At first, the doctor thought Jillian was suffering from seasonal allergies. “She never ever complains and was getting headaches,” explains Jodi Sayre, Jillian’s mother. As the headaches and then vomiting continued to get worse, tests suggested the seven-year-old might instead have children’s migraines. “She was miserable,” says Jodi. Jillian then started experiencing double vision and pain in her limbs but a late night emergency room visit continued to provide no answers. “They said there was nothing wrong,” says Jodi.

An MRI scheduled later that week told a different story. Less than ten minutes after leaving the appointment, the Sayres received a call telling them to go straight to the local Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. “It was a whirlwind,” says Jodi. “We thought there was nothing wrong but then as soon as we walked in the hospital door, they were waiting for us—a huge team of strangers to tell us that our daughter had a brain tumor.”

Emergency surgery to remove the tumor revealed that it was cancerous. After a monthlong stay between Lehigh Valley Hospital and Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Center, Jillian and her family came to Philadelphia to begin 30 sessions of proton radiation therapy at the Perelman Center. The social worker at the hospital suggested the Sayres, who live more than an hour away in Macungie, PA, stay at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. Jodi and her husband Steve had heard of the Ronald McDonald House but had never anticipated needing to stay at one. “Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to be here and in need of it,” Jodi says. “We are thankful because we didn’t know what to expect with coming to stay here. It is scary going to live with your child who is not well in an unfamiliar place. From the minute we walked in, it was like a second home to us. All of those worries went out the door.”

Jodi and Steve also appreciated getting to know the other families in the House. “Within days we were meeting other families and hearing from other people in the same situation who understand—truly understand, not just try to understand,” says Jodi. “We couldn’t wait for other families to come downstairs to see how their child was doing, and they wanted to see how Jillian was doing. It’s like you become one big family in an instant.”

The Sayres don’t know what they would have done without the Ronald McDonald House. “I just could not imagine getting through this time in our lives without the House. I couldn’t imagine coming here but now I couldn’t imagine not coming here,” says Jodi. “Financially it would have been such a huge burden. You plan for vacations, you plan to buy something big for your house, but you don’t plan for your child to get a brain tumor.”

Jillian, who came to the House in a wheelchair following her surgery but has since regained the strength to walk, has now completed her proton therapy and will continue with eight six-week chemotherapy sessions. While the Sayres checked out of the House at the end of August following a nearly two-month stay, they know the doors will always be open to them in the future. “It is like a big warm hug waiting for you,” says Jodi.

If you would like to help provide comfort and support to families like the Sayres, please visit www.philarmh.org and learn how you can get involved.

“From the minute we walked in, it was like a second home to us. All of those worries went out the door.”

Jillian Sayre with her parents Jodi and Steve
Dear Friends,

As we head into fall, the hustle and bustle of summer vacations and the hot weather that accompanied them is almost a distant memory. Summer ended with another wonderful week of Ronald McDonald Camp providing support to 200 oncology campers and siblings. I want to thank the volunteer counselors and medical staff who helped make the week at camp such a success.

We are thrilled to welcome back a familiar face, Tina McDonnell, as our new Director of Operations. Many of you will remember Tina from 10 years ago when she served as the Director of Volunteers right here at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. Tina, who comes to us from Fox Chase Cancer Center where she was Director of Volunteer Services, will enable us to more effectively serve our current families while expanding our capacity to serve the continuously growing number of families who need our services.

In order to accommodate even more families, we have plans to convert lounge space at the Front & Erie House into two wheelchair-accessible bedrooms to bring the total number of families served each night to 20. If you know of an organization or individual that would like to help support this great need, and provide accommodations for more families each night, I would be delighted to show them what a difference they can make for our families by being a part of the expansion at our Front & Erie House.

In addition to expanding our capacity to serve more families, our goal is also to expand the programs that are available to them, making their lives just a little bit easier while they are here with us. For example, in August, we were happy to kick off a new Art and Music Therapy program at Front & Erie, in partnership with the Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy, to enhance the therapeutic value of our offerings. Do you have any program ideas that we could institute? We are always looking for suggestions and, of course, financial support.

I invite you to visit our website at www.philarmh.org to learn more about these programs and about what we are doing to support families with seriously ill children who rely on us every day.

Regards,

Marlene Weinberg
President of the Board

Tina McDonnell
Director of Operations

The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House Partners
With The National Dog Show
And The Kennel Club Of Philadelphia

Attend the Dog Show and Support the House
Save $3 on the admission price to the Kennel Club of Philadelphia Dog Show at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks on Sunday, November 17 by entering the promo code RONALD when you purchase your tickets online at www.nationaldogshow.com/tickets. A portion of ticket proceeds will benefit the families of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

Spotlight Therapy Dogs
On Friday, November 15 a very special event will be held at the Chestnut Street House to spotlight our therapy dog partners. In addition to our furry friends the event will also be attended by John O’Hurley of “Seinfeld”; David Frei, the face of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show; and Mary Carillo, the journalist known for tennis, Olympic Games, and dog show coverage.

Visit www.philarmh.org/Dogshow to find out how you can support the therapy dog fundraiser and to purchase tickets for the event on November 15.
The Harlan Family’s Story

When Colleen and Nate Harlan first learned about Alexandra, they knew they wanted to help. Nearly 16 years old, Alexandra had spent her life in an orphanage in Ukraine coping with severe arthrogryposis, a rare congenital disorder causing very stiff joints and abnormal muscle development. On her sixteenth birthday, Alexandra was set to move into an institution for the rest of her life where she would no longer be eligible to be adopted—a common outcome for children with significant disabilities in the country. “We couldn’t let that happen,” says Colleen.

With six biological children of their own including a newborn, Colleen and Nate set out to adopt Alexandra. After a rushed process that included a monthlong stay in Ukraine, the Harlans welcomed Alexandra into their home in Indiana. “We loved her right away,” says Colleen.

Once in the United States, the Harlans started to work on getting Alexandra, who was unable to walk, the care she needed. They soon learned that, because of her advanced age, Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia was one of the only places willing to treat her. As a result, the family has been making the 12.5 hour drive from Indiana to Philadelphia every two weeks since January—14 trips to date—so that Alexandra can undergo castings and surgeries. During these visits, the Harlans—who alternate which of their six other children they bring with them—stay at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House at Front & Erie.

Being able to stay at the House makes the expenses of the Harlan’s frequent trips easier to manage. “To only have to pay $15 a night to stay here is huge because if we had to stay at a hotel, I can’t even imagine how much debt we would be in,” says Colleen.

The emotional support they receive during their stays is also critical. “The staff here is amazing. You can tell that they care about everyone,” says Colleen. “That is so important when you are far away from home, you are exhausted and emotionally drained, your child is in a lot of pain, and you are thinking you have no support system here. It is wonderful to have that kind of family atmosphere where you do feel like you have support here. If we were staying in a hotel we would not have that at all.”

In addition to support from the staff, the Harlans also find getting to know the other families at the House to be extremely valuable. “We’ve been able to meet so many families with arthrogryposis. It has been amazing to see Alexandra connect with them,” says Colleen. “At home there are not a lot of children who have arthrogryposis so it is not a common occurrence for Alexandra to be around children who have it but a lot of children from Shriners stay here at the House. It is very special.”

The Harlans will travel regularly to Philadelphia for treatment for the next two years while Alexandra gains the ability to walk on her own. During that time, they will continue to call the House their home. “We are very thankful for the Ronald McDonald House,” says Colleen. “It’s been a huge blessing for us.”

Making Room For More Families At Front & Erie

At both of our Ronald McDonald Houses, the demand for our services continues to grow. Within the first six months of 2013, there were more than 1,450 families between both of our Houses that we could not accommodate because we were full.

In response to the growing need for more space at our Houses, we will be converting lounge spaces at our Front & Erie House into two additional bedrooms. These two bedrooms will be fully wheelchair-accessible to support the growing population of families with children in wheelchairs being treated at hospitals within close proximity to our Front & Erie House. This renovation will bring the room count at our Front & Erie House to 20 rooms and will allow us to serve a total of 65 families each night at both Houses combined.

In order to complete this project, we need your help! We need to fundraise an additional $25,000 to complete this expansion project. Please consider supporting our expansion by completing the enclosed remittance envelope and mailing in a donation. You can also make a donation online by visiting www.philarmh.org/FE2013. Your contribution will go to ensure families like the Harlan family will have a place to call home at our Front & Erie House when they need it most. Thank you!
Board Member Spotlight: Mark Turner

When Mark Turner first started volunteering at the Front & Erie House in 2008, he was adding another chapter to a long history of involvement with Ronald McDonald Houses. Having volunteered at Houses in North Carolina, Dallas, and Baltimore before taking a break while his three children were young, Mark knew he wanted to get involved again. “I absolutely support the mission and embrace what they are doing for families,” he says.

Mark, who lives in Berwyn with his wife Christine and is Co-Founder and President of Turner Investment Partners, has been a weekly Monday evening volunteer ever since. He contributes in any way that is needed during his shift; typical responsibilities include working at the front desk, checking in families, giving tours, and helping out with a wide variety of maintenance tasks. “Maurice, the Resident Manager, usually has a to-do list for me when I get there,” Mark jokes. Following in their dad’s footsteps, two of Mark’s children—Polina and Sam—have even joined in to become volunteers at the House.

In 2011, Mark was invited to join the Board. “I felt flattered,” he says. “The Board is a great group of people to work with.” For Mark, the most rewarding aspect of being involved is seeing the impact on the families who stay at the House. “The House really manages to feel like a home away from home instead of a hotel where people check in and out of; I think that has to do with the environment and the people who are there as volunteers and staff,” he says.

Mark is also continually impressed with the wide reach of the House. “The houses are really global in nature,” he says. “I never stop being amazed by how you see people from all over the United States and the world who are coming to local hospitals to receive care. For people who are out of their environment, the Houses do a great job of making them feel welcome, comfortable, and safe.”

Based on his own experience, Mark encourages anyone considering volunteering with the House to jump in. “If people are thinking about it, I encourage them to get involved in some way. There are all sorts of ways to get involved—a little or a lot,” he says. “I think they’ll have a positive experience and want to get even more engaged.”

The Oncology Ronald McDonald Family Room Gets A Special Visitor

This summer, we had a very special visitor to the Ronald McDonald Family Room on the Oncology floor of The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia: the one and only Ronald McDonald! Ronald visited with the patients and their families and performed amazing tricks that brought smiles to the faces of children and adults alike.

Our two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms extend the support of our Houses into the hospital, offering a quiet respite space away from the bedside to families with children receiving treatment on the Oncology and Cardiology floors at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

To learn more about our Family Room program, visit www.philarmh.org/FamilyRoom

Guest Chef Spotlight

Carrie Ann Creed, accompanied by her coworkers from Citibank US, was just one of the Guest Chefs who provided a meal for the families at our Chestnut Street House this summer. What made this dinner so special was Carrie’s story. About 11 years ago, Carrie and her family actually stayed at the Chestnut Street House while she was undergoing surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. “Everyone here became our family,” she said. “I just wanted to do something good for the House that did something so great for me.”

Please visit www.philarmh.org/guestchef to learn more and view a complete list of previous Guest Chef Groups and photos.
Donations From The Heart (4/1/2013 - 6/30/2013)

$25,000 and above
Mr. Ron Krancer & Family
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region

$10,000 to $24,999
97.5 The Fanatic
Family Dermatology Group
The Lombard Estates & Rittenhouse Estates
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lotman
Philly Cooks—Philadelphia magazine
Ronald McDonald House Charities
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey

$5,000 to $9,999
Aberdeen Asset Management, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Fundraiser In Memory of Oden Brown
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Callanan
Crowley Chemical Company
Image FIRST Uniform Rental Services Inc.
Ms. Cynthia M. Keaveney
Keystone Foods Corporation
Montufar Family
Permalith Plastics, LLC
Soros Fund Charitable Foundation
Matching Gifts Program
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Turner
ViroPharma, Inc.

$1,000 to $4,999
2013 Library Uniting Students—West Chester Area Schools Fundraiser
2013 Rods n Rails Event
Mr. Dustin J. Achey—Fundraiser In Memory of Nevon Ryder
The Addis Group
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Adler
Mr. Richard Adelizzi
Adminovate
Altisate Foundation
Altman Management Company, Inc.
Anthony & Sylvia Pools
Ardmore Toyota and Central City Toyota
Mr. and Mrs. Ami Arora
Beazley Group
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Berman
Mr. Dane T. Bernard
Employees Community Fund of The Boeing Company
Mrs. Donna Calvert
Charles River Laboratories
Coca-Cola—McDonald’s Division
Comcast Spotlight
Commonwealth National Golf Club
Mr. Patrick Coyne
Brandon Crosby Memorial
The Dale L. Reese Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. DiBello Jr.
Drexel eLearning, Inc.
East River Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Emmi
Enterprise Label Inc.
Ernst & Young
Estate of Frances Bonikowski
Dr. Audrey E. Evans
Fox Rothschild Attorneys At Law
Mr. and Mrs. William Garbouse
Mr. Rich Garris
Earl Goldberg Memorial
Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Gonzalez Jr.
Goodman Properties
Google Matching Gifts Program
2013 Graybar Cares Event
Mr. Matthew Greenbaum
James F. Grondin Memorial
Hagan Foundation
Haverford Trust Company
Hillside Avenue School 2013 Art Expo Hunter Roberts Construction Group
Hymie’s Deli in Merrion & Gillane’s Restaurant in Ardmore
Innovative Print & Media Group, Inc.
Jack Miller Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Keith
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kerley
KPMG, LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lassin
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Leven
Liberty Mutual
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Liits
In Honor of Tyler Liits
Delaware Investments
Mr. and Mrs. John Madonna
Marshall
Mr. Peter Maruca
Mr. and Mrs. Scott J. Mason
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Mickelberg
Mid-Atlantic Family Restaurants, Inc.
National Time Systems
Dr. and Mrs. Marc Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Nelson
Oakmont Elementary School
2013 Bingo Night
Ms. Audrey O’Reilly
Mr. Jeffrey Parker
PNC Financial Services Group
Pro Computer Service
Racing to Register
RBC Capital Markets, LLC
Riley Sales, Inc.
Mr. Tony Rim
Anna Roberts Memorial
Mr. Mark Rosenberg
Ms. Barbara Rubin
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rush
Mr. Eric J. Sheron
Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Singer
Mr. Andrew Smith
Southport Plaza Corporation
Mr. Michael S. Tornvall
Truist
United Scrap Metal
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Weil
Mrs. Marlene Weinberg
The Weiser Philanthropic Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Sydney G. Wilson III
Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer, Toddy P.C.
Zurich American Insurance Company

$500-$999
2013 Ferrari Club of America
The A.H. & Helen L. Weiss Foundation
AIG Matching Grants Program
Ms. Debbie Albano
Alevist Group, LLC
Mr. Edward N. Antoian
AT&T United Way/Employee Giving Campaign
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Bacie
Barry E. Horow, P.C.
Ms. Barri Baurer
Amanda and Eric Bellucci
Mr. and Mrs. Hasy Bock
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Mr. Charles Carroll
Mr. Daniel Clancy
Columbus Social Club
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Conicella
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Connor
Andrea Costain Memorial
Mr. Larry Conte
Mr. Jeff Coulter
Covered Bridge Capital, LLC
CSX Corporate Citizenship
Dekalb Chiropractic Center
DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia—Valley Forge
Esiner Amper, LLP
Mr. Joseph Elliott
Environmental Standards Inc.
In Honor of Charlotte Falk
Ms. Rena Falk
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fenster
Mr. Charles Gendron
Germantown Academy
Global Impact
Mr. Ben Greberman
Mr. Jeffrey S. Gross
Mr. Bill Haines
Mr. Christian Heine
Hope Roofing & Restoration
Mr. Allan Horwitz
IBM Employee Services Center
Indigo Schuy
Iron Mountain Data Protection Storage
Johnson & Johnson—Matching Gifts Program
Dr. and Mrs. Hyman R. Kahn
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lassin
La-Z-Boy of Philadelphia
Len Finkel, Inc.
Ms. Cait Levy
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Looker
Wayne R. Looker Memorial
Mariam Family Enterprises, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McAlere
Mr. Christopher P. McGill
Mr. Steven Menson
Mr. Charles Miller
Mr. Keith Morris
Mason Mugagero Barooshian Memorial
Morris J. Cohen & Co.
Mr. Charles Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey M. Nason
Mrs. and Mr. Ruth Nathanson
Obar Systems Inc.
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Phil Ad Mac, Inc.
Philadelphia Insurance Companies
The Progressive Insurance Foundation
Prudential Fox & Roach
Mr. Larry Raff
Mr. Steven Rathjen
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Mr. Bruce Redpath
The Rittenhouse Foundation
Mr. Bill Roberson
Mr. and Mrs. Vasudev Santhos
2013 Savage Skulls Philadelphia Club Event
Ms. Sandra Saxton
Mr. Kevin C. Schildt
Mr. and Mrs. William Smilow
Dr. and Mrs. David B. Soll
Springfield Lioness Club
Mr. Brian Sterback
Ms. Gwynneth S. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Sutow
In Honor of Connor Thomas
Tohickon Middle School—2013 Pi Day
Mr. Michael Trager
TransAmerican Office Furniture
Trion Group
Verizon Foundation
Wells Fargo Advisors
Mr. and Mrs. Don Wenger
Mr. Michael Whitman
Jimmie Williams Memorial
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Zamkoff
Ms. Mona Zaoudeh

Due to space limitations, we are unable to list donations of less than $500. All donations are sincerely appreciated.

It’s United Way Time!
Make a difference in the lives of over 2,000 families a year by directing your United Way contribution to support the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House through the Donor Choice Program. Just select the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House as your agency of choice. We’re Donor Option #3288.
We're So Thankful For...

1. **2013 Perform-A-Thon**
   In coordination with Jacobs Music, this fundraiser and 3-day recital took place from April 19 through April 21 and offered young musicians a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform at the CBS 3 Studios in downtown Philadelphia. Special thanks to all of the studios that participated and to all of the talented student musicians who came out to showcase their hard work. The studios collectively raised over $12,400 for the families of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

2. **Volunteer Appreciation Celebration**
   On April 24, over 200 House volunteers and their guests gathered at the Inn at Penn for the annual volunteer appreciation celebration. The festive evening included cocktails, dinner, dancing, and friendly gaming as volunteers enjoyed each other’s company and witnessed an unforgettable performance put on by the PRMH staff. We would like to thank the Inn at Penn and its Blue Energy Team for hosting, staffing, and providing the delicious food for the evening’s festivities. A very special thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who truly are the heart of our organization! Photos courtesy of a fresh focus photography.

3. **5th Annual Plane Pull**
   Thank you to everyone who participated in our 5th Annual Plane Pull at Atlantic Aviation on May 4. It was great day of food, fun, and a whole lot of pulling. This year, with your help, we surpassed our fundraising goal and collected nearly $98,000 for the families staying at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. We would like to send a special shout out to the 2013 Plane Pull Champions—Keenan Auto Body Team PHILLY W.I.T. (Whatever It Takes). We are already looking forward to next year! Photos courtesy of a fresh focus photography.

4. **Richie Nelson Celebration of Life Golf Outing**
   The Richie Nelson Celebration of Life Golf Outing took place on May 16 at the PineCrest Golf Club. We are so thankful to the organizers of the event, all of the participants, and the generous sponsors of this year’s golf outing. Following the event, the planning committee presented a check for $38,000 to the House. We could not be more grateful!

5. **Bloomingdale’s Fashion Show**
   On May 16, Bloomingdale’s in King of Prussia hosted a fashion event to benefit the families of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. In conjunction with the McDonald’s McWrap promotion, Philadelphia-based fashion designers lent their talents to create one-of-a-kind dresses for an online auction benefiting the House. This first year event and auction raised over $6,000 for the House. Photo courtesy of Jasen Hudson & McDonald’s.
13th Annual Hit ‘Em for the House Golf & Tennis Outing
We would like to thank all of the generous participants who joined us in engaging in some friendly competition at this two-day event. The 13th Annual Hit ‘Em for the House outing consisted of a golf tournament, card games and a day of tennis, all put on to raise money for our families. In the end, the Hit ‘Em for the House events raised over $200,000. Thank you to all of the event sponsors, donors, and supporters for a very successful Hit ‘Em for the House event! 
*Photos courtesy of a fresh focus photography.*

Mike Missanelli Open
This year we were pleased to be named the beneficiary of the Mike Missanelli Open golf outing, hosted by 97.5 FM the Fanatic Philadelphia. As the beneficiary of the event, we were presented with a check for over $11,000 to support our programs. We are so grateful for this generous donation and the opportunity to be associated with such a great partner. Thank you to all the golfers who came out and made this event such a success!

Audi quattro Cup Golf Tournament
On Monday, June 24 we partnered with Don Rosen’s Audi Willow Grove and co-hosted the 2013 Audi quattro Cup at the Commonwealth National Golf Club. The event participants took part in the largest amateur golf tournament in the world, with the chance to advance to the U.S. National event at The Kiawah Island Golf Resort near Charleston, South Carolina. Special thanks to Audi Willow Grove and all the generous donors for supporting the event, raising over $35,000 for the House. Special thanks to Stephen Brodsky for all of his help with the event organization. 
*Photo courtesy of Marisa Train Photography.*

Philalympics
On Wednesday, July 10, Zarwin Baum DeVito Kaplan Schaer Toddy, P.C. hosted the first annual Philalympics at the Wells Fargo Center. Top companies from around Philadelphia competed in Philadelphia themed competitions to win the title of Philadelphia’s “phunnest” company. This inaugural event brought in $20,000 to help support the families we serve. We would like to thank all of the event sponsors and participants for their support. Thank you also to The Fun Department, eXude, Inc., and Yards Brewing Company for contributing to the success of the event. Finally, we would like to thank and congratulate Comcast-Spectacor—the winning team that was crowned the “phunnest” company in Philadelphia!

Brand Source
Our kitchens are used by over 2,000 families each year and a different Guest Chef Group each night. The frequent use takes quite a toll on the appliances in our kitchens, and Brand Source is a partner that recognizes that. Thanks to a recent donation from Brand Source, we now have three new Maytag gas ranges and three new Maytag dishwasher for our families and Guest Chef Groups to use!
Less than ten minutes after leaving the appointment, the Sayres received a call telling them to go straight to the local Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. “It was a whirlwind,” says Jodi. “We thought there was nothing wrong but then as soon as we walked in the hospital door, they were waiting for us—a huge team of strangers to tell us that our daughter had a brain tumor.”

—Jodi Sayre

(continue reading on front cover)