

TENNESSEE'S

FIRST Knoxville

Fall, 2006

RONALD HOUSE

1705 West Clinch Avenue

Knoxville, Tennessee 37916



www.knoxrmhc.org

Not Just Another Golf Tournament

How can one explain an enigma like the KFI Invitational Golf Tournament?!!

In a year when virtually every other area golf tournament saw decreased revenues...the KFI set yet another record. When volunteers needed for many events were as scarce as "hens teeth", the KFI had plenty and then some.

What distinguishes this event above all others?

Well, we like to think that the heart-warming and noble mission of the House

coupled with the KFI Board's enthusiasm and commitment are the key ingredients in its continual success.

Year number 28 of the tournament raised a record-setting \$38,500 bringing their total over the years to an impressive (are you sitting down) \$415,500!!!

These incredible supporters took an entire week off before beginning to make plans for the 2007 event that has already been set for August 4th. It's never



The hospitality cart makes the rounds.

too early to mark those calendars as this stellar event is always a sell-out! ♥



Duffers enjoying the perfect summer's day.

Float On... and On... and On



Fun in the sun

Before ole' Huck Finn could float down the mighty Mississippi, he and Injun' Joe had to first build a raft!

Well, the folks at Dollywood's Splash Country made it much easier to beat the summer heat as they supplied inner tubes to the near-

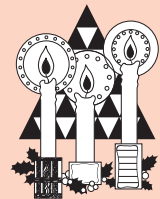
ly 200 folks who came to their Lazy River taking part in the 4th Annual Float-A-Thon. This fun-filled event was possibly the easiest and coolest way in which to support the House. Participants either collected pledges for every lap they made around the river or paid a reduced fee at the gate. Either way, they floated to their heart's content and by day's end, RMH volunteers had collected over \$9,000. That astounding sum, coupled with a most generous \$10,000 donation from park G.M. Gene Sherrer helped make this day one of the House's most lucrative fundraisers.

Adding to the day's festivities was the Journal Broadcast group. Their support was phenomenal!! All three of their stations, Hot 104.5, 93.1-the Point, and Star 102.1 were on hand along



Ronald greeting his pint-size fans

with air personalities who manned a dunking booth and offered encouragement and moral support to the floaters and fans alike. Their tireless promotional efforts truly helped ensure the day's success. ♥



Holiday Cards Available Soon

Eight-year old artist, Ms. Alex Sprinkle, is currently hard at work perfecting this year's card. As art has long been her passion, we know you'll want to dazzle your friends and family with her inspired design. A package of 20 cards is only \$15.00 and they're certain not to last long at that price. So, reserve yours today! (Take a peek at them on our website)





What easier way could there be to help children the world over than by enjoying an Extra Value Meal®, Happy Meal®, or Mighty Kids Meal® between November 17-19, 2006?!

To celebrate the 5th Annual World Children's Day, McDonald's restaurants will donate funds from these select items.

In addition, you can help by purchasing a "Give a Hand" between November 10-19.

Treat the family and support our House this November!!



There's Nothing Like a Good Game of Golf!

On June 2 & 3, nearly 100 golfers gathered at Egwani Farms to enjoy the best 2 days of golf in East Tennessee while supporting a most worthy cause.

Once again, a big hit was our goody bag, which was a do-it-yourself affair as participants got to choose exactly what they wanted from the exclusive pro shop set up just for them featuring representatives from Titleist and FootJoy.

A short-lived thunderstorm did little to dampen the enthusiasm for dinner as golfers scampered off the



Wonderful volunteers at check-in

course to find tables laden with barbecue fare featuring world-famous ribs, courtesy of Texas Roadhouse.

By the time the last putt

had been sunk on Saturday afternoon, golfers were delighted to learn that their efforts had netted the House over \$60,000. ♥

Vintage Cars - Always in Vogue

It's been said that the classics never die...and that was certainly evident by the throngs of vintage car admirers that turned out on May 20 for the annual Smoky Mountain Classic Chevy Club's spring show in Pigeon Forge. Nearly 200 cars made their way to the Music Road Hotel to register for what continues to be a first-rate event. Scores of vendors were selling everything from mufflers to car-themed tee shirts and sunglasses.



Oldies... but goodies.

Club spokesperson, Joe Miller, says members work year round in order to sup-

port several charities they believe in which, thankfully, includes our local RMH. ♥



A Gift No Box Can Hold

This year as you make your holiday shopping list, why don't you consider making a gift to the RMH to honor a friend, client, or a loved one?! It's so easy too...no need to worry about size or color...no exchanges or returns. It's the perfect "one gift that fits all!"

You'll receive a tax receipt for your donation and the recipient will receive this card:



What could mean more to our families than to return "home" to the RMH after an emotional visit at the hospital to find "real" food awaiting them?! Thankfully, many wonderful folks agree with us and provide delicious home-cooked meals on a regular basis, such as: CH2M Hill, Catholic Singles, First Christian Church of Jefferson City, Jim & Glenda Bobo, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, 2nd Wednesday Night Gang, ORNL, Knoxville Church, Episcopal

Chefs for a Day



Chefs at work

School, Oriental Masonic Lodge, Fellowship Church, NOVA Information Systems, The Stokes family, Laurel Church of Christ, the Mom's Club of Maryville, and Gamma Sigma Sigma from U.T. Families truly appreciate this touch of home dur-



ing such a difficult time in their lives.

If you consider 3 meals a day multiplied by 30-ish days per month, the opportunity to join our regulars most certainly exists. You don't have to be Emeril to make a difference! ♥

One Family's Story



Charlotte with little Elizabeth

For as long as she could remember, Charlotte Wood wanted to be a mom. She was overjoyed to learn that her dream would finally come true and eagerly anticipated her due date in early January of this year. But as is oftentimes the case, babies and calendars don't go hand-in-hand and Elizabeth Anne made her grand entrance 12 weeks early. As the little princess tipped the scales at a mere 1# 11oz. with a lengthy hospitalization anticipated, a social worker suggested to Charlotte that she check into staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Because her only exposure to a Ronald House was the donation canisters she'd seen at area McDonald's, she really didn't know what to expect. Her initial concern that the facility would consist of one large room with rows of cots soon vanished as she walked through the doors for the first time. "It really exceeded my expectations! I immediately felt at home", she said.

The days turned into weeks as little Elizabeth slowly began to gain weight. "It felt like it took forever for her to finally join the "3

pound" club. And the day she did, I came "home" from the hospital to find my bedroom door had been decorated by the staff with streamers and balloons to commemorate her first major milestone".

"The House was so much more than simply a place to eat and sleep...it was my haven at the end of a long day. In the beginning, 'veteran' parents' advice and explanations were invaluable. When your child is in the hospital, you learn a whole new language, so spending time talking to people who also speak that same language is such a help."

Before checking out of the Knoxville House after a 3-month stay to visit family on the Gulf coast, doctors cautioned Charlotte that Elizabeth could be facing a future heart surgery but, ever the optimist, she bundled up the little princess knowing what strong medicine the love and hugs from grandparents could be.

But before she could get too spoiled, some respiratory problems led to pneumonia and Charlotte found herself staying in her second RMH in Mobile, Alabama. A week later, Elizabeth was transferred back to a private room at Children's Hospital where mom could stay right by her side. It was then that she chose to utilize our House for day use where laundry, hot meals, a shower, and loads of encouragement were only 3 blocks away.

When it was finally determined that only a risky heart surgery could fix her up once and for all, this well-traveled 8-month-old headed for Vanderbilt Hospital where Charlotte and her family found themselves needing their 3rd Ronald

House for a nearly 2 month stay.

Happily, everyone is home now in Townsend, Tennessee, with Elizabeth having just celebrated her 1st birthday a few weeks early. Doctors had warned Charlotte to keep her isolated during the upcoming RSV season as this respiratory ailment can be quite threatening to premies.

Amid the birthday festivities more than a few tears were shed in grateful appreciation for the daunting medical challenges the little princess has faced...and conquered. (Anyone wishing to read more about



Celebrating a 6-month birthday

these 2 remarkable young ladies can visit their web site www.caringbridge.org/visit/elizabethannewood.)

New Friends from Afar



Our new McFriends

Here's an answer for all you fans of the game show Jeopardy... "A primarily Muslim Nation located just west of India". If you said, "What is Pakistan?"...you win!

Actually, our House was the winner as we were afforded the opportunity to work with some Pakistani students that were in East Tennessee for a month thanks to a grant from the U.S. Dept. of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

U.T.'s English Language Institute was asked to host the 20 undergraduates and introduce them to contemporary American life and values with one facet being exposure to volunteer service.

As their country has no

Ronald McDonald Houses, they were fascinated to learn just how our non-profit worked, was supported, and of the many services we provide to those in need.

Before their departure in late August, numerous chores had been done, many smiles had been shared, and a great deal of information had been exchanged. (Did you know Pakistan had both deserts and glaciers?)

Amid a round of fond farewells, promises were made to keep in touch as several of the students vowed to help orchestrate the creation of their country's first-ever "house that love built".

Shukran (thank you) to our new friends. ❤️

Ronald McDonald House

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Volunteer Spotlight: Lucile Martin



Lucille - always a day-brightener

We've been blessed indeed to have had Lucile Martin (yes, it's Lucile with only one "L") grace our House with her ebullient spirit and ever-present smile each Tuesday morning for the last 10 years now.

Her varied duties as secretary to the Food Services Director at Lakeshore was a perfect fit for our needs as we were hoping to find help acknowledging the many wonderful gifts we receive from our throngs of loyal supporters.

Due to her boundless energies, even a well-deserved retirement "didn't take" as she called us a mere 6

months after leaving her 20-year post.

As an ADPi alum, she was attending an annual picnic when she overheard someone talking about our Ronald House. Her sorority chapters nationwide had supported the RMH movement nearly from its inception, so calling our local House was a natural progression.

Thanks to that fateful call, dear Lucile is ensconced at our dining room table each week, a cup of coffee (and perhaps a cookie) in one hand and a stack of acknowledgments in the other.

She prefers working in a space where she can greet families as they come and go, making mental notes as to which ones need special prayers.

When asked what keeps her coming back, she eagerly replies, "I love the House with its friendships, fellowship, and atmosphere. I love the chance to listen to the families to see what's happening in their lives. I always come away with a lot more than I give."

Has volunteering at the House changed her perspective of life at all? Being grate-

ful for healthy kids and grandkids is foremost in her mind.

When not working with us, she's the right hand "man" for her sister, Helen, who's extremely active in the mammoth fundraiser at Children's Hospital, "Fantasy of Trees". Ever the social butterfly, she meets with former high school chums for monthly lunches, helps with her Sunday School Class, Ladies Club, and the

Senior's Club. And if that weren't enough, she even squeezes in the occasional bridge games with the LOL's (little old ladies) who are dear friends that have played together for 35 years and counting. And she even wins a hand every now and then. But it's our House that's the real winner in having such a special lady love us like she does. ♥

A Helping Hand?

It's amazing just how often folks are surprised by the many ways in which they can help us...ways that don't necessarily involve writing a check. And what would those be you ask?

- Make (or purchase) a meal for now or one that could be frozen for future use.
- Our families love to nibble...so bake cookies, brownies, or muffins for breakfast.
- Drop off some fresh fruit, milk, or sandwich fixings.
- Donate gift certificates for area grocery or discount stores.

- Plan a workday to help us deep clean rooms.
- Maintain our gardens or plant seasonal flowers.
- Remember our local House when doing estate planning.
- Recycle aluminum cans or tabs.
- Volunteer at one of our many fundraisers.

For further information you can visit our newly expanded web site www.knoxrmhc.org. And speaking of our web site, we'd like to thank husband and wife duo, Brian and Tammy McKinley for their invaluable time and efforts in re-designing and maintaining it for us!

