

Harrison Carter
RMH
TRT 1:39

<<Anchor Intro>>

The Ronald McDonald House may share its name with a famous fast food chain, but it is anything but. It is a national non-profit organization who lends support and lodging to families who have children undergoing care at local hospitals. The majority of the funding and services provided by the houses are provided by the community, and the Chapel Hill house needs your help. Harrison Carter reports.

<<Nat Sound-“something good to eat most of all a comfortable bed, and just comfort peace of mind”>>

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Parents Henry and Donna Walser have spent the last 7 months at The Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill while their daughter has received treatment at UNC hospitals. Twelve-year-old Heather battles Cystic Fibrosis, Cerebral Palsy, and is receiving dialysis treatment for kidney failure. The house has been a great comfort to Henry and Donna.

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“It will keep your spirits up and keep where you feel like going to the hospital everyday when you have to.” “It’s second to being home, it’s been nice.”

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Outreach development associate Ariadne Guthrie says they help families deal with the stress and costs of commuting a child to get the medical attention they need.

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“What we attempt to do here is to alleviate that stress by providing them with a room to sleep in, free food, and a supportive environment.”

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Guthrie says volunteerism and individual donations are essential for the house to provide its services.

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“We only have 5 full time staff people in this thirty room facility and then sixty five percent of our funding comes from individual donors.”

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You can donate a simple household item that appears on their wish list, or participate in their spring “Sport a Shirt, Share a Night” fundraiser where buying a t-shirt can raise awareness and provide one nights lodging for a family. Guthrie says they pride themselves on making it easy for people to get involved.

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<<agBite3>>

“Depending on your time commitment and your schedule there are hundreds of ways you can help out.”

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For information on fundraisers, donations, or just how to lend a hand, contact the Chapel Hill Ronald McDonald House at 919-913-2040 or find other houses at the national website at www.rmhc.com. From Chapel Hill this is Harrison Carter reporting.