



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW RONALD MCDONALD FAMILY ROOM

AUSTIN, Texas – (March 22, 2016) – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas (RMHC CTX) celebrated the opening of its fifth Ronald McDonald Family Room at CHI St. Joseph Health Regional Hospital in Bryan Texas with a ribbon cutting celebration on March 4. This is the first Ronald McDonald Family Room in the Brazos Valley to support families with critically ill and injured children hospitalized at CHI St. Joseph Health. The Family Room is expected to open to families in April.

Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are comforting havens located in Central Texas hospitals. Typically located near the neonatal intensive care units (NICU), these spaces offer families a comfortable place to rest and regroup while staying close to their hospitalized children.

The CHI St. Joseph Health Family Room is RMCH CTX's fifth Family Room to open in Central Texas. The beautifully quaint space located neared the NICU is 630 square feet and will serve families who have a child, ages 21 and under, that's hospitalized. The Family Room has a living room, kitchen/dining area, two bedrooms, full bath, laundry facilities, children's play area and a technology station that provides access to a computer and the Internet.

“For a family dealing with the illness of a child, there is nothing more frightening than having your child admitted into the hospital. The experience can be a stressful and emotional time for a family and their loved ones to deal with,” said Ricardo Diaz, COO for CHI St. Joseph Health. “For CHI St. Joseph Health, being able to offer this resource to patients and their families is a tremendous blessing. It makes such an impact on the children we care for and their families, helping to speed up the recovery process by having their families close.”

“Our partnership with CHI St. Joseph Health allows RMHC CTX to comfort families whose lives unexpectedly change when their child is hospitalized,” comments Katy Scott, Director of Community Engagement Brazos Valley. “Working together with CHI St. Joseph Health, we can now give families what they need, whether it's a place to sleep or a meal to eat, a place to shower or the ability to wash their clothes, so they can focus on the most important thing – their child's healing.

The CHI St. Joseph Health Family Room was generously supported by The Lowe Foundation, Sue Lee, Charlene and Kevin Sumlin, Rebecca and Bill Vaughn, Dawn Marie and Jim Baletka in thanksgiving for Rosa and Bill Baletka, Joyce and Reverend W. John Baletka, John Wayne Bright, Donna and Phillip Garrett,



Marilyn and Bill Byrne and Nancy Campbell in memory of Pauline Kent, Mid South Baking Company, Brazos Robertson County Medical Alliance, Rebecca and Bobby Boenigk, Steve, Lisa, Miller and Carson Aldrich , CHI St. Joseph Health, Joy and Earl Wurzback, Brooke and Andy Harrington in memory of Reese Elizabeth Harrington, Pat and Ed Ihns, St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

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