



Keeping families close®

Media Release

January 25, 2019

Contact:

Mindy Plumlee, Executive Director

208-336-5478

Taylor Munson, Communications Manager

208-867-8249

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho Announces \$15.3 Million Campaign

Project will triple the number of families of ill or injured children the House can serve every year, keeping them together in times of medical need.

(BOISE, ID) – **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho** (RMHC of Idaho) has announced plans for a new project as part of a \$15.3 million campaign that will triple its capacity to keep Idaho and eastern Oregon families close to the local hospitals where their sick children are receiving treatment. Without an expansion, RMHC of Idaho officials project by 2025 there will be one room at the current House for every three families who need one.

The Idaho-based nonprofit organization will build a 47 guest-room facility at 139 E. Warm Springs Avenue, easily accessible to St. Luke's patients and a short drive from Saint Alphonsus Hospital. The site, just east of the present house, is currently utilized for St. Luke's employee parking. The project is being designed by Cole Architects and built by Engineered Structures, Inc. (ESI), with groundbreaking scheduled for February 1st, and completion expected in early 2020.



Keeping families close®

The project comes in response to current and projected growth in the local pediatric medical community, along with the overall population growth in Idaho and Eastern Oregon. The current Idaho Ronald McDonald House can accommodate 17 families each night in its existing 14,000 square foot facility. In 2018, due to space limitations, RMHC of Idaho turned away 85 families for a total of 221 nights due to space limitations.

"As the number of children cared for at St. Luke's Children's Hospital continues to grow year over year, the expansion of the Ronald McDonald House capacity and addition of new services to meet this increased demand is incredibly valuable to helping our patients and families," said Kathryn Beattie, MD, Executive Medical Director and Administrator of St. Luke's Children's Hospital.

The expansion project is being funded by RMHC of Idaho's "Room for Every Family" capital campaign. In the quiet phase of the campaign, \$9.4 million has been raised to date. The projected total cost of construction is \$13.5 million, while \$1.8 million will go to supporting House annual operating costs.

The new building will help more families stay close while their child receives medical treatment. In addition to sleeping rooms, private day rooms within the facility will provide families a home base while their child receives outpatient care, while a larger kitchen, pantry and dining room will continue to take the pressure of grocery shopping, meal preparation and cleaning off families.

In 2018, the global Ronald McDonald House Charities organization announced a \$100 million donation from research-based global biopharmaceutical company AbbVie, which will support 32 Ronald McDonald House expansions across the United States. RMHC of Idaho is receiving \$5 million from the AbbVie donation. For more about the national announcement, click [here](#).



Keeping families close®

Other major donors to the campaign include:

- JR Simplot Co. and Family \$1,500,000
- McDonalds owners/operators of Southern Idaho 1,000,000
- Lamb Weston 350,000
- RMHC of Idaho Board and staff combined 212,000
- Julius C. Jeker Foundation 100,000

ABOUT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF IDAHO

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Idaho is an Idaho-based non-profit 501(c)(3) that supports families of ill or injured children by keeping them together in times of medical need. RMHC of Idaho operates the Idaho Ronald McDonald House in Boise, the Ronald McDonald Family Room in Idaho Falls and the Happy Wheels Hospitality Carts in the St. Luke's and Saint Alphonsus hospitals in Boise. Through its programs, RMHC of Idaho provides families with a safe and secure place for healing filled with hope and comfort while also investing and strengthening healthcare partnerships to meet families' growing and changing needs. Learn more at rmhcidaho.org.

#