

Pile of Puppies to Bring Joy and Cuddles to Families with Seriously Ill Children Staying at Portland Ronald McDonald Houses

PORTLAND, Ore. (October 4, 2016) – Four families staying at Portland’s East Ronald McDonald House will be the lucky recipient of a new partnership with Pile of Puppies (POP), a local nonprofit that creates joyful experiences for chronically ill children and their families by surrounding them with a pile of puppies. On Tuesday, October 11 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., POP plans to deliver five Newfoundland puppies to the House to interact with four Ronald McDonald House families. The puppies come from the Notta Bear Newfoundland family.

“We are thrilled about this partnership and the joy it will bring our families,” said Jessica Jarratt Miller, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Oregon and Southwest Washington. “When families travel far from home for medical care, they leave behind their homes, friends and oftentimes their family pets. Having a pile of puppies to cuddle with for an afternoon is one way to bring immediate joy to a seriously ill child as well as relief to parents and caregivers.”

Ronald McDonald House Charities provides a “home away from home” for families with seriously ill children and can serve up to 50 families a day. There are two Houses in Portland, and both provide comfort, a well-stocked kitchen, and a loving community for families who stay at the Houses for days, weeks, months and in some cases, for as long as a year. RMHC has a number of programs, ranging from drop-in childcare to adventures in exotic cars, and Pile of Puppies is the latest program for families to enjoy.

"Our mission at Pile of Puppies is to bring joy to chronically ill children and their families by surrounding them with a pack of furry, delightful puppies," said Jennifer Trepanier, founder of Pile of Puppies. "The partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities is a perfect example of two organizations coming together for the mutual benefit of children and families in need. We are excitedly looking forward to many smiles, giggles and puppy hugs."

About RMHC

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington® provides a “home away from home” for families with seriously ill children, and supports initiatives to improve pediatric health. For more than three decades, our dedicated staff and volunteers have offered comfort and support, a well-stocked kitchen and a warm bed to more than 34,000 families. To accomplish this, we rely on the generosity of donors, community partners and the hundreds of volunteers who selflessly give to our organization every year. For more information, visit www.rmhcoregon.org.

About Pile of Puppies

Pile of Puppies is a registered Oregon public benefit corporation focused on bringing joy to severely ill children and their families, by surrounding them with puppies. To learn more, please visit www.pileofpuppies.org/.

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