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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES AWARDS NEARLY \$13,000 TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS *Local Charity Announces First Quarter Grant-Making Activity*

February 24, 2009 – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has awarded \$12,995 to two local organizations. The grants will provide supplies and food for a children’s after-school program and purchase pediatric medical equipment.

“The RMHC Board of Directors is pleased to be starting 2009 by helping children in such a diverse way,” says Elizabeth Bergstrom, President of RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “The programs selected for this quarter’s grants exemplify the goal of RMHC to improve the lives of families and children in our communities. We are proud to help these programs continue their work.”

RMHC’s first quarter recipients are:

- **West Haven Community House Association, Inc.** – \$8,000 provided to the “Kids in the Neighborhood” after-school program to purchase daily snacks and supplies. Operating for a decade, Kids in the Neighborhood provides after-school care for 200 elementary school children in West Haven. The program operates directly in the Forest, Molloy, Savin Rock and Thompson elementary schools. Kids in the Neighborhood was created to keep kids safe and promote social behavior and academic achievement, while also expanding children’s skills and interests and forming positive relationships between adults, children and peers.

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- **Yale Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation** – \$4,995 provided for the purchase of an “OrthoPediatrics” quiet cast removal system. Compared to the average oscillating cast saw, the OrthoPediatrics cast saw allows pediatric casts to be removed in half the time, with the unit running at far lower temperatures (reducing the risk of irritation and burns) and at much lower decibel levels (noise from traditional saws can add emotional stress to the cast removal process and is often tied to trauma in children). As part of the Yale School of Medicine, the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, and specifically its Section of Pediatric Orthopaedics, continues to provide excellent care for patients while being sensitive to pediatric patients’ social, emotional and developmental needs.

Since 1988 RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts has provided more than \$5.5 million to over 350 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 or visit www.rmhc-ctma.org.

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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES AWARDS \$144,950 TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS *Local Charity Announces Second Quarter Grant-Making Activity*

April 28, 2009 – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts awarded \$144,950 to 13 local organizations in its second quarter. The grants provide a variety of services to children including those with special needs by building handicap accessible parks, purchasing technical equipment and supplies for camps designed to strengthen emotional and physical growth in children, and provide safe havens for at-risk youths.

“RMHC is thrilled to be supporting so many diverse community organizations,” said Daniel Ashburn, President of RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “RMHC was created to better the lives of children and their families in our community and we are delighted to be able to continue our work through these selected organizations.”

RMHC’s second quarter grant recipients are:

- **The ARC of Greater Enfield** – \$5,286 to purchase swimming, adaptive physical education, and nutrition and hygiene items needed for Camp Shriver, a six-week summer program. The camp provides year round recreation, leisure and enrichment programs for children with intellectual and related disabilities. The ARC of Greater Enfield is the only agency in Northern Connecticut that provides after-school programs, camps, advocacy services and relief to families dealing with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, LD, Down syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, ADD and ADHD issues.
- **Camp Jonathan in Watertown** – \$2,000 to purchase arts and crafts items, snacks and utensils to be used by children attending the camp. Camp Jonathan provides assistance to children who are dealing with the grieving process and gives them a safe place to share their feelings and experiences with experienced counselors.

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- **Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton** – \$15,525 awarded to upgrade FM Amplification equipment used in classrooms to help children and teachers to communicate more effectively. Opened in 1867, the school currently services 55 deaf and hard of hearing children from ages six to 16. The school strives to help children develop creative problem solving skills while encouraging independent thinking, reasoning and discovery of the world around them.
- **Educational Resources for Children, Inc. in Enfield** – \$5,000 awarded for the “Building Literacy” program to purchase curriculum items and activity supplies that promote literacy for an after school program serving at-risk children. The program strives to increase children’s literacy and academic success through after-school programs at learning centers in three Enfield schools.
- **High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. in Old Lyme** – \$22,113 for upgrades to the participant and family lounge used by over 200 people on a daily basis. The project will maximize the space and enhance efficiency, communication, education and comfort in a welcoming atmosphere. Founded in 1974, High Hopes strives to improve the lives of people with cognitive, physical and emotional disabilities through the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding.
- **Hospital for Special Care in New Britain** – \$14,166 for the “Garden of Hope” program that will provide a structured, play-based Sensory Room for the Pediatric Unit in order to enhance social, cognitive and emotional skills for children confined in the hospital for long periods of time. HSC provides long term medical care, support, and rehabilitation for people with serious and complex health needs with the goal of helping them lead the most active and healthy lives possible. There are currently 30 children in the Pediatric Unit of the hospital.
- **KIDSTEPS of SARAH, Inc. in Guilford** – \$25,000 awarded to purchase laptop computers and software for therapists to use during in-home visits with parents of special needs children. The program is designed to provide advocacy and support for special needs children and their families by helping them find the best options possible for care.
- **Lebanon Elementary School Parent Teacher’s Association in Lebanon** – \$10,000 awarded for the completion of “Bailey’s Garden,” a handicap accessible playground being built in honor of seven-year old Bailey Shifrin who died from a rare genetic syndrome. The project is in its final phase and is being built in accordance with the requirements of the American Disabilities Act so that all children can enjoy the park.
- **The Lions Club of New Britain** – \$1,500 awarded to the “Lions Community Eye Clinic” program to provide vouchers for children in need to purchase eye glasses. The program assures eye exams and eye glasses are available to all children of New Britain who are in need due to lack of funds or insurance.
- **My Sister’s Place, Inc. in Hartford** – \$21,000 awarded to improve privacy and safety for homeless women and children in the organization’s shelter. The grant will be used to purchase blinds for the windows and surfacing for an enclosed play area.
- **Police Activity League of Waterbury, Inc. (PAL)** – \$6,185 to purchase an identification card production kit, which includes a digital fingerprint scanner, digital camera and laser printer, for a Kid’s Identification System (KIDS) program. This will allow the Waterbury Police Department to provide parents with complete ID cards of their children without having to use the cumbersome fingerprinting board and ink.

RMHC Awards Second Quarter Grants

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- **Soul Friends, Inc. in Wallingford** – \$5,500 to purchase various items for the “Come, Follow Me!” program, such as trophies, workbooks and supplies used by children working with animals. Soul Friends provides therapeutic sessions to special needs children utilizing the human-animal bond to reinforce positive behavior and social skills. Over 3,000 children have been helped through the program’s five-year run.
- **Boy Scouts of America, Western Massachusetts Council, Inc. in Chicopee** – \$11,675 for the “ScoutReach Initiative,” which provides at-risk youths with valuable Scouting activities and experiences that would otherwise be unavailable, including a summer day camp. BSA builds upon programs already in place and brings the Scouting program of values, education, character development, environmental awareness and physical fitness to youths in urban and low income communities.

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RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® AWARDS NEARLY \$80,000 TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS *Local Charity Announces Grant-Making Activity*

October 30, 2009 – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts awarded \$79,138 to five local organizations in its third quarter. The grants provide funding for a variety of materials and supplies – from computers, to furnishings, to security equipment – which will be used by organizations serving at-risk children.

“The RMHC Board of Directors reviews grant requests four times each year, and is pleased to offer much-needed and deserving grants to various local children’s programs,” said Daniel Ashburn, President of RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “We’re so proud to be able to assist programs that will help foster children’s creative and educational needs as well as their health and wellbeing. We have been running our grant program for twenty years now and look forward to continuing our assistance for as many organizations as we can.”

RMHC’s third quarter grant recipients are:

- **The Children’s Home of Cromwell** – \$5,000 for supplies to be used by the Vocation Education program at the organization’s Learning Center – an on-grounds special education school serving highly at-risk children (youth who are in psychological and behavioral crisis due to the trauma of abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation). The funding will provide these children with the opportunity to explore music, movement, dance and other performing arts to guide them to become motivated and re-engaged in their school work and their futures.
- **The Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut in New Haven** – \$53,607 for renovations and improvements to this “home away from home” for sick children receiving treatment at nearby medical facilities. The funding will cover roof repairs and computer server upgrades.

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- **The Umbrella Group/Birmingham Group Health Services in Ansonia** – \$5,131 for furnishings and toys to be used in the playrooms at the organization’s crisis center and shelter. Computers, an educational video games system, storage units, tables and window dressings will help revamp the playrooms, where children at the center find comfort while they are enduring a traumatic experience.
- **Women’s Center of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc. in New London** – \$5,400 for an enhanced security system at the organization’s shelter serving women and children fleeing domestic violence and/or assault. The funding will allow the center to purchase security cameras, which will provide a safer living environment for residents who can focus on accomplishing their goals while growing and learning.
- **Your Place: Youth Center in New Haven**– \$10,000 for computer and IT equipment that will help at-risk youth develop computer literacy and graphic design skills. The center is located at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church and offers a year-round after-school teen program and a summer kid’s day and extended day program, all in an effort to end violence in New Haven by creating an alternative to gang and street life.

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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® WRAPS UP 2009 GRANT-MAKING ACTIVITY *Local Charity Announces Over \$58,000 Awarded to Organizations in Fourth Quarter*

December 21, 2009 – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts completed its grant-making activity for 2009, awarding \$295,700 to a total of 29 organizations throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. In the fourth quarter, RMHC awarded a total of \$58,617 to nine 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,” said Daniel Ashburn, President of RMHC of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “Heading into 2010, 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:

- **Boys & Girls Village in Milford** – \$10,249 for a program using musical instruments to foster participants’ behavioral and social functioning
- **InterCommunity in East Hartford** – \$2,138 for therapeutic supplies used during psychiatric therapy sessions with children
- **KIDSAFE CT in Rockville** – \$7,390 for recreational materials and educational supplies aiding children at risk of abuse or neglect
- **Link to Libraries in East Longmeadow** – \$4,000 to purchase books that are distributed to underserved libraries, schools and non-profit organizations

RMHC Awards Fourth Quarter Grants

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- **Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence in Springfield** – \$4,147 for digital cameras and equipment augmenting a science curriculum for inner-city school children
- **New Opportunities, Inc. in Waterbury** – \$7,000 for the Hoops4Life summer basketball program
- **PARC in Plainville** – \$1,479 to purchase supplies for a camp serving children with developmental disabilities
- **Springfield Girls Club and Family Center at Trinity United Methodist Church** – \$8,214 for sports equipment and arts and craft supplies for an after-school program
- **Springfield Jewish Community Center** – \$14,000 for specially outfitted tricycles provided to physically challenged children

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