



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Mid-Missouri

Contact: Lindsay DuCharme
Sr. Director of Marketing & Communications
Cell: 314-540-6463

The Ronald McDonald House in Mid-Missouri Celebrates 40 Years of Service

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Mid-Missouri is celebrating 40 years of serving families. Since its founding, the purpose of the Ronald McDonald House has been simple: to help ease the burden of childhood illness for families who must travel far from home for their child's medical care. Columbia's first Ronald McDonald House opened its doors at the corner of Stadium and Monk Drive on May 21, 1983. Since then, thousands of families with children who are sick and injured have called the Ronald McDonald House their home away from home while their child receives medical treatment. The organization does not receive federal funding, and families always stay at no cost.

As the mid-Missouri area grew, so did the need for the organization's services. Construction is currently underway for the new 24-bedroom Ronald McDonald House at the corner of College and Stadium. The Ronald McDonald House is scheduled to open in spring of 2024. The new Ronald McDonald House will ensure there is room for more families and distance to MU Health Care's new Children's Hospital isn't an added burden for families with a child who is sick.

"It is the generosity of our wonderful friends, neighbors and business community that has made it possible for us to keep families near each other and the care they need for the last 40 years," said Terri Gray, RMHC of Mid-Missouri Executive Director. "While our address has changed over the years, the hope, healing and gratitude remain the same."

Other programs operated by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Mid-Missouri include:

- Happy Wheels Hospitality Cart
 - The Happy Wheels Hospitality Cart serves families who wait hours at MU Health Care's Children's Hospital without leaving the waiting room or their child's bedside. The cart offers personal care items, snacks, and fun activities that bring smiles to parents and kids when they need it most.
- Lunch on the House
 - Every Tuesday and Friday, approximately 60 sack lunches are packed and delivered to families with children in the NICU, PICU and Pediatric units at MU Health Care's Women's Hospital and MU Health Care's Children's Hospital. The complimentary lunches provide families a meal right in the hospital, without parents having to leave their child's bedside.
- Ronald McDonald Family Room® program inside MU Health Care's new Children's Hospital (opening in 2024)
 - The Ronald McDonald Family Room will support parents during their child's medical journey – whether it's a break from the clinical environment, a restorative nap or feeling a sense of normalcy by sitting down with a cup of coffee. The Ronald McDonald Family Room is scheduled to open when MU Health Care's Children's Hospital construction is completed in 2024.

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Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Mid-Missouri

1000 W. Nifong Blvd., Bldg. 5, Ste. 110 ♥ Columbia, MO 65203 ♥ 573-554-5455 ♥ www.rmhcmidmo.org