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The Standard Named 2016 Partner of Distinction for Keeping Families Close

Annual award recognizes local business that makes significant contributions to Ronald McDonald House Charities to support families with seriously ill children

PORTLAND, Ore. (September 2, 2016) – Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC) of Oregon and Southwest Washington is pleased to honor Standard Insurance Company (The Standard) as its 2016 Partner of Distinction. This award recognizes a company that has made tremendous contributions to RMHC by creating a significant and lasting difference to the lives of families with seriously ill children who stay at Portland's two Ronald McDonald Houses.

The Standard is being honored for its long-time philanthropic support, employee engagement and volunteerism. The Standard began supporting RMHC with a \$10,000 gift to help build the East House in 1994 and has since contributed more than \$170,000. David Payne, vice president of Life and Disability Services at The Standard, serves on the RMHC Board of Trustees, and with his leadership The Standard has become the presenting sponsor of the RMHC Golf Classic and selected RMHC as a beneficiary of its 2016 Employee Giving Campaign.

"From helping us build our East Ronald McDonald House to launching a major employee giving campaign that will raise a substantial amount of money for our organization, The Standard has made a difference in the lives of thousands of seriously ill children and families who come to stay and heal at our 'home away from home,'" said Jessica Jarratt Miller, CEO of RMHC of Oregon and Southwest Washington. "We are thrilled to recognize them as this year's Partner of Distinction."

The Standard, founded and headquartered in Portland, Oregon, since 1906, is a leading provider of financial products and services, including group and individual disability insurance, group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, group dental and vision insurance, absence management services, retirement plans products and services, and individual annuities.

"The Standard is honored to receive this recognition from one of our key community partners, and on behalf of more than 2,800 employees we want to thank the board and staff of RMHC," said Bob Speltz, senior director of Public Affairs at The Standard. "Both The Standard and RMHC share a similar mission: being there for people when they need us most. That's one reason why we're proud of the partnership and thankful to our employees who have shared their time, talent and financial support with RMHC over many years."

The Standard will receive the Partner of Distinction award at the Hearts & Hands Gala on Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Oregon Convention Center. This special event features a live auction, cocktail reception, gourmet dinner with wine pairings from Ken Wright Cellars, dancing and more. Auction highlights from this year's event include a six-day African Safari, a wall of fine wines, weekend getaways to the beach or mountains, a Pendleton Round-Up adventure and more. To learn more about the event, visit rmhcoregon.org/gala.

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.rmhcuregon.org.

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