



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PHILADELPHIA-BORN RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE® PROGRAM CELEBRATES 35 YEARS**

Greater Philadelphia Region home to four Ronald McDonald Houses,  
including world's first, founded in 1974

**Philadelphia (October 14, 2009)** – Thursday, October 15, 2009 marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, the first of 288 Ronald McDonald Houses in 52 countries and regions throughout the world, and of four in the Greater Philadelphia Region. These include the Philadelphia House's two locations (on Chestnut Street, and at the intersection of Front Street and Erie Avenue); the Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey, the world's 51<sup>st</sup> House, founded in 1983; and the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, the world's 137<sup>th</sup> House, founded in 1991.

"Together, our Region's Ronald McDonald Houses have proudly served as safe, affordable 'homes away from home' for nearly 75,000 families of seriously or chronically ill or injured children who've received treatment at area hospitals," said John Durante, president of Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of the Philadelphia Region, Inc.

At Ronald McDonald Houses worldwide, families can enjoy home-cooked meals, private bedrooms and playrooms for children. Additional services may also include special suites for children with suppressed immune systems, accredited education programs, recreational activities, non-clinical support services and sibling support services.

In return for services, families are asked to make a donation from \$5 to \$25 per day, depending on the House, although families are never turned away; if it is not possible to pay, the fee is waived.

Area Houses receive their support through the generosity of volunteers, donors and RMHC of the Philadelphia Region, Inc., whose mission is to directly improve the health and well being of local children. The Houses and charity in turn support 15 area Ronald McDonald Family

Rooms, located within local hospitals and medical facilities, which replicate the home-like atmosphere of the Houses.

To commemorate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House will host a birthday celebration on October 15 at which House founders Jimmy Murray and Dr. Audrey Evans will join guest families and staff in baking a birthday cake in the shape of the first House. The House will also host a birthday party at the Please Touch Museum on November 6, featuring food, dancing, exhibitions and a ceremony at which the House will present the "Dr. Audrey E. Evans Award of Excellence."

### **About RMHC**

RMHC of the Philadelphia Region, Inc. grants hundreds of thousands of dollars per year to support non-profit programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Locally, RMHC supports the Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey and Delaware Ronald McDonald Houses, in addition to the St. Christopher's Foundation for Children Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. The charity receives its support from McDonald's Corporation, McDonald's Owner/Operators, corporate donors and McDonald's customers. For more information, visit [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org).

### **About McDonald's**

McDonald's USA, LLC, is the leading foodservice provider in the United States serving a variety of wholesome foods made from quality ingredients to millions of customers every day. More than 80 percent of McDonald's 14,000 U.S. restaurants are independently owned and operated by local franchisees. There are nearly 300 McDonald's restaurants in the Greater Philadelphia Region. For more information on McDonald's visit [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com) or log on at any of the 10,000 Wi-Fi enabled McDonald's U.S. restaurants. Visit [www.mcstate.com](http://www.mcstate.com) for local restaurant, career and program information.

For more information, contact Cormack Glass at (215) 790-4371.

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