



# **RMHC Ireland**

## **2012 Annual Report**



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## ***RMHC Ireland Our Mission***

The mission of RMHC, Ireland, is to provide a Ronald McDonald House in order to support families whose children are seriously ill in hospital. The Ronald McDonald House provides accommodation and a caring and supportive environment for families whose children are seriously ill and are hospitalised or undergoing medical treatment at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin 12



## ***RMHC Ireland Our Vision***

Through our committed board members, our caring staff, our dedicated volunteers and our generous donors and supporters we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for families so that they can stay together when their children are ill in hospital.

# *A Message from our Chairperson*



It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report from the Board of Directors of RMHC Ireland.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities, Ireland, supports families whose children are seriously ill in hospital. We accomplish this through our Ronald McDonald House. Our House provides a caring and supportive environment for 20 families every night while their seriously ill children are hospitalised or undergoing treatment at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin 12.

We cannot provide this service without support. Our annual running costs are in the region of €300,000. This money is raised each year through our many fundraising events. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our very generous supporters. Your generosity makes an enormous difference to so many families.

I would like to extend my appreciation and my gratitude to all our Board Members who give so willingly and so freely of their time and commitment throughout the year.

Since we opened in November 2004 we have provided a very valuable and necessary service for in excess of 2,200 families from all over Ireland which amounts to almost 47,000 bed nights. It is not numbers that makes our House a Home. It's the people - the staff, the volunteers, the donors, the families and the community. It is the warmth, the sharing of joy and sorrow, the listening ear and the supportive hug, the courage and the love that makes our House a Home. On behalf of the Board of RMHC Ireland I would like to thank you all for making what we do possible.

2013 will be a busy year for The Ronald McDonald House Charity, Ireland. We will be launching our Capital Campaign to raise funds for a New Ronald McDonald House which we hope to provide alongside the New National Children's Hospital when it opens in 2017/8. Your continued support will be necessary and very much appreciated by us all.

Regards,  
Dr. Bruce Mitchell  
Chairperson  
RMHC Ireland

***"Thank you for helping us out during the first few months of our daughter's stay in Crumlin. We are so grateful that we could call your house our home during that difficult time. It meant so much that we had a base near our daughter and also that we were able to have the boys come and stay" (Cork Family)***

# ***Board of Trustees***

**Chairperson:** Dr. Bruce Mitchell, MBBCh,FRCP,FRCPi

**CEO (Volunteer):** Marian Carroll

**Secretary:** Brenda O’Loughlin (McDonald’s Owner Operator, Tullamore & Portlaoise)

**Treasurer:** Pat Keogh (CEO, Leopardstown Race Course)

**Trustees:**

Marcus Hewson (ex M.D. McDonald’s Restaurants of Ireland Ltd.)

Alison Cowzer (Managing Director, The Company of Food)

Jimmy Edwards (Director of Operations, Franchising & Supply Chain McDonald’s Restaurants of Ireland)

Dave Bobbett (Owner H&K International)

Dr. Aengus O’Marcaigh (Consultant Paediatric Haematologist Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital Crumlin)

Mike Ruding (McDonald’s Owner Operator, Drogheda & Navan)

Shane Jennings (Ireland & Leinster Rugby Player)



## ***Board Sub Committees***

**Fundraising Committee:** Alison Cowzer, Marian Carroll, Mike Ruding, Shane Jennings, Marcus Hewson

**Finance Committee:** Pat Keogh, Brenda O’Loughlin, Dave Bobbett, Bruce Mitchell, Jimmy Edwards, Kevin Keenan

**House Committee:** Marian Carroll, Aengus O’Marcaigh, Mairead Lavelle

**New Hospital Committee:** Bruce Mitchell, Marian Carroll, Alison Cowzer, Dave Bobbett, Kevin Keenan, Pat Keogh

**Owner Operator Liaison:** Mike Ruding

**MRI Liaison:** Jimmy Edwards

**Hospital Liaison:** Aengus O’Marcaigh

## ***Additional Committees***

### ***Golf***

Marian Carroll

Liz Nolan

Richard Boland

### ***Ball***

Marian Carroll

Liz Nolan

Alison Cowzer

Charley Stoney

Carolyn Odgers

Anne Donegan

Carol Mulcahy

Ciara Heslin

### ***Cycle***

Mairéad Lavelle

Sheena Dalton

Jenny Farrell

Pat Keogh

Geraldine Gleeson

Nicola Rowntree

Michael Reidy

***RMHC Ireland Ambassadors: Shane Jennings & Brenda Donohue***

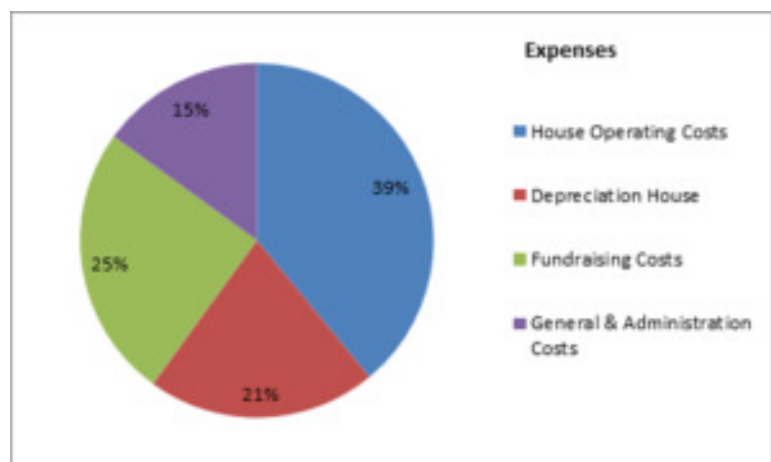
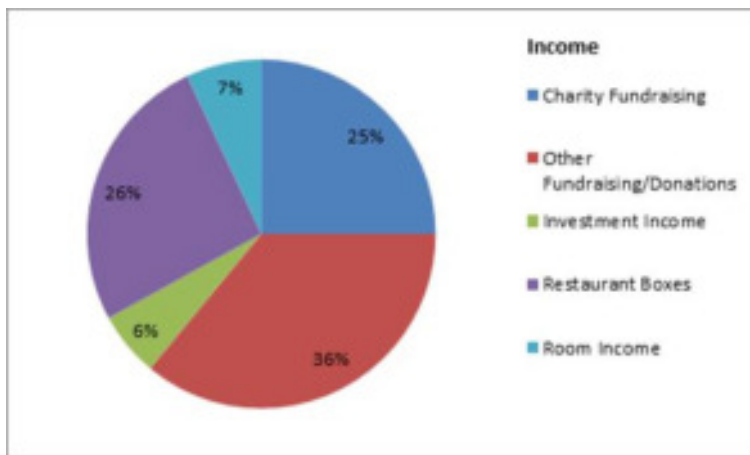
# Message from the Treasurer / Pat Keogh

The past year has again demonstrated the wonderful support we receive from so many people. The generosity of individuals and corporations who donated in 2012 is not only appreciated by RMHC Ireland but also by the many families who have stayed with us throughout the year.

Over €794,000 was raised in 2012. This support allows us to operate The House, look after our families and assists us greatly as we look to fund the building of a New Ronald McDonald House alongside the New National Children's Hospital.



Ronald McDonald House Charity Ireland is committed to efficiency, transparency and accountability to ensure the funds we receive are used to benefit the families we serve.



**Audited Financial Report available**



# ***RMHC Ireland & The Ronald McDonald House***



## **Message from Marian Carroll, CEO (Volunteer) RMHC Ireland**

With only one full time staff member and six part time staff a considerable amount of work was done in 2012 by very few but very dedicated people. We could not look after our families or conduct our fundraising events without the help and support of our staff and our many wonderful volunteers. I have been involved with the charity for the past 10 years and I can honestly say that the dedication and involvement of both the staff and the volunteers makes life so much easier for our families at a time when they need help the most.

Many thanks to each and every one of you for helping our families through these difficult times.

## ***Charity Staff***

**CEO (Volunteer): Marian Carroll**

**Charity Administrator: Liz Nolan**

**Financial Consultant: Kevin Keenan**

## ***House Staff***

**House Manager: Mairéad Lavelle**

**Assistant House Managers: Sheena Dalton & Jenny Farrell**

**House Keepers: Sandra Seery & Martina Quirke**



# Volunteers 2012

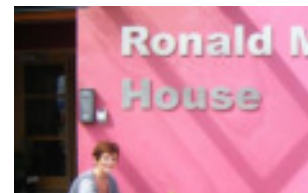
Volunteer Hours 2012: 3,870

Our Volunteers are involved in so many areas both in the Charity and in The House. They help with cooking, cleaning, gardening, painting, plumbing, electrical, administration and IT. Whatever job we need looked after there is always a Volunteer there to help.

Bernie Breen  
Berenice McCormack  
Mary Merriman  
Anita Egan  
Maeve Cahalan  
Anne Donegan  
Irene O Reilly  
Karen Clince  
Leon Rock  
Anne O Mahony  
Noeleen Saunders  
Kathy Prendergast  
Margaret Brogan  
Ciara Heslin  
Julie Cafferkey  
Marian Carroll  
Aideen Twomey  
Anne Redican

Eileen Mitchell  
Sr. Kathleen  
Emma Cahill  
Marie O'Malley  
Mary Mahon  
Collette O Mahony  
Collette Keenan  
Sean Mahon  
Phyllis Sweetman  
Nora Cotter  
Therese Murray  
Antoinette Layden  
Brendan Corrigan  
PJ McGarry  
Frank Donegan  
Ross McCarthy  
Valarie Killeen  
James Power

Niamh Marron  
Donna Murphy  
Siobhan Larkin  
Áine O'Doherty  
Patricia Keeley  
Marian Gallagher  
Linda Hoban  
Laura Browne  
Maura Byrne  
Phil Donnelly  
Mary Hurley  
Frank Shaughnessy  
Siobhan Palmer  
Bag Packers  
Blue Hat Sellers



## Message from one of our Volunteers: Ross McCarthy



Life has its ups and downs. I've been one of the lucky ones in the past few years. My life has been in a good place, where work has been plentiful and my personal life could not be better. What better time, I thought, to try to give a little back.

I read about the Ronald McDonald House, a place where families and children fight long and at times relentless battles every day. A place where spirits are high, determination strong and the will to succeed and get back to normal life is second to none. This fight takes energy and families need support. They need people to cook, to clean and to provide them with an environment that takes away as much stress as possible from their day to day life.

What could I, an IT Engineer, do to help? Plenty it would seem. I maintain and improve the IT infrastructure of The House, providing WiFi and general IT supports to the staff and residents of The House. I also cook from time to time with my girlfriend Caitríona. I try to help out in whatever way I can to help make things easier for the families. Saving money and volunteering has a real effect on the ability of The House to function and provide the service it does. I have been doing this now for over 2 years.

For me, I feel it's my way of giving something back. It's a pleasure and an absolute inspiration to talk to the families, staff and other volunteers. Getting to know them, to be part of the strength and determination in The House provides me with the inspiration to do my best, inside and outside of the Ronald McDonald House Family.



# Families in the House

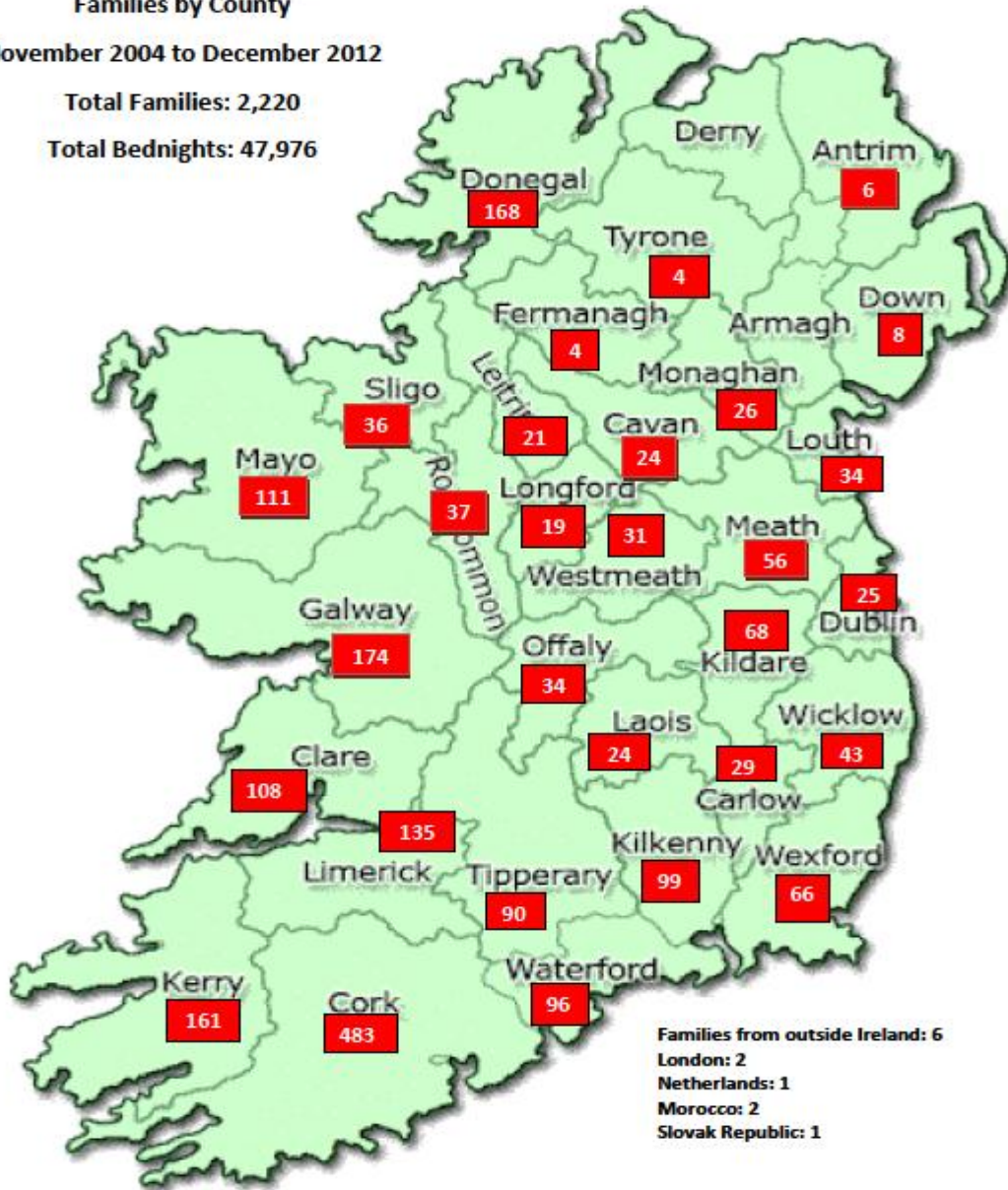


## Families by County

November 2004 to December 2012

Total Families: 2,220

Total Bednights: 47,976



Families from outside Ireland: 6  
 London: 2  
 Netherlands: 1  
 Morocco: 2  
 Slovak Republic: 1



## House Occupancy

Number of Families 2004 – 2012: 2,200

Occupancy 2012: 96%



# Family Stories

## Adam O'Sullivan (Age 10)

In June 2010 when I was almost 8, I started getting headaches. The doctors diagnosed me with a brain tumour. I was very frightened. I had an operation in Temple Street Children's Hospital to aspirate a cyst beside the tumour. Unfortunately the cyst grew back so I needed another operation in January 2011. It was then the doctors in Our Lady's Children's Hospital said I needed 6 weeks of radiotherapy.

As we live in Limerick, I was worried about where we were going to stay for the 6 weeks. Then I was told of a wonderful place called The Ronald McDonald House.

On my first day of treatment we called to The House. We got a lovely welcome and we were shown around. We were shown where our kitchen was, the room where the PlayStation was, the outdoor play area and of course our bedroom. I even had my own en suite room in The House for a full six weeks. I knew straight away that we'd be ok in Dublin. My brother Billy stayed with me in The House during some of my treatment and we played in the playroom. I loved having my Mom, Dad and Billy with me. When we were all together in The House I forgot about why I was there. The people who work there are just amazing and the volunteers who cook for us every day make such a difference.

As a thank you to The Ronald McDonald House for providing us with a 'Home' for 6 weeks, my Mom, Aunt and Godfather did a charity parachute jump from 10,000 feet and raised much needed funds for The House. I'm doing ok now but I do have regular check-ups in Crumlin Hospital. When we pass The House, I always say to Mom and Dad 'there's The Ronald McDonald House' and give it a wave! (Thank you Joanne – very brave!)



Adam & Billy O' Sullivan

## Aisling Considine (Mum)

Before Baby Lee was born I had never even heard of the Ronald McDonald House. 10 weeks later it has become a very welcome and familiar place to me. When I first arrived in The House with my husband and sister we were met by Mairéad who showed us around and explained all the facilities available. I felt a wave of calm for the first time since I was told my baby had a cardiac condition.

When you stay at The RMH everyone is in the same position. And the conversation is only ever about your child and how they are doing. When a family leaves there is always great joy that another child and their family are going home.

There is great banter in The House with people from Cork, Limerick, Wexford, Cavan, Kerry – just about every county in Ireland. When my 2 year old, Joe, comes to stay he takes out the Tea Set and makes sure that everyone gets a 'cup of tea' regardless of where they come from or who won the 'match' at the week-end!! All the kids have great fun in the Playhouse and on the bikes out the back – just great for them to be able to get out into the fresh air.

The Volunteers at The House are fantastic. The House is always spotless and it is so uplifting to find someone has come in and cooked a proper dinner for everyone – including Apple Tart (Thanks Seán!) My experiences at The Ronald McDonald House have always been positive and it most certainly is a home away from home. I have made many friends and will always wish them well in life. A very big *Thank You* to everyone involved in any way with every aspect of the House. You lift our spirits when we need it most and for that we will always be very grateful.

(Aisling very kindly did a Fundraiser for The House & raised €4,635)



# House Events 2012

Since The House opened in November 2004 we have provided accommodation, care and support for in excess of 2,200 families from all over Ireland. The House is more than bricks and mortar. The House provides a caring and supportive environment and a safe haven for families with sick children. We could not provide this environment without the many volunteers who come to the house each week to help look after the families. During 2012 we had lots of happy events in the House. Thank you for helping us to look after our families. (Mairéad Lavelle, House Manager)

**Bank of Ireland** staff have been volunteering in The House since our early days. Various staff groups visit The House throughout the year and cook for our families.



**Aravato** have chosen us as one of their charities for the past few years. They make an annual donation and they came in again this year and did a BBQ for the Families



**US Marines** came to visit The House with John Hennessey-Niland, Chargé d'affaires, on 24<sup>th</sup> December. They brought presents for everybody! Really special visit.



**SAP Ireland Ltd**  
The Ronald McDonald House Charity Partner 2012. The staff organised various events during the year and then came in and cooked twice for our families.

## Christmas Party in The House / Child's Play Crèche Newbridge

For the past 4 years Child's Play Crèche, Newbridge, owned by Georga & Conor Dowling, have organised our Family Christmas Party. They bring the decorations, the presents, the food, the cooks and the help and do an amazing job on the day – one of the highlights on our calendar. Many thanks to all at Child's Play





# Fundraising Events 2012

A very sincere **Thank You** to everybody who supported all our fundraising efforts in 2012. We would also like to thank all those individuals and companies who did their own fundraising for the Ronald McDonald House

**House Cycle (April)**  
Raised: €37,142.00



**Trolley Tokens (May)**  
Raised: €14,489



**Golf Classic (June)**  
Raised: €33,796



**Gala Ball (October)**  
Raised: €87,164



**McHappy Day 24 Nov**  
Raised: €16,893



**Santa Hats Nov/Dec**  
Raised: €75,845



**M&S Bag Packs (Feb/Nov)**  
Raised: €11,492



**Waterford Rotary Cycle**  
Raised: €8,330



**SAP Ireland Various Fundraisers**  
Raised: €8,707



**Various Marathons**  
Raised: €38,916



**McDonald's Football Event**  
Raised: €10,000



**Family & Individual Fundraising**  
Raised: €86,700



# Leinster Rugby Charity Partners



**Shane Jennings** (Irish & Leinster Rugby Player) has been a Trustee of RMHC Ireland since his return from The Rugby World Cup in 2011. Shane also acts as RMHC Charity Ambassador and actively promotes the work done by the Charity. Shane and some of the Leinster players took part in the Ronald McDonald House Cycle in April 2012 and raised in excess of €1,000 from the players. Shane, accompanied by Richardt Strauss & Heinke van de Merwe, brought The Heineken Cup Trophy to The Ronald McDonald House for our families, staff & volunteers to see. In October Shane was on hand at our Gala Ball to welcome all our guests. In November Shane and 5 of his team mates joined us for our charity Bag Packing at Marks & Spencer in Mary Street. In December Shane actively supported and promoted the sale of our Blue Leinster Hats for the Heineken Cup match at the Aviva Stadium.

**Shane, Isaac, Seán, Gordon & Jamie at House Cycle**



**Molly with Leo as Team Mascot**



**Leo & Jack Bag Packing**



**Andrew Fionn & Shane promote Blue Santa Hats**



**Shane at The Ball**



**Heineken Cup at The House with Richard, Shane & Heinke**





# ***Sponsors & Donors 2012***

## **McDonald's Restaurants of Ireland & Irish McDonald's Owner Operators**

A very sincere thank you to Adrian Crean, MD McDonald's Restaurants of Ireland for his and the company's tremendous support during 2012. We would also like to thank all the Irish McDonald's Owner Operators for their very generous help and support during the year. Aaron Byrne, Amir Afsar, Bernard Byrne, Brenda O'Loughlin, Chris Pim, Declan O'Driscoll, Elaine Sterio, Gerry Hayden, Ian Carroll, James Perry, Jim Ronayne, Joe Byrne, John Blake, John Gallagher, Kieran McDermott, Malcolm McConkey, Mark O'Halloran, Martin Hoban, Mike Ruding, Morgan McStay, Phil Danaher, Rhoda Cramp, Richard McNamara, Seamus Rawle, Sean Corcoran, Sean Quirke, Siobhan Slater.

## **McDonald's Suppliers**

**We always receive incredible support from McDonald's Suppliers. Thank You.**

H&K International, Lamb Weston, Kerry Foods, AON Risk Solutions, Kay Chemicals, OSI Food Solutions, Cawley Nea\TBWA, McCains, Guenther Bakeries, Mediaworks, MB Metroplex, Reinhold Keller, Dawn Meats Group, Keystone UK, Nestle Ireland, Cuisine de France, Colman Reynolds, Delta Packaging, Linney Group, Drury, McBurney Refrigeration, P&J Gaffney Ltd. Paul Hamilton Plumbing, Coca Cola, CJ Ryder, DSV, Arthur Gibney Architects, American Pan company, L&Bee, ARYZTA.

## **Additional Companies**

**We also have many other companies who have supported us generously during the year. Thank You**

The Company of Food, Valeo Foods, Bardahl, ABP, G4S, Leading Edge, Luttrellstown Golf Club, Curragh Golf Club, The Heritage Golf & Spa Resort, The Shelbourne Hotel, Sunway Travel, Glasson Golf Club, Woodstock Golf & Country Club, Bizquip, Openeye TV, Connaught Packaging, Yeats College, Kate Collins Pub, St Conleth's & St Mary's N.S, Monaghan Collegiate School, Maghery Day Care Centre, SAP Ireland Ltd, Crossell Ltd, Sheen Falls Lodge, NAC Swimathon, Acorn Life, Loreto College, Unicare Pharmacy, Leinster Supporters Club, Maroak Ltd, Espersen Denmark, ARVATO, Thales UK, Douglas Post Office, Dunnes Stores, Johnstown Produce, Slaney Foods, FMI, Extreme Ireland, Next Generation Recruitment, Diageo, Waterford Castle, Faithlegg House Hotel & GC Ballymaloe Cookery School, Longueville House, Westport Plaza & Castlecourt Hotels, Glenpac Bacon, Tesco, Kelloggs, Johnston & Johnston, John O'Reilly Butcher, Tom Whelan Butcher, James Whelan Butcher, Lotus FM, Movianta, Pfizer, Aravato, Bank of Ireland, Unilever, Citrix, Gara Ryan, Footprint Developments, Thorne Sarsfield, Hibernia Evros, Retail Integration, One 51, Glen Fuels, Mediation & Arbitration, Pantry Franchise Ireland.

## **Additional Donors**

We have so many families and individuals who make very generous donations to the Ronald McDonald House each year. Last year was no exception. A very sincere **Thank You** to everybody. Your generosity makes an enormous difference to so many families



***Dawn Meats make a generous donation of €5,000 to The House***



# *Planning for the Future*

## **The New National Children's Hospital at St. James's Hospital**

A long awaited decision was reached in 2012 to build The New National Children's Hospital on a site in and around St James's Hospital in Dublin. The hospital will be built on a 6.3 hectare site on the campus of the south inner city hospital and will be finished by the end of 2017 or early 2018

The development of the New National Children's Hospital will be the biggest capital project during the lifetime of the current Government. It will merge the three children's hospitals - Temple Street, Crumlin (RMH) and Tallaght - at a single location. "It is essential that the new children's hospital can deliver best clinical outcomes for our children. Co-location with St James's and, ultimately, tri-location with a maternity hospital on the St James's campus, will, the Government believes, provide the excellence in clinical care that our children deserve" (Dr James Reilly, Minister for Health)



***Draft design for the new National Children's Hospital***

### **A New Ronald McDonald House**

We opened the first Ronald McDonald House on the grounds of Our Lady's Children's Hospital in November 2004. Within a year of opening we heard that a New National Children's Hospital was to be built in Dublin. With only 16 bedrooms in our House and a serious demand for rooms we opened an additional 4 rooms to provide for our families. With news of a New Hospital in a new location we have been reluctant to expand until we received confirmation of the new hospital and the location. With the Government announcement at the end of 2012 we can now make definite plans to build a New Ronald McDonald House.

2013 is going to be a very exciting year for everyone involved with The Ronald McDonald House Charity, Ireland. We will be launching our Capital Campaign to raise funds for our New Ronald McDonald House which we will build alongside the New National Children's Hospital at St James's Hospital. We will also be hosting a truly spectacular fundraising event to showcase our work here in Ireland. The RMHC Gathering Ball on 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Dublin Convention Centre promises to be a wonderful gathering of old and new families and friends.

The evening will be a celebration of our past achievements and a recognition of those who have helped us to date. We will showcase the very best of Irish Food, Entertainment and Hospitality in a spectacular venue with amazing views of Dublin City. We are asking our supporters to attend and to help us to keep families together when they need us most and to be part of the next chapter of The Ronald McDonald House Charity, Ireland.

***We are looking forward to a busy but exciting 2013***



**RMHC Ireland  
The Ronald McDonald House  
Our Lady's Children's Hospital  
Crumlin  
Dublin 12**

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**Fax: 00353 1 4560446**

**Registered Charity Number: 12553**

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[facebook.com/RonaldHouseDublin](https://www.facebook.com/RonaldHouseDublin)  
[@RMHCDublin](https://www.instagram.com/RMHCDublin)**