

# Welcome to the RMHC® E-Newsletter!



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF CONNECTICUT & WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

**FORWARD TO A FRIEND**

**SUPPORT RMHC**

**SCHOLARSHIP INFO**

Happy holidays! The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts is proud to close 2011 having awarded over \$200,000 to 22 organizations. The charity looks to continue helping children and families in the New Year and beyond! Learn more about recent initiatives below, or by visiting [www.rmhc-ctma.org](http://www.rmhc-ctma.org).

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts will award a total of \$50,000 to local high school seniors this academic year through its Scholarship Program.



The RMHC HACER Scholarship is offered to students with Hispanic heritage, and the RMHC Scholars Scholarship is open to any student, regardless of race or ethnicity.



**The deadline for applications is January 27, 2012.**

To learn more and download applications, visit [www.rmhc-ctma.org/scholarships](http://www.rmhc-ctma.org/scholarships).

## LOCAL HERO AWARDS

The fifth annual RMHC Local Hero Awards were celebrated with a reception at the Connecticut Governor's Residence in Hartford on Wednesday, November 16. The program honors 10 outstanding teachers, who are selected with the help of the Connecticut Association of Schools and the Massachusetts Department of Education. Recipients were joined by their school principals and district superintendents, and were presented with commemorative plaques as well as \$1,000 grants for their respective schools. Jim Altman of FOX CT served as the master of ceremonies.



The 2011 Local Hero Award winners are as follows:

1. **Kelley Brown** - History Teacher, Easthampton High School/ Easthampton, MA
2. **Kristen Juda** - Social Studies Teacher, Har-Bur Middle School/ Burlington, CT
3. **Allysa Lombardo** - 3rd Grade Teacher, Washington School/ Waterbury, CT
4. **Kristi Luetjen** - Kindergarten Teacher, Whiting Lane School/ West Hartford, CT
5. **Pellegrino Mancini** - Special Education Teacher, Ivy Drive School/ Bristol, CT
6. **Joseph Peluso** - History Teacher, Guilford High School/ Guilford, CT
7. **Laurie Risler** - 4th & 5th Grade Teacher, Hilltown Co-op Charter School/ Haydenville, MA
8. **Allyson Singleton** - 3rd Grade Teacher, Memorial School/ East Hampton, CT
9. **Joyce St. Germaine** - Art Teacher, Bristow Middle School/ West Hartford, CT
10. **Keith Wright** - Science Teacher, Springfield Renaissance School/ Springfield, MA



## RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts visited Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford to check out the new pediatric medical equipment, made possible by a \$15,716 grant from the charity.

The new equipment will help with pediatric patient care at two community clinics that serve inner-city families.



Ronald McDonald joined RMHC Secretary Ed Abraham to present a check to Donna Benzinger, RN, BSN, Director Ambulatory Services for the Burgdorf and Gengras Clinics, and Dr. Fred Bogin, Chief of Pediatric Services.

## HOUSE UPDATES

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts is proud to support the local Ronald McDonald Houses in New Haven, Conn., and Springfield, Mass., through grants, quarterly donations and continuous collaboration.



### From the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut:

The Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut thanks the many donors, volunteers and McDonald's family members that have made 2011 such an incredible year. Through special events such as Trees of Hope and the generosity of those who support the House year long, we have continued to provide care, comfort and community to families every night of the year. We look forward to serving more families and providing even more services to our guests in 2012. Please join us to make all our guests feel the love, compassion and safety the Ronald McDonald House has to offer. Don't miss the next great event to support RMH-CT - our "Dancing Under the Stars" event on March 2 at the Omni New Haven Hotel Ballroom. Just like the TV show, dancers will compete in ballroom dancing and voters will select their favorites! To learn more, visit [www.rmhc-ct.org](http://www.rmhc-ct.org) or the [RMH Connecticut Facebook page](#).

### From the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield, Mass.:

The Ronald McDonald House of Springfield, Mass., proudly announces our new website has gone live! Please visit us at [www.ronmcdhouse.com](http://www.ronmcdhouse.com). You can also visit our [Ronald McDonald House of Springfield, Mass. Facebook page](#). We'd also like to introduce this year's Honorary Gala Chair: Mr. Tim Crimmins, President, Peoples Bank - Massachusetts! And please save the date; our Gala this year will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at The Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, Holyoke, Mass. The House is very thankful for all the support we received in 2011 and wish a happy, healthy holiday season and New Year to all!



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