



Ronald McDonald House Charities of Knoxville
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John Buckingham – A Ronald House Family Man

When John Buckingham first became involved with the Ronald McDonald House, he had three young children at home and was still considered a young attorney. Now John is considered a seasoned attorney (serving as Special Counsel with the firm of Lewis, King, Krieg & Waldrop) and is the proud grandfather of four grandchildren!

One reason we have the Ronald McDonald House here in Knoxville is because of John's vision and dedication. John first learned in 1981 that consideration was being given to a Ronald McDonald House here through his Sertoma Club. A speaker from Children's Hospital told his club that there was interest in starting a Ronald McDonald House here. Shortly thereafter John saw a television commercial about Ronald Houses on a national basis and it piqued his interest. The rest, as they say, is history!!!

John called Children's Hospital and volunteered his services to help get a Ronald House under way. With his legal background, he was the perfect one to help get the



One of our McFounders

documents and legalities of a new corporation in place. Our Ronald House, the first one in the state of Tennessee, opened for business in 1985. We're happy to say that John played a huge part in making that happen and he remains a dedicated Board member today!

John's life has been a busy one! His law career has spanned 35 years, including time in private practice, as well as serving three years with the State Attorney General's office and ten years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney with the United States Attorney's office in Knoxville.

His proudest accomplishment is clearly his family – wife Kathy, and their children Angie, Mark, and Lisa, all three graduates of Notre Dame University!! Their son-in-law and daughter-in-law and their grandchildren round out the Buckingham clan – and bring a grin to John's face!

Recently John and his wife participated in a 26 mile walking marathon to raise money for Leukemia and Lymphoma research and he has ventured into the musical world, taking up the mandolin! No doubt John is a dedicated family man – and his dedication includes the Ronald McDonald Family, too! When asked why he volunteers for the Ronald House, John said "I love children and volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House gives me the opportunity to help children and their families at times when they are most in need of help."

To help you get to know our Board better, we plan to feature a different Board member in each newsletter. ♡



Just as "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet"... an event by any other name would still benefit our House.

After a 7-year run as World Children's Day, McDonald's premier fundraiser to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities around the world is now known as McHappy Day.

You can support our Ronald McDonald House while enjoying a meal at area McDonald's on November 20. For every Breakfast Extra Value Meal and Beef Sandwich Extra Value Meal sold McDonald's will generously donate \$1.00 to us.

And it gets even better! From November 10-19 customers can purchase a "hand" for \$1.00 that will be displayed in-store for the duration of the event with those contributions also benefiting our RMH. We'll see you at McDonald's! ♡

Christmas In July

For the second year now, the caring folks of Beals Chapel Baptist Church have sponsored a "Christmas in July" event to benefit our House.

Their inspired rationale for the summer fundraiser was simple... many people don't have the extra money to donate come December, but perhaps they would on July 25.

Two groups agreed to lend their time and talents to the evening's festivities...The Crystal Road Band and The Russell Family. And after the hat had been passed and the

love offering taken...\$837 had been collected and given to us.

Not one to rest on their laurels, this kind-hearted congregation is already making plans for next July.