



# IMPACT REPORT 2019

Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
New Mexico



## 2019 Board of Directors

---

Patricia Aragon  
Valeria Barboa  
Brenda Begley  
Diana Blanton  
Jon Condit  
Adam Ciepiela  
Jayne Cunningham  
Jennie Davis  
Noel DeLaRiva  
Robert DelCampo  
Linda Dodd  
Yvonne Gabaldon  
Chris Garner  
Scott Glas  
Jude Gleason  
Peggy Graham  
Jackie Ingle  
Ann Jarrell  
Nichol Larranaga  
Barbara Lewis  
Kris Martin  
Laurie Monfiletto  
Tony Ornelas  
Cindi Ortiz  
Carlos Pacheco  
Angela Sanchez  
Rob Virden  
Erin Young  
Kim Young

## 2019 Staff

---

Ann Armijo  
Tasha Beall  
Kara Bergevin  
Dawn Cannoles  
Andrea Ehlert  
Jennifer Gamboa  
Melissa Gomez  
Heather Gooch  
Louise Knorovsky  
Rosemary Melendez  
Sarah Moulton  
Bill Nelson  
Sarah Newman  
Sharon Nolen  
Antoniette Pino  
Seferina Rickert  
Albert Saiz  
Renee Santillanes  
Maria Sultemeier  
Jessica Wright



Photo Credit:  
Audrie Lynn Photography

---



## Family Highlight - The George Family

---

After going into a complicated premature labor just 27 weeks into her pregnancy, Venessa George and her unborn twin girls were airlifted from Carlsbad, New Mexico to Lovelace Women's Hospital in Albuquerque. "I was terrified. I hadn't been on a plane since the 3rd grade, I was exhausted from being monitored all night, and I was still experiencing labor pains while strapped to a gurney. The whole time all I could think about was what would happen if the twins did arrive early." Venessa says some of her fears started to melt away when she learned she could check in to the Ronald McDonald House just minutes from the hospital. "My favorite memory at the House is from my first morning there. At breakfast, every single person who worked there asked how I was doing. They insisted that I keep them updated on the pregnancy and even noticed when I wasn't feeling well. That's how much compassion they have." Eight weeks after that very first morning, Venessa gave birth to Chevelle and Celeste, who weighed less than 5lbs each.



They stayed in the NICU and Venessa stayed right around the corner at the House for six more weeks, so both mom and babies could be close to the care they needed. "I never felt like I was in it alone while I was there. It really is a home away from home." Today, Venessa's twins are thriving, healthy, and already have a twin language that baffles their siblings. "I'll never be able to repay how much the House helped us. It was so much more than a place to stay."

Photo Credit: Venessa George

---

**"I never felt like I was in it alone while I was there. It really is a home away from home."**

## RMHC-NM By the Numbers



**1,086**  
TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY



**9 DAYS**



ROOM NIGHTS PROVIDED  
**9,418**

NIGHTLY DINNERS



**73%**  
MEALS PROVIDED BY  
GUEST CHEFS

FAMILY ROOM  
AT UNMH



ROOM VISITS  
**7,842**

FAMILY ROOM  
AT PRESBYTERIAN



OVERNIGHT STAYS  
**610**

ROOM VISITS  
**6,810**

KATIE'S KART VISITS

**1,471**



## VOLUNTEER HOURS



15,766 Hrs

## VALUE OF TIME DONATED



\$389,255

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

HOUSE	4,097	
HOUSE GROUPS	4,097	
DINNER DONORS	3,570	
FAMILY ROOM AT PRESBYTERIAN	2,961	
FAMILY ROOM AT UNMH	1,827	
EVENTS	782	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	242	
KATIE'S KART	182	

### TOP NEW MEXICO COUNTIES BY ROOM NIGHTS

SAN JUAN	1412	
CHAVES	883	
SANTA FE	861	
MCKINLEY	853	
EDDY	530	
RIO ARRIBA	504	

### MOST FREQUENT DIAGNOSIS BY ROOM NIGHTS

PREMATURE BABIES

4,023

PULMONARY

1,544

ONCOLOGY

1,122

HIGH-RISK MATERNITY

583

GASTROLOGY

220



## Volunteer Highlight - Ronnie's Angels

A satisfying meal can transport us back in time, across the globe, and even to the nostalgic warmth of our own kitchen table. Thanks to Guest Chef Teams like Ronnie's Angels, the Ronald McDonald House is able to bring the comfort of home-cooking to dozens of families each and every day of the year. Aptly named after Ronald McDonald himself, Ronnie's Angels cook meals inspired in their own kitchens and made with love. Long-time volunteer JJ Parsons says, "The ability to come back to the House after a long tough day at the hospital and to smell the aroma of a hot meal, then to be able to eat it privately with your family... I think it's those small gestures that help them feel the comfort they need." The Angels have cooked more than 60 meals at the House since 2013, but they never lose sight of their purpose. "The Ronald McDonald House resonates with us as mothers, aunts, and grandmothers whose children and families have experienced the struggles of long-term hospital care." One of the group's favorite meals to share is a savory rosemary pork roast with fresh green beans and scalloped potatoes, but no matter the recipe, the Angels say their real job is to ensure families have access to healthy meals, a good night's rest, and the strength to forge on.

Photo Credit: RMHC-NM

**"... I think it's those small gestures that help them feel the comfort they need."**



Photo Credit: RMHC-NM

**“It’s so easy to see how much of a difference you’re making in people’s lives.”**

## Donor Highlight - Diana Blanton

Sometimes, in this incredibly beautiful life, the gravity of a single moment can etch a scar deeper into our hearts than we ever thought possible. For Ronald McDonald House donor Diana Blanton, that moment happened on a sunny spring day in Silver City when her niece Kashlee was thrown from the back of a horse while out for a routine ride. Kashlee was rushed to the hospital, but doctors were not confident the 9-year-old would survive. In those uncertain hours, Diana had her first experience with the House. “When I got the call about Kashlee, I was thousands of miles away on the east coast. It was horrible not being able to rush to her side, but knowing my brother and his family had a place to go made all the difference.” Kashlee is now 34-years-old and one of Diana’s biggest inspirations. “She may not have the life we imagined, but she’s taught us so much. She truly is a light.” After nearly a decade of donated meals and time, and a new room sponsorship at the Yale House in Albuquerque, Diana says it’s the look of relief she sees on the faces of families just like hers, that motivates her to give back. “It’s so easy to see how much of a difference you’re making in people’s lives.”

## Room For Every Family

Over the last several years, demand for Ronald McDonald House® Charities of New Mexico’s services have increasingly exceeded its capacity, which means more and more families who hope to stay at the House cannot because it’s full. On average, RMHC-NM is forced to turn away up to 200 families annually simply due to lack of space. We know RMHC-NM can never build a house large enough, but we can make Room for Every Family.

The new Highlands Ronald McDonald House will include 20 guest rooms, community kitchen, play and common areas. This will allow us to grow from 30 to 50 rooms and help us eventually serve an additional 640 families each year. Located in downtown Albuquerque, directly across from Presbyterian Hospital in the Marriott Springhill Suites, it is the first purpose-built Ronald McDonald House in a hotel. As the first of its kind in the country, RMHC-NM has the opportunity to develop a new model for service delivery.

We are looking forward to opening the Highlands Ronald McDonald House in late summer 2020. If the community would like to get involved by volunteering or donating to the new House, please visit [rmhc-nm.org](http://rmhc-nm.org) and [gifthero.com](http://gifthero.com).



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
PERMIT NO. 251



For news and updates, visit  
[RMHC-NM.org](https://www.rmhc-nm.org)

Like [RMHC-NM](https://www.facebook.com/RMHC-NM) and  
[Girls Night Out](https://www.facebook.com/GirlsNightOut) on Facebook

Follow us at [RMHCNewMexico](https://www.instagram.com/RMHCNewMexico) on  
Instagram

Join our email list at [RMHC-NM.org](https://www.rmhc-nm.org)  
or email [contactus@rmhc-nm.org](mailto:contactus@rmhc-nm.org).

Cover Photo Credit:  
Audrie Lynn Photography

Design donated by  
[Siarza Social Digital](https://www.siarzasocialdigital.com)