After five year’s of planning, we’ve finally made room and opened our new tower at Chestnut Street. With this expansion, the Chestnut Street House will be able to accommodate more than twice as many families as it could prior to construction, thereby significantly reducing the number of families that have to be turned away due to a lack of space.

Guest families, volunteers, friends, and supporters gathered in the new outdoor spaces at the Chestnut Street House on May 15th to commemorate the historic project and tour the new spaces, which include a commercial kitchen and a family kitchen, indoor and outdoor dining areas, a rooftop garden, an orchard, family lounges, and more.

With the financial support from the Greater Philadelphia area community and beyond, the 93,000 square foot project has become a reality. “We are humbled and thrilled by the outpouring of support that we received from so many different companies, foundations, and individuals. It truly took the whole community to make this expansion happen,” said PRMH CEO Susan Campbell. “We are incredibly thankful to everyone who provided financial support, expertise, or in-kind resources. Their contributions will help us welcome thousands of more guest families during the most difficult time in their lives.”

Among the first supporters were Jill and Alan B. Miller, after whom the new tower is named. “While their children are receiving the best medical care possible from local institutions, the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House provides families with a warm home away from home that brings strength, comfort, and hope,” said Jill Miller. “On behalf of my husband Alan and our family, we offer our appreciation for the wonderful support and care that the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House staff and volunteers provide for these families.”

The construction project team included architect EwingCole, construction manager P. Agnes, owner’s representative Watchdog, civil engineer Pennoni Associates, and structural engineer David Chou & Associates.

The next phase of the expansion will be completed in the fall/winter of 2019 and will bring new fun, education, and wellness areas for our families. For now, staff and volunteers are ready to welcome an estimated 1,900 families every year, and ensure they receive the same comfort and hope that the House has provided for the past 45 years.
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As my term as president of the Board of Directors comes to a close, I am humbled by the opportunity to have served during a historic moment of growth for the House. Every time I look at the brand new Jill and Alan B. Miller Tower, my heart swells with joy as I think about all the families who will stay there for many years to come and the hope it will bring them. I also think about the countless hours that the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers spent ensuring the success and timeliness of the project, always with the goal of creating an environment where guest families would feel comfortable and at home. I am in awe of the generosity of the Philadelphia-area community and how it came together to make it all possible by providing their support—whether monetary or in-kind. We’ll now be able to welcome 127 families every night at the Chestnut Street House and we could not have done it without you.

I’m excited for the work we have already begun on the second phase of the expansion to create new indoor play areas, a theatre, a health and wellness center, and areas for arts, crafts, education, and other activities. These amenities will help families distract themselves from the stress of the hospital and focus on their wellbeing. If you are looking to help our expansion project, you can still do so—as underwriting opportunities are still available. Visit www.PhilaRMH.org/NamingOpportunities for more information.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of our House. I never get tired of hearing the remarkable story that began right here in Philadelphia, when our co-founders Dr. Audrey Evans and Jimmy Murray made their vision of a home away from home a reality—a vision that has traveled around the globe with over 365 Houses now operating in over 40 countries. On September 28, we will step back and commemorate our history and honor the individuals who have provided help and support to our families, including doctors, caregivers, volunteers, and donors. I hope that you will join us on that day at Legacy and help us celebrate this significant milestone. To learn about sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets, please visit www.PhilaRMH.org/45th.

I would like to thank all of you personally for helping us meet the goals that we sought to accomplish during my term. Serving the Board and our guest families has been an honor and a truly rewarding and meaningful experience. Many challenges lie ahead as our annual budget increases, and I am confident we will rise to the occasion with the leadership of our incoming president, Len Bernstein, and the support of our wonderful Philadelphia community.

With great appreciation,

Peter J. Degnan
Board President

PRMH BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHOoses LEONARD BERNSTEIN AS NEW PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House announced that it has named Holland & Knight Partner Leonard A. Bernstein as its new Board President. Bernstein has served as a board member of PRMH over the last seven years, most recently as Vice President. He will lead the board as the organization finishes the final phase of its expansion at 3925 Chestnut Street and takes on new challenges.

He is one of the founding partners of the new Philadelphia office of the national Holland & Knight law firm, an office with now over 40 attorneys that opened one year ago. At Holland & Knight, Bernstein specializes on financial regulatory, consumer compliance, and banking matters as a financial services attorney, and is a member of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers.

Bernstein is the past Board President of the pro bono legal nonprofit The Support Center for Child Advocates, past President of Temple Adath Israel, and Board Secretary of the national Big Brothers Big Sisters of America since 2012. On behalf of our board, staff, and volunteers, Len would like to convey our deep appreciation and admiration for the inspiring leadership Peter Degnan has offered as Board President.
45th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday
September 28th
6:00 pm Reception | 7:00 pm Dinner
Legacy, 4842 Ridge Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19129

We hope you will join us to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, featuring stories of the families, friends, caregivers, and supporters who make every moment count.

2019 Dr. Audrey E. Evans Award of Excellence: Madeline Bell, President & CEO, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

2019 Jimmy Murray Community Leadership Award: Fran Dunphy, Former Basketball Head Coach, Temple University

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets available at

www.PhilaRMH.org/45th

Or contact Chris Callanan at Chris@philarmh.org or 267-969-6212

Share YOUR Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House story with us at www.PhilaRMH.org/45thStories
As the Jill and Alan B. Miller Tower neared completion, staff began welcoming families into some of the new rooms. The first family to stay in the tower, the Amigon family, came from Wilkes-Barre, which is located about three hours away from Philadelphia. Norma Amigon and her son Joshua had been staying at the Sheraton nearby since November of 2018—thanks to a partnership the House had with that hotel—but had access to the amenities available to the families staying at the Chestnut Street House.

They had been eagerly waiting to move into the new tower for one particular reason: Joshua had received a bone marrow transplant, so he would be able to stay on the second floor of the tower, which is reserved for families with immunocompromised children. Because families on that floor would be taking the same health precautions, Joshua would be able to move around the floor without having to wear a mask, something he has to do when he is around other people. This floor also includes a lounge restricted to families staying on the second floor, giving children a roomy area to play games and do activities—so Joshua would not always have to be in his room.

Joshua is eleven years old, but he has been fighting various illnesses since he was three years old. He has suffered from chronic pneumonia and shigellosis and in the past two years, doctors determined through genetic testing that he had Moia-Moia, Doc A—an extremely rare disease which damages internal organs and causes premature aging—and he recently developed lymphoma. While receiving treatment at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, his mother gave birth prematurely to her daughter, Lunette, who was born underweight and had to stay in the NICU of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

“I would sleep for three and a half hours a day until she was released from the hospital,” says Norma. “I was running back and forth. I had to breastfeed Lunette, and I also wanted to be there for Joshua, especially when he was awake, as he was going through chemo. It was so hard.”

Now the Amigons are staying at the House while Joshua continues his treatment. Norma has more time to focus on both of her children and Joshua gets to play with his little sister. “At first, I thought he was a little jealous,” says Norma. “But now that he gets to be in the same room with her, he holds her, kisses her, sings lullabies to her, and he loves her. I don’t think I could ask for more than that.”

The family will continue to stay in Philadelphia until doctors give Joshua the green light to return home. For now, Norma feels positive about the future and is thankful for being able to stay at the House. “I don’t know what I would do without the House,” says Norma. “It is expensive to buy food here in the hospital and I can’t imagine how I would afford the hotels. With food, gas, and other travel expenses, you can’t do it. Your whole paycheck goes to that. At the House, you don’t have to worry about it and you get to stay somewhere with other families around and the staff and volunteers make you feel like family. They do. It’s a blessing.”
ARTISTS HELP BRIGHTEN OUR NEW SPACES AND SOOTHE FAMILIES

With so much more room for our new families came a lot of blank walls in the new Jill and Alan B. Miller Tower at the Chestnut Street House. Thanks to the generosity and creativity of artists from all over Philadelphia, our walls have been steadily filling up with beautiful pieces of art. We’ve received artwork from local students, current and former guest families, senior centers, Ronald McDonald Campers, and professional artists.

We still need artwork! We have walls ready to be filled and we will have a whole new area of the House opening in the fall. If you would like to submit a piece of your artwork, please contact Michael Kelly at mkelly@philarmh.org.

2018 Campers took beautiful photos with the help and equipment from Canon. They are brightening the hallways of the tower.

Artist Andee Dubin donated 50 framed pieces of her canine artwork series.

Artist Marc Zacroff donated two of his superhero paintings.

Students from the John W. Hallahan School submitted their Suns project, created with the help of art teacher Jim Stella.

Our second floor, which is restricted to families with immunocompromised children, received a special treat from Ronald McDonald Camp, a beautiful space-themed mural. Artists Lindsay Jamison, Rhoni Groff, Maria Jacobs, Janice Biron, Debbie Gottlieb, Barbara Kurtz, Baboo Digital Printing, Ben Volta, James Shuster, Beth Shuster, Laurel Biron, and RMC Co-Chairs Salli Michelenberg and Marlene Weinberg collaborated with campers on the project.

Artists, students, and families submitted portraits for our co-founders portrait wall in the reception area.
Maria Gallagher jumped in with both feet when she decided to volunteer at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. She started at the Chestnut Street House and then began volunteering weekly in the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Maria has been a cheerful and welcoming addition to our PRMH Team, helping in any way she can around the House.

“I volunteer to give back,” says Maria. “Having been in a situation with my own serious illness, I felt the need to share my positive energy to help others fight through negative thoughts to overcome any tough situation that comes their way. When I walk into the House, I feel the magic of kindness throughout the House!”

Because of Maria’s kindness, a friend of her nominated her to be featured on CBS 3 News’ Three Cheers segment. The station quickly jumped on her story and came to the House to interview her. If you’d like to see the clip, visit www.PhilaRMH.org/Maria.

Maria likes to say “Kind hearts come together to make others smile! Share your pocket full of sunshine!”

As more families begin arriving through our doors, we’ll need the help of more volunteers to continue our mission. We’ll need smiling faces to welcome families when they arrive at the House after long days at the hospital. We’ll need friendly drivers to shuttle them to and from the hospital. We’ll also need help:

• Making sure children’s toys and play areas stay clean and disinfected
• Answering families’ questions and helping them navigate the House
• Stocking snack areas, preparing healthy food options, and keeping the coffee pot fresh so that families can face the day
• Communicating between families and staff to make sure all needs are met
• Keeping the linen rooms full of blankets and towels so that families have a cozy stay
• Informing the families about House activities and making sure the events run smoothly

Volunteers can make a positive impact at both the Chestnut Street House in West Philadelphia and the Front & Erie House in North Philadelphia. For more information, please contact Lori-Anne Miller at lori-anne@philarmh.org.
HELP RELIEVE FAMILIES’ STRESS BY COOKING A MEAL

Are you looking for a fun way to help our families? Cooking is the perfect way for groups to help families relieve their stress after long days at the Hospital.

At our Chestnut Street House, we’ll purchase ingredients for all meals in advance, so groups do not have to worry about shopping and storing bulk food to feed 150+ people. Everything will be onsite when groups arrive, allowing them to cook seasonal, made-from-scratch meals for the families. Participating teams reimburse the House for the cost of ingredients. The Guest Chef program at the Front & Erie House has not changed.

Groups seeking to go a little further in helping our families can become one of our Served with Love donors by donating $1,000—which will go beyond the meal they serve and help us continue providing comfort and hope. All Served with Love donors will be featured on our kitchen screen for a year. Learn more at www.PhilaRMH.org/ServedWithLove.

For more information, contact Lori-Anne Miller at lori-anne@philarmh.org or visit www.PhilaRMH.org/GuestChef.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US OPEN THE NEW JILL AND ALAN B. MILLER TOWER

From installing furniture and kitchen equipment to organizing rooms and cooking dinners, organizations and companies from all over Philadelphia and beyond came together to help us open the new tower.

The University City District’s Green City Works helped us by designing, planting, and maintaining our rooftop garden and landscaping.

The Carpenters Union helped move and install furniture into the new rooms.

My Pillow donated over 500 pillows to help our families rest comfortably at night.

WE MADE ROOM—NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP TO OPERATE

Now that the tower is open, financial help will be needed to keep the House running. One of the ways you can help us is by supporting the Adopt A Room program. Through this program, you, your company, or your organization can sponsor one of the guest rooms at one of our two locations—Chestnut Street or Front & Erie. Your funding will sponsor all of the families who sleep in that room throughout the year and help us keep running the House.

By partnering with our Adopt A Room program, you are doing more than making sure families have a place to sleep each night—as important as that is. You are making it easier for children to get the treatment they need and have their families close by their side, every step of the way. You are eliminating many of the financial challenges that come with traveling long distances for medical care so moms and dads can focus on their children’s treatment. You are also providing parents with the support and rest they need to be there for their sick son or daughter and their other children.

Sponsors can choose to exclusively sponsor a room or partially adopt a room that will be split between two donors. All sponsors will have their name or company name prominently displayed in their adopted room.

For more information about the 2019 Adopt A Room program, contact Chris Callanan at chris@philarmh.org.

I Adopted A Room

Ronald McDonald House
The Evans Murray Society held its first Tea Time in the new kitchen of the House in June. Tea is one of Dr. Evans’ favorite treats and we thought it would be the perfect way to honor the Evans Murray Society donors. The Evans Murray Society recognizes those individuals and organizations whose annual support of $1,000 or more demonstrates leadership by supporting families with seriously ill children and reflects the generosity and boldness of spirit of that first house and its founders, Dr. Audrey Evans and Jimmy Murray.

Join the Evans Murray Society today and help us continue providing comfort and hope year-round.

Learn more at www.PhilaRMH.org/EvansMurray or contact Laura VanTassell at lvantassell@philarmh.org
Pulling a plane, racing adult tricycles, and two full days of golf—why would anyone skip having fun when it’s for a good cause? We are already planning next year’s events, so start getting your teams ready.

**MARCH: CBS 3/CW Philly Telethon**

The Annual CBS 3/CW Philly Change the Luck of a Child Telethon raises valuable funds for Ronald McDonald Houses in Delaware, Philadelphia, and Southern New Jersey. Some of the region’s biggest corporate supporters come together every year to sponsor this worthwhile event. Employees from these companies eagerly help answer donors’ phone calls and ensure the success of the event. Join us for the next Telethon and help us change the luck of a child. Contact Chris Callanan at chris@philarmh.org or visit www.RMHCPhilly.org.

**JUNE: Hit ‘Em for the House**

This year’s Hit ‘Em for the House Golf Outing took place at the prestigious Huntingdon Valley Country Club and featured a competitive golf tournament, lunch, an open bar, dinner, the exciting helicopter golf ball drop, silent and live auctions, and an evening program with one of our guest families. Congratulations to Zurich’s golfers for taking home this year’s cup. Learn more at www.philarmh.org/Golf.

**MAY: Plane Pull, presented by Allstate**

This event brings together teams of 20 individuals to see which team can pull a plane in the fastest time, raise the most money, or have the most creative costume. Texas Friends took home the trophy and bragging rights as the fastest team this year. Chickie’s & Pete’s once again raised the most funds out of all teams and Goodies for Good won the costume contest. Learn more at www.philarmh.org/PlanePull

**JUNE: Philalympics**

Philalympics is an annual corporate challenge where local companies compete in games and events to be crowned the “phunnest” in all of Philadelphia! This year’s events included adult tricycle races, jumbo beer pong, human hungry hippos, soccer darts, and trivia. Congratulations to World Wide Stereo for taking home the trophy this year. Learn more at www.philarmh.org/Philalympics.

**GET READY FOR READ FOR THE HOUSE 2020**

The Read for the House program, presented by Kramer Kirsh Insurance Group and Kramer Insurance Center, is a service-learning project that raises funds to support the House through partnerships with local schools. While students help our families by raising money for reading, they also improve their reading comprehension, grammar, and critical thinking skills, and will hopefully develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the 2019 Read for the House program and smashed previous fundraising records and to the school staff who encouraged their students. Students at PJDS-Stern raised the most funds with a total of $23,570, followed closely by Gladwyne Elementary and Penn Wynne Elementary schools. The student who raised the most funds was Bowie Jaffe from Gladwyne Elementary with $4,360.

We are preparing for next year’s program! If your school would like to get involved, or if you would like to read on your own, please contact Alyssa Tritschler at alyssa@philarmh.org.

Thank you to the Eagles for hosting our 2019 Read for the House reception.
HELP THE HOUSE WITH WISH LIST ITEMS WHEN SHOPPING AT AMAZON

We still need items for the new tower to provide as much comfort as possible to our families. From laundry detergent to high-chairs to toys, every item makes a difference. If you’d like to purchase an item, please visit www.PhilaRMH.org/WishList.

One of the easiest ways to help the House is through your regular purchases at Amazon. Simply make sure you start your search at www.smile.amazon.com and select the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House as your beneficiary charity. That’s it!

Amazon will then donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the House. It’s that simple. Next time you shop at Amazon, you’ll be bringing comfort and joy with the click of a button. You can even bookmark smile.amazon.com to easily access the site in the future.

YOUR RETIREMENT FUNDS: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT!

Have you thought about your legacy? It’s a word often used to describe a gift provided through someone’s estate, yet it really is much more than that. It is how others will remember you and the priorities in your life. Although it’s sometimes referred to as “planting seeds in a garden that you never get to see,” your thoughtful planning can yield great results with careful choices.

The rooftop garden at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House bears the names of dear friends who contributed to this amazing new feature. This garden provides a respite for families and children visiting for medical care, and a unique and peaceful place to rest.

In fact, numerous shared spaces in our two Philadelphia Ronald McDonald Houses offer clean, safe, and comfortable spaces because of generous donors. As you consider ways you can ensure the ongoing work of the first Ronald McDonald House in the future, we ask you to consider some simple steps that will have a lasting impact. After all, your aim is also our goal: furnish our guest families a place of comfort and hope at a time when they need it most.

Since it is possible that over 50% of your retirement plan assets may be consumed by taxes after your passing, we would ask you to think about directing a percentage of these funds to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House instead. As a charitable organization, we receive 100% of your funds and the IRS receives nothing.

IF YOU ARE READY, HERE ARE THE STEPS TO TAKE:

1. Contact the administrator of your retirement plan and request a “change of beneficiary form” or you may have an option to download the form from your administrator’s website. Since these are your retirement funds, you may modify the beneficiary designations (or percentages) any time you wish.

2. Decide the percentage of the account you wish to give to PRMH and fill in our name as beneficiary. If needed, our tax identification number is 23-7377505. Return the completed form to your plan administrator.

3. Let us know about your plans so that we may thank you for your decision to sustain our important work to serve families.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

It would be great to have a confidential conversation about your plans or review questions you may have about ensuring our work. When you lovingly “plant seeds” for the future, many families will benefit from your kindness and thoughtful preparations. For an initial conversation or a review of your current plans please call Lawrence Jacobson, Director of Leadership Giving, at 267.969.6201 or send a message to lawrence@philarmh.org.
RONALD MCDONALD CAMP 2019

We are getting ready for over 250 campers this summer!
Located in the beautiful Pocono Mountains—just three hours outside of Philadelphia—Ronald McDonald Camp looks like a traditional summer camp, but as anyone who has been there knows, it is so much more. RMC is a place where kids can enjoy just being kids. It’s a week of fun and friendship and freedom from being different. It’s a chance to experience new activities and acquire new skills in a supportive, nurturing environment. It’s a time when kids can talk openly about cancer and everybody else understands.
RMC 2019 will take place August 11—August 17.
Visit www.PhilaRMH.org/Camp to learn more or to donate.