



*"I didn't enjoy being sick,  
but if I wasn't sick,  
all of this might not  
have happened."*

*—Kim Hill*

**1974:** The inspiration of the first Ronald McDonald House began with a little girl, 3-year-old Kim Hill, the daughter of Philadelphia Eagles football player Fred Hill and his wife, Fran, who was being treated for leukemia. During Kim's three years of treatment, the Hills often camped out on hospital chairs and ate out of vending machines while they watched other parents doing the same thing. The Hills knew that there had to be a solution. Fred rallied the support of his Eagles teammates to raise funds. Through Jim Murray, the Eagles' general manager, the team offered its support to Dr. Audrey Evans, head of the pediatric oncology unit at the children's hospital. Dr. Evans dreamed of a home away from home for families of seriously ill children. Jim Murray reached out to local McDonald's owner/operators in Philadelphia, who helped make the vision of a "home away from home" a reality, donating proceeds from the sale of Shamrock Shakes.



**Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Central Ohio**



**1982:** The first Ronald McDonald House in Columbus opened on 18th Street on March 17, 1982 when an old apartment building was purchased and renovated. This was the 28<sup>th</sup> Ronald McDonald House to be built. The new facility was met with a great deal of excitement from the local community, and especially the new partner Nationwide Children's Hospital. It expanded from 15 rooms to 28 rooms, but there was no elevator and guests had to share bathrooms. In 1988, capacity was increased to a total of 28 rooms, along with several other specialty areas that helped to make the House a home, where families could come together and support one another through the good times and the bad. In order to keep up with community needs, a larger House was built that eventually expanded to 44 rooms.

**2008:** In conjunction with the expansion of Nationwide Children's Hospital, a beautiful 80 room Ronald McDonald House was opened in Columbus, making it one of the largest Ronald McDonald Houses in the world. Located only 200 steps away from Nationwide Children's Hospital, the House was designed to meet the needs of families from throughout Ohio, the United States, and the world.

In **2013**, construction began on a 57-room campus expansion project at the Columbus Ronald McDonald House. As the healthcare system in central Ohio grew tremendously, so did the need to accommodate more families. Our expanded campus allows us to provide 137 guest rooms for families every night, and nearly 15,000 additional nights every year. The expansion features the Safelite Serenity Rooftop Garden, a large commercial kitchen, increased greenspace, and five free-standing single family homes for families with extended stays. The expansion has made the Ronald McDonald House of Central Ohio the largest of its kind in the world.



*Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio  
creates, finds, and supports programs that directly  
improve the health and well-being of children.*



*Keeping families close*

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