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News Release For Immediate Release

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RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF ST. LOUIS RELIES ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT AMID COVID-19 CRISIS

(ST. LOUIS) – In the midst of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the goal of Ronald McDonald House Charities of St. Louis is unwavering: To provide a safe, supportive, uplifting and hopeful environment for families with sick children.

The nonprofit organization has made significant changes to its operations to ensure the health and safety of guest families, volunteers and employees. These changes include restricting their three Houses to essential staff members and guest families, as well as temporarily closing its four in-hospital Ronald McDonald Family Rooms. In addition, volunteers and outside activities have been suspended. In order to minimize risk to RMHC guest families, RMHC is asking the St. Louis community to serve our families in different ways.

The suspension of one program, Meals from the Heart, means that volunteers throughout the community are no longer able to prepare nightly dinner and weekend breakfast for guest families at each of the three St. Louis-area Ronald McDonald Houses. Instead, RMHC St. Louis is asking the community for online donations that will be used to provide meals. Donors can visit www.rmhcstl.com/donate and select “Meals from the Heart Relief” as their gift designation. Another way to help is to have meals delivered to the Houses from local restaurants or caterers. Visit www.rmhcstl.com/meals for more information about how to have food delivered to the Ronald McDonald House.

RMHC St. Louis also relies on donations of household essentials through its Wish List program. Currently, items such as cleaning supplies, disinfectants and hand sanitizer are especially needed. Those who wish to help can purchase these items and schedule a drop-off with an RMHC St. Louis staff member. Items can also be purchased through Amazon and shipped directly to RMHC St. Louis. For more information about donating Wish List items, visit www.rmhcstl.com/wishlist.

Those interested in supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities of St. Louis and the families it serves at this time can contact Jason Huff, Vice President, Development, at 314-932-4145 or jhuff@rmhcstl.com.

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About Ronald McDonald House Charities of St. Louis

Ronald McDonald House Charities of St. Louis provides a home-away-from-home to families of seriously ill children. The organization has grown from an eight-bedroom facility in 1981 to now include three Houses, eight extended-stay apartments, and four Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, which are located inside Mercy Children’s Hospital, St. Louis Children’s Hospital and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital. RMHC programs not only provide access to quality health care, they enable family-centered care ensuring families are fully supported and actively involved in their children’s care. For more information, visit rmhcstl.com.