



Keeping Families Close®

# Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Knoxville

1705 West Clinch Avenue Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

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

Spring 2019

## BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Is there anything more soul-satisfying than glorious, fragrant blooms? Apparently, the 350 guests in attendance at our February 1<sup>st</sup> event were in complete agreement with us.



Stanley's Greenhouse played host once again to the banner crowds that were eager for a taste of spring and the delectable food and wine that was offered.

There is simply no better way to spend a cold winter's evening than to be surrounded not only by Mother Nature's finery, but by creative, artistic, and one-of-a-kind decorations crafted especially for guests' enjoyment. The nearly \$19,000 raised that night was made possible by our incredibly talented committee and our sponsors:



Akima, B-97.5 Radio, John & Carol Sheridan, The Pour Guys, UT Culinary, Betsy Thomas & Larry Kirchner, Misty Castiglia State Farm Agency, Massey Electric, Knoxville Beverage, Robert Kelso, DDS, Joe & Pat Johnson, Anne Jackson, Kirk & Joanne Huddleston, Julie Howard & Ted Flickinger, Tom & Terri Hale, Barna & Mary Ann Gibson, CTM Financial LLC, John & Kathy Buckingham, and Bearden High School Key Club.



## SPLASH COUNTRY GOLF TOURNAMENT

There is an old saying that goes . . . "A good friend is like a four-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have".

And that sentiment expresses exactly how we feel about our dear friends at Dollywood's Splash Country that we are "lucky" enough to have.

They not only raise funds and awareness for our House, such as the \$15,000 raised by an on-line ticket discount promotion and the \$10,790 raised in conjunction with area McDonald's offering coupons . . . but they also "adopt" us for a day prior to the Christmas holidays, doing all the heavy lifting of our thirty-plus storage totes of decorations, sorting and distributing them to make it easier for "decorators" who come the following day to work their magic.

We are lucky indeed!

A sunny day, a beautiful venue, good friends, great food and a wonderful course! What more could you ask for in a fund-raising event?



Egwani Farms once again hosted our golf tournament as 120 "duffers" hit the links for an enjoyable day of play.



Our golfers started off by shopping in the mobile pro-shop we'd set up, and deciding what to purchase with the \$100 gift card we gave them as their goody bag and ended the day on a delicious note, enjoying the barbecued rib dinner that was graciously provided by Texas Roadhouse.

All in all, everyone left the course with a smile. . . the golfers having enjoyed a great game and our Board and staff knowing that our bank balance was up \$61,000.



## Dillard's

Since 1994, Dillard's has reached out to embrace Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide to offer their unqualified love and financial assistance. During the 2018 holiday season, the stores once again offered a stellar Southern Living cookbook for sale with proceeds benefitting their local Houses. We're so fortunate to have had General Manager extraordinary Geoff Johnson, inspiring his staff that raised an impressive \$4,892 for us.

During a February check presentation, we were not only presented with the money, but with an ongoing offer of support any time a need arose. Thankfully for our House, that's taking friendship to the next level!

# Dillard's

The Style of Your Life.

## KFI

The genesis of the love affair between the KFI Board and our House began in 1985, the year we opened, when there just happened to be several hundred dollars left in the "kitty" of their annual golf outing. A suggestion was made to the group that the fledgling charity RMH could put that money to good use, and the rest is history! All it took was that one visit to our House and this group of long-time friends were "hooked." For the next three decades, their golf tournament became our tournament. More recently, the Board switched gears and their event went from the country club to the ballroom where they now host a concert for us featuring food, fellowship, and a live auction as part of the festivities. Amazingly, these dear people have raised \$819,730 for us over the years.

Their love for our House is quite evident and we truly hope they all realize that it is reciprocated a hundred-fold!

The KFI will present...

"The Chairmen of the Board"

July 27 at the Doubletree Hilton in Oak Ridge. If you're looking for a fun-filled evening, look no further. Contact [KFIgolf@comcast.net](mailto:KFIgolf@comcast.net) for further details.

## Chocolatefest 2019

On the heels of our BTWB event at a greenhouse, we went from flowers one day to chocolate the next, both perfect segues to Valentine's Day, which was a mere two weeks away.



Jennifer Johnsey, the creative genius behind breathing new life into the Chocolatefest event and her equally dynamic board wowed the crowds on February 2 with a bounty of sweet treats that folks from one to ninety happily devoured. I mean, who could resist white-chocolate covered popcorn?!



And as if tasty treats weren't enough, attendees also enjoyed strolling along the Main Street shopping area where a variety of vendors were selling everything from clothing and lotions to jewelry. They even had the chance to peruse our RMH silent auction items.

What a fun way to spend a cold winter's day and raise \$5,341 for our House!



## Farm Bureau

It's been said that "to be with dear friends is very warm and comforting" and truer words were never written than when Farm Bureau members from several surrounding counties came to visit.

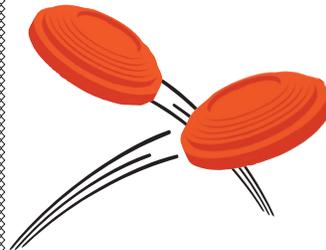
Since 1995, these caring folks have worked tirelessly each year to gather food enough to fill our pantries and freezers to capacity, giving us gift cards as well, to purchase needed items throughout the year.

On March 11, our Farm Bureau "family" graced us with nearly \$8,000 in provisions, staying to enjoy a "thank you brunch" we'd prepared and some lively fellowship.

We've always said that our House is only as wonderful as those who love it, and these people most certainly help us attain that lofty goal.



## "Clays for Kids"



Please join us on September 27 at Lucky Seven in Sweetwater for our inaugural "Clays for Kids" event. We'll have 4-member teams complete 15 stations per round with AM and PM time slots available. More information will soon be available on our website [www.knoxrmhc.org](http://www.knoxrmhc.org).

## Calling All Golfers!



Our long-time golf tournament will have a new look this year as we're making some minor changes to enhance the experience for participants. The heat and humidity of our June date will be replaced with autumn

weather. So please make plans to be with us at Egwani Farms Golf Course on Wednesday, October 2, for a great day of play, great food and prizes, all for an even greater cause!

## BOARD UPDATE

How incredibly fortunate we are to keep finding the "best of the best" when it comes to adding new Board members into the fold.

In 2019, we are thrilled to welcome: Will Edwards with Hodges, Doughty, Carson; Meg Millikan, a beloved community volunteer; Stacy Woodard with Shafer Insurance; and Cindy Bresee, a community volunteer extraordinaire. Their many talents and caring hearts will certainly ensure another successful year!

## KIND FOLKS.... CARING HEARTS

Once again this year, we were most generously remembered by Enterprise Holdings, Joe Molino and Chance Pennington presented a \$5,000.00 check to us from their Foundation on March 29, much to our delight. Their ongoing belief in the work we do is the "real" gift and we couldn't appreciate them more!

their association sponsors. Among those recipients was RMH Director Sue Beverly, who accepted a \$10,000 check on behalf of the House.

en the fact that we are all here to help each other, their gift to us, in turn, was used to bring comfort to many and we couldn't be more grateful for their partnership.

of the patients we serve to take up the task and a lovely new tradition was born. In 2018, 13-year-old Hannah McIntosh of Smyrna, Tennessee,



For the last several years, we have been invited to apply for a grant from the Butterfly Fund, an organization founded eleven years ago to assist non-profits that deal with pediatric cancer issues. With new treatment options now available in our area, we have

When May rolls around, we can't help but think of spring flowers, the last day of school, and the annual car show hosted by members of the Smoky Mountain Classic Chevy Club. The third Saturday in May has been their date of choice for as long as we can remember and throngs of vintage car owners gather in Sevier County to check out the competition, enjoy their fellow enthusiasts and the warm hospitality of their congenial hosts. May 18 is the date that a trip to the Inn at Christmas Place in Pigeon Forge is in order to enjoy the festivities.

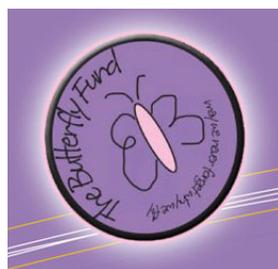


created our wildly popular card that raised \$62,650 for us. But taking her idea from conception to production required additional assistance and, thankfully for us, WS Packaging Group, Inc. once again graced us with their kindness and generosity by donating all the costs associated with producing the cards.



We all know that firefighters are daring, courageous and heroic. . . but we've also seen another side of them . . . their caring, generous side! On December 14, Kevin Faddis, president of Knoxville Firefighters, presented several charities with substantial donations during intermission of an annual concert

seen an increase in referrals made to us for patients with cancer. Therefore, we were especially delighted to receive a grant for nearly \$10,000 last year. Giv-



One of our longest running fundraisers has been the creation and sale of holiday cards. Early on, local artists generously donated their talents to the cause. But then one year, someone suggested asking some

## KIND FOLKS.... CARING HEARTS

♥ We so deeply appreciate being remembered by the Town of Farragut that hosts a family-friendly trick or treat event each year on the Friday before Halloween. . . aptly named "Freaky Friday". Throngs of costumed children

had the chance to gather goodies, decorate cookies, enjoy the play areas, and help our House at the same time. The only admission to the festivities was the suggested donation of a needed household item from our wish list. Never let it be said that ghosts and goblins aren't generous as our van left the park that evening full to overflowing!

♥ We were thrilled to receive a call from the William Knight Insurance Agency that had collected Christmas gifts for Santa to give to our families during our Christmas Eve festivities and we were equally thrilled to receive a \$520 from these caring folks as well.

♥ On November 29, members of the Tennessee Smokies came to the House and bravely addressed our massive "honey-do" list that included cooking duties, yardwork, painting, and some maintenance chores.



RMHC<sup>®</sup>  
of Knoxville



## Next Generation of Caring

Years ago, a daycare center brought their 4-year-olds for a visit and to deliver Christmas ornaments they'd made to adorn our tree. We sat them down and tried to explain what we did at our House and how we helped families, not knowing how much of it would actually sink in. As the children were preparing to leave, one little fellow came up to the Director, tugged on her pant leg to get her attention and said, "Ms. Sue, I bet you wish you could close up your House 'cuz that would mean that kids weren't sick no more".

That was an "ah-ha" moment for certain and re-enforced the idea that you're never too young to understand the concept of caring. That being said, we'd like to warm your hearts further with some other "acts of kindness" from the next generation.

☺ The second-grade classes from Concord Christian School come to tour the House and filled our dining room table to the point of over-flowing with items they'd collected from our wish list, but they didn't stop there. These enterprising children held a craft sale during the holidays, raising an incredible \$2,428.

☺ First grade classes at Farragut Primary School presented us with a gift of \$772.71.

☺ Farragut Middle School chose the House to be the recipient of their fund-raising promotion and we were delighted to receive \$300 from their efforts.

☺ After learning how recycling could help both the environment and our RMH, 2nd grade classes at Rocky Hill Elementary School collected aluminum cans for our benefit.

☺ Once again last Fall, members of Bearden High School Key Club sold parking spots at our Annex and raised a whopping \$13,210 for us.

☺ The lovely ladies of ADPi, both the UT and Tennessee Tech chapters, worked tirelessly throughout the year for our benefit, from volunteering at the House, assisting with our social media and raising greatly needed funds to the tune of \$16,034.

☺ In an effort to create and execute a business plan, members of Girl's Inc. made and then sold jars of multi-colored slime and were kind enough to donate \$160 of their profits to our House.

☺ And Board member Terri Hale was beyond proud of her four granddaughters who took it upon themselves to adopt us by selling lemonade to thirsty neighbors in their subdivision, raising an impressive \$150.

We could certainly feel the love that went into each and every donation!

## The Year at a Glance

- ◆ Eight different medical facilities referred families to us in 2018
- ◆ We served 1,528 people last year
- ◆ The top five reasons for a referral were: premature births, respiratory issues, behavioral problems, cancer, and bowel/colon disorders.
- ◆ Our families came from 39 counties within the state.
- ◆ We hosted families from 15 different states.
- ◆ Volunteers donated nearly 6,400 hours to us in 2018, a truly remarkable feat given by equally remarkable people!