

FACT SHEET:

RONALD McDONALD CHARITIES OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY FAMILY ROOM PROJECTS

THE STORY:

- Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (RMHC-RGV) will undertake a **\$1.8 million project to expand its services** by establishing facilities in five area hospitals in the next 3-5 years.
- **Five Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are planned.** Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are programs established inside hospitals to provide a home-like setting, allowing parents to step away, take care of personal needs and regroup before returning to their child's bedside.
- Some Family Rooms will include overnight sleeping accommodations, allowing parents to get much-needed rest just steps from their child's hospital room.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

- Pediatric health care is expanding and changing rapidly in the Rio Grande Valley. **The project will allow Ronald McDonald House Charities extend its services** to thousands more families each year.
- Research demonstrates the importance of family involvement in a child's care to improve both the clinical outcome and psychosocial impact of a diagnosis with a serious illness¹. Moreover, studies show that children cope better with a serious condition when their parents are coping well².
- The program is **cost-effective**, establishing five new facilities for just \$1.8 million.
- A Capital Campaign is underway to raise the needed funds. To date, **\$1.35 million has been raised.**

¹ Peterson, L, Mori L, and Carter P. The Role of the Family in Children's Responses to Stressful Medical Procedures. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, 14(2) Pp. 98-104, 1985.

² Barakat LP and Linney JaA. Children with Physical Handicaps and Their Mothers: The Interrelation of Social Support, Maternal Adjustment, and Child Adjustment. *The Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 17(6) pp. 725-739, 1992.

WHO'S INVOLVED:

- Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (RMHC-RGV) will establish the five facilities and will operate the program, employ staff and train/supervise volunteers.
 - RMHC-RGV Board Chair is **Sandra Flinn** of Harlingen.
 - Immediate Past Chair **Jeff Weller** of McAllen was instrumental in the planning that led to this step.
 - RMHC-RGV's Executive Director is **Dawn Price**.
 - **Mally Akle-Jaurequi** has been hired as Family Room Manager for the project.

- Five hospitals will host the Family Rooms. Two - Edinburg Children's Hospital and Valley Baptist - Harlingen - have completed space identification and architectural design with construction starting soon. Three others - Knapp Medical Center, McAllen Medical Center and Valley Baptist Medical Center - Brownsville - are undergoing space planning activities with a goal of establishing a Family Room in the next several years.

- **Frank Boggus** of Harlingen and **Jim Collins** of McAllen are co-chairing the capital campaign effort. Each has made a leadership gift.

- Leadership gifts:
 - The Mabee Foundation
 - RGV McDonald's Owner-Operators
 - Loring Cook Foundation
 - H-E-B Tournament of Champions
 - InterNational Bank
 - Texas State Bank

- Architectural firm **Megamorphosis** of Harlingen has been retained to design the facilities. The firm is donating its services for the Valley Baptist-Harlingen project.