

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

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SPRING, 1982



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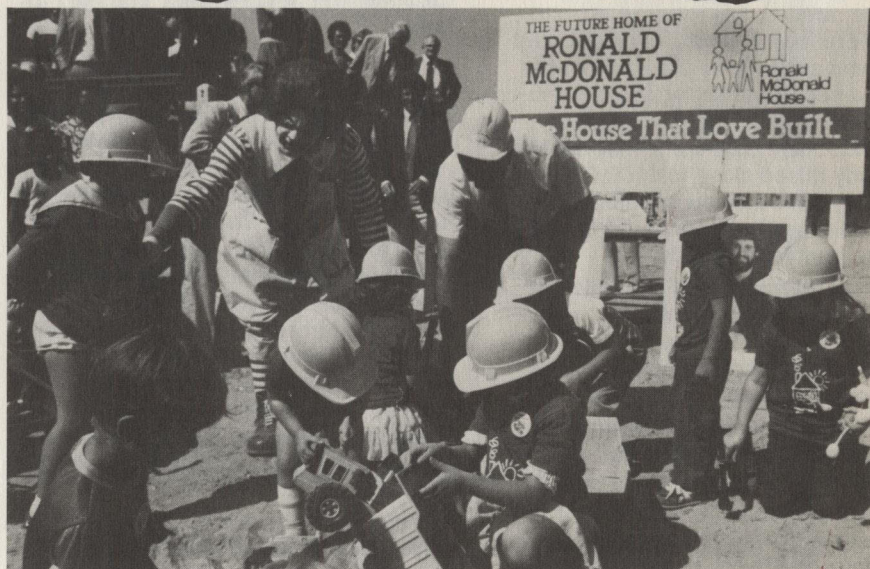
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STEFFI WINGRAT, EDITOR



## Ronald McDonald House Breaks Ground

August 25th was just another warm, sunny, summer weekday for most Baltimoreans. But for about 100 people on an empty lot on Lexington and Arch streets, it was a very important day. H.O.S.S. board members, volunteers, friends and media representatives were all there to participate in the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremonies. Members of the groundbreaking "crew", patients and former patients from Johns Hopkins and University Hospitals, headed by Ronald McDonald, occupied themselves by playing in the dirt with the construction equipment (Tonka size).

Jim Dresher, H.O.S.S. treasurer and master of ceremonies, began the event by introducing the guest of honor, Mayor William Donald Schaefer. The Mayor's introductory statement, "Today is a day to smile," appropriately expressed the feeling of everyone present. The Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland medical institutions were represented by Mr. Ronald Peterson, Chief Administrator of the Children's Medical and Surgical Center of Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Dr. John Dennis, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Ed Simonini, middle linebacker for the

Baltimore Colts, spoke on behalf of Joe Ehrmann. Dr. Nancy Madden, president of H.O.S.S., gave an update on the House.

Following the various speeches and words of encouragement, there were check presentations from several people representing diverse areas of the Baltimore community. These included a large contribution from McCormick's, presented by Mr. Matt Dillon, Vice President for Food Service, Industrial Group. Other donations were received from the Junior League of Baltimore, the Towson YMCA, NFL charities, the Council of Colt Corrals, the News American, and Bill Harden and Mike White, who rode their bikes from Ellicott City to Ocean City. The checks were accepted by Shane Tyree, Ronald McDonald House poster child and Ronald.

Without further ado, we proceeded to the highlight of the day. The construction "crew" aided by Mayor Schaefer and Ronald, and sporting appropriate hard hats, all set to work with their shovels. At the Mayor's count of "1 . . 2 . . 3 . . ." a shovelful of dirt was scooped up and poured into a Tonka dump truck.



## Letter from The President

### The Walls Are Going Up.

This time last year, we had some money in the bank and lots of ideas about what Baltimore's Ronald McDonald House would be like. Now the building is actually underway, the roof is on, finishing touches are being made and the House will be opening on June 28.

A lot of time, energy and cooperation has brought us this far. Many, many THANK YOU's are needed. Let me start by thanking our local McDonald's restaurant owners who continue to provide us with support in such a variety of ways. From Shamrock Shakes to McHappy Day to Ronald McDonald Calendars, McDonald's has already raised close to \$100,000.00 for us. They have also contributed their energy and expertise to our board. Support has come from far and wide.

- The Baker International Foundation in California has made three major contributions to the House. The commitment and understanding for this project from this foundation is marvelous.

- The Bayport Foundation in Minnesota has also made a most generous contribution.

- The response from the business community in Baltimore has been tremendous. Baltimore area Ford dealers, working with the News American, WBAL, and all of the golf courses in the area staged a very successful Hole-in-One contest last year. McCormick's Spice Company has made a five-year commitment. Others include Maryland Cup, Garon's Ethan Allan Gallery, Levinson and Klein, Pollack Blums, Krebs Furniture and Dorman Lighting. There will be more to come.

- Baltimore community groups have been extremely generous. The YMCA's danceathon and the Junior League's Jumping classic have been major fundraisers. The city itself contributed through the funds raised at the opening of the Baltimore Bullet. The land beneath the House is being leased to us at a dollar a year by the State of Maryland. Further contributions were made by the banking community as a low interest bond was put together by nine Maryland banks. This effort was headed by First National Bank, and supported by Equitable Trust, Union Trust, Carrollton Bank, Savings Bank of Baltimore, Provident Savings Bank, Maryland National, Mercantile, and Commercial Credit Corporation.

- The House has also received contributions from the American Cancer Society, the Edith Rosen Strauss Foundation, Miriam Lodge, the United Order of True Sisters, the Council of Colt Corrals, The American Legion (Morrel Park Unit #137), the Zonta Club of Baltimore, Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority, Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, and the Arlene Rosenbloom Wyman Guild.

- Area high schools have also helped. Golden Ring Sr. High, Kenwood High,

Wilde Lake High and Woodlawn Sr. High have all made contributions.

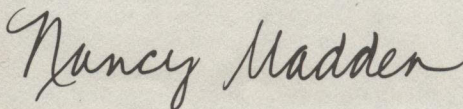
- Many contributions have been made by individuals. Mr. Charles Haynesworth made a generous contribution in the name of his grandson, Brennan Lee Haynesworth Grund. Two out-of-towners, Mr. James Dresher Sr. of California, and Mrs. Eleanor Ward of North Carolina also contributed generously. Other contributions were made by Baltimoreans - Mrs. Hortense Valenstein, Mrs. Jarris Williams, Mrs. Ann Berman, and Mr. Lee Miller.

- A major reduction of the cost of construction was made through bid reductions on the contract. Porter Bros., Inc., our builder not only substantially reduced their bid, but also worked directly with their subcontractors to achieve further donations. Thanks go to Jacob Conn and Jim Porter. Subcontractors contributing included Interior Construction Company, Watson Steel Products, James A. Cassidy Co., Quality Painting, Atlantic Air Conditioning, National Sheet Metal, Alan Insulation, Sun-Up Construction, Structural Steel Fabricators, Building Components Corp., Hearth and Home, and United Products Distributors.

- Of course, we cannot forget the Maryland Horsebreeders community for their exciting Bid for Kids auction.

The Ronald McDonald House project in Baltimore has been put together by a tremendously committed group of people. Our Board of Directors has been tireless in seeking out and supporting fundraising events, working out the specifics for the design, construction and management of the House, and doing all of the odds and ends that come up. Each and every one deserves tremendous thanks. Take a look at the names of these committed individuals on page 1. Gil Thomas, our architect from Marks, Cooke and Thomas, Inc., continues to put in hour after hour to make sure that every detail of the building will be right. Frederick Miller has done a tremendous job in designing the interior. And our volunteer group keeps responding when needs arise for raffle tickets to be sold, auction items to be collected, or any other need arises.

As you can see, individuals and groups in Baltimore, in Maryland, and throughout the country have been working long and hard to get this House off the ground. Off the ground it is, with the opening coming very soon. Many, many thanks to all.



Nancy A. Madden  
President

### Maryland Thoroughbred Industry Raises Over \$205,000

On January 30, 1982 the thoroughbred



Dr. Edgar Berman, Mayor Schaefer (Honorary Chairman), Lorne Greene (Emcee) with Woodlawn Vase. The Maryland Horsebreeders raised a total of \$205,800 for Ronald McDonald House.

horse industry of Maryland jointly sponsored "Bid for Kids", a gala fundraiser at the Hyatt-Regency in Baltimore.

Auctioning 20 stallion seasons, over \$200,000 was raised to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Over 400 people attended the Dinner-Dance-Auction and participated in a truly wonderful and festive evening.

The major sponsors of the evening were the Maryland Horsebreeders Association, Thoroughbred Club of Maryland, Pimlico Race Course and Bowie Race Track. A "Bid for Kids" race was held the same day with the jockeys donating the proceeds.

### Thousands of Golfers Tee-Off For The Ronald McDonald House

Over 6,000 golfers at 31 clubs in Maryland took a "shot" for the Ronald McDonald House in the first annual Ronald McDonald House "Hole-In-One" Contest, July 11th & 12th. Golfers paid \$2.00 to try and win a Ford car and other prizes. Over \$14,000 was raised in this event.

No hole-in-one was made, so the 1981 Ford EXP's stayed at the dealers. The Ford Dealers of Maryland offered a car at every course in the event of a hole-in-one.

### Many Thanks

From the largest fundraiser to the smallest donation all are greatly appreciated. To list them all would require a very large newsletter. Here is just a sampling of some of the different events held to help raise money for the Ronald McDonald house here in Baltimore.

Kenwood H.S. Type-a-thon  
Skate-a-thon  
Md. Auto & Truck Recyclers  
Towson Businessmen's Assn.  
Arlene Rosenbloom Wyman Guild  
Dorothy Friedman Caplan Guild  
Shear Madness Make-up Clinic  
Football Widow's Clinic  
Eldersburg Child Study Assn.  
Colt Cheerleaders & Balto. Co. Police  
Softball Game  
Girl Scouts Ride-a-bike  
Charles Village Pub Colt Nite  
Kids United Chapter of Childs Study Group  
Linden Heights Methodist Church  
Youth Group  
YMCA aerobic Dance-a-thon



Junior League Jumping Classic  
 Bill Harden & Mike White Bike Trip  
 Greater Baltimore Luthern Brotherhood  
 Crab Feast  
 Meetcha at Ameche's Dance  
 Beta Sigma Phi Art Auction  
 Sigma Phi Gamma Fashion Show  
 G&M Corp. Bowl-a-thon  
 C&P Telephone Co. Payroll Records Unit  
 Christmas Bazaar  
 McDonald CB Radio Club Bake Sale  
 Wilde Lake H.S. Penny Removal Service  
 Valley Jr. Women's Club Fashion Show  
 Dulaney Valley Women's Club Fashion  
 Show  
 Maryland Horsebreeder's Association

## A House For Billy . . .

A little more than three years ago, I met with a very striking, muscular young man who attended military school with my two sons in Virginia. This young man was the younger brother of Baltimore Colt Joe Ehrmann. Everyone at the school loved him because he was a warm and happy human being. During the school year, Billy stayed in Baltimore with his brother on weekends, therefore, I sometimes gave him a ride to and from Baltimore. Although the time I spent with Billy was brief, I got to know him and to love him.

Upon graduation, Billy stayed with Joe and helped with a football clinic for needy boys. After I sent Joe a graduation picture, he called to tell me that Billy was in Johns Hopkins Hospital with a rare form of blood cancer, aplastic anemia. When I heard the news, I visited Billy in the hospital and the encounter left me feeling sad and helpless. After many days of thinking about the tragic situation, I realized that although there was nothing I could do to help Billy, perhaps, I could do something to help others like him.

It was then that I decided to organize a dinner that would raise money to benefit others with life threatening illnesses. The event was extremely successful due to the generous response of all who attended. The money raised at the affair was contributed to the then newly-formed Billy Ehrmann Fund. Although it was a substantial contribution, it was not enough to institute an ongoing, meaningful program for victims of serious illnesses and their families. At that time Joe Ehrmann and members of H.O.S.S. contacted representatives of the McDonald's Corp. hoping that they would provide additional support. Responding to their request, McDonald's contributed generously. Their continuing support is helping H.O.S.S. to reach its goal of building a Ronald House in Baltimore.

Many people derive satisfaction in life from self-fulfilling experiences, however, I find immense fulfillment in helping others. My initial goal was reached when I was elected to the H.O.S.S. Board of Directors. This has enabled me to continue my efforts in the direction of helping sick children and their families.

A. Korpisz



## A Personal Experience . . . .

My experience with the Ronald House began several years ago when my brother suffered and died from lymphoma at the age of 28. There had been successive inpatient-outpatient treatments with chemotherapy, then hospitalization, and finally death. While he was being treated, I was unconsciously observing other patients, some of whom were children undergoing some of the same trials. Some years later, this experience would become invaluable to me as I became Architect on the Baltimore Ronald House.

I first heard about the project while listening to an interview with Joe Ehrmann whose story closely paralleled mine. I felt many of the same feelings that he expressed and I wanted to help. I wrote him a letter, for the house would need an architect. Even if they would buy an existing building, I thought I could help them find a sound structure in a good location.

Our first option was to renovate an existing structure as had been done in other cities. When a committee and I outlined a program and evaluated the available structures, we found that none were large enough nor in the right location, or they were in too poor a condition for easy renovation. However, some pieces of land had been offered which would allow the house to be built from scratch, allowing us to have exactly what was needed to best serve the residents. It would also allow the house to provide a home-like atmosphere, rather than simply providing a temporary residence.

The housing committee established a program and set some goals for the house. First, it should house the residents in a

home-like atmosphere, providing everything that is available to them at home. To accomplish this we created living units within the house in which five to eight families share a common kitchen-laundry-dining facility. There are four separate living units which can house more than five dozen people. The house consists of 26 rooms or families which break down into 4 living units sharing these facilities. All the families can gather into one large central living area. Second, the house should encourage interaction to foster the sharing between residents. The design of the house encourages this sharing by providing both large and small interconnected spaces. Each room is private, yet adjoins a common area in a nuclear arrangement. Finally, the facility should be flexible enough to accommodate different support needs. This is accomplished by the design of the rooms, the way they interconnect, and the private quarters that they offer.

To summarize, we are building a home in which the design, the physical layout, and the staff will offer maximum support to the residents and their children. It is "Baltimore's Best" – the best in materials and design.

To me, however, it is more than a house that will bear a clown's name. It is a commitment that I made when I realized how much I could help others who were suffering as I had when I lost my brother. It is my own tribute to my brother and the children who must suffer. For you see, my brother's name was Ronald, and to me, this is truly Ronald's house.

Gilbert W. Thomas





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Ronald McDonald House of Baltimore

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### A Physician's Perspective

The diagnosis of any serious childhood illness has a tremendous impact on the child and his family. Although many serious diseases, including most forms of childhood cancer, can often be cured today, the procedures to which a child is subjected, the effects of treatment, and the uncertainty of the future place great stress upon the child and those close to him. The family must face the painful realization that "modern" medicine does not always cure. But caring for a patient means more than giving the proper medicine. Optimal care is best defined by a fifteenth century French folk saying which is as appropriate today as it was 500 years ago:

To cure sometimes  
To relieve often  
To comfort always.

The ability of a patient and family to cope with the stresses brought on by illness and to handle the problems throughout the course of treatment depend in large part upon the physician's not only treating illness, but recognizing and meeting the many needs not helped drugs or surgery. A major step toward meeting many of those needs was taken with the ground breaking for the Ronald House, a project that only two years ago was just a dream. This summer the dream moved closer to becoming a reality.

Allen Schwartz

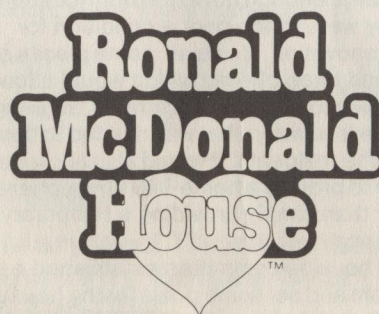
### Ronald McDonald House Reaches Out . . .

In the past few months, we have made efforts to spread the word about the Ronald McDonald House to areas outside of Baltimore. Until recently, all of our support and public awareness has been concentrated in the Baltimore metropolitan area. But, it is the outlying Maryland counties who will ultimately benefit from a Ronald House in Baltimore. It is to places such as Carroll County, Cumberland, Salisbury, and even York, PA. that we are reaching out. We need to make these communities aware of the soon-to-be-built house; educate them to the fact that is primarily they who will use it; and gain their support. There are many families who currently travel to Baltimore, from through-

out Maryland, for their children's treatments. These families know the need for a Ronald House in Baltimore; indeed, they would be using it, if it were already built. It is through their efforts that news about the House is spreading. This is being done by writing letters to local newspapers; contact with community organizations, church groups, PTAs; and word-of-mouth.

Our ultimate goal is to see the formation of chapters, whose function would be continuing support of the House and keeping their communities informed. This is a long and slow process, but with parents as our spokespersons, we are confident that we will succeed.

M. Cohen



### "ATTENTION"

Please join us at our  
grand opening

June 28th, 11:00 A.M.

at the Ronald McDonald House  
Lexington and Arch Streets

See you there!!!