



# Ronald McDonald House® PROGRAM IMPACT

More than 40 Years of Experience in Family-Centered Care

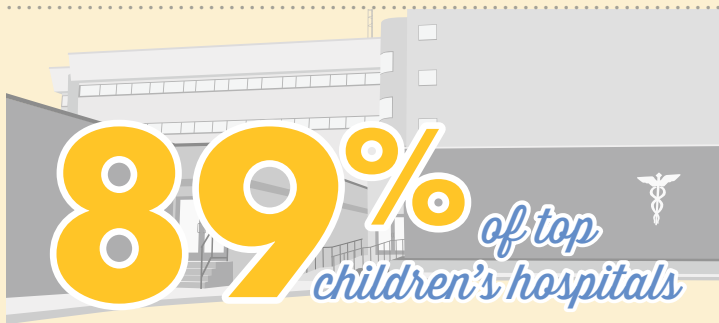
more than **345**

**Ronald McDonald Houses** worldwide help families stay close to their sick children when they are receiving treatment at a hospital.



## Why do families stay at a Ronald McDonald House?

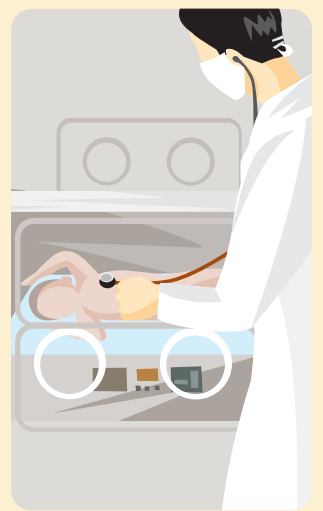
Children whose families stay at Ronald McDonald Houses tend to be the sickest, have traveled the furthest distances for care and spend the longest time in the hospital. The Houses allow families to access the best medical care for their child and being nearby helps children heal and cope better together.



RMHC is the world's leading NGO supporting the accommodation needs of families with children receiving treatment at a hospital. At least one RMHC core program provides care for families being served at **89%** of the top children's hospitals worldwide.

**40%**


**More than 40% of families** served at Ronald McDonald Houses have children in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).



**94% of hospital administrators** agree that Ronald McDonald Houses reduce parental stress and **93%** agree they reduce costs for families.<sup>1</sup>

## Ronald McDonald House Benefits and Impact

In a study of more than 5,400 families with children in inpatient pediatric care and infants in NICU, those who stayed at a Ronald McDonald House reported a **more positive overall hospital experience** than families who didn't.<sup>2</sup>




In a survey of **250 families**, researchers found that children and their parents, who stayed at a Ronald McDonald House, had a better **perceived quality of life** than expected for children with chronic diseases.<sup>3</sup>

**27% of parents** experienced post-traumatic stress symptoms several months after their child's discharge<sup>5</sup> from a hospital stay, but Ronald McDonald Houses help their guests **strengthen coping abilities** by keeping families together.<sup>6</sup>




Ronald McDonald Houses provide **spaces to play**. Playing with other children experiencing similar situations can help these children cope with trauma.<sup>8</sup>

The Ronald McDonald Houses' **proximity to hospitals** provides important benefits for children and their caregivers, such as improved psychological well-being and better perceptions of their child's recovery.<sup>4</sup>

Parents whose children have longer hospital stays benefit from **higher quality sleep** at a Ronald McDonald House compared to parents who slept at their child's hospital bedside.<sup>7</sup>

Ronald McDonald Houses can provide an **alternative** for patients who need to remain close to the hospital for extended periods but do not require active daily medical care.<sup>9</sup>



The Ronald McDonald House program, which is a core program of Ronald McDonald House Charities®, helps families worldwide stay close to their children while receiving hospital care, increasing the caregivers' ability to spend more time with their child, interact with their clinical care team and participate in medical care decisions. It also allows siblings and other family members to be present and engaged.

### References

1. Lantz et al., *Journal of Health Organization and Management* (2015)
2. Franck et al., *Medical Care Research and Review* (2015)
3. Sanchez et al., *Archivos Argentinos de Pediatría* (2014)
4. Franck et al., *Families, Systems, & Health* (2013)
5. Wray et al., *Journal of Child Health Care* (2011)
6. Nabors et al., *Families, Systems, & Health* (2013)
7. Franck et al., *Behavioral Sleep Medicine* (2013)
8. Nabors et al., *Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing* (2013)
9. Dexter et al., *Journal of Perinatology* (2004)