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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
WRAPS UP 2010 GRANT-MAKING ACTIVITY

Local Charity Announces Over \$87,000 Awarded to Organizations in the Fourth Quarter

December 2010 – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts completed its grant-making activity for 2011, awarding nearly \$300,000 to a total of 24 organizations throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. In the fourth quarter, RMHC awarded a total of \$87,251 to eight organizations with programming designed to help children live happier, healthier, more productive lives.

“Our board of directors is proud to have supported so many wonderful children’s organizations this year,” says Laura Phillips Ward, President of RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “Heading into 2011, we continue to focus on organizations needing to fund education initiatives and we look forward to helping even more children attain life skills and reach their academic goals.”

RMHC’s fourth quarter grant recipients are:

- **Epoch Arts, East Hampton** – \$7,980 for new stage risers and lights for a theater group serving at-risk youth within the Middlesex area. Epoch Arts began as a small theater group in 1998 designed to provide positive creative activities for teenagers – including music, theater and art programs – that help enforce positive behaviors and personal development.
- **Jefferson Elementary School, New Britain** – \$19,339 for instruments and equipment to support music and artistic education programming; such programs have been slashed or eliminated due to budget cuts. The school is comprised almost exclusively of minority students, the great majority living in poverty. The school has an outstanding daily attendance rate of 98%.

- **Mount Marie Child Care Center, Holyoke** – \$2,280 to purchase youth furniture and equipment for the early childhood program, which provides care for over 100 preschool children from disadvantaged families. The Center is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield and is housed in the same complex as the elderly facility, thus providing unique inter-generational programming.
- **The Network Against Domestic Abuse, Enfield** – \$17,074 to purchase games, toys and furnishings for a shelter serving victims of domestic violence. The Tracey Thurman Shelter opened in 1988 providing a safe shelter to victims, with a separate children’s center designed to specifically address the needs of children suffering abuse. Approximately 100 children are expected to be housed in the shelter annually.
- **Providence Behavioral Health Hospital, Holyoke** – \$10,000 to fund computer systems and expressive art supplies that will help children with acute mental and behavioral issues. The hospital serves nearly 300 children between the ages of 6 and 17 annually.
- **St. Michael's Academy, Springfield** – \$7,065 for new science lab equipment to replace outdated and worn supplies. The school was founded in 2009 upon the merging of five separate elementary schools, and much of the consolidated equipment was not interchangeable and presented challenges for educators trying to teach and students trying to learn the science curriculum.
- **Square One, Springfield** – \$13,514 to purchase furnishings, materials and supplies for the new infant room of the children's center serving the city's most impoverished neighborhoods. The organization is renovating and upgrading its King Street Children’s Center, which will allow the facility to serve 187 school-aged children.
- **Thames Valley Council for Community Action, New London** – \$10,000 to purchase equipment that promotes gross motor and developmental skills for a childcare center serving low-income families residing in Southeastern, CT.

Since 1988 RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has provided more than \$6 million to over 400 non-profit organizations, helping thousands of area children lead happier, healthier and more productive lives. RMHC and its global network of local chapters in over 50 countries and regions have awarded more than \$460 million in grants and program services supporting children worldwide. For more information about RMHC or to apply for a grant, please call Carole Bowman at (860) 659-0514, visit www.rmhc-ctma.org, or connect on the “Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts” [Facebook page](#).

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