

Tennessee's First

# Ronald McDonald House™

1705 West Clinch Avenue | Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

[www.knoxrmhc.org](http://www.knoxrmhc.org)

FALL | 2010

♥ Celebrating 25 Years of Caring ♥

What an incredible milestone ... our 25th year of service to the community!

On May 2, we joyously celebrated with 300 of our closest friends and "family" and would like to share some of those moments.



Good-byes are never easy and saying good-bye to our beloved night manager Dianne and her trusty assistant, husband Stan, is no exception.

For five years now, this "dynamic duo" have welcomed families into our home with warmth, compassion, and humor.

Greeting folks with her trademark 100-watt smile, Dianne has the gift for making everyone feel "at home" immediately upon entering the front door.

We wish them well as they embark on this new chapter of their lives and hope they realize just how much they have meant to so many! ❖

## The KFI Scores

You can't seem to turn on the news today without hearing the somewhat dire phrase ... "in this economy". So how can the KFI (held on the first Saturday in August) defy the odds and raise \$7,500 more than last year which is a "record-breaking" total? If you ask KFI founder Keys Fillauer, he's at a loss for an explanation himself but gives credit for their continued success to his dedicated Board who works



*our president elect receives the check*



*a thoughtful bidder*

year-round to bring the multi-faceted event to fruition (golf, dinner, and auction).

No one associated with this caring group of "duffers" could have ever envisioned that their first \$400 gift given to the House in 1985 could have amassed into \$558,000 some 25 years later. ❖

## Stop at Dillard's...

Before the holiday season kicks into high gear, you can stop at Dillard's to pick up a copy of the "2010 Southern Living Ultimate Christmas Cookbook".

The 288-page book is overflowing with scrumptious recipes and decorating ideas sure to dazzle your friends and family. The unbelievable price of only \$10.00 makes the book a perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list.

The more you buy, the more you help our House as the 2009 edition raised a phenomenal \$11,000 for our local RMH. See you at Dillard's! ❖

## BB&T "Banks" Their Support

On September 15 our RMH was one of 3 fortunate charities to be adopted by the "Lighthouse" outreach project sponsored by BB&T Bank. Amy Ruby coordinated scores of kind-hearted volunteers from various area branches who "came, saw, and conquered" the extensive "honeydo" list we'd compiled for them.

By day's end, we had new exterior lighting at the Annex, a new microwave at the Main House, new DVD players for the bedrooms, and perfectly manicured grounds ... just to name a few of the tasks that had been tackled. ❖



*hard at work*



*ready to tee off*

## RMH Golf Tournament Thrives

When we started our golf tournament nearly 20 years ago, such events weren't as prevalent as they are today. For nearly six months of the year, there seems to be at least one or two tournaments a week making for some stiff competition.

With that in mind, we're even more appreciative to our loyal fans who continue to support ours ... year after year.

And that loyalty pays some pretty hefty dividends as we made a whopping \$61,800 during our June 4th outing at Egwani Farms. ❖

Our holiday cards will be available in mid-November, thanks to the artistic stylings of 7 year old Harout Hanissian from Memphis, Tennessee.

Packages of 20 are only \$10.00 so you'll be able to stock up!! ❖



## Camping For Kids

We continue to be blessed by the friendship and fundraising efforts by members of the K-town Sams and Good Sams of Tennessee who gathered at the House on October 26 to present the House with a check that resulted from various events held during their annual "Sam-bor-ee". That donation, coupled with one dropped off earlier in the month from the State Director of the group, Ron Masterson, meant our House was \$1,645.30 richer!!!

Their loving support, warm fellowship and caring hearts are certainly gifts beyond compare. ❖



*a happy camper*



*our John*

Not one to shy away from a challenge, John Hunter wears “two hats” in regard to his association with our Ronald House.

He “donned” on the first one when he was asked to play in the KFI golf tournament in 1985.

After John’s first visit to our House for the post-event check presentation, he was hooked and “the rest is history”.

He became a KFI Board member in 1995 and currently serves as its vice-president.

His enthusiasm for the cause led his lovely bride of 40 years, Linda, to become involved in the planning aspect of the annual fundraiser as well, where her Herculean efforts in coordinating a silent and live auc-

## John Hunter

tion as part of the dinner celebration have greatly contributed to the financial success of the fundraiser.

His love for our House certainly did not escape our attention and he began wearing an RMH Board member hat in 2008. Although helping the House may seem like a full-time endeavor for him, (which is more or less true in the weeks preceding the KFI) he somehow finds time to work 40 hours a week as an insurance representative specializing in plans for veterinarians and their families and is also an active member of Powell United Methodist Church. Sports have also played a large role in the Hunter household where John was a supporter of the Oak Ridge Ladies Basketball Boost-

ers for years as his daughter Kim played and coached in Oak Ridge, and just last year, John retired from his duties as a football referee with the TSSAA after a 22-year run.

After a life full of varied accomplishments, what brings the biggest smile to John’s face? It would have to be his 6 ½ year old grandson, Hunter Tisdale, whom he describes as “the pride of our family”. “Having a healthy child and grandchild”, John explained, “makes us so thankful for our blessings and we’re better able to understand why the Ronald House and the assistance it provides is so crucial.” ❖

## What a friend we have in Dolly

A sunny summer’s day with the Smoky Mountains as a backdrop combined with the generosity of our friends at Dollywood’s Splash Country made for a perfect and lucrative day as hundreds of folks supported our 8th Annual “Float-A-Thon” held on May 29.

Families could enjoy a day



*Ronald greets his fans*

together at the southeast’s premier water park all the while helping our RMH families.

The park’s most generous management allowed us to sell discounted tickets to the masses, and better still, allowed “US” to keep those monies! It was a win/win situation as we were thrilled to have raised \$24,700 by day’s end. ❖



*ready to float*

Have you ever seen a gift card with five figures on it? Well, we certainly hadn’t until the arrival of Home Depot employees eager to use those dollars to enhance our home.

Usually, the biggest expense of any renovation project is the labor. But that wasn’t the case on October 7 when local man-

## Home Depot Delivers

ager Kim Day assembled a team of multi-talented experts who were anxious to tackle the challenges we’d given them, such as installing closet organizers in each room, replacing aging vanities in several bathrooms, repairing faulty wood trim, and painting the exterior of the Annex.

A large portion of their extraor-

inary \$10,000 gift went into replacing all of our washer/dryers at both Houses and updating kitchen appliances at the Annex.

And as if that weren’t enough, a final gift as they were leaving was the addition of some fall decorations ... from mums to pumpkins. It was truly the “icing on the cake” of our incredible makeover!! ❖

## TVA’s “Day of Caring”

A lovely autumn day filled with sunshine. What could be better? Well, an autumn day filled by caring folks armed with rakes, leaf blowers and the desire to serve, that’s what. On October 28th, twenty hearty souls from TVA came to our RMH as part of the CFC’s “Day of Caring” campaign which gives employees the chance to make a “hands on”



*the clean up crew*

contribution to a participating agency... like our “House that love built”. When asked about her participation in the event, one hard-working window washer replied, “The leadership we have at TVA really fosters an environment of engaging volunteers in worthwhile projects, like this one. They truly set the benchmark for giving”.

One look at our immaculate grounds at day’s end, and we’d all heartily agree!! ❖



*preparing lunch*



*no more weeds!*



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Knoxville, TN, Inc.  
 1705 W. Clinch Avenue  
 Knoxville, TN 37916  
 865.637.7475  
 www.knoxrmhc.org  
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 309  
 Knoxville, TN

**2010 Board of Directors:**

Jeff Allen	Julie Howard
Laura Barnes	Joanne Huddleston
John Buckingham	John Hunter
Joe Burger	David Martin
Jo Cochran	Jane Martin
Bill Evans	Cindy Mayfield
Lynne Fain	Marianne Nichols
Keys Fillauer	Dana O'Kelley
Mark Gaylord, M.D.	Butch Peccolo
Keith Goodwin	Ed Pershing
Jamie Hahn	John Sheridan
Terri Hale	William Terry, M.D.
Myra Haynes	

**Original 1985 Board of Directors:**

Ron Bomers	Emily Mackabee
Heidi Brenner	Ann McMurray
John Buckingham	Bill Moran
Litton Cochran	Ed Pershing
Harold Diftler	Deborah Rose
Mike Haynes	Robert Rose
Myra Haynes	Deanna Slagle
Joanne Huddleston	Jerry Smith
Bob Koppel	Pat Swafford
Patti Lindsey	William Terry, M.D.

## Kindnesses of the Heart

♥ What faithful friends we have at Elavon as for years now, they have come twice a year with scores of "ready and willing" volunteers who will happily tackle any task we put before them. September 16 was their most recent "Blitz" where they cleaned and organized our storerooms and also deep-cleaned all the bedrooms in addition to a myriad of other chores.

♥ Nothing delights us more than having the opportunity to "show off" our House to first-time visitors. And we had the opportunity to do just that on October 27 to some representatives from Test America who not only provided a bounty of Halloween treats for our families' enjoyment but presented a phenomenal \$1,000 check to us as well. What kind-hearted and generous new friends we've made!!

♥ Our loyal supporters with the Smoky Mountain Classic Chevy Club have been part of our long-standing fundraising efforts for more years than we can remem-

ber. Last May 15, they sponsored another successful car show at the Christmas Inn in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Automobile aficionados from as far away as Canada came to "see and be seen" and to enjoy the southern hospitality offered by organizer John Clark and his hard-working club members.

♥ We can't say enough about the lovely ladies of ADPI who not only support us with their now famous, "Turkey Tailgate" fundraiser each year, but also find time in-between attending classes and work to come to the RMH each Tuesday afternoon to clean and straighten up. Not sure how many hours they have in their day, but it sure seems like more than 24!!

♥ We are so incredibly appreciative to Josh Powell's family including grandparents Skip & Lou Dailey who are dedicated to making the recycling of aluminum one of our major fundraisers each year. These caring folks encourage the community to bring cans to their barn and they make the trek to our House once they get the call that our "cans

runneth over" in our storage area. Sorting the cans and tabs, loading it all up, and transporting them to the recycling center is a huge undertaking that they do with willing hearts ... all in benefit of our House. Their labor of love brings in up to \$5,000 each year in welcomed revenue. We'd like to challenge you at home and work to join them in their quest to support the RMH and benefit the environment by making the time to recycle.

♥ Normally, Halloween conjurs up thoughts of mummies, werewolves, ghosts and other scary things.... Well, the only "scary" moment during the Town of Farragut's annual "Freaky Friday" event held on October 29th came when we tried to load all the donations into the RMH van. Once again, our House was thrilled to be the designated recipient of the bounty of items from our wish list that were donated as admission to the family friendly evening of trick or treating.

### Save the Date

We were thrilled to learn that Stanley's Greenhouse is just as anxious to host our Second Annual "Beat the Winter Blues" soiree as we are! Mark those calendars now for Friday, February 4, 2011, and details will soon follow. ♥

### Stress Free Shopping

Please remember this holiday season that the gift that just "keeps on giving" is a gift "in honor" of a friend or loved one made to our RMH. They'll receive a card telling them of your kindness and generosity while you'll receive a tax receipt for your records ... but better still, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that your hard-earned dollars are truly making a difference in the lives of families in need. A holiday that doesn't include standing in line at the mall is a gift you can give to yourself! ♥

