



# around the HOUSE

THE LATEST UPDATES FROM RMHC OF THE SOUTHWEST • SPRING 2020

## RMHC Essential for Families and Still Serving During Unprecedented Time

*By now everyone has felt the breeze of change in our community, from the way we work to the way we pray.* Through it all, RMHC of the Southwest has remained and managed to "Keep families close" through any way possible.

RMHC of the Southwest has not closed or stopped serving families for any time during the pandemic of 2020, or any other. Keeping the families served as safe from illness as possible is a constant routine at every RMHC. However with local, state and federal mandates and the partnership of hospitals, several programs and events have been suspended.

Volunteers that normally serve in the house or RMHC Family Rooms, were asked to stay home and stay well! Many of the groups and organizations that participate in our "Guest Chef" Program were not able to come into the RMHC House. Even RMHC staff on site was reduced to the minimum, while the entire staff continued to work remotely.

The Red Shoe Shindig, the only in-house fundraiser that RMHC of the Southwest has per year, has been postponed until a better time permits. Red Shoe Crew members have continued to invent ways to share the Mission of RMHC and raise the much needed funds.

Through it all, RMHC of the Southwest has depended on many things to keep going and is strategically planning for the unknown months ahead. Services and programs are increasing while donations may be challenging.

One thing that has not changed is the passion the community has for the Mission of RMHC and the families we serve. Thank you to all of the generous donors, volunteers and individuals who choose RMHC of the Southwest.



### WHAT'S INSIDE

- 1 RMHC Essential for Families
- 2 Red Shoe Crew and Shindig Update
- 2 Counties We Serve
- 2 Grateful & Thankful
- 2 Meet our New App
- 3 Boredom Busters
- 3 Volunteers
- 3 Permian Basin News
- 4 A Note from Dina
- 4 Virtual Run/Walk
- 4 2020 Scholarship Winner

### Keeping Families Close

## Keeping Families Healthy

*Every little bit, will help! If you think sanitizing hands, diligently wiping counters, screening people away with infections and even working remotely is new, think again.* Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest, routinely has measures in place to keep exposure to germs minimal. The RMHC families are always in a fight with germs that could harm their hospitalized child.

Whether it has been a newborn baby, or a 21 year old child, the families who have benefitted from RMHC programs have been asked to "be clean" and staff has always worked remotely if coughing. Of course the COVID-19 Pandemic has forced RMHC of the Southwest to adapt to stricter measures. However, we were not prepared for the shortages this pandemic would cause or the unexpected halt in our society.

In the meantime, children are still getting sick from many things, and families want more than ever to be close. RMHC of the Southwest managed to weather the storm, with generous donations from many mission partners.

# We are so APPY



**Why not stay in touch with RMHC of the Southwest with our very own app!** Having the ability to reach families quickly with up to date information has been a dream for years. Now it's possible. The app is not just for families. Volunteers, donors and families will like the many features on the app. From fun things to do in Lubbock to the amazing stories of the families we serve. Download RMHC of the Southwest from the App Store, it's FREE!

Help RMHC of the Southwest reach 1,000 downloads! Invite your family and friends to take a look at our new app!



## MEET OUR 2020 REDSHOE CREW

supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of the Southwest

**Stephanie Turner**  
Full-Time Mom  
@ Home



**Jimmy Smith**  
Sales Rep  
@ AT&T



**Sidney & Kellie Moats**  
Digital Account Executive  
@ Ramar



**Marelyn Ramos**  
Senior Manager  
@ Cheesecake Factory



**Brandon Carter**  
Realtor  
@ Blu Realty



**Brian Payne**  
Chief Medical Officer  
@ UMC



**Chris Snowberger**  
Supervisor  
@ McDonalds



**Lauren Matter**  
Evening Anchor  
@ KAMC News



**Angela Medlock**  
Chef & Cookbook Author

**\$1=1 VOTE!** Vote for your favorite Crew Member by making a tax-deductible donation at [rmhcswwcrew.com](http://rmhcswwcrew.com)!

# POSTPONED

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**?? - ??**

**What is the Red Shoe Crew?** The Red Shoe Crew is a group of caring, civic minded individuals asking for your donations to support families that are facing the nightmare of having a critically sick or injured child. The Crew Member that raises the most money will be crowned as the King or Queen at the Red Shoe Shindig!

**What is the Red Shoe Shindig?** The Red Shoe Shindig is our annual celebration and fundraising event. Always a fun-filled night of fabulous food, entertainment, dancing, auctions and more, we can't wait to see you there!

### DONATE A SILENT OR LIVE AUCTION ITEM!

Contact **Julie Barron** at [julie@rmhcsouthwest.com](mailto:julie@rmhcsouthwest.com) or **Shalah Smith** at [shalah@rmhcsouthwest.com](mailto:shalah@rmhcsouthwest.com) with any items you have to donate.

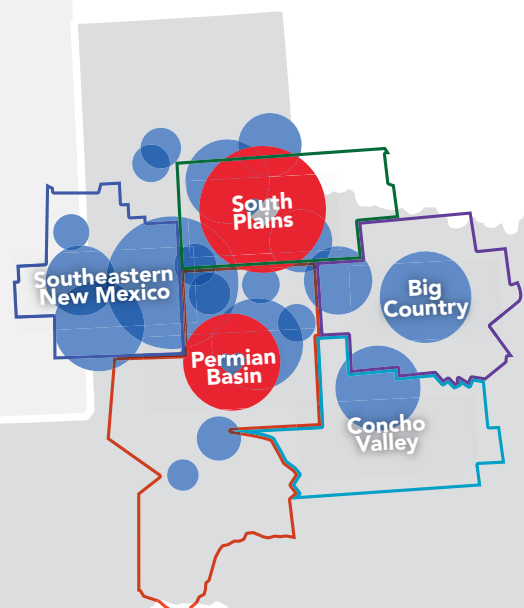
## IN THE COUNTIES WE SERVE: Permian Basin



*Each Tuesday, the ready smile of "Dobber" Dean graced the staff, volunteers and families of Ronald McDonald House Family Room at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. Making the trip from Midland each week, the 92 year old Dobber would take a few minutes just spreading love with his kind spirit and his hugs! Though his daughter, Patty Gonzales, an RMHC staffer, may have been the original reason for Dobber to begin his regular visits to the RMHC Family Room, everyone became quickly eager to receive the hugs and joy he brought with him each visit.*

Dobber was a great example of friendship and community support for RMHC and he will be deeply missed. Our condolences are extended to Patty and all of the loved ones Dobber leaves behind.

**H. A. "DOBBER" DEAN • NOVEMBER 11, 1928 - APRIL 25, 2020**





# VOL NTEER for RMHC, *We're Just Missing "U"*



## Volunteer Spotlight: Connie Moore, Volunteer Extraordinaire

*Connie runs weekly errands and picks up community donations for RMHC, as well as volunteering in the UMC Family Room twice each week and assists in the office as needed.*

Since returning from California for a family emergency and after self-quarantining for 14 days she's continued to support RMHC of the Southwest by donating freezer friends meals and cleaning items. She's also donated blood and is working on a beautiful quilt for her grandson who is due in June. T

hank you Connie for all you do and for being a real SUPER HERO!



**Lisa Aldrich** works as a nurse in the UMC OR.

**Molly Johnston** enjoys practicing her cello.

**Ruth Rodriguez** spends time in her garden

**Anita Neff** loves her new labradoodle puppy named Mandi.

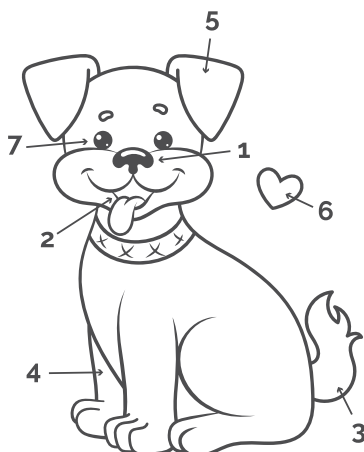
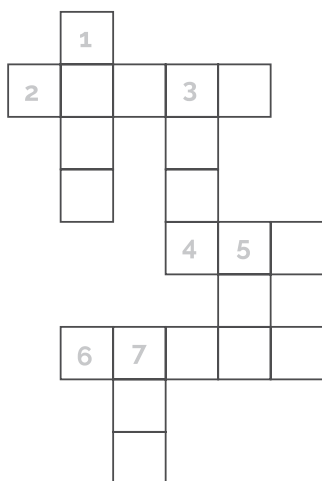
*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."*

- AESOP

## Grateful & Thankful

Thank y'all!

*Mission Partners are groups, companies, schools, friends, foundations and corporations that help keep the lights on at RMHC of the Southwest.* Any dip in the economy not only impacts the support for the programs that are provided to families through RMHC of the Southwest, but drastically impacts the families being served directly. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, donations and support continued to come from some very much appreciated sources. Every day, individuals and groups have been bringing the drastically needed supplies and donations needed to keep families supported. Thank you is not even close to expressing how much these are helping.



## Boredom Busters: House Dog Crossword

Many Ronald McDonald House programs have their very own House Dog! House Dogs provide comfort, puppy licks and hugs to families who may be far from home.

ANSWERS: DOWN - 1. Nose 3. Tail 5. Ear 7. Eye  
ACROSS - 2. Mouth 4. Leg 6. Heart



One of our volunteers, **Lori Cantrell** passed away rather unexpectedly in February. She was a nurse at UMC and volunteered in the UMC Family Room.

## GET THE WORD

# OUT!

RMHC appreciates all of the generous partners from the Media helping share valuable information through public service announcements, aired television spots, printed space and social media helps RMHC serve and inform families.

Thank you to the following for producing, airing and

publishing messages for RMHC: KCBD, KLBK, KAMC, Fox34, Ramar Communications, Rooney Moon Communications, Texas Tech College of Media and Communications, Lubbock Independent School District, Lubbock Magazine, Latino Lubbock Magazine and KSSL Radio in Slaton.

## 2020 Scholarship Winner of the Janice Flemmons Scholarship

The Janice Flemmons Scholarship was established in 2016 when Janice retired from RMHC after 15 years of service. Janice helped to establish this program and worked with a committee to evaluate each application. Thousands of dollars were awarded to students seeking to further their education under Janice's leadership.

High school seniors from the area we serve and whose family have used RMHC services are eligible to apply. Applicants are graded on academics, extracurricular activities, financial need and essay.

To date, five students have been awarded over \$12,500 under the Janice Flemmons Scholarship. Our most recent recipient is Landry McGrady from Shallowater, Texas.

## Get your STEPS UP!



**What is a VIRTUAL Run/Walk?** A Virtual Run/Walk is one way ANYONE can participate in a fun event that helps RMHC families. Each registrant, will turn in their start and finish date. When RMHC receives this, an awesome medal will be sent to you.

Register today at [www.rmhcswsouthwest.com](http://www.rmhcswsouthwest.com), so run, walk or just register... and think about it!

**START DATE IS JUNE 1, 2020 • END DATE AUGUST 1, 2020**



**Ronald McDonald House Charities®**  
of the Southwest

[RMHCSOUTHWEST.COM](http://RMHCSOUTHWEST.COM) | 806.744.8877



## From the Desk of Dina ...



*What an unbelievable time we are living through. Everyone's world has recently been turned upside down by worries concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.*

In these trying times, I would like to send you a hopeful reminder

that we will see this through. But for the families we serve, chaos, uncertainty, and fear have been part of their daily lives for a long time. The children and families who rely on RMHC of the Southwest have already been coping with life-threatening illnesses. They're scared, and know their lives may never go back to normal.

Thank you for supporting our most worthy mission of keeping families close to each other and to essential medical care. YOU give our families strength and normalcy in times of worry and chaos. I am feeling truly lucky and blessed to be part of such an inspiring and charity that leads with our mission of serving families in need. Every day brings new considerations, but together we are prepared, organized and ready to face them with courage and compassion.

I read this quote recently, and wanted to share:

*As life becomes harder and more threatening, it also becomes richer, because the fewer expectations we have, the more the good things of life become unexpected gifts that we accept with gratitude.*

— ETTY HILLESUM

Here's to taking each day as it comes and realizing we are in this together. Together we are strong — we are resilient — and we will maintain our steady focus on doing what is right for our organization and the children and families we serve in the long-term ... ever striving to make the right decisions at the right time and then doing our very best.

Blessings and Be Well,

DINA JEFFRIES

President & CEO, RMHC of the Southwest

*Thanks so much for all you do to keep the "spirit" growing.*

For more information, contact

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Shalah Smith at [shalah@rmhcswsouthwest.com](mailto:shalah@rmhcswsouthwest.com)

or call 806.744.8877

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