



Ronald McDonald House®  
of Delaware

# Our House

Fall 2021



**The Travelho Family Story**

Featured Inside

# From Leadership

Perry S. Beberman  
*Chair, Board of Directors*



## Dear Friends of the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware,

In this issue of *Our House*, we are excited to share the story of Brandon Travelho. Brandon, who is now nine years old, has a form of dwarfism- Achondroplasia- and has been visiting the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware since he was a toddler.

I invite you to read Brandon's story and hope it conveys the impact of how the House helped his family over many years. While reading his story, I reflected on the idea of *finding connection with others*. Just as Brandon and his parents found support in others who were experiencing similar diagnoses, the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware has found new and continuing support from you, our dedicated supporters. Especially while we face the continuing challenges of responding to the impacts of the pandemic while navigating our reopening process, connection through community is more important than ever.

We are thrilled to be able to start welcoming our community back to "the House that Love Built" as we reintroduce essential volunteers and increase our guest family capacity. And- if you'd like to join our group of all-star volunteers as we welcome them back to the House, you can review the information on volunteer opportunities within this newsletter.

The fall is always a busy season for the House. As I write this, we are well underway in planning our Annual Golf Event, and our newest event- Wine, Women & Shoes. By the time you receive this newsletter, these events will have happened and I hope to share about their success in the spring 2022 issue of *Our House*.

As we are eagerly anticipating these in-person events, we are also thrilled to be planning to welcome back our community for our upcoming outdoor Share A Night Lighting Ceremony and Walking Tour on December 9. This event, which has long been a favorite of volunteers, guest families, and the community, will be returning in its traditional form. We can't wait to connect with you and once again enjoy this festive holiday event together.

While my past several communications in *Our House* have centered greatly on the appreciation for our community, it bears repeating over and over again: thank you for supporting the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. The generosity of our community is truly astounding.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry Beberman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Perry Beberman  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Ronald McDonald House of Delaware

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Lou Rosenberg

Richard Rowland

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^Deceased

# Our Mission

The Ronald McDonald House of Delaware serves families with seriously ill children by enabling access to medical care and providing a place that offers comfort, hope and togetherness.

# Our Vision

Supporting families to reach the hope of tomorrow from the challenges of today.

# Our Staff



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Barbara Stachura



Amanda White

# “We have met and learned from so many families”

## The Travelho Family Story

Brandon Travelho has Achondroplasia- a form of dwarfism. “It was stressful finding this out,” His mom Nancy shares about the diagnosis he received as a toddler. After his diagnosis, his family felt like they did not know what to do next. “We were handed a pamphlet about LPA (Little People of America) and had to figure it out from there. We had to go home and Google Achondroplasia.”

After connecting with LPA and joining support groups on Facebook, the Travelho family started learning what they needed to know. Their online connections resulted in a personal referral that led them to Dr. Mackenzie and Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware. Nancy remembers an early conversation with Dr. Mackenzie when she asked him if Brandon could get leg braces like Forrest Gump. He responded, “People aren't tomato plants!”

“We used to come every six months for appointments,” says Nancy. “We've had a lot of appointments over the years and we're here now for implants and to readjust others from his eight-plate surgery two years ago.”

Brandon, now nine years old, remembers his eight-plate surgery and the physical therapy that followed it. “It was really painful for him,” says his mom. “Yeah, I asked the physical therapist to go get her boss because I wanted her to be fired it hurt so much!” Brandon shares with a laugh.

Over the years, the Travelho family has stayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware when Brandon has had appointments or surgeries. Bloomingdale, New Jersey is home for the Travelhos, which means a three-hour drive to Nemours. Having the House right across the street means convenience for Brandon and his parents- but it also means a lot more.



“Brandon makes new friends every time we are here,” shares Nancy. In fact, Brandon calls his buddy Ryan, who has the same diagnosis, a “forever friend.” Nancy has also connected with Ryan's mom and considers her a great friend and support.



*“Meeting other parents here is something you don't get at a hotel,” she says, “It's like free therapy.”*

For the Travelhos, the biggest impact of the House has been the people. “We are people-people. We have met and learned from so many families,” says Nancy, “and we have learned that things are never quite as bad as they seem.” She recalls a time when Brandon was playing in one of the playrooms at the House and met a new friend who had no limbs. “They were just playing together like average kids and having a great time. It really puts things in perspective.”

Nancy also shares that they had to stay at a hotel instead of the Ronald McDonald House for one visit. “Their restaurant was closed, we had to go out for food, and it just wasn't the same,” she says. She says that the little things- like the supplies of snacks and the volunteers who are always brewing fresh pots of coffee- make all the difference.

Brandon will return to Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware, next year for another surgery to continue to help straighten his legs. The ultimate goal is for his legs to be straighter and for his pain to lessen. Already the family is encouraged that Brandon's one severely bowed leg has completely straightened!

Brandon hopes that one day after he is fully recovered from his surgeries, he can visit a trampoline park. “You know, those really cool ones- where they have all of the trampolines!”



# Share a Night

## give the gift of comfort

Our Share A Night campaign helps to raise funds to support the families that call our House their "home" during difficult times. Your gift will help families be close to their child when they need it most.

**\$450 = one month**

**\$105 = one week**

**\$45 = three nights**

**\$15 = one night**

### House Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, December 9

For each \$15 donation made during our Share A Night Campaign, one holiday light will be added to the outdoor decorations.

Visit [rmhde.org](http://rmhde.org) for more details on our Lighting Ceremony

**DONATE NOW**  
[rmhde.org/san](http://rmhde.org/san)



## Facebook Fundraisers

Thank you to our awesome Facebook followers, Facebook fundraisers have donated more than **\$12,000** so far in **2021!** The fundraisers below reflect **January 1 through August 1, 2021**, made through fundraising pages.

(Note- the names below do not reflect individual donations made through "donate" buttons added to an individual post.)

Alyssa Macielag  
Amy Hamlet  
Andrea Bourgeois Parrish  
Anthony Pagano  
Beth Davis  
Billie Jo Eilenberg  
Buddy Johnson III  
Carrie B Hellens  
Christa Tuccillo Law  
Crystal L Bratten  
Crystle Gomez  
Damien Wheat  
Dawn Michelle Uhrick  
Donna Marie  
Emily Zawacki

Eric Kelly Sr.  
Erin McGrath  
Ewa Okla  
Heather Ortiz  
Hillary Paige Stockard  
Ivey Raymond Helmick  
Jennifer Clay Palacio  
Kami Fisher  
Kate Soja  
Lauren Exel  
Lexi Strickland  
Leon Simmons  
Mark Williams  
Mary Bailey  
Michael O'Rourke

Molly DeJuliis  
Nancy Naden Hasse  
Nicole Lynn  
Pam Whitehead Cornforth  
Rissa James  
Samantha Young  
Sandra Fariña  
Savahna Bailey  
Shabnam Mahmood  
Susan Headley Passwaters  
Susan Newman  
Troy Smith



**facebook.**

#### Did you know?

Donations made to the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware via Facebook fundraisers are completely fee-free!

That means we receive 100% of your gift.

Interested in hosting your own Facebook fundraiser?

Visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/rmhdelaware](https://facebook.com/rmhdelaware) and click the "Fundraiser" tab on the left!



# Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

On June 7, we turned 30 years old! Over the coming year, we will be sharing special memories, stories, and photos from the House's history through a series of emails and social media posts on the 30th of each month.

To make sure you see all of our 30th Anniversary communications, sign up for our email newsletter online at [rmhde.org/join-our-email-list](https://rmhde.org/join-our-email-list) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/rmhdelaware](https://facebook.com/rmhdelaware)) and Instagram ([@rmhdelaware](https://@rmhdelaware)).

Did you know that when we opened our doors in 1991, we only had 17 guest rooms? Check out our timeline to the right for an overview

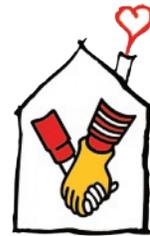
of all of the growth and change we've been through. You can also read all about the House's history and our story on our website under the "About Us" section.

## Celebrate with us!

You can help us celebrate too! Through June 2022, you can purchase a limited edition RMHDE 30th anniversary T-Shirt to show your RMHDE spirit.

Proceeds from shirt sales directly benefit the House and our guest families. All the details are below!

30  
years  
1991 - 2021



Ronald  
McDonald  
House®  
of Delaware

## GET YOUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT!

Help us celebrate our 30th Anniversary with an exclusive shirt through our online fundraising campaign.

Shirts are available in a variety of styles, colors, and sizes.



ORDER ONLINE  
[rmhde.org/shirt](https://rmhde.org/shirt)

Proceeds from shirt sales directly benefit the House and our guest families.



# 30 Years of Keeping Families Together



**1991**

Our doors open on June 7, 1991. with 17 guest rooms

**1999**

Mini-expansion adds 10 guest rooms

**2015**

Our original wing guest rooms undergo renovations



**1986**

We Care in Delaware, the group behind opening RMHDE, forms

**1998**

Our first Ronald McDonald Family Room opens at Christiana Care

**2005**

The House opens its new 23,000 square foot addition with 23 new guest rooms



**2021**

The family kitchens undergo renovations while our House adapts to operations during COVID-19



# Spirit of the Community



In our Spirit of the Community section, we've highlighted just a few of the groups who have gone above and beyond in service to the House this year.

For more information on how your group can support the House through fundraising, contact Dawn Brooks at [d.brooks@rmhde.org](mailto:d.brooks@rmhde.org) or 302-428-5315.

For information on how you can provide a meal for families staying at the House, visit [rmhde.org/meals](http://rmhde.org/meals).

## Betsy Rawls Golf Tournament:

On Saturday, June 12th, the DuPont Women's Golf Association hosted their 34th annual Betsy Rawls Golf Tournament at DuPont Country Club. Members contributed donations in support of the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, a charity near and dear to Ms. Rawls' heart.

This year's proceeds exceeded \$6,291 and the group has elected to Adopt a Room in honor of Betsy Rawls. What a wonderful tribute to Ms. Rawls' passion for the Ronald McDonald House!

Betsy Rawls earned 55 LPGA tour victories between 1951 and 1972 and then served as executive director of the McDonald's LPGA Championship through most of the tournament's run at DuPont from 1987-2004.

We are grateful to the DuPont's Women's Golf League for all of their efforts!



## DuPont:

Thank you to DuPont group volunteers who did much-needed yardwork at the House! This group was the first group of volunteers we welcomed back for a service project since March 2020.



## Bea Delightful Bakery, Dover:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Bea Delightful Bakery owner Beatrice Smith has delivered freshly baked, pre-packaged baked goods for our guest families, including cookies and muffins. She makes a special trip up from Dover to deliver these special treats- much to the "delight" of RMHDE guests!



# Our House Wish List

During the COVID crisis we have remained open and continued to serve families whose children are receiving life saving medical care at area hospitals. Now, more than ever, support from the community is an important part of helping us to continue our mission.

### We are currently in need of:

- Clorox or Lysol brand disinfectant wipes
- Clorox or Lysol brand disinfectant spray
- Lysol brand disinfecting floor cleaner
- Paper Towels
- Wrapped utensils (full set)
- Napkins
- Baby Wipes; standard size packs
- Individually wrapped snacks (chips, crackers, pretzels, etc)
- Fresh fruit
- Yogurt
- Campbell's microwaveable cups of soup/chili
- Tuna Snack Packs (individual pouches or kits)
- Fruit cups
- Bottles of Gatorade
- Breakfast items

We cannot accept expired items.

Snacks should be individually packaged.

We cannot accept any homemade items (toys, food, clothes, etc.).

We cannot accept stuffed animals.

All items must be NEW and in original packaging.

**We also have an Amazon Wish List!  
Visit us here:**

**<https://amzn.to/3IRRAJC>** and your donation can be sent directly to the House!

## Dover Police Athletic League:

Thank you to the Dover Police Athletic League for hosting their Inaugural Childhood Cancer 5K on August 7 to benefit RMHDE families and the Dover Police Athletic League!

Funds raised will help keep families together and close to the care they need.



## Talleyville Fire Company:

Margee and Leah had a great day with our friends from the Talleyville Fire Company over the summer!

Their HEROES program honors our guest kiddos with a special day just for them. Margee and Leah enjoyed a ride in the firetruck, a tour of the firehouse, their favorite lunch, custom fire helmets, and they got to create their own trophies!





# **PARTNERS** *in hope*

MONTHLY GIVING SOCIETY



### **Gives families continued support**

Families who stay at our House face uncertainty every day. Your commitment to giving means more stability for more families in need.



### **Connects you closer to our mission**

Your commitment brings you closer to our mission through exclusive benefits, including updates on the impacts of your gifts.



### **Provides predictable revenue**

A steady stream of revenue helps us focus more time on what matters most: providing services to families with sick children.



### **Become a Partner in Hope or learn more:**

**[GIVE.RMHDE.ORG/PARTNERSINHOPE](http://GIVE.RMHDE.ORG/PARTNERSINHOPE)**



## **In Our Hearts...**

*How very softly you tiptoed into our world, but only a moment you stayed.*

*What an imprint your footsteps have left among our hearts.*

**Bryan Montesinos**

**Jared Kerr**

## **Fall Into The Season of Giving. Donate Your Vehicle Today!**

The pick-up is free and your gift is tax-deductible.

**[learn more at rmhc.careasy.org](http://rmhc.careasy.org)**





## Volunteers

For more than a year, we had to place a pause on our volunteer program. During this time, we missed our volunteers!

To help us protect the vulnerable population of families we serve, we have slowly begun to welcome back volunteers who have received the COVID-19 vaccination to provide direct, onsite help.

We are looking for volunteers with a passion for our mission and the flexibility to help with a variety of tasks. While not every task involves interacting directly with families, they are all critical to helping families feel at home.

Volunteer tasks may include:

- Helping with van runs
- Answering phones and processing donations at our front desk
- Helping with simple household tasks such as light cleaning or folding linens.

**Volunteer applicants with availability during late afternoon/evening hours are on our volunteer wish list!**

Have some time and care to share with the House? You may request more information about volunteer opportunities at the House and Ronald McDonald Family Rooms by contacting [volunteer@rmhde.org](mailto:volunteer@rmhde.org) or calling our Volunteer Manager, Sara Funaiock, at 302-428-5340.

## Volunteer from Anywhere

There is a way for everyone to be a part of providing comfort and hope to families that call the House a "home-away-from-home."

**Meal Kits:** Assemble shelf-stable kits for families to enjoy while visiting our Family Rooms.

**Care Kits:** Provide families with the essentials and activities.

*Interested in making Meal Kits or Care Kits?*

**Contact Sarah Sommer: [s.sommer@rmhde.org](mailto:s.sommer@rmhde.org) or 302-428-5324**

**Wish List:** It takes a lot of supplies to keep our 50-room House and two Family Rooms running. Organize a collection of cereals, pre-packaged snacks, paper goods, and cleaning supplies, to help families during their stay. Our full wish list, and link to our Amazon wish list, is available on our website at [rmhde.org/wish-list](http://rmhde.org/wish-list)

**Host a Third-Party Fundraiser:** Have an idea for a way to raise funds and awareness to help support families? Contact Dawn Brooks, Special Events Manager at 302-428-5315 or [d.brooks@rmhde.org](mailto:d.brooks@rmhde.org)

## Teen Volunteers

Our Teen Volunteer Program is open seasonally to students ages 16+. Teen Volunteers help with direct, onsite service tasks including answering family questions, helping to process donations in our pantries, and assisting with simple household tasks.

Teens may also help to coordinate Family Activity nights or learn about philanthropy through coordinating fundraisers. To learn more about the program, please contact Sarah Sommer, Volunteer Program Assistant, at [s.sommer@rmhde.org](mailto:s.sommer@rmhde.org) or 302-428-5324.

## Group Volunteers

**Cook a Meal:** Food is love! Providing a meal is a wonderful way to offer a tangible sign of comfort for families while they care for their child. As we reintroduce group volunteers, scheduling, preparation, and serving of meals will look different from the past. Please reach out to Sarah Sommer, Volunteer Program Assistant, to discuss current operating guidelines and needs: [s.sommer@rmhde.org](mailto:s.sommer@rmhde.org) or 302-428-5324.

**Cleaning:** Volunteers can help clean and organize common areas, kitchens and pantries. Help is especially needed in our commercial kitchen. We are seeking volunteers who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help us keep this area clean, organized, and refreshed each month. This opportunity is ideal for groups of 4-6 adult volunteers. Contact [volunteer@rmhde.org](mailto:volunteer@rmhde.org) for more information.

## Volunteer at a Family Room

Help us to extend the hospitality of the House to our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at Nemours Children's Hospital, Delaware, and, coming soon, at the Women and Children's Center at Christiana Care's Newark Campus. Volunteers help to provide families with a comfortable and welcoming place to rest and regroup, just steps away from a pediatric unit where their children are receiving treatment.

To learn more, contact [volunteer@rmhde.org](mailto:volunteer@rmhde.org).



Ronald McDonald House<sup>®</sup>  
of Delaware

Keeping families close<sup>®</sup>

1901 Rockland Road ♥ Wilmington, DE 19803  
[www.rmhde.org](http://www.rmhde.org)

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CALENDAR

		1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# Mark Your Calendars

For more information on events, including times and registration/ tickets, visit [rmhde.org](http://rmhde.org) or contact Special Events Manager Dawn Brooks (302-428-5315 or [d.brooks@rmhde.org](mailto:d.brooks@rmhde.org)).



- **September 26**  
*Talleyville Fire Company Car Show*  
10 am - 4 pm at Concord Mall
- **November 18**  
*12th Annual CBS3 Telethon*
- **December 9**  
*Share A Night*



More information to come on our 2022 events soon!

For information about our special events or to sign up for our E-newsletter, visit [rmhde.org](http://rmhde.org)

