



## MEET THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD **DANIEL ASHBURN**

Dan Ashburn knows what it is like to be a child in need. Growing up as one of 10 kids to a family of little means in Colonie, N.Y., Dan began working at a young age to help supplement the brood's daily living expenses. He worked hard mowing lawns and delivering papers, and at 16-years-old, Dan landed a job that would prove to be his big break: he began work as a crew person at the local McDonald's.

Working his way up the career ladder, Dan held various restaurant positions from swing manager to store manager, as well as various company positions from field supervisor to operations manager. In 1991, he purchased his first McDonald's restaurant in Agawam, Mass., and hasn't looked back since. He now owns a highly successful franchise operation of 10 restaurants throughout Western Massachusetts.



Over five years ago, Dan was approached by members of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts – McDonald's charity of choice – to serve on the Board of Directors. He didn't hesitate to join, appreciating the opportunity to help give back to the community and support children in need, a role he had once experienced himself.

There have been so many outstanding non-profits that have received RMHC grant funding over the years that Dan finds it hard to select the most rewarding. Overall, he says the best part of his tenure has been calling an organization to announce their request for funds has been granted. He is in such awe of the non-profits that do so much with so little, that it helps keep him grounded and reminds him what he and his fellow McDonald's operators are here to do: give back to the communities they serve and help improve the places where their customers work and live.



Dan is thankful that serving on the RMHC Board has allowed him to showcase all the great things that McDonald's does for the local communities. With canisters in the restaurants, in-store fundraisers throughout the year, and participation in grant research and funding initiatives, McDonald's owner/operators are dedicated to making RMHC a strong and vibrant charity. Dan and his fellow RMHC Board members then use this support to reach out across Connecticut and Western Massachusetts and help lift area children to brighter futures.

In 2007, RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts elected Dan as Vice President of the Board, and in 2009, elevated him to President. He is grateful for the chance to lead his peers in their service efforts and looks forward to providing grants for years to come.

In the meantime, Dan enjoys life in Westfield, Mass., with his wife Karen, and their daughters Alyssa, 14, and Karly, 12, who both have diagnoses of Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, respectively. Their struggles have provided an additional relevance to Dan's charity work, and give him a perspective for the needs of organizations addressing children with disabilities. Dan has a distinct desire to support these and all other non-profits that help children, and proceeds each day knowing that his RMHC service is helping to improve the lives of children who are aided by these organizations. As Dan notes:

*"If you live with the right goal in mind, then you will never do wrong."*

Dan Ashburn has clearly shown that he follows this motto, and the [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts](#) is lucky to have him at the helm.