



Ronald McDonald House Charities
New York Metro

LoveNotes

A Newsletter for RMHC New York Metro Volunteers

PREMIER
ISSUE!

1

APRIL 2023

MESSAGE FROM MATT

You Are the Heartbeat of Our Chapter



At every moment of challenge in our organization, we see it: regular people stepping up to help people in need, families who are desperate for support. It is the spirit of the volunteer that rallies us and has truly been the heartbeat of our chapter

since its inception. Our volunteers are the ones who make our society a better place. I have the honor and privilege of seeing this in action every day at Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Metro. **People from Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens counties pitching in, each in their own way, to provide for families facing the reality of a sick child in the hospital.**

Seeing you all and the accomplishments you have helped our organization achieve in the last 36 years,

I understand what volunteering is all about. You care so deeply, and you step up to support the things here at RMHC NYM that you believe in regardless of the personal cost. The good you do returns to you a hundredfold. Thank you so much for the immeasurably invaluable work you all do for our charity! We want to let you know that your dedication is essential to the work that we do and we cannot and would not want to do it without you. You bring ideas, positive energy and a beautiful intensity to our overall work. Thank you so much for supporting our great cause, volunteers like you all genuinely change our world, and we are forever grateful.

Matt Campo, Chief Executive Officer
Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Metro

FIRST QUARTER '23 STATS

OUR IMPACT



Meet Our Volunteers

Ruth Signorelli



Ruth Signorelli has been a volunteer with Ronald McDonald House Charities New York Metro (RMHC NYM) for over seven years. Ruth was destined to volunteer with RMHC NYM. In fact, her first job was at a McDonald's, during which time she participated in a drive to raise

money for a Ronald McDonald House. This is where she first heard about it all. Ruth planned to become a volunteer once she retired from teaching special education. Ruth felt the idea of supporting families during an extremely difficult time to be so important. Ruth understood that the medical team took care of the patients, but wondered who took care of the parents and the siblings? This is where RMHC NYM comes in. Ruth feels *"it's an awesome organization"* to be a part of. Ruth first started volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park as a hospitality volunteer. Upon learning about the Family Rooms at Stony Brook — she started volunteering at both locations. Ruth describes her experience as very humbling, and it helps her to feel grateful. Finding great meaning in helping people, Ruth shared that the most fulfilling part of her role with RMHC NYM is being able to support parents through their most challenging times and celebrate their major and minor victories. Ruth has spread her love of volunteering with her family, as her husband also volunteers with RMHC NYM! When asked to share something unique about herself, Ruth explained that she has a lot of energy — and likes to share that energy in a meaningful way. Which clearly, she does!

Carl Bisesi

Carl Bisesi was first introduced to RMHC NYM by his neighbor, **George DeSpirito**, who was also a volunteer. After retiring, Carl visited the House and was awestruck by the organization. Being a retired commercial vehicle operator, Carl offered to drive the van, which has always been one of our biggest needs. If you ask Carl how it



feels to volunteer with us, he'll tell you "This place restores my faith in humanity." He feels good about helping people and is impressed by the tremendous acts of kindness and generosity of individuals, schools, scout troops, and corporations who support us. Carl believes the purpose of life is to make a difference in someone else's life. "It's that simple." A self-professed "old man that rides motorcycles," Carl is always willing to go the distance for the House. One memorable trip was driving to Philadelphia to pick up 100 cases of N95 masks during the height of the pandemic. His favorite part of volunteering is meeting new people and helping the residents and staff of the House. Carl says that in the hustle and bustle of our daily activities, you lose sight that the families in the House are going through the worst times of their lives. He remembers a touching story of a little boy who was chronically sick and had never thought about what he wanted to be when he grew up. That struck him. It's why he believes in our mission to help families when they need it most.

*Thank you, Ruth & Carl,
for everything you do!*

OUR FAMILIES

Grateful Thanks from the Viggiano Family



"August 3, 2019 was the date of our baby shower. However, our identical twin boys had different plans. They decided they did not want to miss out on the fun, so they arrived into this world on that day, at just 29 weeks. Frankie and Anthony lived at Cohen Children's Medical Center's NICU for 75 critical days.

The day before we were discharged from the hospital, my husband Frank and I knew we were not going back home. We could not imagine making the 100-mile round trip trek every day to stay with our babies. Every moment away from them felt like a million years.

The NICU social worker suggested we stay at the Ronald McDonald House, right next door. As a social worker, I was familiar with the organization, however, I never imagined I would be someone to make use of this incredible resource.

The first 75 days of our babies' lives were scary and anxiety provoking. Every day was unpredictable. The boys had good days, scary days; we were on a roller coaster. Being able to stay at the Ronald McDonald House made everything easier,

more manageable and more pleasant. We were a minute walk away from our miracle babies.

The staff and volunteers were our cheerleaders, shoulders to cry on, and people to hug. They saw us at our worst and at our best. They were and are our family. The other families living there became our lifelines. We supported each other while talking over meals, a cup of coffee, or in the gym. We will forever be grateful for the relationships we formed there. These people and our home for those 75 days, hold a special place in our hearts. The time spent at the House has helped make us the parents we are today.

Because of your generosity, we were able to be at our babies' bedside at a moment's notice, in the middle of the night and multiple times a day. The nurses, doctors, therapists, medicines and medical devices saved our babies' lives. However, without us being there at all hours of the day, our babies would not have had the best medicine they could get — our love!"

— The Viggiano Family

BEST WISHES

Happy Birthday!

APRIL

Freya A., Jane C., Jean C., Paul G., Janet H., Udhai K., Jessica K., Anita P., Gloria S., Linda S., Ruth S.

MAY

Carol D., Meg D., Ruth D., Susan H., Ann K., Emily M., Sandy P., Carina S., Hilary S., Katonya T.

JUNE

Barbara B., Nicole F., Rosemary K., Rich P., Barbara R., Alexandria S.

Happy Service Anniversary!

TWENTY ONE YEARS

Betty S.

SEVEN YEARS

Cathleen C., Lori C., Christine M., Tricia T.

FIVE YEARS

Susan G.

FOUR YEARS

Tom W.

TWO YEARS

Barbara B., Tena M.

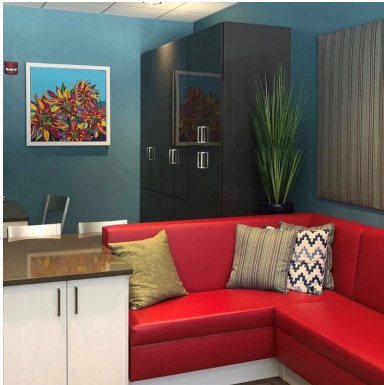
ONE YEAR

Holly B., Rosemary K., Tarun K.



WHAT'S NEW

Program Updates



Family Room at Stony Brook Reopens

We have reopened our **Family Room at Stony Brook Children's Hospital!**

The respite room for families of children who are sick or injured had been closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the room was closed, volunteers operated a hospitality cart that visited families at their bedside.

"This is a really special place that gives families an opportunity to step out of the clinical environment and into a space that's really home-like" **Matt Campo** said in a statement to *Long Island Business News*. "When families enter this space, they're able to lean on each other for support. It's really the magic of this program."

The Family Room features a kitchen area, laundry facility and shower. A warm welcome to our new Family Room volunteers!



The Grab & Go Fridge

We are delighted to announce the latest addition to our House program — the **Grab & Go fridge!**

This sleek glass-door refrigerator is in the Tower kitchen and is stocked with an assortment of Grab & Go snacks and treats for our families to enjoy. We have long recognized the importance of providing meals to our families, and for the past two summers, we were fortunate enough to receive summer break lunches provided by the NYC Board of Education. The rapid rate at which these lunches were taken by the families sparked the idea of expanding our meal program to include a Grab & Go section, which will enable families to conveniently enjoy a quick bite on the go. Next time you visit the House, be sure to check out the new fridge.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



FILL OUR FRIDGE! Grab & Go Target Wish List

SCAN



INVITE A FRIEND TO VOLUNTEER

Stony Brook Family Room
Volunteer Application

SCAN



THANK YOU! ❤️

This newsletter is created and inspired by all of you, the amazing Ronald McDonald House and Family Room Volunteers!

With much gratitude, Kristin & Carley