

## A PLACE TO CALL HOME EVERY MONTH

**Olivia Rocha's mother** initially thought it was just a normal "baby thing" when she changed her daughter's soiled clothes so many times throughout the day. Yet, in January of 2019 – a little less than a year after Olivia was born with Trisomy 21, Down Syndrome, Melanie Villalpando scheduled an appointment for her daughter to see a gastroenterologist at Dell Children's Medical Center.

Quickly they learned that Olivia's formula had been going into her lungs, resulting in her aspirating everything that she took in by mouth. Olivia was admitted to the hospital immediately, and Melanie found herself unexpectedly miles from home.

For the next 30 days Olivia remained in the hospital, during which time her mother, Melanie, stayed at the Ronald McDonald House next door. As single mother to both Olivia and her older sister

Sofia, Melanie lives far from the hospital near New Braunfels. Staying at the Ronald McDonald House meant that Melanie could be by Olivia's side during that stressful first month as they navigated her treatment. Every day Melanie would wake up to be at the hospital by 6AM and stay with Olivia until 6PM or later. When she returned to the Ronald McDonald House, Melanie was able to eat a home-cooked meal, take a bath, do her laundry, connect with other families, and sleep in a comfortable bed. Melanie relied on this time to rest and recharge, knowing she would have to get up early in the morning to head back to the hospital.

Olivia now has a gastrostomy button to receive her feedings and returns to the hospital each month for check-ups. The Ronald McDonald House continues to alleviate the stress these regular visits impose on Melanie and her family.



*"Sometimes we don't realize the expenses we're coming into. I'm unable to work due to the frequency of Olivia's appointments. I'm in Austin every month and it's really hard. Having the people that cater to us, feed us, that donate their time and their money...It helps a lot. It really does."*



## KENDRA SCOTT COMFORT AND JOY FOR RMHC CTX FAMILIES

**Kendra Scott** has been making an incredible impact on hundreds of families dealing with a pediatric medical crisis since our partnership began in 2014. As a company committed to giving back, Kendra Scott believes in a world in which women and children live their brightest, healthiest, and most empowered lives. 2020 event attendees will see the jeweler sponsoring upcoming RMHC CTX events like Red Shoe Luncheon and Bandana Ball.

The company also goes above and beyond to share their meaningful messages of encouragement directly with families. Their Ronald McDonald House Adopt-a-Room Sponsorship provides families with comfort in a private guest suite while their child is in the hospital. And not only does Kendra Scott provide necklaces for all mothers who stay at the Ronald McDonald House, they also gift them to all mothers served through our Healing Hearts program after the tragic loss of a child. These birthstone necklaces serve as a reminder that RMHC CTX families are part of a very special community of parents affected by pediatric medical crisis.



## Make a gift this Spring and keep families together

Families stay with Ronald McDonald House Charities while their children fight to leave the hospital. RMHC CTX families are able to eat a nutritious meal, take a shower, do their laundry, connect with other families, grab a cup of coffee, and sleep in a comfortable bed. Families rely on community members like you to provide the resources so they can rest and recharge, knowing they need to stay strong every day for their sick child. By making a gift and sharing a night, you meet the daily needs of RMHC CTX families so that they can devote their energy to their children.

Your gift can help provide families with the comforts of home during a difficult time. The average cost of an overnight stay with RMHC CTX is \$150. We hope you'll consider making a gift that can help share a night with a family. Our services are available for as long as a family needs them, and that's because of generous friends like you.



On February 13, 2020, RMHC of Central Texas recognized an important milestone, **celebrating 35 years** of creating, finding and supporting programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and families. Since 1985, RMHC CTX has served 28,866 families and counting, for a total of 147,175 overnight stays at the Ronald McDonald House and 268,642 visits to a Ronald McDonald Family Room. For 35 years, RMHC CTX has relied on our strong relationship with the medical community, local McDonald's owners and operators and their customers, corporate partners and strategic alliances with organizations, and most of all, generous donors, volunteers and community members like you. Thank you for your support!

a Message From  
**PATRICK LEY**  
Board President

**CAROLYN SCHWARZ**  
Chief Executive Officer



On February 13 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas (RMHC CTX) celebrated its **35th Anniversary**. Milestones give us a chance to celebrate our past and recommit our intentions for the future. Our founders had one goal in mind - keep families close to the care that their children need. We are equally as passionate about that mission today as we were in 1985. What's changed is the volume of families who need our help. In 2019 we provided a record number of overnight stays (13,420) and meals (1,437), all free of charge. Occupancy at the Ronald McDonald House in 2019 was an all-time high

of 90%, and nearly 500 families were put on a waitlist when the House was full. As pediatric healthcare grows in Central Texas, the demand for RMHC services also grows. We are actively engaged in planning for how to continue to help more families; all the while working to confront the uncertainties we face in light of the current COVID-19 public health crisis. Thank you for being our partners in this work and for your continued engagement as we plan for the future! **We know that with your support we can continue to provide high-quality, compassionate care to families for the next 35 years and beyond!**



## KITCHENETTE REMODEL

On February 20th, RMHC of Central Texas unveiled four newly renovated guest suites at the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House communal kitchen and dining areas are often not conducive to a child whose immune system is compromised. The enhanced suites feature new kitchenettes that provide much needed privacy and comfort for children receiving outpatient treatment.

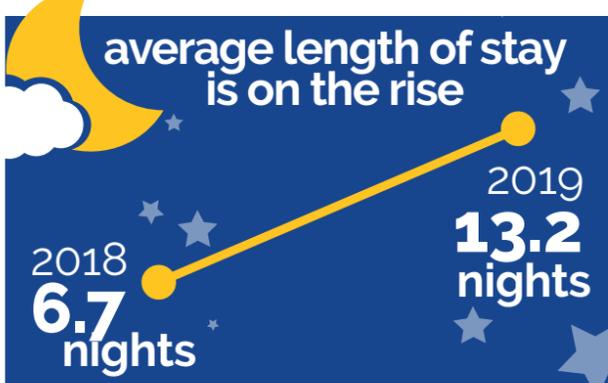
**THANK YOU** to our generous kitchenette donors who make it possible for RMHC CTX families to focus on the most important thing - their children:

**Altrua HealthShare • Corridor Title**  
**Mays Family Foundation • Merced Foundation**  
**M/I Homes, Inc. and Friends**  
**Karen and Jim Sherriff**

**JE Dunn Construction • The McCaul Family**  
**Sabre Commercial, Inc.**  
**Friends of RMHC of Central Texas**

## YOUR IMPACT IN 2019

For every family that relied on Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas in 2019, your kindness made an impact - an impact that can be measured in meals, overnight stays, and visits to the hospital. But one thing that can't be measured is the incredible gift of hope you gave families - for a positive recovery, for seeing their child smile, for taking their child home. **We are deeply grateful for the difference you make in the lives of RMHC CTX families each and every day.**



## SUMMER/SPRING Wish List

*Every item on our Wish List supports thousands of families that are supported by RMHC CTX. Consider hosting a Wish List drive to collect these items.*

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Paper plates
- Home Depot gift cards
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Hand sanitizer
- Copy paper - 8.5x11, plain, 20#
- Paper towels
- New adult-size t-shirts
- New adult-size sweatpants
- Pledge furniture wipes
- Writing journals
- All purpose cleaner
- Large tupperware - 3Q or larger

### ADDITIONAL WISHLIST ITEMS

- 16 oz. or less bottled water
- Coffee (no decaf)
- Individually packaged meals
- Individually packaged beverages
- Juice boxes
- Canned drinks
- Disposable paper cups (8-10 oz)
- Paper plates and napkins
- Recyclable to-go containers
- Plastic cutlery
- Medium tupperware
- Paper towels
- All-natural glass cleaner
- Disinfectant wipes
- 8-, 10-, and 45-gallon trash bags
- Laundry detergent
- Forever Postage stamps
- Masking tape
- HEB, Walmart, Target, CVS gift cards
- Powder-free vinyl gloves
- Standard size pillows
- LED light bulbs
- Disposable razors
- Travel-size toiletries
- Small children's toys and books
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- Puzzles
- Magazines and books for parents

# Thank you for helping us #AmplifyTogetherness!

Thanks to your support, 192 community members raised \$26,395 to #AmplifyTogetherness! With your compassion along with a generous matching gift from PlainsCapital Bank, our families will be close to the care their critically ill or injured child needs, never missing a special moment. A special shout-out to the Friends of the House, RMHC CTX's young professionals group, who knocked it out the park and spread the word about Amplify Austin for Central Texas families. Our families stay strong and receive the comfort and care they need because of amazing friends like all of you.



## THANK YOU to this Season's SPONSOR HEROES

### Adopt A Room

**McKenna Kerns and Friends**  
**Brookfield Residential**  
**Lennar**  
**RetailMeNot**  
**Samsung Austin Semiconductor**  
**Southwest Airlines**  
**UPS**  
**The Wiseman Family**

### Family Room Hero

**RetailMeNot**  
**The Telg Family**

### Happy Wheels Cart Hero

**RBC Wealth Management**

## Charitable IRA Contributions

The Charitable IRA Rollover allows individuals aged 70½ and older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year (and up to \$200,000 per year for married couples) from individual retirement accounts to qualified charities without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes. Since no tax is incurred on the withdrawal, gifts do not qualify for an income tax charitable deduction, but are eligible to be counted toward an individual's minimum required distribution.

### HOW IT WORKS:

You make a distribution directly from an IRA to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas by December 31. The distribution counts toward your required minimum distribution. For more information about ways to give, contact Kristin Campbell at [kcampbell@rmhc-ctx.org](mailto:kcampbell@rmhc-ctx.org)

## BRYAN BROADCASTING Cares for RMHC Families

THANK YOU Brazos Valley for making the 2020 Bryan Broadcasting Cares for Kids Radiothon presented by FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies a HUGE success! Because of YOU, along with generous sponsors, we raised over \$40,000 for our families. DJs from Candy 95, Maverick 100.9, WTAW NewsTalk 1620, Peace 107.7 shared the RMHC CTX mission and built support to provide accommodations for Brazos Valley families just steps away from their sick child in the hospital.

### Thank you to our 2020 sponsors:

- FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies
- Aggieland Credit Union
- Baylor Scott & White Health
- Bubba Moore Memorial Group, Inc.
- CHI St. Joseph Health
- Coleman & Patterson • Dignity Memorial
- Frazier McDonald's
- Holladay & Associates, Inc.
- Jersey Mike's Subs
- Kristi Fox Satsky - REALTOR®
- Kroger
- Party Time Rentals
- Texas A&M Corps of Cadets
- Youngkin & Doss PLLC

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# JACKIE AMARO

*Comforting Families with Children Healing in the Hospital*



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES CENTRAL TEXAS



"I find it extremely rewarding and it fills me up to go and push the cart on a regular basis...For all the blessings that I have in my life the biggest one is my ability to give back."

Our Volunteer Spotlight this month goes to **Jackie Amaro!** Jackie started her RMHC journey as a volunteer in a San Antonio Ronald McDonald House, and when she moved to Austin chose RMHC CTX as her Junior League volunteer placement. Jackie has pushed the Happy Wheels Carts at St. David's Women's Center of Central Texas for three years, and loves interacting with families as she visits the Emergency Room, medical surgical inpatient unit, and pediatric intensive care unit. Last year, Jackie even volunteered on Thanksgiving Day. We are so grateful for Jackie's caring service to families, and were proud to award her with the Mary Pendleton Volunteer Appreciation Award in 2019. **Thank you for all you do for RMHC CTX, Jackie!**

## AN UPDATE ON OUR RESPONSE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING COVID-19

In the past few weeks, RMHC CTX has made significant changes to our operations keeping our focus on the well-being of guest families and their critically ill children, staff, volunteers and community members. **For the most up-to-date information about RMHC CTX's response please visit our website at [rmhc-ctx.org](http://rmhc-ctx.org).**

Below are some of the modifications made to keep our families healthy and safe. These are in effect until at least April 30th:

- We have canceled all individual volunteer shifts and are no longer allowing volunteer meal providers into the Ronald McDonald House. Any community member can make a donation toward the RMHC CTX mission, which can help cover the cost of a meal and provide other comforts of home.
- We will no longer accept in-person deliveries of items collected for families, such as decorations, children's toys and activities, and toiletries. We still welcome your support and need items from our Wish List more than ever! We do request that all items are sent through a delivery service such as Amazon.
- We have postponed our recent Starlight Affair event and Red Shoe Luncheon will not occur on April 8th. Stay tuned for event updates.
- We are limiting outside visitors into RMHC facilities. At this time only two caregivers per guest suite are allowed, and we are not permitting guest visitors. From March 21 through at least April 11, no new families will be checked into the Ronald McDonald House.
- We have assessed our work from home capabilities and many staff team members are working from home.



## RMHC CTX SEEKS SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

Are you or someone you know on a school-year schedule and looking for a way to make an impact? For ten weeks starting in June, your caring service can comfort families through our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms and Happy Wheels Carts, pending any recommendations based on the health of our community. Contact Paula Duke, Hospital Programs Director, at [pduke@rmhc-ctx.org](mailto:pduke@rmhc-ctx.org) for more information.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Officers

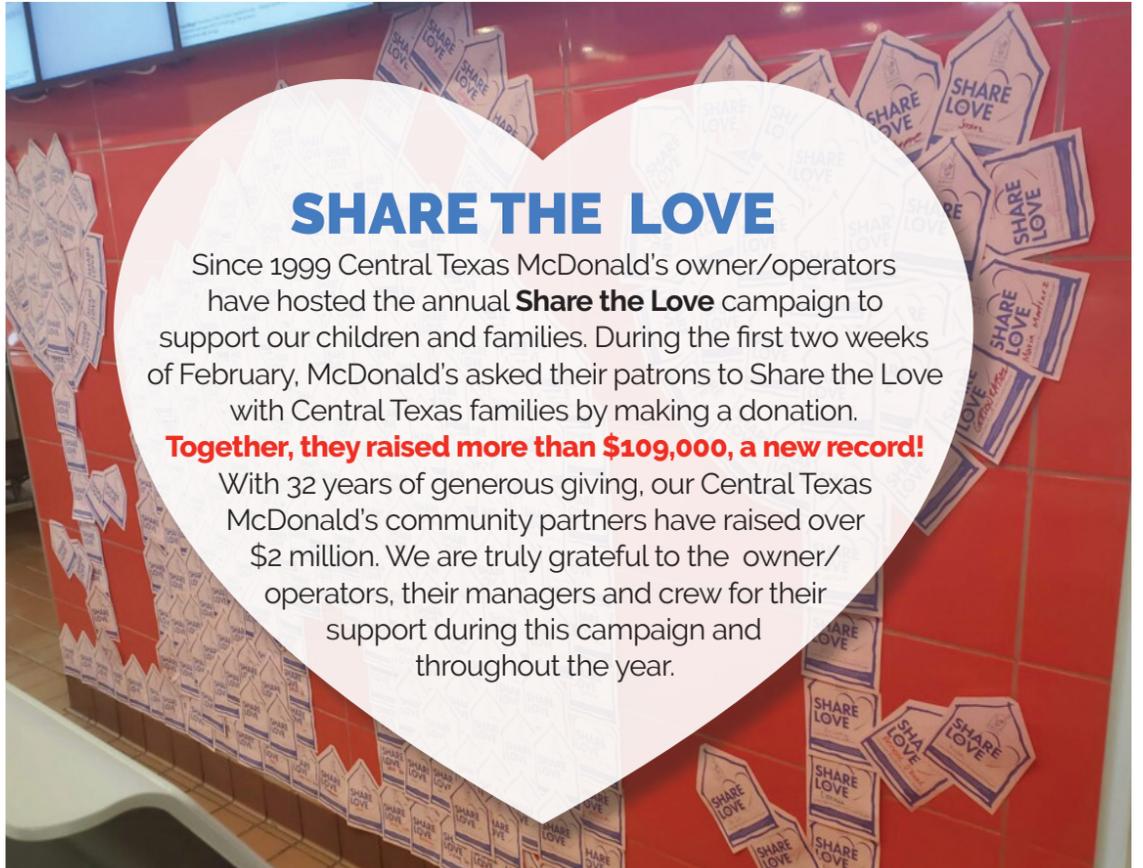
Patrick Ley, *President*  
 Tala Matchett, *Immediate Past President*  
 Ryan Meyer, *Treasurer*  
 Thomas Aylor, *Secretary*

## Board Members

David Aronica	Katie Owen
Ryan Bednarz, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	BG Joe E. Ramirez, Jr. David Ritter
Bobby Boenigk	Becki Benton Russell
Christopher Born	Carolyn Schwarz, <i>Ex-Officio</i>
Nicky Brenning	Molly Sherman
Amber Carden, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	Meredith Silliman
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Sirus Karimi	Garry Wiseman

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Carol Crowley	Vivian Todd*
Mary Love Henderson	Elizabeth Williams
Hal Levenson*	Tomi Winstead
Denny Meyer*	<i>* In Memoriam</i>



## SHARE THE LOVE

Since 1999 Central Texas McDonald's owner/operators have hosted the annual **Share the Love** campaign to support our children and families. During the first two weeks of February, McDonald's asked their patrons to Share the Love with Central Texas families by making a donation.

**Together, they raised more than \$109,000, a new record!**

With 32 years of generous giving, our Central Texas McDonald's community partners have raised over \$2 million. We are truly grateful to the owner/operators, their managers and crew for their support during this campaign and throughout the year.



**Ronald McDonald House Charities®**  
 of Central Texas

1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Austin, TX 78723

## CONNECT WITH US!



## WELCOME to RMHC of Central Texas!

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS



**Hilary Stingley**  
 Communications Manager



**Amanda Maicach**  
 Guest Services Manager



**Elizabeth Sizemore**  
 Guest Services Manager

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**David Aronica**



**Ryan Bednarz**



**Amber Carden**



**Sirus Karimi**



**David Ritter**



**Meredith Silliman**



**Garry Wiseman**

## UPCOMING RMHC CTX Events

**POSTPONED AND VIRTUAL RED SHOE LUNCHEON**  
**APRIL 14, 2020**  
 visit [rmhc-ctx.org](http://rmhc-ctx.org) to join

**NEW DATE STARLIGHT AFFAIR**  
 August 29, 2020  
 Traditions Club  
 Bryan, TX

**NEW FALL DATE BANDANA BALL**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**  
**NEW LOCATION**  
 Omni Barton Creek  
 Resort & Spa  
 Austin, TX

**SPORTING CLAY CLASSIC**  
**FALL DATE TBD**  
 Austin, TX