



When the World Turned Upside Down

by Margaret A. Savage

The day when the world turned upside down: when a frown became a smile and a smile became a frown.



When the mice chased the cats the cats chased the dogs. The dogs laughed out loud at the pink and yellow frogs.



When you went to bed in the daytime and got up at night. When birds caught the school bus and the cows took flight.



When the moon came out in the middle of the day and all the ocean's fish rolled around in the hay.



When the children ruled the world and ice cream was for free and the elephants shrank to the size of a flea.



When the grass rained lollipops up to the sky. When you wanted to laugh but could only cry.



When magic beans were real and giants very small, you would eat spider legs so you could creep up the wall.

This all happened when the world turned upside down after I went to bed



with a smile - not a frown.



March 18, 2020, our world turned upside down and based upon guidance from the global office of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), we suspended all family intakes to the House and Day Program, closed the Family Room inside Cook Children's and parked the Hospitality Carts inside a space at area hospitals.

Family intakes at the House were reinstated in a phased approach in June 2020; however, the other core programs remain suspended awaiting a decrease in COVID-19 transmission in our localized area.





**Ronald
McDonald
House®**
Fort Worth

Reflections on 2020

The RMHFW Annual Report

TABLE of *Contents*

Introduction

	<i>Mission, Vision & Core Values</i>	4
	<i>President of the Board of Directors</i>	5
	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	7

Our Impact

	<i>Financial</i>	8-9
	<i>Programs</i>	11
	<i>Donors & Events</i>	13
	<i>Volunteers</i>	14

Our Teams

	<i>Board of Directors</i>	15
	<i>Red Shoe Society</i>	15
	<i>Staff</i>	15

We have chosen to use poetry to frame our 2020 experiences, which in modern times, is the most arduous of years we may have ever experienced. According to Psychology Today, "Reading and writing poetry encourages a certain interconnectedness and helps establish a sense of community between oneself and others. In other words, poetry can help us feel as if we're part of a larger picture and not just living in our isolated little world."

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-empowerment-diary/201904/how-poetry-can-heal>

INTRODUCTION

Mission, Vision & Core Values



Our Mission

Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth offers a supportive, home-like community that eases burdens for seriously ill children and their families.

Our Vision

Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth strives to reach all families in need of our services.

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.



PROCO Roofing made a generous House Needs donation in June.



House Volunteer, Rene Chandler, put together going home bags.

Dear Friends, Supporters and Stakeholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth, I humbly present the 2020 Annual Report.

As I begin the first of two years as Board President, I can't help but reflect back. It goes without saying, but WOW, what an extraordinary and unprecedented year it was in 2020. Truly, the theme throughout this report of "When the World Turned Upside Down" could not be a more poetic representation of the past year.

Like you, I was shocked and dismayed by the reality of our surreal circumstances of the past year battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Words cannot express my gratitude and pride for the grit, determination and resiliency of our staff, board, supporters, friends and stakeholders showing tremendous leadership and compassion for our mission and community. Together, we experienced a once-in-a-lifetime challenge, and it continues to be my pleasure to witness the unbelievable strength our community provides the House when we need it the most. I firmly believe we are emerging from this crisis with more strength and dedication to our mission of Keeping Families Close® during life's most challenging circumstances, now and in the future.

While 2020 required multiple strategic "pivots" and creative ingenuity, we caught our wind and found our stride with your generous support. I continue to be reminded that people make this House a home and that our supporters, friends and stakeholders are the life force that continues to lift up and build our community here while always remembering our philosophy of "Keeping Families Close®"!

The Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth continues to be a special place where our staff, families, friends and supporters may laugh, cry, and even question "why"...and our mission is here to make sure we are able to do so together. Our Board and I continue to come back to that center in 2021 and beyond. We are here to support each other, always championing our mission to provide a supportive "home-away-from-home" for families of children receiving medical treatment at area hospitals.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank YOU for supporting the mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth, and I can't wait to report back again next year!

Warmest regards



KURT SCHAAL

Life Doesn't Frighten Me

by Maya Angelou

Shadows on the wall
Noises down the hall
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Bad dogs barking loud
Big ghosts in a cloud
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all.



Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all.



I go boo
Make them shoo
I make fun
Way they run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
They go wild.



Tough guys fight
All alone at night
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all.



That new classroom where
Boys all pull my hair
(Kissy little girls
With their hair in curls)
They don't frighten me at all.



Don't show me frogs and snakes
And listen for my scream,
If I'm afraid at all
It's only in my dreams.

I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve
I can walk the ocean floor
And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all. Not at all.

Happy Early Fall, Friends!

I hope this finds you well, and that you have had the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends you may not have seen for quite some time. Each year, we come up with a “theme” to best summarize the prior year of activities and goings-on at RMHFW. I think you would all agree that the title of the poem, “When the World Turned Upside Down” by Margaret Savage is a perfect depiction of what 2020 meant for people across the globe. We have used that poem and other children-focused poetry to frame our reflections for 2020.

Like all of you, our “normal” modus operandi at RMHFW was altered as never before. As we learned more about the devastating effects of the COVID-19 virus, we quickly suspended our programs to help ensure the health and safety of our guest families, staff, and volunteers. Families who were already staying with us were permitted to stay, but for several weeks, we were unable to admit new families in need of our services. Our House Relations Team did a stupendous job while managing the House with a skeleton crew, and the rest of our team quickly became accustomed to working remotely to ensure that our organization remained strong and poised to resume admitting families when it was safe to do so. While we are still not “back to normal,” our safe, sequential steps in lessening restrictions have helped ensure that none of our guest families have contracted COVID-19 while under our roof.

Throughout it all, we have seen an out-pouring of assistance from YOU! The patronage provided to our organization throughout the pandemic has been tremendous. Whether it has come in the form of financial assistance, the catering of a meal, the donation of supplies and/or pantry items, the participation in virtual meetings on behalf of our organization, or whether you’ve simply kept us in your thoughts and prayers – one thing is for certain: we would not have been able to emerge stronger than ever without your support!

I hope you enjoy our reflections on 2020. On behalf of the entire RMHFW team, thank you for being there for us when (as the aforementioned poem describes) our world turned upside down.

With sincere gratitude



JENNIFER JOHNS



ASSETS

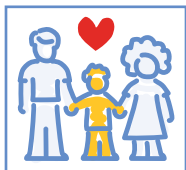
	2020
CURRENT ASSETS	
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	\$ 1,276,000
<i>Accounts Receivable, Net</i>	18,629
<i>Contributions Receivable, Net</i>	334,792
<i>Prepaid Expenses</i>	71,090
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>1,701,009</u>
NONCURRENT ASSETS	
<i>Investments</i>	6,640,839
<i>Property and Equipment, Net</i>	7,870,434
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>14,511,273</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 16,212,282</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
<i>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</i>	\$ 64,126
<i>Deferred Revenue</i>	99,569
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>163,695</u>
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	163,695
NET ASSETS	
<i>Without Donor Restrictions</i>	14,657,730
<i>With Donor Restrictions</i>	1,390,857
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u>16,048,587</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 16,212,282</u>



	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2020 Total
<u>REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT</u>			
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 2,314,331	\$ 138,202	\$ 2,452,533
<i>Awards Under Paycheck Protection Program</i>	231,022	-	231,022
<i>Special Events Revenue, Net</i>	27,031	-	27,031
<i>Room Donations/Fees</i>	118,267	-	118,267
<i>Interest Income on Notes Receivable</i>	199,564	-	199,564
<i>Net Assets Released From Restrictions</i>	123,754	(123,754)	-
<i>Total Revenue and Other Support</i>	<u>3,013,969</u>	<u>14,448</u>	<u>3,028,417</u>
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
<i>Program Services</i>	2,223,237	-	2,223,237
<i>Cost of Direct Benefits to Donors</i>	5,276	-	5,276
<i>Management and General</i>	417,058	-	417,058
<i>Fundraising</i>	370,522	-	370,522
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<u>3,016,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,016,093</u>
<u>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS</u>	<u>(2,124)</u>	<u>14,448</u>	<u>12,324</u>
<u>NONOPERATING INCOME</u>			
<i>Investment Income, Net</i>	597,435	-	597,435
<i>Bank Interest and Other Income</i>	6,791	-	6,791
<i>Gain on the Closing of New Market Tax Credits</i>	2,480,744	-	2,480,744
<i>Total Nonoperating Income</i>	<u>3,084,970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,084,970</u>
<u>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</u>	<u>3,082,846</u>	<u>14,448</u>	<u>3,097,294</u>
<u>NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year</u>	<u>11,574,884</u>	<u>1,376,409</u>	<u>12,951,293</u>
<u>NET ASSETS - End of Year</u>	<u>\$ 14,657,730</u>	<u>\$ 1,390,857</u>	<u>\$ 16,048,587</u>



PLAUNTY FAMILY

“Being away was the hardest...”

Family Profile

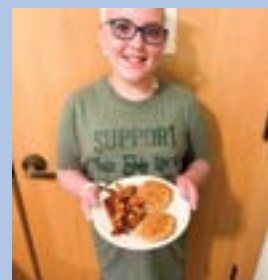
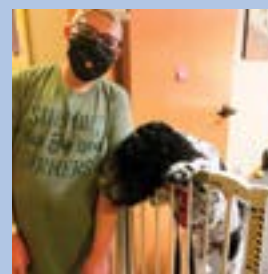
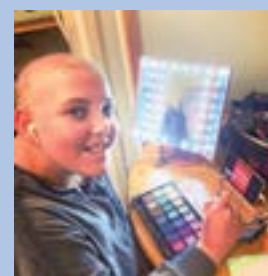
In March, 2020, the world seemed to stop spinning. Lockdown and social isolation became the words of the day because of the Coronavirus, but for the Plaunty family, social isolation was nothing new. They had been practicing social distancing and staying home since November when ten-year-old Ella was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. The only thing that changed their family was where they practiced social isolation. In March, Ella, and her mom, Baylor, checked into the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth (RMHFW) while Ella awaited a bone marrow transplant.

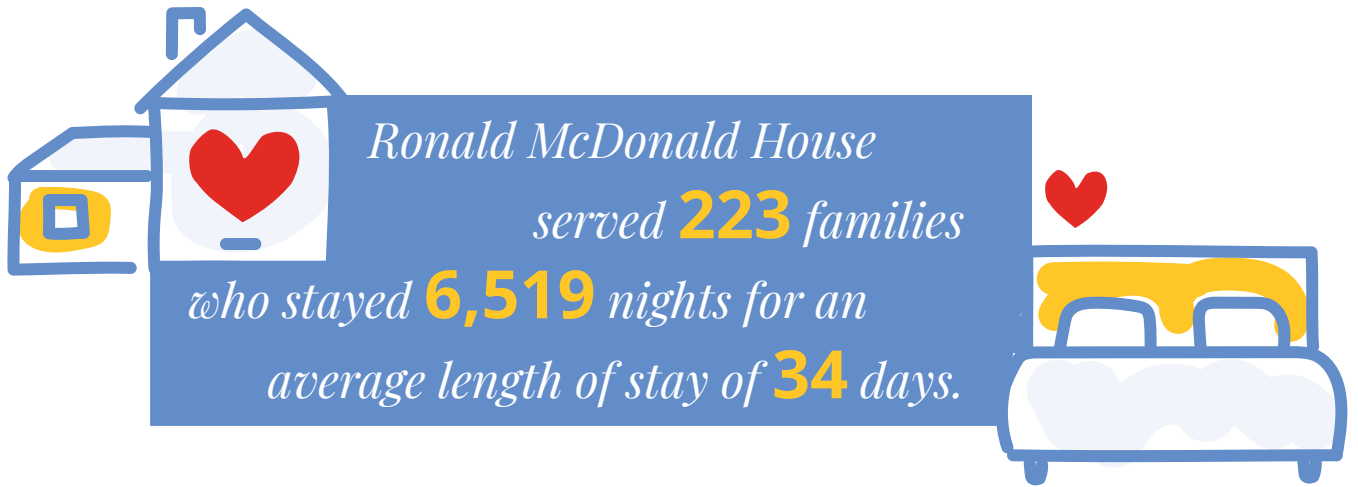
Cleanliness and sanitization is nothing new for RMHFW but as the local COVID-19 numbers began to rise, the House became hyper-focused on the implications of the disease on the mission. All public spaces in the House closed and siblings had to go home to limit the number of people in the facility. With six-month-old brother, Syllas, and dad at home in De Leon, Texas, Baylor and Ella were forced to get creative to stay in contact with the growing baby and dad. They knew exactly what was needed to keep their family close... FaceTime! There were many FaceTime calls home, some of those included baby gargles and first words, as well as “I love you’s,” and “Do your homework.” While the situation wasn’t ideal, Baylor and Ella made the very best of it. “Being away from them was the hardest part,” said Baylor, “but it was all worth it because Ella found her match.”

RMHFW not only gave Ella and Baylor a place to stay less than 500 steps away from Cook Children’s, but it gave them an extended family when they couldn’t physically be with theirs. One of Ella’s favorite things about staying in the House was sitting down the hall from her new bestie with their masks on talking about volleyball, make-up, and all the things typical ten-year-old girls would talk about. She loved visiting Chief, the House’s one-year-old labradoodle, and also drawing with chalk or having a water gun fight with her mom on the playground.

It’s the little things that make a house a home, and RMHFW provided those comforts to the Plaunty family. Even when the rest of the world seemed to be at a halt, Ella got to live a “typical” 10-year-old girl’s life. When they finally checked out to go home in May, it was a happy yet tearful goodbye.

Ella and Baylor “took over” the RMHFW Instagram account in May 2020. This unique perspective allows our community to hear directly from a family staying at the House.





*Ronald McDonald House served **223** families who stayed **6,519** nights for an average length of stay of **34** days.*



*Ronald McDonald Family Room served **1,958** families*

135 *Volunteers* served **1,472** hours



622 *Meals served*

Cookie

by David L. Harrison

*Tonight's your lucky night, boys.
Look what I fixed for you!
Stood all day in the burning sun
to make this son-of-a-gun stew.*

*Longhorn steaks two inches thick,
dig in while they're hot.
The coffee'll keep you up all night,
belly up to the pot.*

*You know your Cookie loves you, boys,
loves to see you fed.
Stood all day in the burning sun
to bake this sourdough bread.*

*Sop up all the stew, boys,
take another steak.
Have another hunk of bread.
You know I love to bake.*

*You know your Cookie loves you, boys,
tell you what I'll do—
tomorrow I'll fix steak and bread
and a big old pot of stew!*



Meals from the Heart, our largest volunteer program, feeds our families. The sudden cessation of the program due to the pandemic meant we had to be creative to maximize our operating budget while still providing at least one hot meal a day. We worked with many donors and local restaurants, food trucks and catering companies to keep the program going strong. Our partnership with the catering company of Charles Schwab continues strong into 2021 as well.





We are thankful for the love RMHFW puts into our community.

Rebecca and Cody Jinks have been associated with RMHFW since 2017. "At that time we were looking for places that were 100% nonprofit and local," says Rebecca who, as a teenager, volunteered at the original location. "Then we had the opportunity to tour the new facility where we really felt the importance of the overall mission and values."

The Jinks family participates in our **monthly heroes program**. The choice to support RMHFW on a monthly basis was simple to them, "The thought of sick kids is heartbreaking enough. The idea that they may have to

be alone and away from their family during treatment just makes it worse. Our support is important because, in the end, they are ALL our kids." Cody Jinks is an award-winning country music artist. He is the 2021 Independent Artist of the Year from MusicRow Magazine's CountryBreakout Awards. In September 2021, the Recording Industry Association of America presented Cody his first Platinum record for the hit song, "Loud & Heavy." Cody credits inspiration to his son, who was two years old when Cody wrote the song.



The Jinks Family



Events typically account for about 27% of our annual budget, but 2020 changed all that for us. We pivoted, as did the rest of the world, and we developed an approach to events that allowed us to exceed our budget while still providing ways to engage with our many supporters. Thank you for your assistance with the many different activities and more importantly, for supporting the mission.

North Texas Giving Day NOW (May)	\$13,840.55
North Texas Giving Day (Sept)	\$35,460.01
Star Light, Star Bright Campaign	\$101,453.42
Holiday Campaign	\$43,543.19
RSS Virtual Fitness Challenge	\$6,774.13
RSS Red Shoe Rendezvous	\$6,362.00
ADPi	\$6,777.16
Walgreen's	\$75,396.00
In-Kind Donations	\$114,787.00



My Best Friend

by Abby Jenkins

*Black and white
Thick and furry
Fast as the wind
Always in a hurry
Couple of spots
Rub my ears
Always comes when his name he hears
Loves his ball; it's his favorite thing
What's most fun for him? Everything!
Great big tongue that licks my face
Has a crate, his very own space
Big brown eyes like moon pies
He's my friend till the very end!*



Chief celebrated his first full year as our Chief Love and Comfort Officer on December 5, 2020. And while his first year was not the way any of us could have ever imagined, he stepped into his role very well and provided the support our families needed.



OUR TEAMS

Board, Staff & RSS



BOARD

Kurt Schaal, *President*
Gaylan Hendricks, *President-Elect*
Courtney Garner-Lewis, *Past-President*
Chris Packard, *Treasurer*
Leslie Hunt, *Secretary*
Steven Colwick, *Chair,*
Development & Marketing Committee
Stef Mauler, *Chair, Volunteer Committee*
Scott McCollam, *Chair, Facilities Committee*
Karen Anfin
Griff Babb
Anthony DeFelice
Daryl Hammond
Ryan Haggerty
Mike Hopkins
James Hudson
Pam Johndroe
Janeen Lamkin
Tara Mackey
Don Marable
Pat Roetzel
James Samberson
Carrie Stevenson
Ned Stocker

STAFF

Jennifer Johns, *CEO*
Lauri Adams, *Chief Operating Officer*
Crystal Alba, *Weekend Manager*
Amy Burdette, *Development Coordinator*
Kayla Burkholder, *Senior House Relations Coordinator*
Jewel Connor, *Database & Development Coordinator*
Cherie Dioguardi, *Weekend Manager*
Angie Gallaway, *Chief Development Officer*
Ray Hall, *Facilities Maintenance Coordinator*
Beth Lamb, *Chief Impact Officer*
Dao Le, *Housekeeper*
Jenny Leavitt, *Weekend Manager*
Lynn Lewis, *House Relations Support*
Veronica Morrison, *House Relations Manager*
Timothy Montequin, *Resident Manager*
Bau Nguyen, *Housekeeper*
Julie Pickett, *Chief Financial Officer*
Tonja Sparks, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Denise Tolle, *Weekend Manager*
Caroline Watts, *Communications Manager*
Hannah Webb, *Development Manager*
Mary Wedekind, *Weekend Manager*

Red Shoe Society

Jenni Barnett, *Chair*
John Farris, *Membership Chair*
Lauren Hawthorne, *Events Representative*
Phillip Hernandez, *Events Co-Chair*
Hunter Milliner, *Meals from the Heart Chair*
Matt Redding, *Sponsorship Chair*
Kimmy Talley, *Marketing & Communications Chair*
Liz Jasper, *Marketing Representative*
Renee Tuazon, *Events Co-Chair*
Dakota Rawls, *Membership Representative*
Hillari Rawls, *Meals Representative*
Matthew Swanger, *Sponsorship Representative*

Thank you



For being here for us!

Keeping families close®

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