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Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas Names Community Health Leader Carolyn Schwarz its New Executive Director

Outgoing CEO to Join International Sustainability Initiative for Ronald McDonald House Charities Global

AUSTIN, TEXAS – October 2, 2013 – The board of directors of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Austin and Central Texas (RMHC® Austin) today announced it has hired Carolyn Schwarz as Executive Director. Schwarz, who joins RMHC Austin after nearly nine years leading the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians, begins her new position on October 14. Outgoing RMHC Austin CEO, Kent Burress will remain connected to the global office of Ronald McDonald House Charities, consulting with the nonprofit to help manage the implementation of an innovative energy program in more than 300 Ronald McDonald Houses worldwide.

“Carolyn is an experienced healthcare and collaborative community leader who understands the impact of rapid regional growth on healthcare and related support services,” says Marian Wu, president, board of directors, RMHC Austin. “Carolyn understands the growing need for services that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families, and she shares our vision to serve our community by helping families face the burden of childhood illness together.”

“Ronald McDonald House Charities is one of the most recognizable and respected names in children’s health support services, and I am looking forward to representing RMHC Austin,” says Schwarz. “Thousands of families each year rely on us when their children are receiving care at area hospitals. We are prepared to meet the rapidly growing needs in our community.”

Schwarz will be responsible for program development, fundraising and operations, as well as more than 20 full-time and part-time employees of RMHC Austin.

"I am impressed by the commitment of the staff and volunteers who make sure our services are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," she says. "I am excited to bring my experience in healthcare and nonprofit leadership to the team as I take the next step in my career."

Under the leadership of outgoing CEO Kent Burress, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas moved into its new Ronald McDonald House® in 2007. Since 2009, RMHC Austin has tripled the number of families it annually serves by opening three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms inside Austin hospitals in addition to operating the House which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week all year long.

“Kent Burress provided steady and compassionate leadership during a time of tremendous opportunity and growth for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas,” says Wu. “His experience building the world’s first LEED Platinum Ronald McDonald House and his ongoing commitment to non-profit corporate social responsibility make him ideally suited for his new role supporting the work of RMHC Global.”

About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and 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 and their families. **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 Ronald McDonald Family Rooms** are places of rest and support within the walls of three area hospitals for families with children in the intensive care units. A fourth Austin Ronald McDonald Family Room is scheduled to open inside Seton Medical Center Austin in 2013. For more information, visit www.rmhc-austin.org.

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