

# Where Hope Has a Home

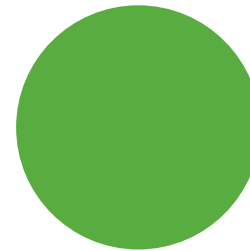
Report to the Community 2007



Ronald McDonald House  
at Stanford



**Our Mission** Ronald McDonald House at Stanford creates a home-away-from-home and supportive community for families of children with life-threatening illnesses receiving specialized treatment at local hospitals.

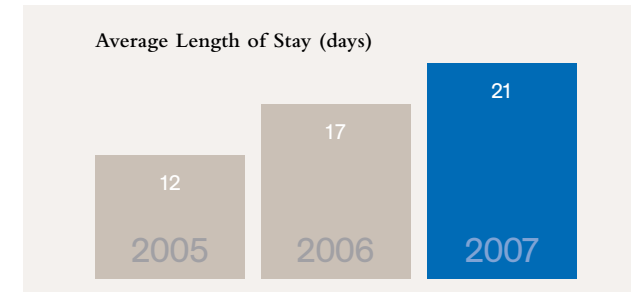


# A Message to the Friends of Ronald McDonald House at Stanford

“Yes” is one of the most exciting and inspiring of words. “Yes, we can treat your child’s illness.” “Yes, we have room for your family to stay.” “Yes, your child is ready to go home.” But it is an underused word and it is one we would like to hear more of around the House.

“No,” in comparison, is one of the most powerful words and more often than not, the hardest to use. “No” is difficult to say and it can be even more difficult to hear. At Ronald McDonald House at Stanford we have to say it more often than we would like. And it is always for the same reason—“No, we do not have a room available.”

While the House served 476 families in 2007, our facility is not able to house all of the families who need our help. Last year, an average of 14 families each night were housed off-site due to a lack of rooms. We worked diligently in 2007 to get a clear picture of the current and future needs of the families at the House. We looked to see who is staying at the House, why they are here, and how long they stayed to get an understanding of the implications of the various treatments the children are undergoing.



Clarifying the family needs required us to review data from Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital and learn that in just the last year, they turned away hundreds of children because they were also at maximum capacity. Responding to this need, the hospital’s initiatives include adding an additional 30 new beds by 2009 and another 100 by 2014. Innovative procedures, new research, and expanded facilities will substantially increase the number of families coming to Stanford seeking treatment for their little one’s illness. Not only will we see more families, but the average length of stay for each family will likely increase, as it has been over the past few years. Thus we need more rooms, and each for a longer period of time.

As we look ahead, one of our goals for the coming year will be to find a long-term solution that allows the House to say “yes” to patients’ families—working towards a day when no family is turned away from our home-away-from-home, as we continue to provide our services as efficiently as possible. Community involvement plays a critical part in fostering the atmosphere of home and minimizing costs. From the small community of families at the House that offer 24/7 support to one another, to the 200-person strong volunteer force that helps keep the House running, to the larger community of donors that financially support the House, everyone has a unique role to play.

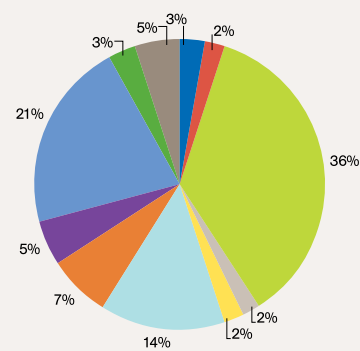
What is Ronald McDonald House to the patients, families, doctors, and community? Is it a place to stay? Is it a place where families build camaraderie and life-long friendships? Is it a place where doctors can send outpatients knowing they will be in an immune-protected environment and close to the hospital? Yes, it is all those things and much more.

The stories on the following pages are common to all the families who come to us in need. This House means the world to them. Without the relief of donating only \$10 a night for their room and no one turned away due to inability to pay, many families might be facing financial catastrophe in addition to medical crisis. Without the other families at the House offering encouragement to each other, many would find themselves feeling alone and anxious. Together we can ensure that the House continues to be a source of comfort and relief—a place where we can say, “Yes, hope has a home.”

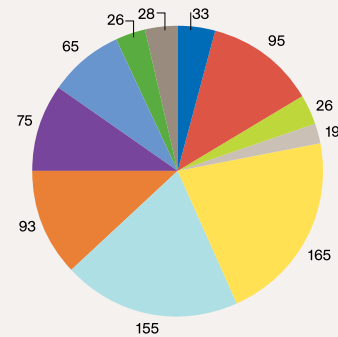
Melinda Litherland  
President, Board of Directors

Honey Meir-Levi  
Executive Director

Percentage of Room Nights by Clinical Service



Average Length of Stay by Clinical Service (days)



- Pulmonary/CF ● Bone Marrow Transplant ● Cardiology/CV Surgery ● Gastroenterology ● Heart Transplant
- Hematology/Oncology ● Kidney Transplant ● Liver Transplant ● NICU ● Other ● PICU

Maria's  
*Family*

“I felt at home.”

Maria, the only child of Gilberto and Alma of El Cerrito, California, is not even two years old, but her condition—sclerosing cholangitis—meant she needed a liver transplant. Maria has been lucky: she got a transplant and stayed at Ronald McDonald House at Stanford while she received twice weekly biopsies to ensure the transplant was taking. She recovered well, and returned home in December 2007.

Her mother Alma said that convenience of being close to the doctors was an important part of why she and Maria stayed at the House during her daughter's treatment. Just as important, she said, “I felt at home at the House,” adding that the people were nice, and the House provided everything she needed during a difficult time in her baby's life.



*Maria is not even two years old, but her condition—sclerosing cholangitis—meant she needed a liver transplant.*

Michael's  
Family

## “Peace of mind.”

Cathy and her husband Con have been bringing their family—Michael and his twin sister Jenna, age 13, and another son Conor, age 15—to Ronald McDonald House at Stanford since 2006, seeking treatment for Michael after he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). The procedures were intense and time consuming: In August 2007, Michael received a bone marrow transplant, which required a recovery period of 100 days to ensure the procedure worked—but on the 97th day, he suffered a relapse. He began a program of chemotherapy, but the prognosis is not reassuring.

The family lives in Seaside, California, nearly 90 miles away from the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, so Ronald McDonald House at Stanford has been hugely helpful in facilitating their son's treatment. For Michael and his family, the House has been much more than a place to stay. “Everyone is in the same boat,” says Cathy; the atmosphere is “fun, social, and interactive. There's something to do, it's different from the hospital, more like home.” For much of Michael's stay, he has been confined to the immune wing, where he could forgo the use of his mask (to ward against infection). Of course, Cathy and Con's primary concern is to ensure Michael gets the best treatment possible, and being close to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital is critical. After Michael woke up one morning with a fever, she says, “We were so glad to be here where the doctors know how to treat him...it gives us peace of mind.”



*In August 2007, Michael received a bone marrow transplant, which required a recovery period of 100 days to ensure the procedure worked—but on the 97th day, he suffered a relapse.*

Sean's  
Family

## “We got there fast.”

Triplets Sean, Alexander, and Brianna were born healthy on March 31, 2005, but doctors discovered a tumor in Sean's liver and a second one in his lung, requiring chemotherapy and surgery at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, which necessitated a lengthy stay at Ronald McDonald House at Stanford. Doctors surgically removed the tumor from his lung, and replaced a portion of his liver with tissue donated by his mother, Mariana. The transplant was successful, and Sean remains at the House, in the immune wing, while he recovers and receives chemotherapy.

Mariana continued to work near the family's home in Salinas, California, to ensure ongoing medical insurance and to care for Alexander and Brianna, while her husband David has been by Sean's bedside from the beginning. “Having the meals provided really helps me out,” he said, adding that playing around the House keeps Sean's spirits up. “A smile lights up his face when he sees the fish tank or climbs on the Ronald McDonald statue. And he loves getting to pick a new toy” from the House's toy basket.

Of course David wanted to be near his son, but he also wanted to be near the hospital that was treating Sean. “It really helped to be close to the hospital,” he said. “We've had to go to the emergency room twice, and we got there fast.”



*A smile lights up his face when he sees the fish tank or climbs on the Ronald McDonald statue.  
And he loves getting to pick a new toy from the House's toy basket.*

Leighanna's  
Family

“The comfort of being  
in a home environment.”

Four-year-old Leighanna, the daughter of Nikki and Shane of La Luz, New Mexico, came into the world with a serious problem—a single ventricle aortic stenosis, which blocks the flow of blood. Her treatment is a particularly long and difficult one: When she was just eight days old, doctors in New Mexico inserted a shunt into her heart, and she came to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for a second surgery at the age of two and a half months. Most recently, she underwent a third operation to complete the valve replacement. She is doing well since her surgery, but she will need a heart transplant sometime in the next three to four years.

To Leighanna's mother Nikki, Ronald McDonald House at Stanford provided “the comfort of knowing we were in a home environment,” she said. Because of the people who work at the House, she added, “it really feels like a family environment. The meals were an amazing help. And Leighanna loved staying at the House.”

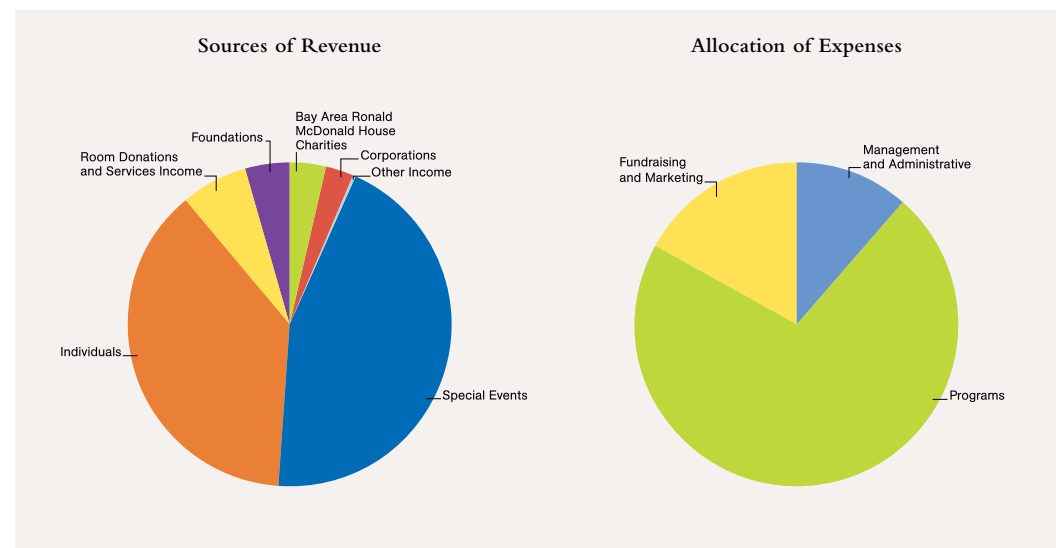


*Four-year-old Leighanna came into the world with a serious problem:  
a single ventricle aortic stenosis, which blocks the flow of blood.*

## Summary Financial Information

Fiscal Year Ended <i>Unaudited</i>	December 31, 2007 <i>Actuals</i>	December 31, 2008 <i>Projections</i>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations - Individuals	\$ 999,001	\$ 1,070,000
Donations - Corporations	68,769	100,000
Donations - Foundations	112,517	120,000
Donations - Special Events	1,167,911	1,080,000
Bay Area Ronald McDonald House Charities	100,000	100,000
Room Donations	60,568	65,700
Program Services Income	117,129	146,000
Other Income	12,527	5,500
In-Kind Donations	328,111	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,966,533</b>	<b>\$ 2,937,200</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs	\$ 1,902,029	\$ 1,948,856
Fundraising and Marketing	442,221	564,185
Management and Administrative	302,205	270,032
In-Kind Expense	322,311	250,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,968,766</b>	<b>\$ 3,033,073</b>

Itemized budgets and Audited Financial Statements available upon request.



## Board of Directors

President Melinda Litherland  
*Deloitte & Touche LLP*

Vice President Greg Dougherty  
*The Dougherty Family Foundation*

Treasurer Mark Greenstein  
*Draper Fisher Jurvetson*

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*Community Volunteer*

Susan Twietmeyer  
*Cisco Systems*

Peter Ziebelman  
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## Staff

Honey Meir-Levi  
*Executive Director*

Tina Alexander  
*House Operations Director*

Mary Jo Blazek  
*Children's Activity Coordinator*

Olga Corral  
*Program / Volunteer Manager*

Linda Lyon  
*Development Director*

Clare Maloney  
*Event & Communications Coordinator*

Madeline Mayhew  
*Bookkeeping Assistant*

Paul McNabb  
*Development Officer*

Ramona Nestor  
*Data Coordinator*

Cynthia Semenoff  
*Finance Director*

Pat Tamaras  
*Accommodations Manager*

**Weekend Managers**  
Our managers provide administrative and House support during the evening and weekend hours:

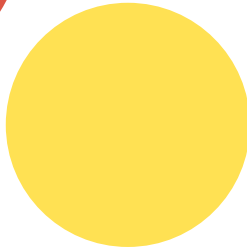
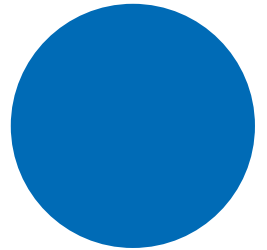
Sydnee Brooks  
Armando Gonzales  
Cheryl Hogan  
Cheryl Keama  
Lucy Santos

Deepest appreciation to the following for making this report possible:  
Michael Patrick Partners, [www.michaelpatrickpartners.com](http://www.michaelpatrickpartners.com)  
Timothy Peters, 510.658.7451  
Vince Tarry Photography, [www.vincetarryphotography.com](http://www.vincetarryphotography.com)

## Ways to Volunteer

- Make a Dinner
- Work at the Front Desk
- Walk or Run with TeamRMH

For other volunteer opportunities,  
please call 650.470.6008.



To learn more or  
make a gift, visit us at  
[www.ronaldhouse.net](http://www.ronaldhouse.net)



**Ronald McDonald House  
at Stanford**