouse](https://facebook.com/FriendsoftheHouse)).

### **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/](http://www.rmhc-austin.org/).

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