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New Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking celebration set for December in the Forest Park Southeast Neighborhood

- WHO:** Speakers to include Mayor Jones, a past guest family, the RMHC Board Chair Jeff Barone and Capital Campaign Co-Chair Mike DeCola
- WHAT:** Groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the new Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis City
- WHEN:** Friday, December 2, 2022, Ceremony begins at 10:00 AM with photos and interviews after
- WHERE:** Construction site, located at 4321 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110

SIGNIFICANCE: The construction of a new 76,000-square-foot building at 4321 Chouteau Avenue in the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood of St. Louis will become a home-away-from-home to families of seriously ill children. It is conveniently located across the street from Chouteau Park and a few blocks from the Cortex Innovation Community technology district. The new Ronald McDonald House will increase overall capacity from 59 to 92 private rooms. This will allow the organization to serve hundreds of additional families each year.

The *Let's Make Room* capital campaign was launched to increase the capacity of RMHC St. Louis to accommodate the needs of families of seriously ill children hospitalized in St. Louis. Under current operations, more than 30 families are on the waitlist (to secure a room) each night. The organization is forced to turn away families over 3,000 times because of the limited space.

Children whose families stay at a Ronald McDonald House tend to be the sickest, have traveled the furthest distance for care, and spend the longest time in the hospital. Increasingly, more families travel to St. Louis seeking life-saving care at our world-class pediatric hospitals. Hospital administrative and clinical leaders agree that their affiliation with RMHC enhances their ability to provide family-centered care and even improves the quality of that care.

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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, located inside Mercy Children's Hospital, St. Louis Children's Hospital, and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. RMHC programs provide access to quality health care and enable family-centered care, ensuring families are fully supported and actively involved in their children's care. For more information, visit rmhcstl.com.