

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Denver

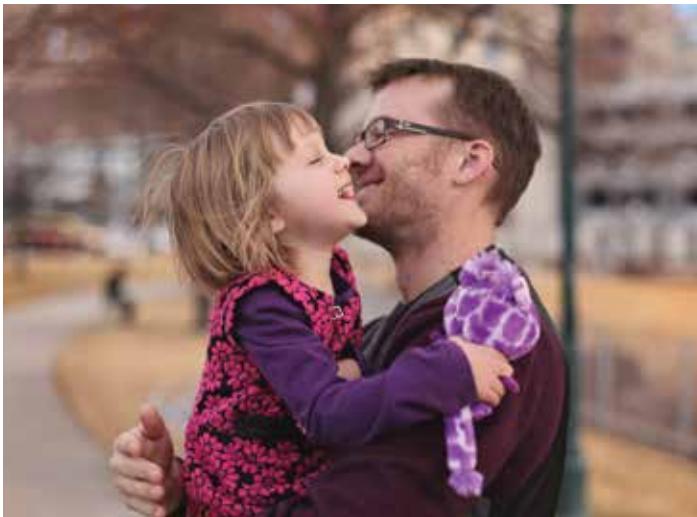
Celebrating 40 Years

PROVIDING A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

We believe that when families are together, they cope better. We believe that an oasis of comfort in a sea of chaos is as powerful as any medication. We believe that recovery is measured in laughter, cups of tea and bedtime stories. We believe that a home is more than four walls and a roof over your head. It is the intangible magic that transpires in moments shared together. We believe in building a global community that sees strength, hope and courage as a joyous experience. We believe in family-centered care and helping families stay near the care and resources they need to thrive.

Staying at Ronald McDonald House makes not being home feel less sad.

– The Duenas Family



OUR CORE VALUES:

- We lead with compassion.
- We focus on the critical needs of children.
- We celebrate the diversity of our people and our programs.
- We value our heritage.
- We operate with accountability and transparency

For our family, Ronald McDonald House-Denver meant being part of a community where everyone is filled with gratitude and hope. For us, it was an opportunity to return and give back to a place that helped us during our stay over the holidays. There is no place we would rather be.

– The Even Family, who provided dinner for our families on Christmas Eve, 10 years after they stayed at Ronald McDonald House during the birth of their twins.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Denver

Celebrating 40 Years

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate our 40-year legacy of serving families who are caring for sick children, we can't help but reflect on the number of people that have stayed here over the years. As the third Ronald McDonald House to open, we've been a shelter in the storm for tens of thousands of families who have left their homes to seek medical care for a seriously ill child. We have watched them fight an unimaginable battle and we've been inspired by their strength.

In 2018, we drew on that inspiration and on the strength of our community partners, and worked to fortify our houses. Our main goal, as always, was to allow families to focus on what really matters – the health of their child.

Last year, we renewed our commitment to our core mission of keeping families of sick children together through our House and Family Room programs. And, we couldn't have done it without the help of partners like you. Together, we served 17,544 families through those facilities, giving them each a peaceful space to gather their thoughts and regroup.

We restructured our check-in process in our Houses, making it easier and quicker for families, many of whom have traveled a great distance, to lay their head down and rest under our roof. We expanded our staff, our knowledge and the breadth of our caring volunteers, allowing us all to be better able to tend to the needs of our families each day.

With the help of our community partners, we completed a renovation of two of our kitchens in the 18-year-old Denver House – the heart of our Houses -- being mindful to create a space that invites families to gather and share stories of their days with newfound friends. One of the new kitchens makes it easier for our wonderful volunteer meal providers to cook and serve a hot meal to families who most assuredly need the sustenance.

We're excited about the future as we move forward with you and other community partners towards an even more beneficial place for these families to call home. We endeavor to build programming that can aid these families in other ways, such as supporting siblings of the sick children, or promotes self-care for tired parents. Inner strength, comes from a calm mind, and we know that Ronald McDonald House can play a large part in helping families stay strong.

Sincerely,

Laura Cordes
Executive Director

CONTRIBUTING TO FORTITUDE

This year, we celebrate 40 years of keeping families of seriously ill or injured children together and close to the care and resources that they need. What began as a 15-bedroom renovated Victorian mansion – with one kitchen and no elevator—has since grown into two Houses (one in Denver and one in Aurora) serving 118 families each night, in facilities designed to accommodate specific needs of the families.



Families who stay at Ronald McDonald House find comfort in a soft bed and a hot shower, each located in their own private room. Shared kitchens, laundry rooms, and other living spaces provide all the comforts of home, and provide families the opportunity to get to know others in similar situations.

STRENGTH FOR OUR COMMUNITY

DENVER HOUSE



AURORA HOUSE



**FAMILIES SERVED
2,739**



**AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY
14 DAYS**

THE MOST COMMON DIAGNOSIS AMONG GUESTS INCLUDE:

- PREMATURE NEWBORNS
- HEART DISEASE
- HIGH RISK PREGNANCIES
- ORGAN TRANSPLANTS
- EATING DISORDERS
- CANCER

RONALD MCDONALD FAMILY ROOMS

Within our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, families find a place to rest and regroup right at the hospital, just steps away from their child's hospital bed. There are four Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, located within Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, Children's Hospital Colorado - South Campus, and Sky Ridge Medical Center. Each room is equipped with a kitchen/dining area including ovens and microwaves, showers and laundry facilities, a quiet space that offers a place to nap, and a seating area with a television. Compassionate volunteers assist families throughout the day.



14,805 PEOPLE USED OUR FAMILY ROOMS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, 3RD FLOOR 7,337

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, 4TH FLOOR 6,163

SKY RIDGE MEDICAL CENTER 1,305

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF COLORADO, SOUTH CAMPUS

*Due to a low usage, this family room was closed in April, 2019.

SKY HIGH HOPE CAMP

We have always remained steadfast in our commitment to serving families of sick children through our key programming. Until now, that programming has included Sky High Hope Camp, a camp for kids with cancer and their siblings. Last year, we made the decision to narrow our scope and focus our resources on our core mission of keeping families with sick children together and near the care and resources they need.

As a result, we transferred all operations of Sky High Hope Camp to The Limb Preservation Foundation. We are confident that this new partnership and the organization's staff will continue to run the camp in the manner in which donors, campers, and their families have become accustomed.

FINDING SECURITY

Recently, the Brennan Family stayed at the Denver Ronald McDonald House while their daughter, born nearly 2 months premature, was hospitalized. This is their story, told by Dad, Shannon:



On March 15, 2018 at 7:44 p.m. we welcomed Kenley Rae Brennan into the world—and our lives changed forever. Weighing just 2 lbs 9 oz and measuring 12.6 inches, Kenley came to meet us at 29 weeks and 3 days of development. She is without a doubt the single most beautiful person I have ever laid eyes on, and she captured our hearts from the very first moment we saw her.

After a successful C-section delivery which Ashlyn endured with the utmost bravery and grace, the doctors and nurses in Denver immediately went to work, giving our precious little girl the best attention she could receive in order to give her the highest chances possible of remaining healthy and transitioning to her new life outside of the womb. Despite knowing this, standing back and watching as they worked on her was easily the most difficult and heart-wrenching experience I have ever had to endure.

Our path from the operating room through the next 24 hours brought about a whole host of thoughts, emotions, and experiences that we never expected to have and that tested us to the very cores of our beings.

Since then we have cried more than we thought possible, and we know we have a very long, difficult journey ahead of us, but we are remaining steadfastly positive and tackling one goal and each small victory at a time. We have learned so much already about her and about ourselves, and we look forward to the days to come with her, no matter how challenging they may be.

Through it all, we stayed at Ronald McDonald House of Denver for 2.5 months while our daughter was in the NICU. It was a blessing for us since our home is in another state. The staff is so welcoming and we had everything we needed. It isn't home, but it's the closest thing you'll find in your child's time of need. We are eternally grateful for the services we received during our extended stay. My wife and I will be supporters of this great and much-needed Charity for life.



PROVIDING THE BRAWN

Behind our strength is a team of hard-working and loyal volunteers, who never cease to amaze. Whether cooking, cleaning, or greeting families as they walk through the door, the work of our volunteers helps to offset our costs, allowing us to direct more funding toward our programs. A volunteer is often the first face that a family sees when entering our House, and our volunteers are a constant source of smiles and support.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Denver

Celebrating 40 Years

In 2018:

Volunteers prepared and served **994** hot meals to families

Volunteers provided **6,794** hours at our front desk

Volunteers furnished **7,256** hours cleaning our houses

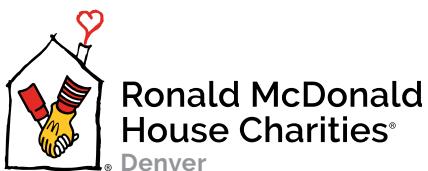
Volunteer massage therapists delivered **255** hours of relief to families

Volunteers spent **8,300** hours helping in our Ronald McDonald Family Rooms



The interaction that I have with families while I volunteer at the front desk puts everything in perspective for me. I love being able to provide a happy face for families as they walk through the door.

– Edie Schweyer, 4-year volunteer



Celebrating 40 Years

WITNESSING TENACITY

When baby MicKeigh was born on Thanksgiving Day in 2017, her family knew they had much to be grateful for. A healthy and happy 6 lb., 11 oz. baby girl was a blessing for them. But she and her family had no idea of the struggles that the next year would bring, and that MicKeigh's long road to recovery would bring them to RMHC-Denver.



Nearly a year after her birth, MicKeigh's family noticed a decreased appetite and increased fatigue. A trip to the doctor in her hometown of Canyon City, CO – about 90 miles south of Denver – led to an Emergency Room visit in Colorado Springs, where she was admitted to the Pediatric Care Unit. There, MicKeigh underwent her first echocardiogram, a test that uses sound waves to make pictures of the heart. "At the time I had no idea what that was, but since then we have become well versed in them," said her mom, Katie. That fateful test revealed that MicKeigh was in heart failure.

She was immediately transferred to the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora where the family learned that MicKeigh had only 5% function left in her heart. On December 7, she was listed to receive a heart transplant.

"Ten days later, we were discharged and headed to Ronald McDonald House-Denver, just minutes from the hospital, to wait for MicKeigh's new heart," said Katie.

News of a new heart came on December 23, and MicKeigh underwent a heart transplant on Christmas Eve. "She received a second chance at life and a Christmas gift that we will never be able to repay," said Katie.

The road to recovery was long for MicKeigh. She'd have to stay near the hospital for many months. For Katie, that meant being away from home, her fiancé, and two other children. But for the family, Ronald McDonald House was a refuge in the storm. "Being able to stay at Ronald McDonald House was such a blessing for us. The House gives sanctuary to families like us at no cost. We had a private room to stay in, all the supplies we needed, a medical storage area for MicKeigh's medications, Wi-Fi, cable and home-cooked meals provided by volunteers. Without RMHC, who knows where MicKeigh and I would have been able to stay, just like so many of the families there."



TEAMING UP FOR STABILITY

Community partners enable families of sick children to stay together and near the care and resources that they need. We gratefully honor the following corporations and individuals for their financial or in-kind support of \$5,000 or more.



FOUNDING MISSION PARTNER

McDonald's, its owner/operators, and customers provide support to RMHC-Denver by hosting a variety of in-restaurant fundraising events and programs, by providing space for RMHC Donation Boxes in the restaurants, and through direct contributions.

DONORS

Aurora Highlands Marketing
Barbara Sinclair
Cathy Graham
Children's Hospital Colorado
Chris Solum
Coca-Cola Corporation
Colorado Farm Bureau
Courtney and David Dietz
Daniel Cechini
Eating Recovery Center
Eppstein Uhen Foundation
Ernie Martin
Fransen Pittman General Contractors
Geotech Environmental Equipment, Inc.
HealthOne
Hospital Cooperative Laundry
Idex Foundation
Iron Mountain
John and Kathy Schenden
John and Shannon Abote
Joseph Welch

Karl and Suzan Nyquist
Kuni Honda Arapahoe
Laurence and Cherry McNabb
Lloyd J. King and Eleanor R. King Foundation
Merry Maids
Mission Rock Residential, LLC
Morning Fresh Farms
Nelnet, Inc.
Pappas Painting & Repair
PGA of America
Professional Assn. of Cleaning & Restoration
Raith Family Foundation, Inc.
Red Deer Ironworks USA Inc.
Rocky Mountain District Kiwanis Foundation
Taddonio Family Foundation, Inc.
The Lu Foundation
The Magnolia Hotel/Stout Street Hospitality
Thomas and Tamara Jorden
Young Family Private Foundation
Your Castle Real Estate Relocation Services

EVENT SPONSORS

Our Community Partners helped raised more than \$500,000 through our two events, the Light The Houses Radiothon and The Storybook Ball.

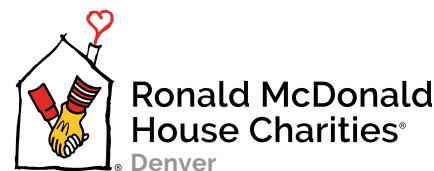
The Light the Houses Radiothon

BurkettEUA
Businessolver
Children's Hospital Colorado
Citywide Banks
Eggland's Best
Eating Recovery Center
Fransen Pittman
KOSI 101
Kuni Honda
Longmont Dairy
Pappas Painting & Repair
Polidori Sausage
Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children
Tolin Mechanical



The Storybook Ball

The Braden Mark Family
The Bucar Family
Businessolver
Calcon Construction
Children's Hospital Colorado
Denver BMOA
Dr. Pepper
Eating Recovery Center
Eggland's Best
The Frank Sandoval Family
The Jay McAvoy Family
KPMG
The Magnolia Hotel
McDonald's Regional Office
The Janice Ramsthaler Family
Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children
Taddonio Family Foundation
Thomas & Tamara Jorden



Celebrating 40 Years

ACHIEVING POWER

Financial position:

Total Income: **\$4,384,059**

Total Expenses: **\$3,817,417**

Programs & Services: **\$3,118,264**

Fundraising Expenses: **\$269,165**

Management and General Expenses: **\$429,988**

Net Assets at End of Year: **\$27,237,059**

Average house occupancy: **85%**

Number of nights of lodging provided: **39,330**

- Denver: **23,320**
- Aurora: **16,010**

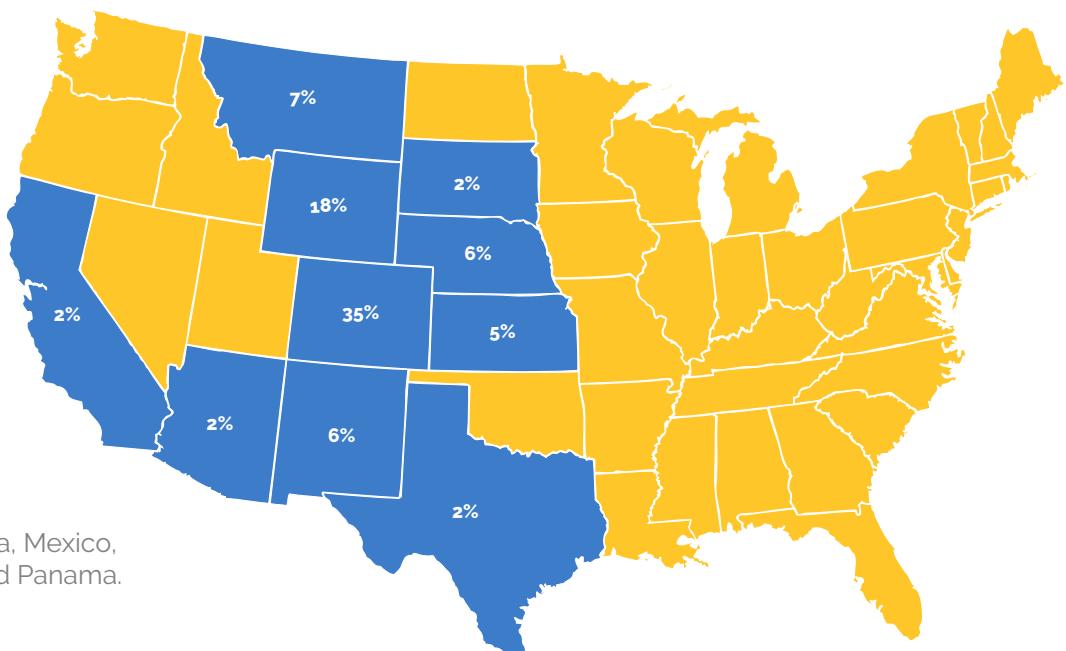
Hospitals Served:

- Children's Hospital Colorado: **53%**
- Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children/PSL: **25%**
- Eating Recovery Center: **10%**
- UC Health: **5%**
- National Jewish: **4%**
- Other: **3%**

The families that we serve travel from around the world seeking medical treatment for their children.

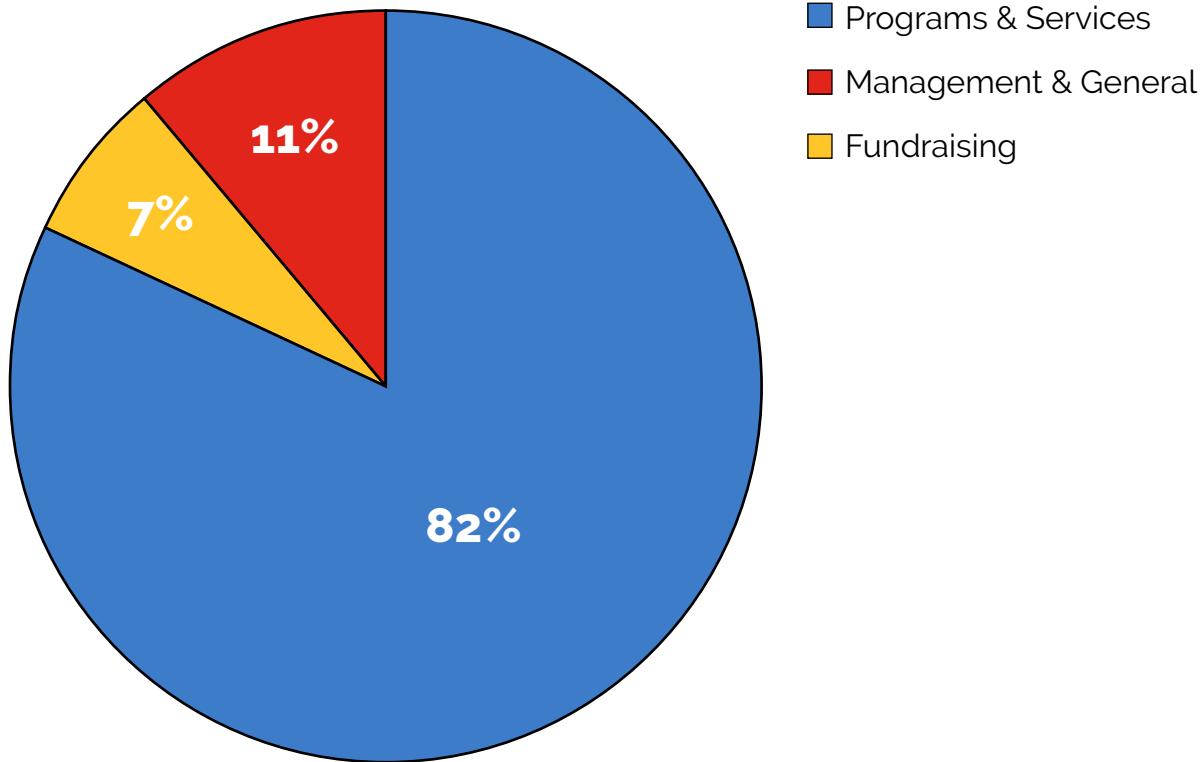
Areas served:

Colorado **35%**
Wyoming **18%**
Montana **7%**
Nebraska **6%**
New Mexico **6%**
Kansas **5%**
Texas **2%**
South Dakota **2%**
California **2%**
Arizona **2%**
*Other **15%**

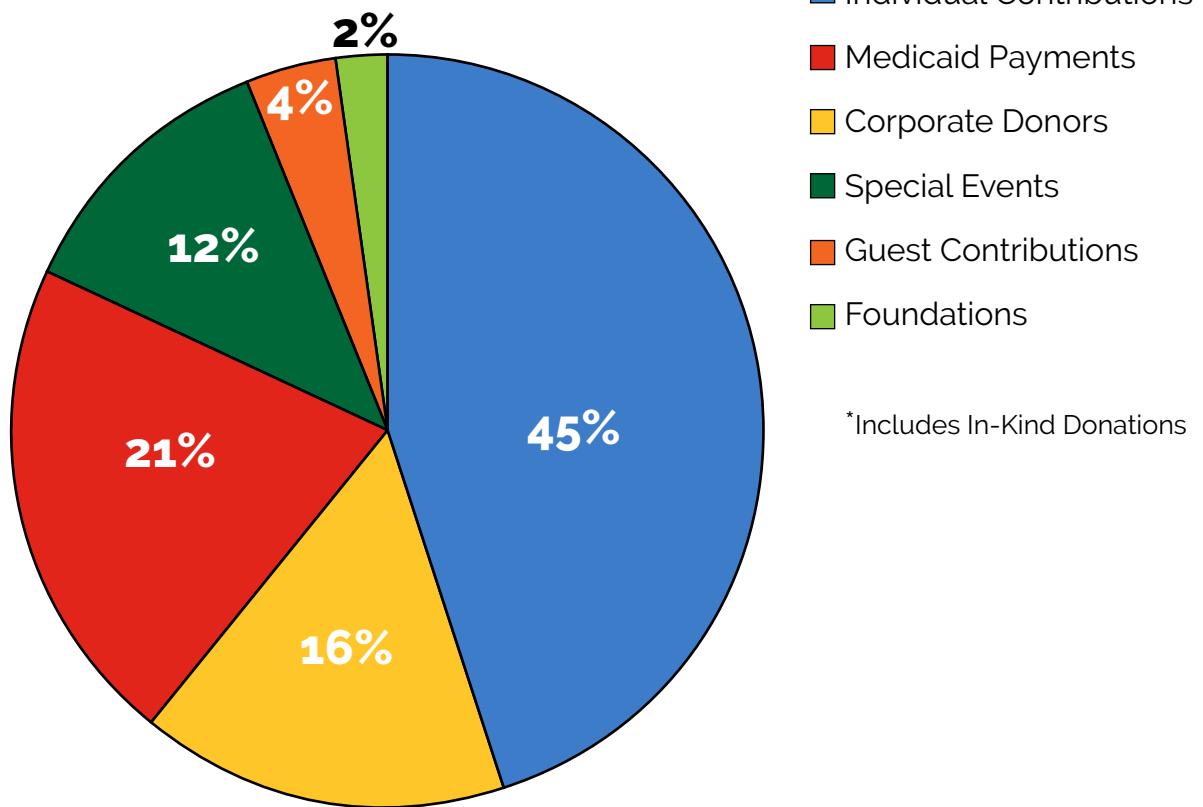


*Includes China, Croatia, Mexico,
Puerto Rico, Belize, and Panama.

Expenses:



Revenue by sources:



Did you know that cash contributions to Ronald McDonald House Charities – Denver qualify for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit, a 50% tax credit for Colorado taxpayers? The CCCC adds another benefit to giving and lessens the “cost” of the gift. Learn more at rmhc-denver.org.

OUR PEOPLE

RMHC-Denver Founders

Jerry Baer
Don Boodel
Bob Charles
Carter Ferrar
Don Gilbreath
Ernie Martin
Mike Morris
Carl Reed
Frank Sandoval

Current Staff

Laura Cordes, Executive Director
Jonna Busack, Corporate Partnerships & Marketing
Kendra Ingles, Director of Programs & House Ops
Shari Mattice, Family Room Coordinator
Stasi McMurchy, Volunteer Manager
Connie Neville, Aurora House Manager
Jaime Sisneros, Bookkeeper
Holly Sullivan, Family Services Manager
Christine Torres, Human Resources Manager
Coleen Truax, Development Director
Sandra Wiersma, Denver House Manager

As an active Board Member, I spend many days in the House volunteering my time, and have seen first-hand the love, comfort and support that we provide to families at a very difficult time in their lives.

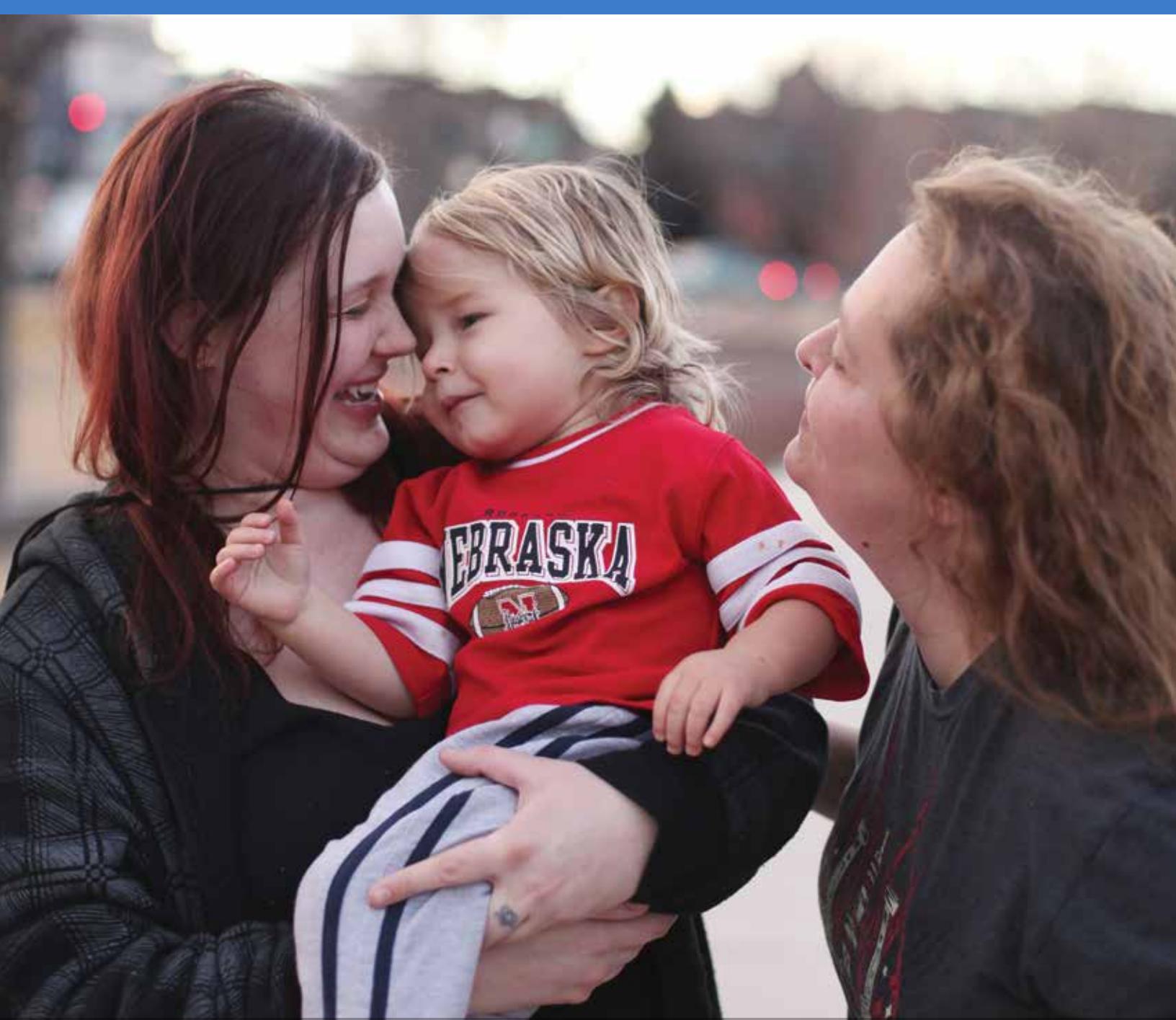
– Chris Solum, Board of Directors

2019 Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors

Desta Asfaw
Jerry Borowick
Rick Burkett
Joan Chandler
Sarah Connolly
Tom Curley
Christy Dobson
Larry Edwards
Eric Holtze
Erik Jensen
Diane Jones
Kevin Kucera
Braden Mark
Mike Sandoval
Will Smitham
Chris Solum
Rebecca Stallworth
Martine Wells



Please consider joining other generous donors in our Ray of Hope Society by making a monthly recurring gift to support the families served by Ronald McDonald House – Denver. Visit rmhc-denver.org to enroll.



Research confirms that RMHC enables families to more actively participate in health care decisions, to support their child by being physically and emotionally present, and to keep the whole family connected and involved in ways that are personally meaningful and appropriate for them.



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Denver

Celebrating 40 Years

1300 East 21st Avenue
Denver, CO 80205
www.rmhcdenver.org
303-832-2667