



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities  
Oregon & Southwest Washington

WINTER / SPRING 2018

# KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE

## Life inside Oregon's Ronald McDonald Houses

### COMFORT ON THE JOURNEY TO HEALING

New Parents Find Comfort, as Life Takes an Unexpected Turn

Megan and Seth Halligan rang in the New Year with the birth of their first baby, Dorothy ("Dottie") Halligan, who was born in Salem, Oregon, on December 31st. Their joy turned to concern a few hours later, when an ultrasound revealed a twist in baby Dottie's small intestine. She would need surgery to save her life.

Dottie was rushed to Doernbecher Children's Hospital at OHSU, where she underwent two surgeries within her first few days of life. She would need continued care to completely heal, possibly staying at the hospital for several months and many long nights.

For Seth and Megan, nothing was more important than being close to their little girl. "The first night we literally slept on the couch outside the NICU," says Seth, "and we thought: 'Is this going to be our life, sleeping on couches?'" With a long recovery ahead, and Megan healing from a C-section, they had to find a solution quickly.

Fortunately, our Ronald McDonald House had an open room, where their worries were met with care and comfort. "We arrived there and our world had been rocked," Seth remembers, "We didn't know what to think, but they gave us a place to stay, transportation, and dinners. It was incredible."



**"Without the Ronald McDonald House," says Seth, "It would have been a nightmare trying to coordinate where we were going to stay every night."**

The Ronald McDonald House was there to provide the Halligans with stability and comfort amid so much uncertainty. For them, the biggest gifts were the little things that made life feel more normal, like being able to have visitors, free transportation, and a place to cook food. "Frankly, they make this new life very livable in a way we never could have imagined," Seth remarked.

Originally from Oregon, Megan and Seth had been teaching in Asia for several years. Their latest home was Mongolia, where they were just settling into their new positions as directors of a teaching program. The plan was to give birth in Oregon, close to family, then return to Mongolia. Dottie's treatment has caused them to readjust their outlook. "Our long term plans have definitely changed," Seth concluded.

For now, the Halligans are focused on being close to their daughter and taking comfort in the community at the West House. "We feel we can call it a home," Seth reflected. "That's the strength of the Ronald McDonald House."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [RMHCOREGON.ORG](http://RMHCOREGON.ORG)

# STRONGER TOGETHER 5K WALK, RUN, & ROLL

Now on Portland's South Waterfront!

This year, we are thrilled to announce our move to Portland's South Waterfront—just steps away from our future Ronald McDonald House at the OHSU Gary & Christine Rood Family Pavilion. The time is now to sign up for our Stronger Together 5K Walk, Run, & Roll!

Our Stronger Together 5K is a region-wide, family-friendly fundraising event where our supporters come together to raise money and support families with seriously ill children who receive a free "home away from home" at one of our three Oregon Ronald McDonald Houses. Last year, our Stronger Together 5K engaged more than 1,300 supporters, raising over \$135,000!

This year's event is **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** in four cities across Oregon—Portland, Bend, Eugene, and Salem. Mark your calendar and bring your friends!

If you are unable to join us in person, you can show your support by being a "virtual" walker and fundraising from afar! New this year, families can sign up together by clicking our "Family Registration" option.

Every participant receives a pair of our distinctive striped socks and there are additional prizes for reaching fundraising goals during the registration period. On the day of the event, special prizes will be awarded to the best-dressed team, best-dressed dog, largest fundraiser, and largest team. Start calling your family and friends and planning your outfits ASAP!

Register today as an individual, or create a team with friends, family, and coworkers—and start fundraising! We hope to see you in April! To learn more and sign up go to [rmhcoregon.org/walk](http://rmhcoregon.org/walk). Contact [walk@rmhcoregon.org](mailto:walk@rmhcoregon.org) for more info.



## HAVING A BALL WITH THE BLAZERS!

An Evening of Fun for Families and Children

On December 4th, Portland's **East Ronald McDonald House** was thrilled to host a visit with six of the Portland Trailblazers! **Al-Farouq Aminu, Zach Collins, Pat Connaughton, Meyers Leonard, Shabazz Napier,** and **Caleb Swanigan** brought our families a pizza party and a whole evening of fun and games.

Families staying at both of Portland's Houses gathered to meet the players, who signed autographs and posed for photos with everyone. The athletes also tested their artistic skills, making crafty Blazers pennants alongside guest families. Kids had a blast shooting hoops with the players in the family room, and even building Legos together! Families were delighted to receive free tickets to one of the Blazers' upcoming games at the Moda Center.

Throughout the years, the Portland Trail Blazers have been wonderful and generous partners to Ronald McDonald House Charities. Their dedication to making a positive impact in the community is outstanding. The team was our 2012 Partner of Distinction, and over the years, have donated over \$170,000 in funding support and in-kind donations! We look forward to more visits from them in the future. Go Blazers!



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# DELIVERING MORE COMFORT ON WHEELS

## Our Hospitality Cart Expands to OHSU & Salem Health

Since February of 2017, our Hospitality Cart Program at Randall Children's Hospital has allowed us to spread our special brand of compassionate hospitality beyond the walls of our three Oregon Ronald McDonald Houses. We are excited to announce that beginning this spring, our program will expand to OHSU in Portland, and Salem Health in Salem, Oregon.

The Hospitality Cart is stocked with comfort items that are provided to families at no cost, such as snacks, hot beverages, toiletries, toys, and coloring books. It's a simple idea that can mean so much to a family in crisis who is spending hours and days with their hospitalized child, with no time to run to the store for a forgotten toothbrush or snack. These small things help ease the most difficult situations and make children, and families, feel at home.

**The cart has already served over 4,500 children and family members, giving away over 10,000 items in just one year.** Of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated and caring volunteers—who fully staff the cart. Volunteers have spent over 300 hours pushing the cart and lending a helping hand to families in need. Aside from the items offered, the cart serves as a conversation-starter, spreading the word about Ronald McDonald House Charities and our mission. We are delighted to reach even more families with our hospitality cart in the coming year.

If you are interested in donating items or volunteering for the Hospitality Cart as we expand to OHSU and Salem Health, visit [rmhcoregon.org/hospitality-cart](http://rmhcoregon.org/hospitality-cart).



## THE ROOD FAMILY PAVILION

### Opening in 2019 for More Families and Children Than Ever Before

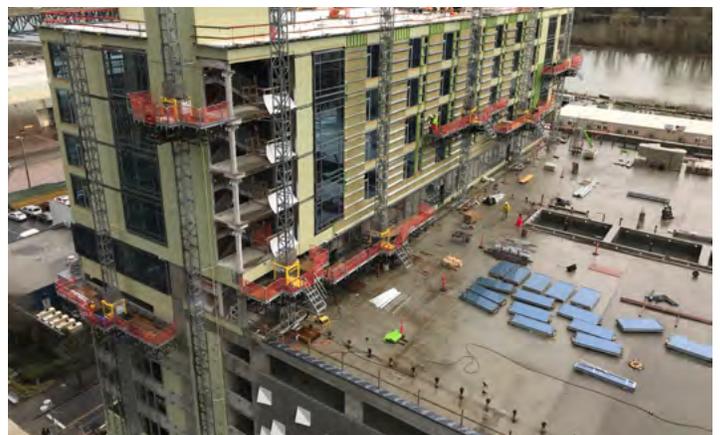
Construction is well underway on the South Waterfront as our new West House at the OHSU Gary & Christine Rood Family Pavilion continues to rise! In early 2019, we will open the doors and welcome families of seriously ill children, providing the love and support they need when it matters most.

The Rood Family Pavilion will include 38 guest rooms, increasing the number of families we can serve at the West House by fifty percent! Families staying at our new West House will enjoy an expansive rooftop garden and outdoor playground, as well as community spaces that include a fitness center, play rooms, lounges, laundry rooms, and a kitchen and dining room. The House will be filled with supportive volunteers, delicious meals, music, pet therapy animals, and love—offering our families so much more than a place to sleep.

Our **\$1.5 Million Campaign to *Make this House a Home***, funding the finish, furnish, and launch of our new Ronald McDonald House has now reached the \$950,000 mark! We extend our most heartfelt thanks to the employees of The Standard, Ronald McDonald House Charities Global, Claudine Tanner, Gary & Christine Rood, and Susan D. Schnitzer for their tremendous generosity during our campaign. Their leadership in this effort has been invaluable!

**We hope you will join us and support our campaign to open the doors of our new West House in 2019! Your generosity will leave a lasting legacy for children and families from across Oregon and beyond, making the life-saving care at Doernbecher Children's Hospital accessible to more families than ever before.**

To learn more, or make a gift, contact **Kate Baldwin** at **971.230.6705** [kate.baldwin@rmhcoregon.org](mailto:kate.baldwin@rmhcoregon.org).



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House Charities®**  
Oregon & Southwest Washington

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## SAVE THE DATES



### **STRONGER TOGETHER 5K WALK, RUN, & ROLL**

Sunday, April 22, 2018  
Bend | Eugene | Salem | Portland Metro  
[rmhcoregon.org/events/stronger-together-5k/](http://rmhcoregon.org/events/stronger-together-5k/)



### **CENTRAL OREGON OPEN**

Thursday, June 7 – Friday, June 8, 2018  
Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond, OR  
[rmhcoregon.org/events/central-oregon-open/](http://rmhcoregon.org/events/central-oregon-open/)



### **GOLF CLASSIC**

Monday, July 16, 2018  
Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club, North Plains, OR  
[rmhcoregon.org/events/rmhc-golf-classic/](http://rmhcoregon.org/events/rmhc-golf-classic/)



### **HEARTS & HANDS GALA**

Saturday, October 13, 2018  
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR  
[rmhcoregon.org/events/hearts-hands-gala/](http://rmhcoregon.org/events/hearts-hands-gala/)

## FULL BELLIES, WARM HEARTS

**Providing Meals From The Heart for  
Families When They Need it Most**

All three of our Ronald McDonald Houses offer beautiful kitchens where families can enjoy the comfort of home-cooked meals or a quick snack on the go, making them feel right at home. The families who stay with us are so grateful for the volunteers who come to cook, ensuring that lunch or dinner is ready and waiting after a long day at the hospital.

Volunteers can sign up to cook a meal with their company, network of friends, or family. You can bake cookies and treats, prepare lunches or dinners, or even Sponsor-A-Meal by providing a financial donation.

Sign up today to provide Meals From the Heart for seriously ill children and their families!

### **CONTACT**

Lily McFadden: Community Engagement Manager  
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