



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES APPOINTS NINE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

AUSTIN, TX (February 26, 2015) - Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Texas (RMHC CTX) is pleased to announce the appointment of nine new members to the RMHC CTX Board of Directors. Bonnie Denny, Bruce Dickson, Allen Harrison, Tala Matchett, Benjamin Morton, Becki Benton Russell, Dr. Mark Shen, Anne Smalling and Jeanie Smith will join 14 returning board members.

“As we enter our 30th year of supporting families with hospitalized children, I am pleased to welcome our new board members to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas,” comments Royce Poinsett, board president. “Their collective experience and talents will provide invaluable leadership as we continue to advance our mission of keeping families together as their children heal in the hospital.”

Bonnie Denny began her community involvement by volunteering at her church and children’s schools over three decades ago. Starting in the late 80s, she became actively involved with the Ronald McDonald House in Houston by volunteering and serving on the Friends of the RMH board. In 2010, RMH Houston named Mrs. Denny Volunteer of the Year. Today, she is actively involved on the boards of the Woman’s Club of Bryan, Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library, and MSC OPUS.

Bruce Dickson is the chief real estate officer for Forestar Group, an Austin-based real estate and natural resources company. He has spent much of his career in the homebuilding business as well as various positions in the financial services industry. Mr. Dickson previously served on the RMHC CTX Board from 1999-2005, serving as board president in 2004 and 2005. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees at Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church.

Allen Harrison joined St. David’s Healthcare as chief executive officer of St. David’s North Austin Medical Center in 2011. Prior to this position, Mr. Harrison served as chief operating officer and oversaw many departments at Presbyterian/St. Lukes in Denver. He is a 2010 alumnus of Leadership Denver through the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and serves on the boards of two non-profit organizations.

Tala Matchett is the director of business development for Hoar Construction where she is responsible for identifying and securing new project opportunities in central and west Texas. She is also responsible for spearheading community engagement for all Hoar Construction offices nationwide. Ms. Matchett has chaired various events at her children’s school and is currently serving as RMHC CTX’s 26th annual Bandana Ball Chair. She is a member of various community and civic organizations throughout Austin.

Benjamin Morton is the director of development for Ishmael Law Firm, PC. Prior to starting his career in the mortgage sector, Mr. Morton joined The Peace Corps in Secondary Education in West Africa and also worked in the culinary field in Northern California. He has been involved with many local nonprofit organizations including Zilker Summer Theatre, AIDS Services of Austin and Susan G.

Komen Foundation. Mr. Morton was recently elected the 2015 president of the Friends of the House Leadership Council, a young professional group supporting RMHC CTX.

Becki Benton Russell is a second-generation McDonald's owner operator. Ms. Russell began her career with McDonald's at age 14 when working with her parents Mike and Dianne Benton. After careers in retail, banking and law, she returned to the family business to begin the McDonald's ownership track. In 2004, Ms. Russell became a certified McDonald's owner operator. Collectively, Becki, her brother Allen Benton and their parents own 20 McDonald's restaurants in the Austin area. They are frequent volunteers at the House, cooking meals for families and are RMHC CTX room sponsors.

Dr. Mark Shen was named president of Dell Children's Medical Center in February 2014, becoming the first physician to lead a Seton hospital. Prior to that position, Dr. Shen directed the pediatric hospitalist group Pediatric Consultation and Referral Service at Dell Children's Medical Center from 2007 to 2013. He helped develop Children's Comprehensive Care, a pilot clinic for the most medically complex children in Central Texas. Dr. Shen has longstanding interests in medical education and clinical quality and has been active both regionally and nationally in pediatric hospital medicine in a variety of committee and editorial roles.

Anne Meinig Smalling is president of HM International, LLC (HMI). Mrs. Smalling serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Quality Sausage Company, American Innovations, and rateGenius. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Igasamex, as Treasurer of Board of Directors of St. Andrew's Episcopal School and is also a member of the Cornell University Advisory Council. As trustee of the Meinig Family Foundation, she participates in the evaluation and allocation process of the Foundation's gifts.

Jeanie Smith is the owner of multiple McDonald's restaurants in Texas, with over 25 years of experience with McDonald's restaurants. She has previously worked with the Ronald McDonald House in Houston, Texas and has volunteered with many nonprofit organizations including American Cancer Society, Walker County Chamber of Commerce, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Ronald McDonald House Charities.

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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 a nurturing "home-away-from-home" that keeps families 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. For more information, visit www.rmhc-ctx.org.

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