As he celebrates his 20th year at Ronald McDonald Camp (RMC), Andre Saballette recalls his first day of camp perfectly. “I remember not wanting to go and feeling almost forced to go,” he says. “My mother said ‘go this year, and if you don’t like it, you won’t have to go again.’” So I agreed although I was very nervous. Once on the bus, everyone was so nice, and I thought ‘okay, this isn’t so bad.’ Then they started passing out cookies, and I thought, ‘okay, this is getting better.’ By the time we arrived at camp, to my surprise, I had already made a friend on the bus.”

Over 240 kids aged 7 to 17 attend RMC in the Poconos every year and share an unforgettable week. Andre remembers it being an amazing experience. “I got off the bus and never looked back. I had the best week of my life. I knew I was going back the next year, and I have been going back every year since,” he says.

At RMC, kids with cancer and their siblings have a chance to experience new activities and acquire new skills in a supportive, nurturing environment. They also have the freedom to talk about cancer, knowing that everyone else there understands. The programs are intentionally designed so that campers can participate regardless of the challenges they face or limitations they have. Those who attend are also able to develop a wide-reaching support network that will last long after the week of camp is over.

Former or current patients attend camp at no cost, and funding is provided through generous contributions from individuals, companies, and foundations. The staff comprises 120 volunteers, many of whom are former campers themselves, and a full team of medical and psychosocial staff from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia attends the entire week. This lets parents relax, knowing that their children are in good hands.

For many campers, the week at camp offers opportunities to try new things, discover new talents, and gain a sense of self-confidence that often goes missing when battling cancer. RMC offered Andre a chance to develop his personality and conquer his fears. “There was a very tall zip-line. When I climbed up, I looked down and saw that everyone below looked like ants,” he says. “I thought to myself ‘what did I just do?’ But I conquered that fear, and I stopped being scared of always getting hurt while taking a leap of faith. And then I began to love zip-lining.”

Andre found out about camp when he was nine years old while he underwent treatment for bilateral retinoblastoma, a rare form of cancer that affects the retina in both eyes. 20 years later, he is a proud camp counselor, eager to provide hope and comfort to every child who attends.

“For many campers, the week at camp offers opportunities to try new things, discover new talents, and gain a sense of self-confidence that often goes missing when battling cancer.”

Andre’s Story

Andre Saballette (top row, fourth from the left) with campers

Andre’s Story

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Andre’s Story
As we prepare to welcome over 240 excited campers to this year’s Ronald McDonald Camp (RMC), I would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose generosity allows us to provide critical programs that directly benefit the families that we serve. Without this crucial support, we would not be able to provide the necessary accommodations and services where children and families can find comfort and hope while feeling fully supported with their ongoing struggle with serious health issues.

Once again, we are very grateful to have dedicated Camp staff members who volunteer their time each summer to give the campers a fun-filled week where the dreariness of illness is replaced with friendship and motivation. Ask any of the parents what RMC means to them, and they will tell you about the importance of having their children participate in a yearly gathering where they can connect with others who personally understand their challenges in a supportive, nurturing environment.

While the campers are enjoying numerous activities in the Poconos, back at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, we continue to finalize plans for our expansion at Chestnut Street. Now more than ever, our mission remains vital as we turn away an average of 14 families every day during their greatest time of need. Expanding our existing services with more accommodation rooms to support more families in need is a massive undertaking and we will need even greater help and support from the community in order to turn this need into a reality.

The work that we do every day and every night benefits thousands of children and families from many different places and cultures, but we cannot do it alone. It takes a significant amount of resources to operate our programs, and I hope that you will consider supporting our efforts. Please visit us online at www.philarmh.org to learn more about how you can become involved.

With gratitude,

Peter J. Degnan

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**Champions of Hope Awards**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Join us for our first annual Champions of Hope Awards dinner to celebrate both our visionary founders and the volunteers that provide comfort and hope to our families.

**Presentation of the 2016:**

**Dr. Audrey E. Evans Award of Excellence**
Honoring Scott H. Kozin, M.D.

And the

**James “Jimmy” Murray Community Leadership Award**
Honoring Suzanne Root, Esq.

For more information, visit philarmh.org/champions

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October 6, 2016
6:30 p.m. Reception
7:30 p.m. Dinner

Union League of Philadelphia
140 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA
We are grateful to IBEW Local 98 for generously preparing a meal for our families at the Front & Erie House. IBEW also presented the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House with $20,000 for general operations.

Thanks to this wonderful group, families were able to enjoy a warm, nutritious meal served with a friendly smile. We appreciate this group’s generosity and dedication to serving our guest families in their greatest time of need.

If you would like to participate in our Guest Chef program, please contact Lori-Anne Miller at lori-anne@philarmh.org.

On Tuesday, March 22 from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, CBS3 and the CW Philly partnered with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region, Inc. for the Seventh Annual “Change the Luck of a Child” Telethon.

The event was presented by Capital One, ShopRite, and Tri-State Toyota Dealers Association.

We received an overwhelming response from the community and raised over $1,100,000 to directly support the programs of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Houses of Delaware and Southern New Jersey.

Thank you to all of the individuals who supported this event and our most heartfelt gratitude to our valued partners who sponsored the 2016 Telethon.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Di Bruno Bros. for donating a delicious spread of food for our sponsors and volunteers, and to Coca-Cola and Yards Brewing Company for donating beverages. To see more photos from the Telethon, visit our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/philarmh.
Aberdeen Asset Management Inc.
Amber Nicole Trowbridge Memorial Fund
American Kitchen Machinery
American Solutions for Business
Araram Leisure
Bloomingdale’s King of Prussia & Willow Grove
Brad McPhee & Pat Tagliolini
British & Chilean Chambers of Commerce
Annual Fundraiser at Boyds Philadelphia
Bruce & Nadine Goldenberg
Budget Maintenance
Cancer Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Cara’s Sweethearts
CJR Memorial Foundation
Coldwell Banker Preferred
Construction Financial Management Association - Philadelphia Chapter
Contemporary Staffing Solutions
CSL Behring
Dan & Edwina Amoroso
Denny Parisan & the County Corvette Toy Drive
Di Bruno Bros.
DLL financial solutions partner
Dominic V. DiCicco Memorial Golf Outing
Donna Calvert & Family in honor of Stephen Calvert
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia Center City
Dr. Twining & Deanna Campbell
Epic Health Services
ERT
Gemini Bakery Equipment
Guidi Homes, Inc.
Hairy Tailed Wallaby
In honor of our grandchildren – Jack Ruane, Ryan Ruane, Ali Ruane & Gavin White
Fred & Barbara White
In honor of Whitney Fox
In loving memory of Alexa C. Artis
In loving memory of Scott Adam Menkowitz – Michael & Amy Menkowitz

Richie Nelson Celebration of Life Golf Outing
RSM
Shari & Mark Rosenberg
The Beny农场
The Brian Seibert Memorial Fund
The Campbell/Delaney Family
The Goldberg Group & People Helping People Foundation
The Goldstein & Liss Families
The Greene & Schaefer Families
The H&K Group
The Haddonfield Office of Janney Montgomery Scott + NFL Alumni Philadelphia Chapter
The Joseph Plumitallo Memorial Foundation
The June & Steve Wolfson Family Foundation
The Katie Kirlin Fund
The Montufar Family
The Persinger Cookie Throwdown
The Roak Family
The Young Lawyers’ Section of the Delaware County Bar Association
Thomas & Maryann Fenerty
Turner Investments
UAS
Van Aken Family Foundation
Wylie’s Day Foundation
Yards Brewing Company

We greatly appreciate JPMorgan Chase (pictured above) for their support as one of our Adopt-A-Room sponsors. We are also grateful to their Philadelphia employees, who won the JPMorgan Chase Giving Tuesday State Giving Challenge, which directed a $25,000 grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

The generosity of our Adopt A Room donors allows us to fulfill our mission of supporting families with seriously ill children by creating a community of comfort and hope.

To renew your sponsorship or to become a 2017 Adopt A Room Sponsor, please contact Chris Callanan at chris@philarmh.org.
Growing up as a young girl, I always knew that I wanted to teach and spend time with children. I grew up in Lower Merion, attending wonderful public schools that provided me with the opportunity to have a good education.

Even so, I wouldn’t have guessed the exact way that this dream unfolded. In tenth grade, an art class mistakenly appeared on my schedule. I’d never had a desire to draw, but an amazing art teacher helped me discover that I had hidden talents. It became my favorite subject, and throughout the rest of high school, I spent many hours each day in that classroom.

That small mistake on my schedule led me to attend Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, where Art Education became my major. It was there that I developed my love of teaching and working with children. For many years, I taught Art to elementary age children, and also worked at the Widener School for the Handicapped where I taught children with physical limitations and under-privileged children. From those experiences, and so many truly wonderful years of teaching, I knew that someday—if I was fortunate enough—I would give back to a charity involving young people.

That is what led me to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (PRMH). Coming home from a vacation nine years ago, I saw an old friend on my flight. She asked me what I was doing these days, and I told her that I had retired and was actively looking to volunteer at a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and their families. She then said to me, “That is so crazy—I have an interview next week at PRMH to do the same.” I had heard of PRMH, but did not know anything about it. I asked her if I could come as well to see the organization and find out more about it. Of course, she said “yes,” and that was the beginning of the best part of my life. When I walked into the House I knew that I was home. The overwhelming warmth and support that I saw that day, and the mission that they were carrying out, was everything that I was looking for.

After volunteering for six years, I knew in my heart that I wanted to increase my involvement and help the growth of this wonderful place. And I was so honored and thrilled to have been asked to come on the Board, three years ago.

Throughout the years I have seen the daily lives of the families at the House every week. Sometimes I lie awake at night after my shift, and think about all of the wonderful people that I have come to know, and the families who are so grateful for what PRMH has given them: a place to rest their heads at night, families to talk to who are going through what they are going through, van rides to and from the hospital, and a hot meal every night. My encounters with the families continually inspire me and motivate me to help garner awareness of our mission.

Just like that art class back in tenth grade, PRMH has unexpectedly changed my life, and made me the person who I am today. The House has introduced me to a group of people—namely, families of seriously ill children—who need as much support as we can give them. I’ve seen how much the House means to these families, and how seemingly simple comforts can make a huge difference. What I’ve also seen, though, is that we haven’t been able to offer support to enough of the families who need it. There are so many other families who could use some help getting through the stress and hardships of their child’s illness. That is why it is so important that we grow to a much larger House. This has been the Board’s dream for a long time, and this dream has now turned into a plan. I’m glad and grateful that the House has touched other people, our generous supporters, so that we can work together to make this plan a reality.

We depend on the generosity of our donors to assist us in providing guests with the comforts of home. This wish list consists of items needed at our Chestnut and Front & Erie Houses and our Family Rooms. For more information, please contact Linda Pusatere at lpusatere@philarmh.org.

- Individually wrapped snacks
- Heavy duty paper plates
- Plastic spoons
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels
- Hot cups with lids
- Travel size toothpaste
- Post it notes
- Keurig coffee cups
- Flip-Flops (both kid & adult sizes)
- Umbrellas
READ FOR THE HOUSE RECAP

We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the students who read throughout the month of February to support the House in the 22nd Annual Read for the House Program. We also thank the participating schools, parents, teachers, school staff, and volunteers, along with Beneficial Bank, Beneficial Foundation, and the Philadelphia 76ers organization, for their unwavering support in making this year’s program another success. This year’s program raised over $106,700 to support our House.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:
The Agnes Irwin School
The Baldwin School
Berlin Community School
Chesterbrook Academy Elementary of West Chester
Chesterbrook Academy Elementary of Oaks
Colonial Elementary School
Culbertson Elementary School
Erdenheim Elementary School
Friends’ Central Lower School
Gideon Elementary School
Girard College
Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School
Jenks Academy for the Arts & Sciences
Myers Elementary School
Nazareth Academy Grade School
P.S. 16 The Leonard Dunkly School
Penn Wynne Elementary School
Perelman Jewish Day School
Radnor Elementary School
Rose Tree Elementary School
Springside Chestnut Hill Academy
Lower School for Girls
Springside Chestnut Hill Academy Middle School for Girls
St. Francis of Assisi School
St. James School
St. Peter’s School
Upper Merion Area Middle School
Vare Washington Elementary School
Wayne Elementary School
Welsh Valley Middle School
Whitemarsh Elementary School
William Loesche Elementary School
The Wyndcroft School
Wrightstown Elementary School

WE’RE SO THANKFUL FOR...

Subaru of America and Subaru of Cherry Hill’s Share the Love Event
Subaru of America (SOA) and Subaru of Cherry Hill raised over $25,000 for our House during their Share the Love Event. The event gave customers who purchased or leased a new Subaru the opportunity to select from a list of charities to receive a donation from SOA. SOA selected four national charities and allowed retailers to add a local charity. Subaru of Cherry Hill chose the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House as its “hometown charity.”

Orchard Planting
Staff and volunteers from both the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House and the Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) spent a spring day planting our brand new orchard at our Front & Erie House! The orchard features several fruit trees, berry bushes, and a sensory herb garden. We are thrilled to partner with POP to bring this wonderful source of fresh fruit to our families!

2016 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Food Checkout Day
Each year local farmers in our area gather food and monetary contributions to make sure our families have fresh, nutritious food throughout the year. This February, members of the PA Farm Bureau came together and generously donated $18,700 to support our families.

The Hot Chocolate Run
The 2016 Philadelphia Hot Chocolate 15/5K, which is organized by RAM Racing and benefits the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald house, was a huge success, raising over $23,000. Thank you to all of the participants and volunteers who showed a tremendous amount of support.
$25,000 & above
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region

$10,000 to $24,999
Bamit Foundation
Celcia Conroy Memorial
IBEW Local Union 98
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
Alexa C. Artis Memorial
Anonymous
Aramark Corporation
Bavarian Ladies Auxiliary Club
Beneficial Bank
The Beneficial Foundation
Bucks County Farm Bureau
Mrs. Donna Calvert
Cara's Sweethearts
CJR Memorial Foundation
Dr. Kathryn Darius and Mr. Dries Darius
Endo Employee Matching Gift Program
JS Benefits Group, Inc.
Katie Kirlin Fund
Dr. & Mrs. Elliot Menkowitz
Mr. & Mrs. Neil D. Reiff
Mr. Christopher Roak
The Kennel Club of Philadelphia
United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey
Mr. Frank Unterwald

$1,000 to $4,999
Accu-Tune Inc
Mr. Richard J. Adelizzi
Alpha Delta Pi Foundation, Inc.
American Board of Internal Medicine
Anonymous
Astellas Employees Volunteer Group Tribute
Astellas Pharma US
Bakers Club of Philadelphia
Ms. Kathryn J. Barton
Beaumont Elementary School
The Benevity Community Impact Foundation
Bloomingdale's King of Prussia & Willow Grove
Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC
Budget Maintenance Concrete Services
Caroline J. Sanders Trust #2
Chickie's & Pete's
Coldwell Banker Preferred - Old City Location
CSL Behring LLC
John A. Dawkins, IV Memorial
Mr. Anthony C. Demos
Ms. Debbie J. Dickstein
DIL
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia Center City
Downingtown Area School District
Ellie Koerner Leukemia Foundation
Endo International, plc
Mr. & Mrs. Attilio R. Esposito
Estate of James W. Gale
William Feeley

The Goldenberg Group
Guido's for Good, Inc
Guidi Homes, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Hansen
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Hawley
Heidel Hollow Farm, Inc.
Ms. Lena C. Hohenadel
Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Philip J. Jacobsen
The Jenjoe Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Ms. Nancy Kelso
KML Law Group, P.C.
Laine, Ltd
Leatricse Safian Memorial
Lehigh County Farm Bureau
Lehigh County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee
Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. William Liss
Logan Krick Tribute
The Lubrizol Foundation
Lumenaria Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Madeline Laba Memorial
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McAleer
McDonald’s Corporation
Merazy Family Tribute
The Merck Foundation
Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP)
New Century Club of Chester
New Hope Eagle Fire Company
Donald O'Brien Memorial
Olver Fire Protection & Security
Parkway Corporation
Penn Vet Class of 2018
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Pizzi
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC)
Reed Smith, LLP
Regency Centers, LP
Ms. Mary Renny
Mrs. Vicki Renzi
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Rosenberg
Mr. Shawn Rupp
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Rush
Mr. Craig Sabatino
Leatricse Safian Memorial
Pam & Tony Schneider
Sol & Naomi Berman Charitable Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Stromberg
Targetmaster - Chadds Ford, PA
Time After Time
Turner Investment Partners
United States Sugar Corporation
Yesuvio’s Family Restaurant
Villanova University - Office of Health Promotion
Mrs. Marlene Weinberg
Mr. and Mrs. Bob V. Westfall
Westfall Group
Wylie’s Day Foundation

$500 to $999
AFS
Alderfer Poultry Farm & Country Store
The American Benefactor Foundation
Alexa Augustine

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Barson
Blank Rome LLP
The Boeing Company
Ms. Barbara Y. Camp
Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel W. Connor
Cross Keys Youth Group
Ms. Latanya Davis
Ms. Felicia A. D’Oria
Mr. & Mrs. David O. Fink
Mrs. Sharon Fluegge
Brianna Fluegge Tribute
Mr. Michael Footer
Frank J. Tornetta School of Anesthesia
General Electric
Ms. Christine Glick
Mr. David Gonzalez
Mr. Dennis Gorscak
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Grossman
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Hayne
IBM Employee Services Center
ImageFIRST Uniform Rental Services Inc.
Ironton Telephone Company
Ironworkers Local Union 401
Jammren, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jeanneret
Mr. Brian Kamertz
Mr. & Mrs. Barry R. Knapp
Loesche Elementary School
Ms. Emily Martin
Mr. James Menkevich
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Mucksavage
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Murray III
Northampton/Monroe County Farm Bureau
Mr. & Mrs. John Picarelli
PNC Financial Services Group
Mr. Chad Punchard
Andrew Renzi Memorial
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sabelli
Miss Gianna Salvucci
ShamRock School of Music
Shipley Lower School
Mrs. Kate Sinnott
Ms. Christine Smetana
Mr. Charles Smith
Nicholas Stickel Tribute
Springside Cheshunt Hill Academy
Strato, Inc.
Trust
Verizon Employee Engagement
West Milford Township Public Schools
XL Catlin
Faith & Pat Zarro

*Due to space limitations, we are unable to list donations of less than $500. All donations are sincerely appreciated.
Seeing kids discover Camp is rejuvenating. Every time I go back, I am amazed at how new it can be and how it still provides the same feeling. I’m so glad to be a part of a team that helps kids enjoy all the experiences I had.

—Andre Saballette