



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
St. Louis

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News Release

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ST. LOUIS CARDINALS SHORTSTOP PAUL DEJONG No. 11 STEPS UP TO THE PLATE FOR FAMILIES OF SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN

ST. LOUIS, MO. – Paul DeJong, the Cardinals' All-Star shortstop, is stepping up to a different kind of plate to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic by donating meals to Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC) of St. Louis.

DeJong will support high-risk families by donating eleven meals to The House That Love Built as a nod to his returned jersey number. Joining him in this effort is Burton Rocks, his agent, and Dr. Lawrence Rocks (Burton's father) by each donating three additional meals. Families will also receive DeJong's exclusive "TOPPS of the Class" baseball cards, promoting science and literacy. DeJong, Rocks, and Dr. Rocks are all serving as science and literacy ambassadors for the 2020 Topps of the Class promotion.

"The shattering of the Big M was a divine start to our partnership. I'm committed to the children and families involved in the Ronald McDonald house. We hope to instill hope and imagination through baseball, education, music and some home cookin," says DeJong.

Burton Rocks and his family are no strangers to the importance of keeping families close; he had his first code blue as a two-year-old and was in and out of hospitals into his adult life.

RMHC® of St. Louis is facing unprecedented challenges because of the extra steps it now needs to take to keep medically fragile children safe and healthy. Its Meals from the Heart program that accounts for nightly dinner at all three Ronald McDonald House locations has suspended the usual in-person volunteer opportunity and moved to a safer meal delivery system.

Individuals interested in joining DeJong and the Rocks Family to help families of seriously ill children during the pandemic and **enter to win an autographed TOPPS card of their own** can learn more at www.rmhcstl.com/belikepaul.

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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 traveling to St. Louis for medical treatment. 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, but they also enable family-centered care, ensuring families are fully supported and actively involved in their children's care. For more information, visit rmhcstl.com. To see the most up-to-date program changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit rmhcstl.com/covid19.