

from OUR HOUSE to Yours

News from the Ronald McDonald House of Portland, Maine



Ronald
McDonald
House

Never too young to be a role model

Gabrielle Bruns asked her birthday party guests for gifts to the House.

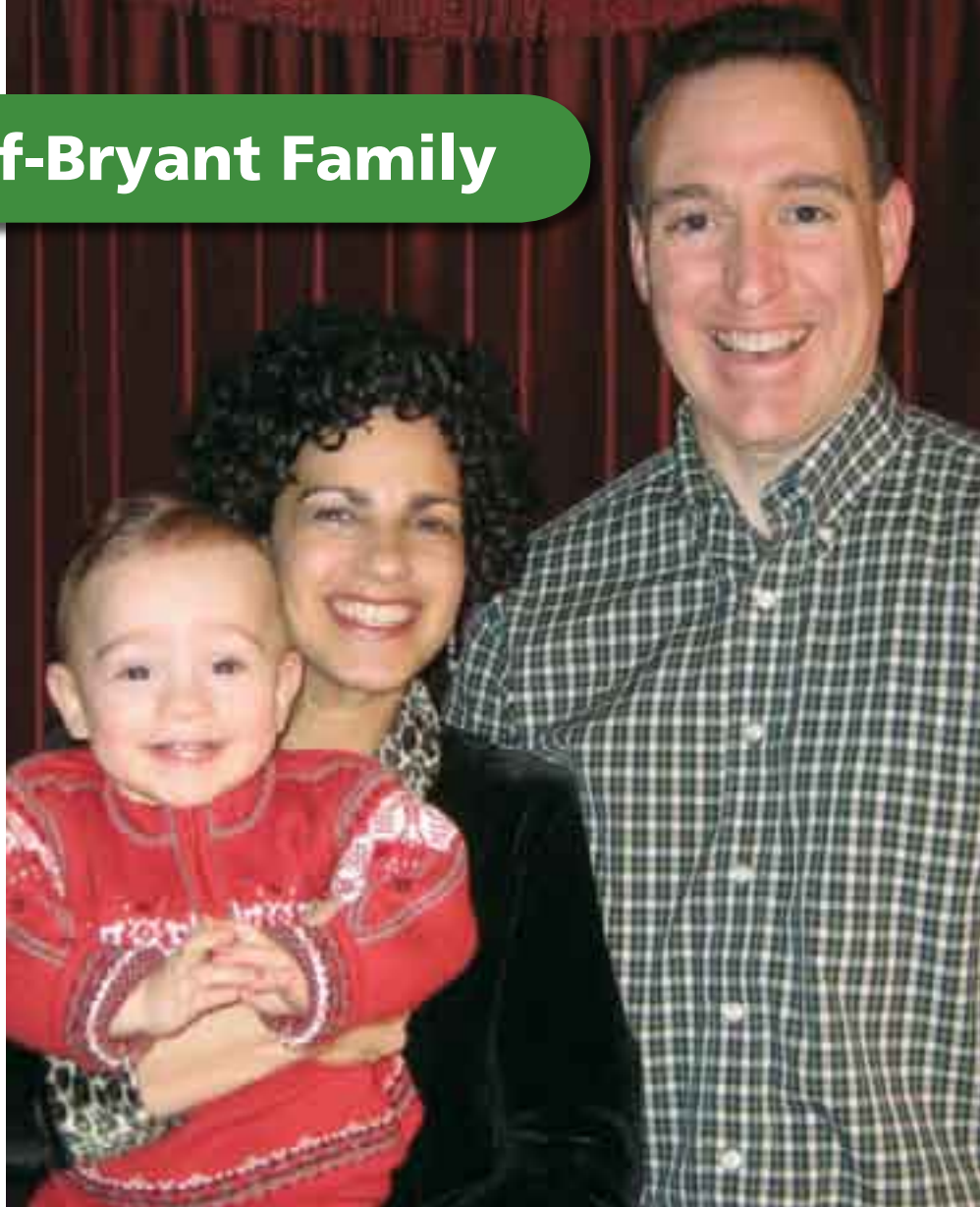
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Bowdoin Students build software for Portland's Volunteer Program
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- Wish List

Meet the Rozeff-Bryant Family

My wife, Anita, and I were vacationing in Bar Harbor, Maine the last week in August 2006. Anita was just at the start of her seventh month of pregnancy. On the morning of September 1st her water broke. Since she was only 24.5 weeks into the pregnancy at that time, Anita was immediately transferred via ambulance from Bar Harbor Hospital to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Maine. She stayed there on bed rest until September 6th when she was deemed stable enough to transfer by ambulance to Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine to be closer to our house in Lee, NH and more of our family and friends.

After three more days without any signs of labor, we were hoping that her amniotic fluid might build up again and we would be in for a long hospital stay. It was not to be though. Anita delivered our son Kelton Cedro Rozeff Bryant on September 11, 2006 at 1:47 PM. He weighed just 1 pound 8 ounces and was 12.75" long.



The neonatologists had told us to “prepare for a long rollercoaster ride” and the first two months of Kelton’s life were full of ups and downs. In fact, in Kelton’s first hour of life, it was unclear if he would make it due to a lung problem. Once he was stabilized and breathing with the aid of a ventilator, the first part of our journey began. Through the blur of his first days of life, we were told that Kelton was doing well considering his age and weight but because of all the issues associated with being 14 weeks premature, he needed to be remain in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) until at least his original due

date of December 20. We wanted to be with him as much as possible every day and to be nearby at night in case anything happened. We were completely stressed out about it because we live in Lee, NH, 70 miles from Maine Medical Center. We dreaded the thought of an 80 minute commute to and from the hospital each day, and were terrified of being so far away from Kelton at night if we returned home. Thankfully Barbara, one of MMC’s wonderful social workers, referred us to the Ronald McDonald House. Just two blocks from the hospital, the Ronald McDonald House was amazing and a true blessing during this most stressful time of our lives. I was able to return to work



one month after Kelton was born, returning to our home away from home at the Ronald McDonald House every night. The Ronald McDonald House made it possible for Anita to spend the maximum amount of time with Kelton every day. Staying at the Ronald McDonald House also let us connect with other families in similar situations which made it easier to cope. One of highlights of

“We were able to concentrate on Kelton and not stress about where to sleep and eat.”

our stay was a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner cooked by the volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House.

Kelton amazed us all with his strength and spirit. We were able to bring him home to New Hampshire on November 28. Kelton continues to amaze us to this day. He has continued to thrive and grow.

We visited the Ronald McDonald House last August with Kelton in tow. We are still so grateful to everyone there – staff, volunteers and fellow families. We were able to concentrate on Kelton and not stress about where to sleep and eat.

—Tim Bryant

From Green House to Dream House

When we got our license to start a Ronald McDonald House in 1992, a search committee looked at more than 50 properties in the West End that fell within the zone that allowed such facilities. Three buildings were identified as having potential to meet our



criteria; a 15,000 sq. ft. warehouse, a burned out shell of a 2-story brick residence, and a two family corner residence that once had a variety store on the first floor. All were adjacent properties at the corner of Brackett and Carleton Streets. Before we closed on those buildings, the owner of a single family residence at 63 Carleton Street, the green-sided house, contacted us and offered to sell. The \$55,000 price for an abutting property seemed reasonable and was added to the package.

In 2005 it became evident that our 15 guest rooms were insufficient to meet the increased need. Numerous meetings with an architect, neighbors, neighborhood associations, the Historic Preservation Board, the Portland Planning Board, and the City Council were held. Our new plan to renovate the existing House and expand into 63 Carleton Street was embraced by all neighborhood and government agencies. This was primarily because of the need, our track record being exemplary, and having been a catalyst for many area improvements. The Historic Preservation Board remained adamant that we could not demolish the Green House and that any construction would have to replicate the house as it looked in 1925.

Through the mutual cooperation of all parties involved, the hard work of our staff and volunteers, the generosity of the good people of Maine and New Hampshire, the excellent design of Scott Simons Architects, and the construction expertise of The Thaxter Company, we now have renovated the original building and added six new bedrooms with private baths.

The infamous Green House now has a more useful purpose in housing the growing number of families with critically ill children.

—Joe Foley, Founder

Ronald McDonald House Charities and the House in Portland, Maine Partner with Maine Medical Center to Open New Ronald McDonald Family Room

With twenty-one guest rooms for families of critically ill children, the Ronald McDonald House will expand its mission to open The Ronald McDonald Family Room in Maine Medical Center's new East Tower.

"The Ronald McDonald House provides an invaluable service to our patients and their family members," says Richard Petersen, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Maine Medical Center. "When our new building opens in September, those important services will be even closer for families. Having a dedicated Ronald McDonald Family Room in our East Tower will provide a respite where families can

regroup and seek support during emotional times. This resource room – and the caring volunteers inside – can help families focus their attention on the health and recovery of their loved ones. Maine Medical Center is proud to partner with the Ronald McDonald House to bring this service within the hospital."

The Ronald McDonald Family Room will allow the Ronald McDonald House to serve *all* families of pediatric patients. Currently, any family whose home is more than 20 miles from Portland is eligible to stay at the Ronald McDonald House. However, there are numerous families with sick children who spend many days, nights and hours at Maine Medical Center

living in and around Portland. These families, in addition to the families staying at the house on Brackett Street, will have the opportunity to use the Ronald McDonald Family Room.

Anne Ball and Dennis Welsh of Yarmouth, ME had two premature babies, one born in 2000 and the other born in 2002. Each child had to spend one month in the NICU. "A Family Room would have been a great place for us to visit. We spent many long hours in the hospital, rarely leaving the building. The Family Room would have been the perfect place to take a break without feeling we were straying too far from our babies during that critical time," said Anne.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Family Room Sunday through Saturday, 9 AM to 8 PM. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, *please* contact Gabrielle Little, House Manager at **780-6282** or housemgr@rmhportlandme.org.

WISH LIST

Kitchen

FILL THE FREEZER:

- *Ground Beef, Chicken, Spiral Ham, Frozen Vegetables, Pizza or Dinners
- *Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
- *Single Size Cereal Boxes
- Individually Packaged Snack Items
- Yogurt-Individually Packaged
- Frozen Juice
- Brownie Mix
- Half and Half/Coffee Creamer/Non Sugar Sweetener
- Butter/Margarine
- Eggs
- *Sugar (5lb bags or smaller)
- Canola & Vegetable Oil
- Single serve and microwaveable items are preferred!

Please note: we cannot accept dented cans or expired items.

Items with () are of immediate need*

Personal

- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream-Mens & Women's
- Disposable Razors

Office

- Motorola Walkie Talkie Set
- Heavy-Duty Paper Cutter-Call FMI
- Postage Stamps (.42 or forever stamps)
- Card Stock (white or color)
- Color Copy Paper (20 lb)
- Steno/Legal Pads

Gift Certificates

- *Grocery Store Gift Certificates (Hannafords/Shaws)
- *Hardware/Home Store Gift Certificates (Target, Walmart, etc.)
- *Office Supply Store Gift Certificates
- Restaurant/Movie Gift Certificates

House

- Pump Hand Soap
- Kitchen Cleaning Sponges
- *Dishwasher Detergent
- *Liquid Laundry Detergent
- *Dreft Laundry Detergent
- *Dryer Sheets
- *Paper Towels
- *Paper Napkins
- *Disinfecting Cleaning Wipes
- White Bates Mill Twin or Queen Bedspreads
- White Bath Size Towels & Face Cloths

Family

- Kids Large Size Crayons (small quantities)
- Sporting Event Tickets (Portland Pirates, Sea Dogs etc.)

You!

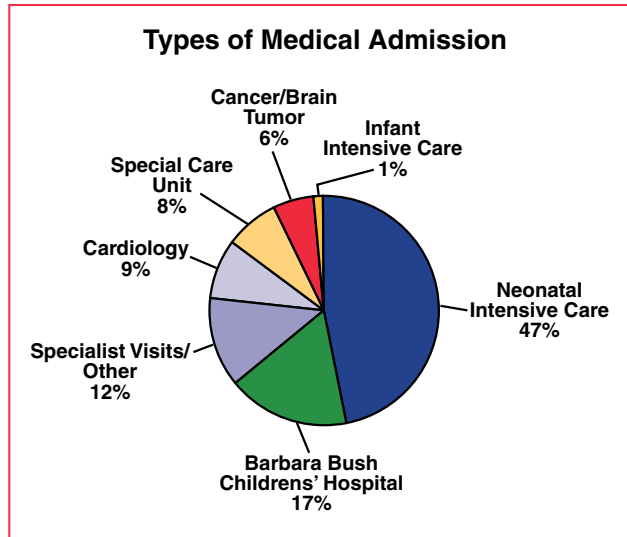
We could use your help! Ronald McDonald Family Room Volunteers, Shift Volunteers, Guest Chefs, Pizza Night Donors. Please call the House Manager or email: housemgr@rmhportlandme.org for a volunteer application or to learn more about partnering with the House that love built.

Why the Ronald McDonald House?

The Ronald McDonald House is a warm smile from a friendly volunteer, a home-cooked meal after a busy day at the hospital, a restful night's sleep away from doctors and nurses, and families helping each other through the toughest time in their lives. In Portland, nearly 50% of guests are young families who have premature babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; the hospital requires they remain nearby.

Oftentimes families must stay for several months at the House. Costly medical bills, siblings back home, and keeping up with their jobs: these are challenges that push families to the breaking point. That is why it is heart-warming to know these family challenges are supported by such loving and supportive community. The total operating budget for 2007 was \$448,000 to operate, sustain, and staff the House.

The Ronald McDonald House of Portland, Maine is independently operated and raises 100% of operating costs through generous donations from private individuals like you. The House can now accommodate 21 families and, with its proximity to major area hospitals, it is filled to capacity almost every night.



Help us guarantee the House will be there when families need to be close to their loved ones without the additional financial worry or stress.

Since Jay was 13 years old, his mom, Tina, has been driving 247 miles each way to stay at the Ronald McDonald House while Jay seeks treatment for cancer he has been battling for nearly six years. Their length of stay varies considerably. Oftentimes they will stay for one evening, visit with the doctor in the morning and Tina will drive back the next day to return home. Sometimes, when their visits involve chemo treatment, they will spend an entire week at the House. During this time it is the House's job to make certain Jay leaves here with at least one good experience. Whether it is a trip to Funtown or a quiet day at the movies, leaving the House with a smile is important.

Providing for families during a medical crisis is the mission of the Ronald McDonald House. Parents like Tina may find solace doing laundry, preparing lunch or chatting with other parents going through the same challenges. These conversations with fellow parents struggling through similar experiences lifts families spirits and provides support and encouragement. Normal daily activities, such as folding clothes or unloading the dishwasher, seem to be a welcome reprieve from a day of overwhelming life decisions. Eating dinner prepared by a guest chef allows families to nourish the body and soul. Gas cards and phone cards provided by the House help to alleviate the unaffordable gas prices and costly unending phone bills, two unwelcome expenses during a family's medical crisis.

The stories from families who have stayed at the house and the committed volunteers are the Ronald McDonald House of Portland, Maine.



Helping Hands Caring Hearts Gala – Meet Us on the Set

Mark your calendars!
Our annual Gala will take place on Saturday, November 1 at The Eastland Park Hotel starting at 6 PM, with a silent/live auction, dinner and dancing to The Jim Ciampi Band. Please lend your caring heart to this important event by becoming a sponsor, purchasing ad space, and/or donating an item to the auction. With your help, this event raises thousands of dollars each year to help the Ronald McDonald House serve families in need.

To learn more about how you can help, please contact Robin Chibroski at (207) 780-6282 or execdir@rmhportlandme.org.

Bowdoin Computer Science Students Build Humanitarian Software for Portland's Ronald McDonald House.

Bowdoin College is the newest site of The Humanitarian FOSS Project, a collaborative, community-building project that was started by a group of computing faculty and open source proponents at Trinity College, Wesleyan University, and Connecticut College. During the 2007 school year, Allen Tucker, retired professor at Bowdoin College, organized a group of four students to create volunteer management software to suit the needs of the Ronald McDonald House. By the end of the semester, the goal was for the students to create and build useful software to replace the countless handwritten volunteer calendars and paperwork to manage, track and schedule the 300 plus volunteers at the Portland Ronald McDonald House.

This project was funded by the Directorate for Computing & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) of The National Science Foundation (NSF) under its Pathways to Revitalized Undergraduate Computing Education program (CPATH). The local Ronald McDonald House project was supported by Bowdoin College's Information Technology Department, Dean for Academic Affairs, and Community Services Resource Center.



The goal of the HFOSS project is to build a community of academic computing departments, IT corporations, and local and global humanitarian and community organizations dedicated to building, customizing and using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) to benefit humanity.

This project is part of the growing Humanitarian FOSS Community, a community that was

...the goal is for the students to create and build useful software that will replace the countless handwritten volunteer calendars and paperwork...

inspired by the Sahana FOSS Disaster Management System, an IT system that was built to aid in the recovery effort following the December 2004 Asian Tsunami. During the past two years, with the help of IT professionals in Sri Lanka and at Accenture Corporation, students have built a Volunteer Management module that is now part of the Sahana system.

With the project complete, the Ronald McDonald House of Portland, Maine would like to

extend grateful appreciation for the hard work and dedication by Allen Tucker, Ralph Morelli and to Bowdoin College, especially students Oliver Radwan, Maxwell Palmer, Nolan McNair, and Taylor Talmage for their tireless efforts to create this incredibly beneficial software.



Raises \$35,000 plus for RMH

On June 5 nearly 300 people attended the 2008 Purses with Purpose, etc. luncheon fun'raising event at The Woodlands Club. The collection of bags, clutches, purses, wallets and accessories displayed inside the main room made up the nearly 270 silent and live auction items that came from almost a hundred local designers, craftspeople, national designers and Ronald McDonald House volunteers.

After an exciting silent auction, ladies and gentlemen sat down to a crowd pleasing and side splitting live auction led by Maine's funniest mom, Karen Morgan. During the bidding, each table attempted to outbid each other for the table centerpieces. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to Angela Clark, Jennie Ritchie, Linda Sabo, Orminia Santana and Nancy Wallerstein for coordinating the centerpieces. They were fabulous! Also, we would like to extend our special thanks to the Lowe's locations in Scarborough and Portland, Broadway Gardens, and JT Services for donating items for this year's centerpieces. After the scrumptious nicoise-esque luncheon salad was served, guests made time to network, meet new acquaintances and dear friends over dessert. This RMH fun'raiser was certainly a hit, raising over \$35,000. We are already planning for next year's event on June 4, 2009 at The Woodlands Club in Falmouth.

Special Thanks

We would like to extend special thanks to the Woodlands Club, One Stop Party Shoppe, UBS Financial Services, Maine McDonald Owner/Operators, Burgess Advertising and Marketing, and Dale Rand Printing for your support this year!

Our grateful appreciation to Co-Chair Cindy Wilson, and to all of this year's 2008 committee members for their time, efforts and talents: Sarah Korsiak-Cellier, Patty Crafts, Phyllis Hayes, Amy Keating, Shay Lattari, Becky Neidetcher, Debbie Porter, Pat Plummer, Linda Sabo, Orminia Santana, Tonia Tibbetts, Lisa Tuttle, and Nancy Wallerstein.

Grateful appreciation to our fabulous event volunteers: Chris Bennett, Bette Brook, Pat DeSimon, Jennifer Gardiner, Kathleen Gerdes, Judy Getchell, Becky Joyce, Sally Kennedy, Shay Lattari, Susan Laughton, Libby Lemieux, Theresa McKinney, Betsy Nygren, Ellie Speh, and Nancy Wallerstein.

Contributors:

Burgess Advertising & Marketing, Broadway Gardens, Dale Rand Printing, Ebags, The Forecaster, Karen Morgan and Lowe's and The Woodlands Club.



Sincerest thanks to all auction donors and volunteers who made this event a tremendous success:

Susan Abt, Akari, Amaryllis Clothing Co., James L. Audiffred, Esq., Bagstage, The Belted Cow, Christine Bennett, Joan Benoit Samuelson, Jane Berger, Mary Bertolet, Diane Brakeley, Broadway Gardens, Laura Bucci, Gina Buchalter, Meredith Burgess, Cathy Burke, Carol Burnett, Kacky Carey, Bonnie Carver, Catherine McAuley High School, Chadwick's, Marsha Clark, Mary Clarke-Korsiak, Cecile Clifford, Glenn Close, Coast 93.1, Cole Haan, Senator Susan Collins, Celine Couillaut, Patty Crafts, Cindy Crawford, D.Cole Jewelers, Crockett Interiors, Daily Cloth, Dancing with the Stars, Phyllis Diller, Doncaster, Jeannie Dorr, Ebags, Helen Farnham, Laurie Ferguson, Freeport Tack, Frisco Fun and Formal, Nancy Gee, Theresa Gendron, Lisa Jane Grant, Camille Guaty, Janice Hamilton, Mary Leigh Hanson, Karen Haskell, Phyllis Hayes, Irish Resorts, J'accents, Jacqueline's Tea Room, Jane Berger Photography, Carl Johengen, Kathleen Designs, Liz Kean, Amy Keating, Mary Jo Kolkhorst, Deborah Landry, Jana Lapointe, Vanessa LeBlanc, The Liberty Hotel, Edith Lord, Lowe's, Edie Lydick, Maine Cottage Furniture, Eva Matheson, Susan McGinty, Betty McPhee, Carol McPhetres, Madeline McTurck, Just Jane Creations, Jane Miller, Minnow Knits, Mobile Fitness, Sherri Mongar, Elizabeth Hamilton Moore, Robin Morse, Ms. Lulus, Pam Murray, Becky Neidetcher, Bethany Willard, Dr. Christiane Northrup, Margaret Nygren, Old Bagzz, Sheila Peabody, Peerless Painting Wallcovering & Design, Jane Peterson, Planet Dog, Pat Plummer, Debbie Porter, Dorinda Putnam, Rice and Beans Vintage, Claudia Ridlon, Deborah and Buddy Rumley, Linda Sabo, Orminia Santana, Satori, SATRIPP, Second Wind, Serendipity, Shipyard Point Glassworks, Skillins Greenhouses, Christina Smith, Senator Olympia Snowe, Susan Soule, Ellie Speh, Springer's Jewelers, Sylvia Asbury Custom Designs, Talbot's - Brunswick, Talbot's - South Portland, Karen Taylor, Annette Terison, Wendy Todd, Dorothy Vacca, Victoria Mansion, Kathy Waid-Kilmer, Nancy Wallerstein, Gibson Wilkes, Rick Williams, Cindy Williams, Cindy Wilson, WNBA and Clark Young.



Ronald McDonald Golf Tournament

Fun was in the air as 144 golfers and 15 volunteers ventured to the Falmouth Country Club on June 23 to tee up fore families at the 16th Annual Ronald McDonald House Golf Tournament. Since 1992, this signature event hosted by the Maine McDonald's Owner/Operators and Community Volunteers raises a net of more than \$53,000 a year to support critically ill children and their families.

An auction, dinner and awards ceremony followed the great day of golf. The raffle for two people to participate in the 2008 Lexus Champions for Charity Golf Tournament held at the famed Pebble Beach Resorts in California was a huge fundraising success. The excitement intensified as the drawing neared – congratulations Ron Evans, the lucky winner of this year's drawing.

The support of so many guarantees the Ronald McDonald House will remain a special place for families to call home while their critically ill children are hospitalized. We are grateful to the following for reaching deep into their hearts and partnering with the House that love built.

Heart of Gold – John Messer

The event took on a somber note when Steve Goble, Joe Foley and the Golf Committee asked the Messer Family to join them to accept the Heart of Gold Award – given in highest honor and recognition for extraordinary service – in tribute to John Messer, who sadly passed away in June. Since 2001, John had been such an integral part of the Portland Ronald McDonald House and had been serving as a Director on the Board, a long-time member on the Finance Committee, member on the Strategic Planning Committee and was a member and then Chair of the Ronald McDonald House Golf Tournament Committee. John's countless acts of kindness and incredible generosity are a legacy that is forever interwoven into the very spirit and fabric of this House and words cannot express enough how much he will be missed by us all.

HEART OF GOLD: The Coca Cola Company, Dead River Company, Steve Goble, Lexus of Portland, The Martin-Brower Company, Messer Truck Equipment, Jack & Margaret Nygren, The Napoli Group, and Sheila Peabody. **CHAMPION:** Northeast Foods – Automatic Rolls of New England and LT's, Inc. **SHARING HEART:** Box Lunch – Troiano Waste Services / Associated Septic Services, Golf Cart – McCain Foods USA, Inc., and Putting Contest/Prize – John D. Collins. **CARING HEART:** Citizen's Bank, Robert Danielson, Esq., Eagle Franchise Funding, Glidden Roofing Corporation, JHA, Inc., Keystone Foods, Lamtec, Inc., Al LeClerc Management, Maine Medical Center, McDonald's Corporation, McDonald's – Gary Eckmann, Portland Sea Dogs, Pro-Search, Inc., REAL, Inc.- Roger Grout, Scott Searway, Taylor Freezer, TD Banknorth, The Thaxter Company and The Thomas Room/Maietta Construction. **HELPING HEART:** Jane Amero, Arnold Worldwide, Tyler Bisack, John Chandler, Gordon Chibroski, Ron Evans, Bill Faucher, Jim Garrett, Dale Lalone, Jana Lapoint, Carolyn Murray, Don Neidetcher, Mike Powers, Kerry Robillard. **HOLE SPONSORS:** Cumberland Dairy, Ecolab/Kay Chemical Company, and Payrolls Unlimited, Inc. **HOLE-IN-ONE:** Lexus of Portland. **AUCTION:** Advantage Gases & Tools, Arnold Worldwide, Citadel Broadcasting, Clear Channel Broadcasting, The Coca Cola Company, Cuddledown of Maine, Falmouth Country Club, Dick Harris Golf Shop, G.M. Pollack & Sons, Home Accents, The Kindness Center, Lovell Designs, Inc., LT's Inc., Mount Washington Radio, Portland Glass, Portland Pirates, Portland Radio Group, Portland Sea Dogs, Select Comfort, Spadea Vineyards, TD Banknorth, Williams Broadcasting, Inc., and Young's Furniture. **RAFFLE BASKET:** Company C, D'Antonio Baking Company, Jeff and Judy Kane, Mother's Mountain Mustard, Pemberton Gourmet Foods, Ricetta's Brick Oven Pizzeria and Simply Divine Brownies. **GOLF COMMITTEE:** Eric Ferguson, Steve Goble, Dave Hamilton, Janice Hamilton, Betsy Nygren, Jack Nygren, Margaret Nygren, John Messer (2002-2008), Sheila Peabody, Susan Soule, Tim Thomas, and Gerry Tracy. **VOLUNTEERS:** Chris Bennett, Patty Crafts, Vicky & Dick Doughty, Judy Getchell, Jessica Holmes, Cheryl Levasseur, Alicia Milne, Jean Moberg-Ward, Becky Neidetcher, Tom Perkins, Linda Sabo, Sally Serunian and Megan Story.



Thanks to the generous support of Ronald McDonald Charities of Maine, the Wing-Benjamin Trust Fund, and Marc Motors, the Ronald McDonald House of Portland is now the proud owner of a Nissan Quest minivan.

The Shurfine Charity Golf Classic

Shurfine Foods and Associated Grocers of Maine held its longstanding annual Charity Golf Classic on June 3 at the Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro. Golfers traveled from all over the state to enjoy a great day of golf and raised \$30,000 to support four charities; the Maine National Guard Foundation Fund, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Maine and both the Bangor and Portland Ronald McDonald Houses.

It is indeed heartwarming to know we can count on a caring community to help us guarantee the House will be there when mothers and fathers need a place to stay while their children are hospitalized without the additional financial worries. The Ronald McDonald House of Portland, Maine would like to thank Shurfine Foods, Associated Grocers of Maine, the sponsors, golfers, volunteers and all who supported this year's tournament!

Monetary Donors

1/1/08 – 7/22/08

\$10,000-\$24,999

Estate of Therese B. Wynne

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Continued on page 10

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- 2. Attend** or hold your own creative fundraisers to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Portland.
- 3. Collect** Tab Tops from aluminum cans and remit to the Ronald McDonald House.
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