

Dear IAJHSC Member Schools,

My name is Anthony Caputo, and I am the Northeast District Representative. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to present this year's state service project. This year's state service project will be Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC). Whether from across the city, the state, or the world, tens of thousands of families travel to Chicagoland's children's hospitals each year for the expert care their children need. When they come, Ronald McDonald House Charities is there to help

Ronald McDonald House Charities is a non-profit organization that helps the families of medically ill children. They are committed to providing these families a "home away from home" blocks away from their children's hospital in the 84 rooms available at their four local Ronald McDonald Houses. Each year, they are proud to provide nearly 20,000 nights of comfort to families who need a place to stay so they can be there for their children.

They have four houses throughout the Chicagoland area:

**RMH near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital**

4410 W. 93<sup>rd</sup> St. Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Kelly Evans, House Manager

708-423-5285

**RMH near Loyola Medical Center**

Tripp Ave. at Air Mail Rd., P.O. Box 7002

Hines, IL 60141

Andi Wadas, House Manager

708-327-2273

**RMH near Children's Memorial Hospital**

622 W. Deming Pl. Chicago, IL 60614

Anne Czarnecki, House Manager

773-348-5322

**RMH near University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital**

5444 S. Drexel Ave. Chicago, IL 60615

Mardelle Gundlach, House Manager

773-324-5437

On most nights, the Houses are at full capacity and the needs of the families are constant and very real. These families are their inspiration and what drive them. To better serve them, they have embarked on an initiative to build the largest Ronald McDonald House in the world. This new house will be near Lurie's Children's Hospital right here in Chicago. Each school will be sent an order form for care, love, hope, and comfort welcome mats. RMHC has initiated this project to raise the 30 million dollars needed to open the new house.

If you want to physically volunteer at any of the houses or if you have a question, either contact Ms. Lauren Knazur ([lknazur@rmhccni.org](mailto:lknazur@rmhccni.org)), or me ([nerep@iajhsc.org](mailto:nerep@iajhsc.org)). However, this is not the only thing you can do throughout this school year. I trust that each and every council will come up with amazing ideas to reach our goal of donating one dollar for every student attending our member schools. I know that we can accomplish this goal together and make a difference in the lives of each family that is involved with the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Signed,

Anthony Caputo

Northeast District Representative