



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jan Gunter
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Office: 512-628-5931
Mobile: 512-944-0572
Email: jgunter@rmhc-austin.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities Announces New Staff Member *Paula Duke to Oversee Ronald McDonald Family Rooms Program*

AUSTIN, Texas – (June 19, 2012) – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas (RMHC Austin) is pleased to announce **Paula Duke** as the first Family Room Program Manager. As the newest member of the RMHC Austin staff, **Duke** will be the manager, coordinator and liaison between the three Family Rooms and the hospitals in which they are located.

The creation of this new staff position follows a period of rapid growth for RMHC Austin which has opened all three Family Rooms since 2009, two of them within the last twelve months.

The Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are home-like places for families with children in the intensive care units. There they can rest and regroup within the walls of the hospitals. RMHC Austin has three Family Rooms to serve the needs of Austin and Central Texas families: One location at St. David's Women's Center of Texas on the campus of North Austin Medical Center, a second location at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, and the newest location at St. David's Medical Center.

Duke, a native Texan with a background in education and math, joins the RMHC Austin team after spending the past several years raising four boys. Prior to taking time off to focus on her family, **Duke** worked at Dell and United Way. Although her boys keep her busy, Duke has made time to volunteer at RMHC Austin, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and her children's schools. She currently serves on the board of Hope 4 JD.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin & Central Texas

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. For over twenty-seven years, Austin's Ronald McDonald House has addressed very simple but profound needs: most importantly, the need for parents to be near their child when that child is in medical crisis, and the need for children to have the comfort of their parents in frightening times.

The Ronald McDonald House, with its 30 guest rooms for families, provides lodging and support services in a nurturing, home-like environment where families stay together while caring for their critically ill or injured children receiving treatment in Austin-area hospitals.

Austin's three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are places of rest and support within the walls of the hospitals for families with hospitalized children.

For more information, please visit www.rmhc-austin.org.

###