



## MEET THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD LAURA PHILLIPS WARD

When asked to recall her favorite moment with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, Laura Phillips Ward notes she has had so many outstanding experiences that it's hard to remember just one. This is quite understandable; Laura has been involved with the charity for the better part of 10 years in a variety of roles, with her latest being the chapter's new President of the Board. Her background with the charity gives her a unique perspective that equips her to lead the organization in expanding its horizons and assisting children, potentially in creative ways that have yet to be pursued.

Laura began working with RMHC when she was a Public Relations Account Executive with Cronin and Company, the charity's agency of record. She managed programs and publicity for the local chapter from 2001-2007, and witnessed first-hand the ways in which the organization helps so many children throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.



Laura Phillips Ward presents a check to YWCA of Greater Hartford board members to fund a playground at their Early Learning Center.

In 2007, Laura left the agency to dedicate more time to her growing family. Her connection to the charity did not lapse long, though – in 2008, Laura joined the Board of Directors to once again help the organization that was near and dear to her heart. Her impact on the organization was felt immediately as Laura researched grants, handled funding presentations and provided direction for publicity and marketing initiatives. Her leadership quickly prompted her fellow Board members to vote Laura as Vice President of the Board in 2009, and recently, as President in 2010.

Laura is extremely dedicated to the mission of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, and she approaches her service on the principal “give and you shall receive.” In fact, Laura finds that the best-selling book *The Go-Giver* describes her philosophy on giving quite well:

*The book's main character, Joe, is an ambitious salesman who feels as if the harder and faster he works, the further his goals seem to be. He seeks advice from an enigmatic and legendary consultant, who teaches Joe that changing focus from getting to giving – putting others' interests first and continually adding value to their lives – ultimately leads to unexpected returns.*

Laura encourages others to follow these principals as well, and suggests ways that the average person can help the charity: for example, by contacting RMHC to arrange fundraisers with their favorite at-home party vendors such as Pampered Chef, Lia Sophia, Silpada, Creative Memories, Tupperware, etc., or by simply dropping change in the canisters they see at McDonald's counters and drive thru areas.

In fact, whenever Laura visits McDonald's with her two young children, she shows them that donating spare change to the canisters is a way that just a little bit can make a big difference. Even as she is busy juggling her family life, her own public relations consulting business of WardComm Public Relations, LLC, and her hobbies of crafting, baking and watching the New York Yankees, Laura finds the time to give a little each day to make an impact. She cites a quote from Bernard Meltzer that she thinks are words to live by:



Laura Phillips Ward visits Better Connecticut's Scot Haney & Kara Sundlun (not shown) to talk about RMHC.

*“Blessed are those who give without remembering. And blessed are those who take without forgetting.”*

As noted, Laura gives so much of her time and energy to RMHC that she finds it difficult to pinpoint just one occasion, instance or experience that stands out. She truly embodies these powerful words, and [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts](#) will certainly never forget Laura Phillips Ward's tremendous commitment to the organization.