



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES TO HOST FUNDRAISING TELECAST
“Calls For Kids” Highlights House and Family Room on April 18**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The 19th annual “Calls For Kids” Telecast will be broadcast live from the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville on Saturday, April 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. on local ABC affiliate WKRN – News 2.

The Telecast is a major fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, which includes the 32-bedroom Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville’s mission is to “keep families close” by providing essential resources and a “home away from home” for families of critically ill children receiving inpatient or outpatient medical care at Nashville-area hospitals.

“For the last 19 years, Middle Tennesseans have shown overwhelming support for RMHC by pledging their support during the Telecast,” said Liz Piercy, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville. “This year, our need is great because of economic challenges, so we are depending on the generosity of more supporters than in the past. Every small pledge will help us carry on our mission to ‘keep families close’ by directly funding our daily operations and allowing us to continue giving these children and their families a comfortable, welcoming place to stay.”

The fundraising goal for the “Calls For Kids” Telecast is \$140,000. Viewers may call (615) 322-7900 or (866) 766-9933 during the Telecast to make a pledge. Those unable to call during the Telecast can donate online at www.rmhnashville.com, by calling (615) 343-4000, or by mailing a check to 2144 Fairfax Ave., Nashville, TN 37212.

During the taped and live segments throughout the “Calls For Kids” Telecast, viewers will learn about 10 families from Tennessee and Kentucky who have stayed at the House while their children were critically ill and receiving treatment at a Nashville hospital, and how Ronald McDonald House Charities has supported them during their time of need.

Featured families include:

- David and Janet Overton from Knoxville, Tenn., whose 19-year-old daughter, Amy Lee, has suffered from heart defects from birth. Amy endured several surgeries while growing up and received a heart transplant last year. Afterward, she and her mom stayed at the House while Amy recovered.
- Rachel and Michael Nelson from Lebanon, Tenn., whose 8-year-old daughter, Michayla, was diagnosed with a hepatoblastoma, a form of liver cancer.
- Daryl and Dot Dunn from McMinnville, Tenn., whose 6-year-old son, Andy, was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma, a form of cancer, and stayed at the House for 107 nights with his family.
- Jeremy and Laura Kelly from Pulaski, Tenn., whose children, Tatum and J.D., were born at only 28 weeks. The Kellys stayed at the House for an extended period after both children were born, most recently for 76 nights in 2008.
- April Foster from Clarksville, Tenn., whose 11-year-old daughter, Caitlin Naquin, stayed at the House when she was diagnosed with AML, acute myelogenous leukemia. Caitlin received a bone marrow transplant on March 10, 2008. She spent 105 nights at the Ronald McDonald House with her mom.
- Maria Campos from Denmark, Tenn., who stayed at the House with her 17-year-old son, Jose, after a Ewing's sarcoma diagnosis.
- Fred and Debbie Trickey from Auburn, Ky., whose 18-year-old daughter, Brianna, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and received a bone marrow transplant. She spent 136 nights at the Ronald McDonald House and is now cancer-free.
- Mark and Mandi Harvill from Loretto, Tenn., whose 3-year-old son, Kelby, was born prematurely in 2006. His family spent 105 nights at the House.
- Kathy McCullough from Lewisburg, Tenn., whose 11-year-old daughter, Katie Davenport, received a heart transplant. She stayed at the House with her mom and brother, Dylan, post-transplant in an extended-stay suite for 49 nights.
- Andrea and John Wilson from Pleasant View, Tenn., whose 16-year-old son, Christian, was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia and later diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia gamma delta. He had a bone marrow transplant on January 17 and has been at the House since then.

Ronald McDonald House Charities community supporters will also be featured in live and taped segments during the April 18 telecast. The supporters include:

- Doretha Wright and Chris Jones, representing Middle Tennessee Electric Customers Care, Inc.
- Beth Clark, representing Delta Society Pet Partner in Nashville.
- Will Sloan and Kevin Harris representing Alpha Phi Chi from Lipscomb University in Nashville.
- Sabra Gentry and Karen Hackett, representing Xi Beta Xi of Beta Sigma Phi in Carthage.
- Linda Parris, Vickey Vickers, Shelby Mulloy and Jessica Billings, representing DeKalb County High School FCCLA in Smithville.
- Trey Flowers, representing Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville.
- Jim McGonacle, representing Hard Rock Café in Nashville.
- Paul Moore, representing William Morris Agency in Nashville.
- Ted Bertuca Jr., James Pelletier and committee members, representing the Ronald McDonald House Music City Golf Tournament.
- Faye Coble, representing Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation Women from all across Tennessee.
- Jim Wojciechowski, representing Southwest Airlines in Nashville.

- Mary Ellen Hadley and Laura O'Donnell, representing Vanderbilt University Circle K in Nashville.
- Dan and Sarah Hamhuis, representing the Nashville Predators.
- Kate Neary, representing GM Spring Hill Manufacturing in Spring Hill.
- Steve and Holly Carter, representing Carter Family Ministries in Greenbrier.
- Geri Grimmatt, Pete Reed and Mary Anderson, representing Sango Elementary School Recycle Team / Bi-county Solid Waste Management in Clarksville.
- Kristen Fagan and Lori Beth Adams, representing the Cornersville High School Student Council and FCCLA in Cornersville.
- Doug Brandon and Whit McCrary, representing Colliers Turley Martin Tucker in Nashville.
- Nancy Mattingly and students William Bradham, Rory Sexton, Maggie Fowler and Jayden Aquino, representing St. Bernard Academy in Nashville.
- Manuel Esparrago and Shelli Barnes, representing Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation in Nashville.
- Karen and Stephen Hackett and Duffy and Anita Dunbar, representing the Jordan Hackett Foundation in Carthage.

WKRN's Neil Orne, Lisa Patton, Joe Dubin and Julie Kroenig will host the three-hour broadcast that will feature a tour of the Nashville Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

“Calls For Kids” Telecast sponsors include: WKRN – News 2, Alpha Delta Pi, Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund, Century II, Comcast, Dr Pepper, Jeffco Flooring, Kroger, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, The Murfreesboro Post, Skanska, Smith Seckman Reid, Southeast Title of Tennessee and VF Workwear.

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville is to “keep families close” by providing essential resources and a “home away from home” for families of critically ill children receiving inpatient or outpatient medical care at a Nashville-area hospital. The Nashville Ronald McDonald House opened in 1991 and is located at 2144 Fairfax Avenue. There are 284 Ronald McDonald Houses in 30 countries worldwide, and Nashville’s House was the 142nd Ronald McDonald House built. The House is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is supported by seven full-time and two part-time staff members and more than 200 active volunteers. In 2008, the House served more than 500 families. Since opening, the House has served more than 10,000 families and has served families from all 95 counties in Tennessee, 65 counties in Kentucky, 39 other states and 12 foreign countries.

In 2004, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville officially opened Nashville’s first Ronald McDonald Family Room, on the fifth floor at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. An extension of the House, the Family Room is a place where families and friends of seriously ill children can enjoy a quiet respite from corridors and waiting rooms, whether or not they’re staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The Family Room includes a comfortable seating area, a kitchen stocked with snacks, a children’s play area, a half-bath and the support of caring volunteers. The Family Room has experienced a huge response, serving more than 2,500 visitors per month.

For more information about the “Calls For Kids” Telecast or Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville, visit www.rmhnashville.com or call (615) 343-4000.

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