Family Stays

A Family's Second Story

The Mehle Family Foundation has offered to match every dollar you give to Ronald McDonald House® Mid Missouri, up to $5,000 in total matching funds. That means your gift will be DOUBLED and more families like the Schmidt's can be close to the medical care their child needs.

Six and a half years after their son Alex's birth, parents Jeremy and Becky found themselves back in the NICU. Their daughter Aubrey needed to stay for treatment following her C-section birth, and the family's hour-long commute from California, MO would not be sustainable during their multi-week stay.

The family enjoyed the benefits of the new Ronald McDonald House location: its proximity to the hospital, room amenities, downstairs playroom, as well as access to the Ronald McDonald House® Family Room. These services helped the parents focus on their daughter's health while staying present for their son.

"We could watch Netflix in the room together, and then we could go down and have a snack," said Becky. "And then, we could go downstairs and play in the playroom and still feel somewhat normal from the hospital life."



"It's a great place for whenever you feel things are so chaotic and you've been uprooted from what you thought your pregnancy was going to be like... You're not really expecting to have to find a place to stay or figure out what's for dinner and things like that. The Ronald McDonald House does all that for you."

- Becky Schmidt

After a 58-night stay for their son and a 39-night stay for their daughter, Becky shared that they are grateful for the staff and services after both stays at the Ronald McDonald House.

"They are the people that can think for you whenever thinking is the hardest thing for you to do," said Becky. "They have food for you that's prepared. They have a place for you to stay and sleep, take a shower, and do your laundry just minutes from the hospital."

Thanks to your support, families like the Schmidt's can stay together during unexpected medical circumstances, all at no cost to them.

Fall 2026

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Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri

Family Stays™

573-554-5455
1110 South College Avenue
Columbia, MO 65201

Executive Director Terri Gray Announces Retirement



Terri Gray, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri, has announced her retirement at the end of 2026. Gray has served as Executive Director since 2013. During her tenure, she oversaw construction of two Ronald McDonald Houses, including the current House located at 1110 S. College Avenue, opened the Ronald McDonald House Family Room within the MU Health Care Children's Hospital, and developed and launched the Lunch on the House program, serving healthy sack lunches five days per week to families at the Children's Hospital, Boone Hospital and the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment.

"This has truly been a labor of love for me," said Gray. "I'm proud of what we've accomplished over the past 13+ years and the number of families we've been able to assist throughout their child's medical journey."

Gray first got involved with Ronald McDonald House in late 2011 as a major gifts officer hired to jump-start a stalled campaign to build the House on Lansing Avenue. In 2013, she moved into the role of Executive Director and oversaw completion of that House, as well as the addition of more support services.

"Terri has been instrumental in growing the organization to include a 24-guestroom House, the Family Room, Lunch on the House and our hospitality cart," said Lindsey Jones, current president of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors. "Under her leadership, the charity has grown, offering more programs to more families in need."

In addition to developing new programs and expanding services, she helped guide the charity through COVID while still providing much needed services to families. And when MU Health Care announced plans for construction of the new Children's Hospital, Gray led the planning, design and fundraising campaign to build a new Ronald McDonald House so families could remain close to their hospitalized child.

Her background in fundraising also helped strengthen the organization financially. Ronald McDonald House Mid-Missouri recently announced that the $12 million House is debt-free.

"Not many charities can say they're debt-free," said Jones. "Thanks to Terri's leadership, Ronald McDonald House Mid-Missouri is in great shape. We will miss her but wish her the very best as she starts this new chapter of her life."

Since moving into the new Ronald McDonald House, families have stayed more than 12,100 nights. More than 5,500 individuals have used the Ronald McDonald House Family Room located in the Children's Hospital, and over 28,000 healthy sack lunches have been distributed through the Lunch on the House program, all at no cost to families.

We will miss you, Terri!

Our Backyard Gets Some New Scenery!

To make Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri feel a little more like a home away from home for children, we've installed a playground in the backyard!

This ADA accessible playground gives children, parents, and caregivers a great opportunity for outdoor play while they stay close to their loved ones in the hospital.

Our deepest thanks to Orscheln Industries Foundation and donors from our 2025 Fore the House Golf Tournament for their contributions toward this project. In addition, we want to thank BCCM Construction Group and Columbia Landcare for their efforts.

We are also honored that the Columbia Rock Bridge Lions Club dedicated a Sun Valley Maple Tree to the Ronald McDonald House this past Fourth of July. We can't wait to see it grow!

We are grateful for the support in making this space so special for our families.





New Snack Pack Program Expands Impact to Jefferson City

Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri has started the Snack Pack program to help parents in the Capital Region Medical Center's labor units fight food insecurity.

Once a month, packs containing snack items, water, and a supportive note of encouragement will be delivered by Ronald McDonald House staff to Jefferson City. Our goal is to deliver at least 300 snack packs to the Capital Region Medical Center within the first year of this program.

We're excited to share our hospitality and support to families in the Jefferson City area, and we hope these packs bring comfort to parents and guardians of newborns!



Local Valvoline Locations Host Fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House

We took a road trip to visit our Valvoline teams across the area to say, "THANK YOU!"

With Valvoline's support this past summer, customers at these participating locations helped Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri families stay close to each other and the care their child needs:

- Camdenton, MO
- Hannibal, MO
- Lebanon, MO
- Moberly, MO
- Osage Beach, MO
- St. Robert, MO
- Quincy, IL

We are so grateful for this partnership, the efforts of the Valvoline team members, and the thoughtful customers who so generously donated!





Creating a Home Near the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit



"Once we got there, we were like, oh, wow, [the Ronald McDonald House] wasn't what we expected. This is really helpful and beneficial, especially the thought that family members could possibly stay there too with us if they were visiting him."

- Haylee Campopiano

Braxton stopped breathing the day after his birth, leading him and his family to be transferred from Jefferson City to Columbia for treatment. After learning that he would need to stay in the NICU for two weeks, parents Domenic and Haylee learned about the benefits that the Ronald McDonald House® could offer in their situation.

"Being so close to the NICU was helpful, especially since I couldn't drive for the first two weeks, so basically the whole time we were there," said Haylee. "Whenever my husband went back to work during the day, his mom would come stay with me either at the House or give me a ride to the NICU."

Through their 15-night stay, the family enjoyed the proximity to the hospital, the accessibility to lunch and dinner, the ability for family visits, and the amenities offered at the Ronald McDonald House – all at no cost.

"The way it was ran was really great, said Domenic. "The people were really nice... just being two minutes away was very helpful."

As Braxton will need to make future visits to Columbia for specialist treatment, the Campopiano family has a place they can stay if needed, thanks to your support.

"It really did feel like a home away from home," said Haylee. "It was helpful in that situation and something that we didn't expect that we would ever need. But knowing about it now, we'll tell anybody that that's a great resource that they should use."

The Gift of a Home-Cooked Meal

Each week, Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri is honored to have volunteers provide a meal for our families who spend all day at the hospital. Three of these individuals - Becky Baugh, Barb Becktell, and Jeanette Brown - are not only friends but recurring cooks who show up every month to share their love of cooking with families who need it most.

“My friend Jeanette was looking into providing a meal, and I offered to help,” said Barb. “That is all it took. We’ve been cooking at least once a month for over a year.”

Becky’s involvement at the House is inspired by having family and members of her church community staying at the Ronald McDonald House before. Having this connection and love for cooking, she found the House to be a perfect fit for giving back.

“I spend way too much time deciding on recipes because I am always looking for that perfect recipe for them,” said Becky. “It just fills my heart to provide a meal.”



Becky Baugh (left) and Barb Becktell (right)



Becky Baugh (left) and Jeanette Brown (right)

Since retirement, Jeanette’s volunteerism in Columbia extends to several organizations, sharing that the community has so many opportunities to give back.

“It is rewarding to me, just knowing that we can provide a healthy meal to the families at Ronald McDonald House who are so far away from their homes and out of their comfort zone,” said Jeanette. “I want them to know that Columbia does have a lot to offer to those in need.”

All three women share a passion for cooking and understanding the impact a home-cooked meal has for families with hospitalized children.

“If coming back from the hospital to a comforting and filling home-cooked meal eases their day in any way, I am more than happy to help,” said Barb.

If you are interested in providing a meal, visit our “Provide a Meal” page on our website to sign up at www.rmhcmidmo.org.

Volunteer Receives Award at Missouri Capital

We are incredibly excited that Tim Bach, a volunteer at Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri, received the Adult Volunteer of the Year award at ServMissouri’s 24th Annual Show Me Service Awards ceremony!

Since 2021, Tim has facilitated over 45 volunteer groups for the Lunch on the House program and has helped deliver over 3,900 lunches to MU Health Care Children’s Hospital, Boone Hospital, and The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment.

We’re grateful for Tim’s continuous charity, and we’re proud that he’s been recognized for his years of service. Congratulations, Tim!



Caring Partners
of Ronald McDonald House Charities®of Mid-Missouri

Caring Partners are vital in helping Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri keep families together during their sick child's time of need. We rely on local businesses and organizations to provide financial and in-kind support to offset expenses associated with operating our programs. From sponsoring one of our signature events, to providing family meals or volunteering, our Caring Partners support our mission in countless ways. Thank you for your partnership and generosity!

2025 Caring Partners

ACME Constructors, Inc.
Advantage Metals Recycling LLC
AJR Foods, LLC
Allen P. and Josephine B. Green Foundation
Alpha Delta Pi - Alpha Gamma Chapter
Amazon Distribution Center - Ashland
Ameren Missouri
American Outdoor Brands
Anonymous
Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives
AssuredPartners
Atkins
Audrey J. Walton and Ann Walton Kroenke Charitable Foundation
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Austin Powder Company
Auto-Owners Insurance
Bare Aesthetics LLC
Barnes & Noble - Columbia
Barnes Pipe & Steel Supply
Bear Creek Church
Better Together Mental Health LLC
Bob McCosh Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac
Boone Electric Community Trust
Broadway Ergonomics, LLC
Candy Cane Crib
Capital Quarries Company
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Central Bank of Boone County
Central Concrete Materials
Central Missouri Dermatology Associates
Charity Golf International
Coil Construction
Columbia Landcare
Columbia Rock Bridge Lions Club
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Comparion Insurance Agency
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Crockett Engineering Consultants LLC
Cumulus Media
Daikin TMI, LLC
Diamond Pet Foods
Dillard's
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Gibson and Company
GKR Motor Cars LLC
Graf & Sons, Inc.
Grove Construction, LLC
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Hawthorn Bank
Hitachi Energy
H/L Agency
HomeGoods
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HYSPECO
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John F. and Clydine Bruch Family Fund
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Kansas City Royals Foundation
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Little J's Fireworks
Manor Roofing & Restoration Services
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MEM
MFA Incorporated
MFA Incorporated Charitable Foundation
MFA Oil Company
Mid America Bank
Mid-Missouri Electric
MidwayUSA
Missouri Farm Bureau
MIZE CPAs Inc.
Modern Litho
MPIX
MU Health Care
New Bloomfield Christian Church
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Orscheln Industries
Orscheln Industries Foundation
Our Lady of Lourdes Interparish School
Prairie Farms Dairy - Central
QSRSoft
Questec Mechanical
RallyforRhyan
Ray & Jeanne Lewis Community Betterment Foundation
Renaissance Financial
River Region Credit Union
Rolling Hills Country Club
Ronald McDonald House Charities Global
SAI Architecture
Salem United Church of Christ
Santa Fe Christian Church
Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Shock Plastic Surgery and Spa
Show-Me Cosmopolitan Club
SilverTree Companies
Solventum
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits
St. Anthony's Catholic Church Ladies Sodality
Starbucks - Columbia
Sticklen & Sticklen
SuretyBonds.com
Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners
The 20
The Bama Companies, Inc.
The Bank of Missouri
The Club at Old Hawthorne
The Coca-Cola Company
The Law Firm of Haden & Colbert
The Premiere Group
The Trust Company
The Village of Bedford Walk
Twehous Excavating Co. Inc.
Tyson Foods Inc.
UMB Bank
University of Missouri
University of Missouri Athletics
Urology Associates of Central Missouri
Veterans United Foundation
Veterans United Home Loans
Veterans United Insurance
Walmart Distribution Center #6077
Walmart Supercenter #25
Walmart Supercenter #80
Walmart Supercenter #820
Williams-Keepers LLC
Winter-Dent
Women's Health Associates

Our friends, our partners, our foundation. To meet our growing financial needs, ensure long-term financial viability, and to recognize our most generous donors, we established an annual giving program, the Cornerstone Society. With a gift or annual pledge of $1,000 or more, donors are considered a member of the Cornerstone Society. Our Cornerstone Society members are the embodiment of compassion today and hope for tomorrow.

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Shop Our Holiday Wish List!

The holidays are fast approaching, and we are in need of presents to bring much needed cheer to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House! Our guest families greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity during this very difficult time.

Please note: Many of our guest families' children are immune compromised, so we can only accept new items in original packaging.

Clothing Items

- Robes
- Hoodies, Sweatshirts
- Yoga pants and leggings
- Sleepwear
- Baby onesies
- Slippers/house shoes/socks
- Scarves and gloves
- Stocking caps
- Kids' Dress Up Clothes

Relaxation Items

- Body and baby lotion
- Body wash and bubble bath items
- Face masks
- Mani/pedi kits
- Craft kits
- Home spa kits
- Costume jewelry
- Cool/heat packs

Household Needs

- Flashlights
- Multi-Tools
- De-Icer and Ice Scrapers
- Burp rags
- Baby/gentle detergents
- Hand Sanitizers
- Gas Cards
- Shopping Cards (Amazon, Walmart, Target, etc.)

Just for Fun

- Baby/toddler toys
- Classic Board Games
- Card Games
- Puzzle Books (all ages)
- Ear buds/ headphones
- Travel coffee tumblers
- Water tumblers

Save the Date for 2027 Events

Red Shoe Gala
Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri

February 18
The Atrium on Tenth

Sporting Clays Tournament
Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri

April 23
Midway Farms

BRUNCH and Bingo
Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri

June 12
Country Club of Missouri

FORE the HOUSE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Ronald McDonald House® Mid-Missouri

September 20
Country Club of Missouri

Interested in sponsoring one of our events in 2027?

Contact Steffanee Richardson, Director of Development, at steffanee@rmhcmidmo.org.