



## Our House Becomes a Home

The Button family's journey through the trials of their son Wells' medical conditions has been a testament to the resilience and the power of community support, with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas (RMHC CTX) playing a pivotal role in their story.

Wells was born with Down syndrome and a heart condition, facing a 76-day stay in the Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in 2022. For his parents, Amanda and Tanner Button, being near Wells during this critical time was paramount. **"RMHC provided us the chance to stay close to our son during those hard days,"** Amanda recounts. **"Words cannot even express how important that was to us."**

Their experience with RMHC CTX was transformative. From the comfort of the Family Room to the warm meals provided daily, every aspect was a lifeline amidst the chaos of hospital stays. **"Without RMHC, our hard hospital journey with Wells would have been made one hundred times harder,"** Amanda reflects. "It provided a comfortable home away from home that allowed us to be near Wells and process the incredibly emotional and stressful journey of being parents of a baby in the intensive care unit. Donating to RMHC provides funds that really make a huge impact in what is quite possibly the hardest time of many people's lives."

Reflecting on their stay, Amanda recalls the kindness of RMHC volunteers and staff as the most impactful aspect. "We got to know multiple people within the organization, and we were thoroughly impressed by how they cared to get to know us," she says. "This speaks to how incredible RMHC CTX is and how well they care for those going through a hard time."

The Button family's journey serves as a powerful reminder of the profound impact donations and volunteering have on our organization and helping families in their most vulnerable moments. **Only through your generosity and support, RMHC continues to be a beacon of hope for families in need.**



**"Donating to RMHC provides funds that really make a huge impact in what is quite possibly the hardest time of many people's lives."**



## BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

In 2023, RMHC CTX served over **842 families**, like the Buttons, in our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, which are located within 7 Central Texas hospitals. Throughout the year, **we provided over 5,000 meals** to families in these Family Rooms and **saved families over \$500,000** in total lodging expenses.

Your monthly gift **sustains** and **strengthens** families with hospitalized children. **Becoming a monthly donor today has a life-changing impact in the future!**

Scan below to donate, or mail us your donation in the enclosed envelope.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Pflugerville Circle of Giving

Since their partnership began in 2017, the Pflugerville Circle of Giving has been dedicated supporters of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas! With a cheerful and enthusiastic spirit, they consistently support our mission as we offer vital resources and essential support to families facing the toughest of times. **Together, we stand united to make a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most.**

**"The Pflugerville Circle of Giving is honored to support the important work of our friends at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas, and help provide essential support and comfort for families during their most trying times."**

*The Pflugerville Circle of Giving members have supported children's charities for over 30 years and the vote to partner with RMHC was unanimous. Supporting children and their families is the core of our mission statement. The Pflugerville Circle of Giving is excited to continue supporting RMHC with the proceeds of our fun family bingo nights." -Kelley Dewey*



Members of the Pflugerville Circle of Giving visit the Ronald McDonald House in February!

## YOUR IMPACT IN 2023

2023 served as a powerful reminder of the incredible impact our community has in fulfilling our mission of "Keeping Families Close." As we dive into this new year, we're so excited to share a few remarkable milestones of 2023:



**THANK YOU** for your dedication and heartwarming support. **Together, we're making a real difference in the lives of families!**

# A MESSAGE

## FROM THOMAS KIM, CEO AND WENDOLYN WASHINGTON, BOARD PRESIDENT



Greetings from RMHC of Central Texas!

As the vibrant colors of spring blanket our region, we find ourselves filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our incredible community. To our cherished volunteers, donors, guest families, and steadfast partners, **thank you for your commitment to our mission and to the families that we help.**

As we enter a season of new leadership, we are thrilled to continue the legacy of quality service that this organization has maintained over the years. We are laser focused on serving families with excellence as they navigate the difficulties of a pediatric medical crisis. For those of you that we have not yet met, we look forward to connecting throughout this year.

As many of you know, we are on a journey of growth and expansion as our pediatric hospital partners continue to advance their specialized services. With more and more families traveling to Central Texas for our specialized medical care, the demand for RMHC CTX programs continues to increase. We continue to have to turn families away from our Ronald McDonald House because of limited capacity.

Even still, we are incredibly proud of the impact we have made and the ways in which we are serving families every single day. In 2024, to date, 85 families have stayed with us in our Ronald McDonald House and 161 families have stayed the night in our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, which provide comfort and convenience, right inside Central Texas hospitals.

None of this would be possible without the exceptional generosity of individuals like you. Your contributions, whether big or small, serve as the cornerstone of our mission, empowering us to continue providing a lifeline of support to those who need it most.

With deepest thanks and warmest regards,



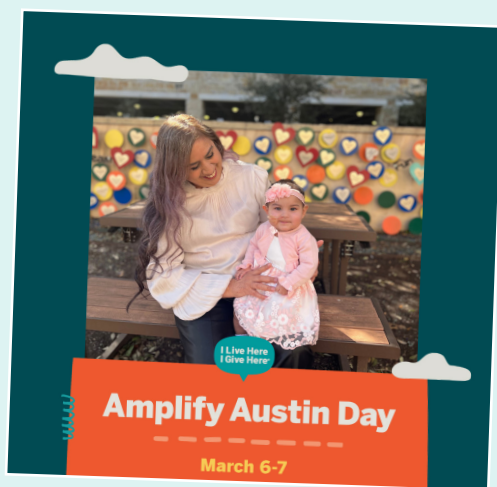
*Wendolyn Washington*  
Wendolyn Washington  
2024 Board President



*Thomas Kim*  
Thomas Kim  
CEO

## AMPLIFY AUSTIN

I Live Here I Give Here's Amplify Austin Day continues to be the pinnacle of generosity in Central Texas, igniting a spirit of giving throughout our community. With so much support from our incredible community, we were able to raise **over \$40,000** to support families with hospitalized children. **Your generosity knows no bounds, and together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those who need it most.**



## Announcing Champions of the House!

### CHAMPIONS OF THE HOUSE



Join Our Champions of the House Giving Circle, where we honor our monthly donors. Your generosity supports RMHC CTX families, offering care, comfort, and compassion. Membership begins at **\$100 per month** or **\$1,000 annually**, granting you access to exclusive perks such as brunch celebrations, cooking sessions, and private tours. Your contribution ensures families can remain near the crucial care their children require. **Together, let's create a lasting impact on our community.**

*Become a Champion today!*



## BRYAN BROADCASTING Cares for Kids Radiothon

In February, the Bryan Broadcasting Cares for Kids Radiothon, sponsored by FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, soared to new heights, raising an astonishing **\$45,000!** With the spirited leadership of DJs from Candy 95.1, alongside support from Peace 107.7, La Jefa 102.7, Willy 97.7, and Maverick 100.9, the Bryan-College Station community rallied together in an outpouring of generosity. **A heartfelt thank you to Bryan Broadcasting and everyone in the community for their amazing support!**



## SPRING & SUMMER Wish List

Each contribution to our Wish List directly benefits the numerous families supported by RMHC CTX. Explore the list below to discover the items currently in highest demand. *(Looking to make an even greater impact? Why not organize a Wish List drive in your community to gather these essential items!)*

- To-go containers
- Plastic forks
- Paper towels
- Individually-wrapped snacks
- Individually-wrapped breakfast items
- Paper bowls
- Toilet paper
- Clorox wipes



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Heidi Nykaza

Heidi Nykaza's journey with RMHC began with a diagnosis for her son, Colton. Rushed to the hospital for brain surgery in 2017, they faced uncertainty but were grateful for the support and comfort RMHC offered during a stressful time. "Staying at RMHC in Boston Harbor for six weeks was a blessing," Heidi reflects, emphasizing the crucial support provided. "Everything was taken care of, transportation, food, everything," she adds, highlighting the immense relief RMHC offered.

With her family now relocated to Austin, Heidi's profound experience led her to volunteer with RMHC CTX, serving as a welcoming presence for families checking into our Ronald McDonald Family Room at Dell Children's Medical Center North.

Heidi's involvement with RMHC CTX is deeply rooted in her firsthand experience of its invaluable support. "I always knew from that moment I'd want to volunteer in some way with RMHC if I had the time," she reflects. Her son's improved health status and return to school presented her with the opportunity to dedicate her time to volunteering. "I find places to volunteer and give back because we've been given so much," Heidi emphasizes.

Drawing from her own journey, Heidi strives to provide a compassionate ear and a supportive presence to families navigating the complexities of pediatric medical crises. "I feel like I know what they're going through," she explains. "They open up sometimes and say it's such a great place and so nice they have this." Through her dedicated commitment to RMHC, Heidi embodies the spirit of compassion and community, offering hope and comfort to families in their time of need.

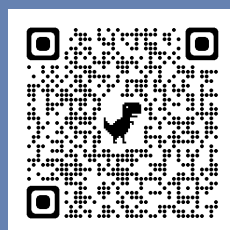
Thank you, Heidi, for generously giving of your time to RMHC CTX!

Scan the QR code to read Heidi's full story.

Because healing happens together



#forRMHC



**THANK YOU**  
to this Season's Sponsor Heroes

## ADOPT-A-ROOM HEROES

Markel Insurance  
The Salah Foundation  
Incline P&C Group  
Patrick & Beth Leahy  
The Ritter Family  
Urban Betty  
Sustainable Power Partners  
The Farias Family

## HAPPY WHEELS CART HEROES

Dignity Memorial/Memorial Funeral Chapel  
FT Cares/First Trust Portfolio  
Meyer Levy Charitable Trust

## FAMILY ROOM HEROES

Austin Subaru  
Dignity Memorial/Cook-Walden Funeral Homes  
FT Cares/First Trust Portfolio  
Lennar

## MEALS FROM THE HEART

Our **Meals from the Heart** program allows guest families to enjoy a warm, comforting meal without worrying about shopping, cooking, or ordering carryout. Instead, families get to focus their time and energy on comforting their children receiving life-saving pediatric care.

You can find more information about the meal volunteer opportunities and sign up for a date that works for your group on our website or email Caroline Targonski at [ctargonski@rmhc-ctx.org](mailto:ctargonski@rmhc-ctx.org).



**Not available to cook? Don't forget that you can sponsor meals to be delivered to our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in the hospitals!**

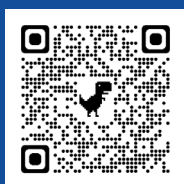
## SHARE THE LOVE

During the month of February, our local McDonald's stores asked their patrons to "Share the Love" with Central Texas families by making a donation to RMHC CTX. Together, our Central Texas stores came together in an AMAZING way for our families. To our local owner operators, their managers, and crew: **THANK YOU for all you do to help us keep families together during their most trying times.**



## SAVE THE DATE

**2024 Bandana Ball**  
Thursday, October 10, 2024  
The Bullock Texas State History Museum  
Austin, TX  
Sponsorships available at  
[rmhc-ctx.org/bandana-ball](http://rmhc-ctx.org/bandana-ball)



## FRIENDS OF THE HOUSE

**Get involved in our young professionals group!**

Joining our **Friends of the House** group is a unique and impactful way for young professionals, typically in their 20s and 30s, to become involved with RMHC CTX, while also networking with other mission-minded individuals in Austin. This is a special group, with a big heart for families in need. Becoming a member is simple! Visit [rmhc-ctx.org/FOH](http://rmhc-ctx.org/FOH)

Upcoming event dates:

- April 23 - Round Rock Express Game
- May 5 - Mutts Cantina Dog Park Meet-Up
- May 8 & June 12 - Cook Nights open to members
- November 7 - The House Party



Get to know

# WENDOLYN WASHINGTON

2024 RMHC CTX BOARD PRESIDENT

### Why did you first get involved with RMHC CTX?

"I have been a McDonald's corporate employee and franchisee owner for over 30 years, so the House was first introduced to me over 30 years ago. I believed in the mission that no family should have to be concerned about their housing needs when they have a critically ill child."

### What is your favorite part about the RMHC CTX mission?

"I love to see the faces of mothers, fathers, and siblings at the end of a day, filled with the blessing of good food, a friendly face and comforting surroundings. It's a refuge for them for a brief period."

### What are you most hopeful about for the future of RMHC CTX?

"To be able to assist more families...as you know, we are turning away 6 out of every 10 families due to the lack of rooms. That is heartbreaking, and I look forward to being able to better meet the demand for our services."



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

1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd., Austin, TX 78723

## Ways to Give

### DONATE

To donate to our programs and support families in need, visit [rmhc-ctx.org/spring24](http://rmhc-ctx.org/spring24) or mail a check donation in the enclosed envelope.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Did you know about our employee matching gift program? It's like having your donation supercharged! When you donate to us, your company might match your contribution, doubling your impact without any extra effort from you. **Don't forget to check if your company participates!** It's an easy way to make your support go even further! Learn more at [rmhc-ctx.org/matching](http://rmhc-ctx.org/matching).

### VEHICLE DONATION

Did you know that you can donate a car, truck, RV or boat to RMHC CTX and the proceeds from the sale of this donation support our families? Learn more at [rmhc-ctx.org/get-involved/vehicle](http://rmhc-ctx.org/get-involved/vehicle).

### LEAVE A LEGACY

We are honored by your consideration to include RMHC CTX as a benefactor of your will. Your impact will support families in some of their most vulnerable times.

### Questions about giving?

Please contact [development@rmhc-ctx.org](mailto:development@rmhc-ctx.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2024 Board Members

Wendolyn Washington, *President*  
Thomas Aylor, *Treasurer*  
Karen Dolan, *Secretary*  
Kelly Anderson  
Jenny Cook, *Ex-Officio*  
Delores M. Crum  
Denise Davis  
Chip Emanuel  
Ethan Glenn  
Z. Leah Harris  
Jeff Hopkins  
Nahid Khataw  
Thomas Kim, *Ex-Officio*  
Tommy Lawton  
Patrick Ley, *Ex-Officio*  
Garrett Martin

Jonathan Pearson  
David Ritter  
Jeff Rose  
Matt Sharpe  
Dr. Lauren Steffen  
Laura Templeton  
Kade Thomas  
Michael Wiggins  
Russ Williams

### Special thank you to our 2023 Board Members whose terms ended:

Nicole Brennig  
Susan Lubin  
Katie Owen  
Molly Sherman  
Chris Szeliga  
Sheena Wilde



## NEW RMHC CTX Staff Members



**Thomas Kim**  
CEO



**Taylor Sanders**  
Communications Coordinator

