



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE®

Many families travel far from home and spend several weeks or months to get treatment for their seriously ill or injured children – a long time to be away or to divide a family. And, for children facing a serious medical crisis, nothing seems scarier than not having mom and dad close by for love and support.

Our House is built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest. We believe that when a child is hospitalized the love and support of family is as powerful as the strongest medicine prescribed.

We provide a “home away from home” for families of children 18 years and under who are undergoing treatment for serious illness or injuries at Madison area health care facilities.

Each family is allowed one room in the House. For their initial visit with us, families must be referred by one of the approved Madison area health care facilities. A family must live at least 35 miles from their home address to our address in order to qualify to stay. Once a family has stayed here, they may come back for subsequent visits without a referral.

Because most families can't predict the length of their stay, we can't accept reservations. There's just no way to know when a room may become available. We do, however, maintain a waiting list each day. Families simply call us the day of their expected arrival to see if we have a room for them.

We ask a \$10 contribution per night. Room fees are sometimes covered by hospital funds for families that are financially burdened. No family is ever turned away for inability to pay. The \$10 room donation covers only a small portion of our actual costs to host a family. We rely on the kindness of our community, businesses, and individuals to help make up the difference.

Allow Families to Face the Weight of Illness Together

Families are stronger when they are together, which helps in the healing process. By staying at a Ronald McDonald House, parents also can better communicate with their child's medical team and keep up with complicated treatment plans when needed. They can also focus on the health of their child, rather than grocery shopping, cleaning or cooking meals.

Allow Children to Get the Best Care

When your child is sick, you want the best care possible – even if it is hundreds or thousands of miles away. The Ronald McDonald House allows families to access specialized medical treatment by providing a place to stay at little or sometimes no cost.

Services for Families

Home-cooked meals

Private bedrooms

Playrooms for children

Shuttle Service (RMCD house to/from AFCH)

For shuttle service, we have volunteer van drivers who can shuttle families between the hours of 8a-8p. We ask for at least an hour notice (or if it is for the next morning, they should sign up by 8pm the night before) so that we have time to notify the driver if they are not already at the House, since some just come in if they are called. Sometimes if a van driver is not available, we have other volunteers fill in whenever possible and we may ask the family to adjust pick up times etc. by a bit to accommodate for changing shifts. If no volunteer is available, we call a cab service which is at no cost to the family. We pay for the service. Last pick-ups at the hospital are 7:45p, so the driver is back by 8pm and the first ride can be at 8am. If families need to come or go before or after those times, they would need to pay for their own transportation.

Map and contact information

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Madison, Inc.

2716 Marshall Court

Madison, WI 53705

Phone: 608-232-4660

