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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES TO CELEBRATE RMHC DAY OF CHANGE ON THURSDAY TO KEEP FAMILIES CLOSE

Spare Change Donations at McDonald's Restaurants Helps Families with Seriously Ill Children

Portland, Ore., (October 14, 2015) – On Thursday, Oct. 15, [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington](http://www.rmhcoregon.org) (RMHC) is celebrating its annual Day of Change and more than 30 years of providing a “home away from home” for families with seriously ill children. RMHC invites individuals, businesses and community groups to support local families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses by visiting participating McDonald's on October 15 and dropping spare change into a RMHC donation box.

Throughout 2014, coins donated globally through the donation box program totaled more than \$54 million in support of nearly six million children and families. The RMHC Day of Change is the RMHC's annual call to action to support families with children facing medical crises. A full donation box could mean one night at a Ronald McDonald House for a family while their child receives medical treatment. Last year, Portland's two Ronald McDonald Houses hosted 2,073 families with seriously ill children.

“A simple act of kindness at the front counter is a powerful gift for families who have to travel far from home to get treatment for their seriously ill children,” said Jessica Jarratt Miller, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington. “For families with children in need of critical medical care, the thought of being more than a few steps from the hospital seems just too far. A person's spare change combined with that of their neighbors can add up to make a big difference for these families.”

McDonald's customers who participate in Day of Change are encouraged to share photos and how they helped to support RMHC on social media using #forRMHC.

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 32,000 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

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