

# VILLAGE CONNECTOR Community News

Published August 26, 2010

## Ronald McDonald House Charities® Awards \$25,000 Grant to Light House

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The Light House Homeless Prevention Support Center in Annapolis has been named a recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Baltimore, Inc. (RMHC). The grant will help fund a new and larger facility to better accommodate the needs of the homeless in the Annapolis community.

The new, larger Light House facility will include a playground that will serve approximately 150 young people annually, providing them with a safe place to

play, physical exercise and the opportunity to reconnect with nature and other community members. The playground will be an energizing and therapeutic space for homeless children, children whose families are at risk of homelessness, children who previously lived at the Shelter and children from the surrounding community. To recognize the grant donation the playground equipment will be named after RMHC.

RMHC provides grants for organizations that serve the well being of children and funds raised for the local grants program come exclusively from the McDonald's Owner/Operators of Greater Baltimore and are matched by the National Ronald McDonald House Charities.

"The Light House enables families to find a way out of their challenging situations while providing a safe environment," said Sandy Gimelstob, who owns McDonald's restaurants with her husband, Gerry, in the Anne Arundel community. "Just as the Baltimore Ronald McDonald House has seen the impact that a handicapped accessible outdoor play space can have on the happiness of those who come to stay at the Center, the Light House playground will provide this important opportunity for its visiting families and children."

Since 1989, Light House has provided emergency shelter, transitional housing, homelessness prevention and related support services to homeless and disadvantaged people in the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

The new facility and playground are currently under construction and completion is scheduled for this fall.

#### About Ronald McDonald House Charities

Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Its programs are grassroots-driven to enable the Charity to offer help where children need it most – right in their own communities. RMHC® makes an immediate, positive impact on children’s lives through its global network of local Chapters in 52 countries and its three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®. RMHC and its global network of local Chapters have awarded more than \$460 million in grants and program services to children’s programs around the world. These programs and grants provide a bridge to accessible health care and allow families more time together, which helps in the healing process. For more information, visit <http://rmhc.org>.

#### About McDonald’s

McDonald’s USA, LLC, is the leading foodservice provider in the United States serving a variety of wholesome foods made from quality ingredients to more than 26 million customers every day. Nearly 90 percent of McDonald’s 14,000 U.S. restaurants are independently owned and operated by local business men and women. There are more than 135 restaurants in the Greater Baltimore area. Customers can now log online for free at any of the 11,000 participating Wi-Fi enabled McDonald’s U.S. restaurants. For more information on McDonald’s visit [www.mcdonalds.com](http://www.mcdonalds.com) or follow us on Twitter (@McDonald’s\_DMV) and Facebook (Facebook.com/McDonalds) for updates on our business, promotions and products.