



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE FACT SHEET

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CONCEPT:

The Ronald McDonald House operates charitable facilities, which provide safe temporary living accommodations for critically ill and injured children and their families while receiving medical treatment in the San Antonio, Texas area.

PURPOSE:

The Ronald McDonald House provides emotional support to parents and siblings of sick children who also benefit by knowing the family is close by. For families traveling great distances to receive specialized medical care, the House eliminates costly hotel bills, while providing a secure place to stay – a place where additional strength and stability are received from other resident families in similar situations.

ORIGIN:

The first Ronald McDonald House opened on October 15, 1974 as the result of perseverance and dedication by Fred Hill, a former Philadelphia Eagles football player. After Hill's young daughter Kim, was treated for leukemia at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Hill and his teammates were determined to do something to benefit families of children who were hospitalized. Hill consulted his daughter's physician, who expressed the need for a "home-away-from-home" facility near the hospital. Ultimately this led to a joint fund-raising effort the Eagles and Philadelphia area McDonald's restaurants to purchase and renovate the first House.

LOCAL HOUSE ORGANIZATION:

Each House is owned and operated by a local not-for-profit organization formed to operate the Ronald McDonald House and other related hospital and patient projects. Members and directors are unpaid volunteers. Many local and national companies including McDonald's provide support, through volunteerism, material donations and monetary contributions.

San Antonio now has three homes. Our first Home opened its doors on May 6, 1985, and expanded to a 20 family home in 1991, it is located near the downtown area. On May 4, 1998, we became the sixth city in the United States to open the doors to a second 20 family "home that love built", which is located in the Medical Center. On January 10, 2002 our third House was opened to accommodate 10 families. As of today we have expanded and renovated this home to 16 bedrooms which is located at Children's Hospital of San Antonio. Each home is open and staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day, every day of the year. This home is the first worldwide to be located within a hospital. In 2009 two new Family Rooms were opened in Laredo, Texas, the first which opened on August 5th, at Doctor's Hospital located inside of their Neonatal ICU. The second Family Room located in Laredo Medical Center Hospital situated next to both the PICU and NICU.