



**\*Press Release\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FIRST RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE BREAKS GROUND ON HISTORIC EXPANSION**

*New Tower Will Allow the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House to Serve More Than Twice as Many Families Seeking Treatment at Local Hospitals*

**(Philadelphia, PA)** — The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (PRMH), the first Ronald McDonald House in the world, celebrated the groundbreaking of its expansion project—the biggest in its history—on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 3925 Chestnut Street. Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, Councilwoman Blackwell, and over 200 supporters attended the reception, which culminated with guests holding a giant striped shovel for the first dig. The event marked a significant milestone for the project, as PRMH finally raised enough money to begin construction, although it still has to continue fundraising to achieve completion.

The expansion, which is estimated to be completed at the end of 2018, will allow PRMH to serve more than twice as many families as it is currently able to, thereby reducing the amount of families that have to be turned away due to a lack of space. With the current room count, PRMH is forced to decline four out of five requests for a room, and last year alone 5,547 families had to be told they would have to find an alternative. Finding lodging can be a financially and emotionally burdensome task for families seeking treatment for their seriously ill children at Philadelphia hospitals if they do not have access to a place to stay locally.

The Chestnut Street expansion will add 88 bedrooms while modernizing others for a total of 111 rooms, enabling PRMH to go from serving approximately 800 families annually over the past three years to an estimated 1,900 families, and it will increase its available room nights from around 16,000 to more than 40,000 per year. In addition, the project will include a new welcome center, a newly constructed kitchen, and indoor and outdoor play areas.

The current lead donors include Tower Benefactors Jill and Alan B. Miller; Leadership Contributors the Daniel B. and Florence E. Green Foundation, Anne and Ron Krancer and Family, Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Philadelphia Region; Legacy Partner Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; and New Market Tax Credit Program Partners Chase Community Development Banking, City First New Markets Fund II, Commonwealth Cornerstone Group, PIDC Community Capital.

In kind donors for the project include Carlisle Syntec Systems, Jan and Robert Chevalier, La-Z-Boy, P. Agnes, Penn Power, Philadelphia Building Trades, Roofers Local 30, Sautter Crane Rental, Tactix Real Estate Advisors, The Roofing Industry Alliance for Progress, United States Roofing Corporation, University of Pennsylvania, and University of the Sciences.

## **About the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House**

The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House supports families of seriously ill children by creating a community of comfort and hope. Our programs include two Ronald McDonald Houses, Ronald McDonald Family Rooms at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and Ronald McDonald Camp. To learn more, please visit <http://www.philarmh.org/> or join our social media community on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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