



# around the HOUSE

THE LATEST UPDATES FROM RMHC OF THE SOUTHWEST • AUTUMN EDITION 2021

3413 10th Street | Lubbock, Texas 79415 | 806.744.8877 | Fax 806.744.3652 | RMHCsouthwest.com

## IT'S QUARTERBACK S.A.C.K. SEASON

Sponsored by

**United**  
supermarkets

For 20 years, Texas Tech University Athletics has partnered with RMHC of the Southwest in many ways. Quarterback S.A.C.K. (Supporting And Comforting Kids) is a fun tradition for fans to celebrate anytime a **RED RAIDER** takes down (SACKS) an opposing team's quarterback! Fans pledge \$ per sack and then **CHEER LOUD** and **PROUD** while helping keep families close to their hospitalized child.

Proceeds from Quarterback S.A.C.K. remain local in the 68 counties served by RMHC of the Southwest. Your donation is tax-deductible! Every dollar donated/pledged makes a difference for hospitalized children and their families.

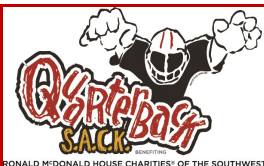
**1. YOU PLEDGE**  
per # of times TTU will S.A.C.K.  
the other team's quarterback.

**2. RED RAIDERS "D"  
gets the S.A.C.K.S**

**3. FAMILIES &  
Red Raiders  
WIN!**



To make your pledge/donation, log on to [www.rmhcsouthwest.com/quarterback-sack](http://www.rmhcsouthwest.com/quarterback-sack) today!



**JOIN THE TEAM WITH TTU DEFENSIVE LINE COACH  
AND QUARTERBACK S.A.C.K. CHAIR-COACH PAUL RANDOLPH  
AND GET FIRED UP FOR FAMILIES**

### READ COACH RANDOLPH'S "WHY" HE'S HELPING RMHC SUPPORT FAMILIES



"A dear friend of mine went through the traumatic and life altering experience of having a child in medical crisis. With no option but to continue supporting his family by working, my friend was unable to be near his child, and the family suffered and struggled through a drawn out and difficult journey.

I watched as my friend grew weary, and wished I could do more to help. It was difficult to see. In addition to the emotional and physical hardship, it was a huge financial drain on the family as one of the parents had to stop working to care for their child. Walking through that with my friend was painful and I felt helpless.

Years later, I learned about Ronald McDonald House and I knew that the services and support offered at RMHC would have made a major difference for my friend and his family. I also know that families like his are going through these things every day. So I'm fired up to help families during their trying time!

Please join the team and make your pledge to help children and their families!"

# RMHC FAMILY FEATURE

## Meet the Cypert Family of Lubbock, TX



After the heart-break of a miscarriage, Wade and Sarah Cypert received the happy news that Sarah was pregnant, but testing showed that their baby had health issues. Baby Cypert had a cleft palate that would require specialized care after birth. The Cypert's prepared for the

challenges and anxiously awaited their baby's December 25th due date.

At a summer check-up they discovered Sarah was in pre-term labor. The next 3 months, Sarah would spend on hospital bed rest at Covenant Hospital.

*"It wasn't how I imagined it would be."*

But it made me realize that so much of what we were expecting just wasn't important. I didn't concern myself with the perfect chandelier over the crib. I was just happy that we had a safe and warm home to return to once our baby was ready." Sarah shared.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:08 A.M., seventy-nine days after being hospitalized, more than a month before her due date, Charles Cypert arrived via emergency C-section. His umbilical cord had become knotted and he was in distress. Born with a severely cleft lip and palate, Charles would spend the first 6 weeks of his life in the NICU.

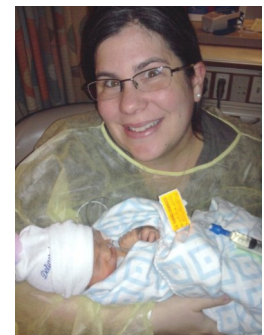
Wade continued to work while Sarah spent her days at the NICU with Charles. Wade would drop Sarah off in the early morning as he went to work and then join her again after work at the hospital to spend time with Charles.

"Other than a bathroom, I couldn't find a quiet place to go in the hospital. I remember going into the pump room just off the NICU to express milk. Still all I could hear were hospital sounds because in reality, you're still right in the middle of it. There is no privacy or in the NICU." Sarah recalls.

"I would arrive early in the morning and be there until night. I had moments that I just needed a break from it all. That's when the nurses explained that I could use the Ronald McDonald Family Room."

Sarah had seen families from out of town going to the Family Room but thought that because she was local, she did not qualify to use the room.

"The Family Room was amazing! When I would find myself feeling stressed I'd find my way to the Family Room for a moment of peace.



"I was aware other families were dealing with worse than our situation and I felt bad if I broke down in front of them. If I wanted to be by myself, I could go to the Family Room and have my melt-downs. It became my safe place. It was just a really peaceful place for me to go. I'm so grateful that it was available." Sarah said.

*"It may not sound like a big deal ..."*

until you've been there. Then you realize how important it is to have the Family Room available. When you are there, whatever the medical reason, YOUR experience is all consuming and you need the moments away from the hospital environment. It seems not as many people talk about the Family Rooms as the Ronald McDonald House. The house is AMAZING, but when you are basically living in the NICU, the Family Room is a lifeline."



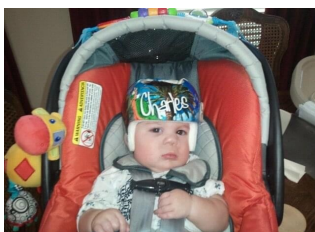
## FAMILY FEATURE continued



The rooms are an extension of the Ronald McDonald House and offer a living area, a kitchen complete with snacks and drinks, a bathroom with a shower, laundry facilities, many of the comforts of home for anyone with a child admitted in the hospital for any reason.

At three months of age, Charles had his first reconstructive surgery. There have been 11 surgeries to date. During each hospitalization, the Cypert family was comforted by the use of the Family Room.

"Compared to what others are going through our issues seem less significant. We are not dealing with terminal or life-threatening illness or injury. We *have* gone through more surgeries than most."



*"Even after 11 surgeries, it's hard."*

The support we get at the Ronald McDonald Family Room is so important. Many people know what RMHC is but don't realize that the Family Rooms serve *all* families of hospitalized children. Whether you live in Lubbock or far away, when your child is hospitalized, you aren't leaving any more than you have to. I don't think people realize that you can utilize the rooms even if you're local." said Sarah.

The Cypert family now supports RMHC in many ways: volunteering, donating, and sharing their story to bring awareness to Ronald McDonald House Charities.



## RECYCLE FOR RMHC

It's easier than ever to help RMHC and support hospitalized children and their families! Collect your aluminum cans and drop them at this convenient location. Not only is recycling good for the environment, but when you donate your aluminum to RMHC, you're also helping keep families close to their hospitalized child!



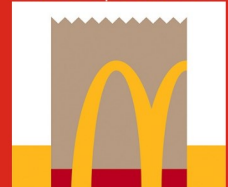
**Located in the parking lot at  
602 Donald Preston Dr. #104 in Wolfforth**



## RMHC & McDONALD'S

**3 Ways to donate through  
McDonald's**

Round Up for RMHC



Donation Boxes



Every Penny Counts



RMHC of the Southwest

# VOL NTEER for RMHC, *Just Missing "U"*

*One House • One Mission • One Heart*

## WE ARE NEW TO THE TEAM



Aaron Schlosberg

RMHC newcomer, Anna Bocanegra is the new **Programs Coordinator**. She is doing a great job staffing Family Rooms with volunteers and organizing volunteers in the House. We are thrilled she's on our team!

Aaron Schlosberg comes to RMHC from far-away Alaska! When he is not taking care of Ronald McDonald House duties as the **Facilities Maintenance Technician**, Aaron is an artist and will soon be a student again. We are enjoying having Aaron around!



Anna Bocanegra

## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

At RMHC, we could not serve families as efficiently without the many hearts and hands that volunteer. From staffing Family Rooms, baking snacks, serving as Guest Chefs, and so much more, each group and individual makes a direct impact on the families of RMHC.

If you are interested in finding how you can help, contact the RMHC office at 806-744-8877.



Cavazos Middle School



Revolution Soccer Club



Mackenzie Hall



Llano Lions Club



Rush Elementary



RMHC of the Southwest

## A FOND FAREWELL

When faithful volunteer and friend to RMHC, Lily Axon made the decision along with her husband Bill to sell their Lubbock home and relocate, the couple wanted to find a way to give back one more time. With that in mind, the Axon's planned a moving sale. The \$1,000+ proceeds from that sale were donated to RMHC.

While we are sad to see Bill and Lily move away, RMHC is thankful for their many hours of service and their thoughtful gifts while they were here. We wish them all the best on their new adventure and know that they will continue to make a difference in their new home.



## 14 YEARS OF SERVICE



When LaCour Clark's grandson, Cameron was born there were some problems. Cameron's lungs were not fully developed and had holes in them and he aspirated amniotic fluid during his C-section delivery.

Cameron was put on a ventilator and given steroids to develop his lungs. Because he was

strong and attempted to pull his tubes and IV out, they kept him sedated. He was given multiple blood transfusion. The doctors informed the family that he was very sick and probably would not survive.

For the next 3 weeks, Cameron fought for his life in the Medical Center Hospital NICU in Odessa. His parents, Mandy and Chris Clark and their family used the Ronald McDonald Family Room during the hospitalization.



Thankful for RMHC's care for his family during a difficult time, Cameron's Grandfather, LaCour began volunteering weekly as a way to support the RMHC mission.

This year, Cameron started high school and LaCour is still helping RMHC families. We're thankful for the consistent presence of LaCour and the Clark family.

## THE GIVE-GIVE GIFT!



Once again, RMHC of the Southwest will benefit from each Southern Living Christmas Cookbook sold at area Dillard's. The book makes a perfect hostess, thank you, or stocking stuffer gift for anyone on your holiday list.

For over 20 years, through the sale of its Southern Living Christmas Cookbook, Dillard's has remained committed to supporting local Ronald McDonald House Charities Chapters. Since 1994, the Southern Living Christmas Cookbook has raised more than \$15.1 million for the RMHC system. This year, Dillard's is once again committed to supporting local RMHC Chapters located in Dillard's market areas in the U.S. through the sale of its Southern Living Christmas Cookbook.

The book sale is from November 1st - December 25th, the cookbooks will be available for purchase in all Dillard's stores nationwide, as well as online at [www.dillards.com](http://www.dillards.com) for \$12 per cookbook.

## NEW FRIENDS FOR RMHC

We are grateful to our new friends at Worx Payroll and to everyone who voted in their non-profit poll to award us \$2,000!

It was great to meet their staff and get to share more with them about what RMHC does.

We look forward to what the future holds for this new partnership.



RMHC of the Southwest

# PLANNED GIVING IS SOMETHING ANYONE CAN DO

By Julie Barron Wells

When writing to his esteemed friend French scientist Jean-Baptiste Le Roy in 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote

*"Our new Constitution is now established. everything seems to promise it will be durable. but in the world, nothing is certain except death and taxes."*

Still today, while our Constitution has held on quite well, Franklin's words regarding taxes are absolute.

Death is not something anyone of us will escape indefinitely and making a plan for your legacy today may indeed help divert your wealth from some taxes as well as help the established organizations you support.

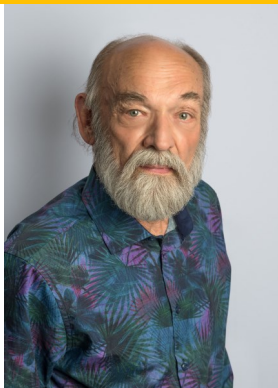
Planned giving is the perfect way for any donor to have a much greater impact in the world than by making a single gift. Life insurance, bequests, annuities, trusts, retirement plan assets, securities, gifts of property are just a few ways your donation can be a lasting legacy for the charities you support. At RMHC even something as simple offering, "In Memory Of" Donations are being accepted at The Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest can honor your legacy.

When you set up a planned giving part of your estate there are many ways and many benefits to you, your estate, your heirs and the charitable organization of your choice. Some things to know, before you "Go" include: YOUR MONEY, YOUR CHOICE- By setting up a planned gift, you are in control of the distribution. Amounts gifted can be any size, can be part of your insurance designation and can even be a custom policy that names an organization as beneficiary. (Some charities even offset the setup fees for you.)

## THANK YOU

We'd like to say "Thank You!" to David Pike as he retires from RMHC of the Southwest. David has been in charge of facilities maintenance for over 10 years and we are grateful for his dedication to the families we serve.

David has literally kept the House running for a decade! We wish him a very happy 2nd retirement!



## YOUR WISHES ARE KNOWN

By arranging now for a planned gift, the charity is allowed to thank you in person! You see how much you are appreciated and can rest assured that your wishes will be done.

## SORRY, UNCLE SAM

Deferred gifts, Legacy Gifts, Endowments and many other ways to have a planned giving arrangement help the donor and the estate with many tax advantages.

## MOST OF ALL

The Charity gets secure funding. Once a planned gift is set up and part of your estate and wealth management, you can relax knowing your gift will be made.

What Benjamin Franklin didn't know it seems is that giving may actually help you live longer and happier too. Research conducted by the University of Oregon found that donating activates the pleasure center in your brain. Voluntary donations are especially pleasurable and improve your happiness, joy and contentment. With that in mind, it only appears to make sense to make a Planned Gifting designation in your estate. If you would like help, have questions or simply are ready to designate RMHC of the Southwest as part of your plan, please give me, Julie Barron Wells a call. 806-773-1199.

Stay up to date with all RMHC is doing in one place with our app.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What's a Quarter?

If you don't know, quarters are very big around here at RMHC! With a background in accounting, my approach to managing RMHC is divided into quarters. At this time of year we are in the 3rd quarter. We are looking at coming out of a slow year, with overcoming some big hiccups. Financially RMHC is steady and the mission of helping families continues to grow.

You probably know our signature event, the Quarterback S.A.C.K. (Support And Comfort Kids) is based on the game of football, which has quarters, and RMHC Families win if the Red Raiders Defense is able to SACK the opponent's *Quarterback*. 2021-2022 has been a remarkable season. Coach Paul Randolph's enthusiasm and passion for RMHC has been the key to the winning season RMHC feels. Hundreds of new pledges, sponsors and opportunities have sprouted from the 20 year relationship between Texas Tech Athletics and RMHC.

If you drive through or visit any of our McDonald's partners, you can order a *Quarter* Pounder or perhaps donate a quarter in the canister or roundup your purchase. The ongoing partnership RMHC of the Southwest has with the local owners/operators of McDonald's is something we continue to be grateful to have.

Sadly, in September ABC News reported that Children now make up 1 in 4 new COVID-19 cases in the US. This statistic reminds us that in the upcoming months as more families are impacted by illness, the mission to "Keep Families Close" is vital to the health and prosperity of all the communities we serve.

Here at the house, it takes us all. As our four departments continue to keep the programs and mission of RMHC of the Southwest moving ahead, it seems there are never enough hours in a day to get everything done, but somehow it gets done.

So as you can see, the sum of our parts at RMHC is made up of many quarters, and as we move into this 4th quarter, I give you 100% of my gratitude for the generosity bestowed upon RMHC in 2021. I invite you to call me, email or come by anytime.

*Emmanuel Ramirez*



Emmanuel Ramirez  
President & CEO



**DECEMBER 5th, 2021**

With more than 25,000 colored lights that illuminate the TTU campus, this family-friendly event will have you amazed and full of the holiday spirit! Enjoy the spirit of the season with an evening run on the campus of Texas Tech University.

A wish list donation drive at the event will benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest.

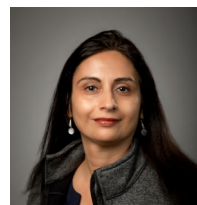
Registration is open! Visit [westtexasendurance.com/carol-of-lights-run/](https://westtexasendurance.com/carol-of-lights-run/) for more information and to register for this event.

## NEW SEASON, NEW FACES

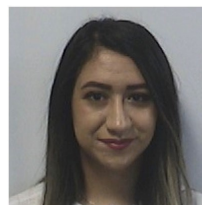
As Fall Semester 2021 gears up, RMHC has the pleasure of new Practicum Students. We are glad to be involved in helping raise up leaders through participation in our Practicum Program.



Catie Madden, TTU



Anita Patel, TTU



Abigail Lozano, LCU

## RMHC Board of Directors

- Steven Maddux, Board Chair
- Todd Hardin, Board Treasurer
- Jennifer Irlbeck, Board Secretary
- Ty Jones, Past Chair
- Paul Dannevik
- Jacoby Madewell
- Robyn Snowberger
- Brian Payne
- Sunshine Stanek
- Brad Stuteville
- Hugo Vargas
- Libby White
- Sydney Witte
- Christi Felton



*Some bring light so great to the world,  
that even after they have gone...*

*the light remains.*

## REMEMBERENCES:

Eddie Foshee  
Morgan Thompson  
Nancy Stoll  
Louis Baty  
Susan Jones  
Randy Brightbill  
Beverly Rosenow  
Joyce Hood  
Judy Sumners  
Briley Benner  
Geraldine Dilts  
Brad Moore  
Duane Snell  
Joe Leach  
Brynlee Barnett  
Julie Baugh  
Lavell Baker  
Kiley Lane  
Jerry Pack  
Pat Strong  
Bob Sturdivant  
Jordan Clay Shuman  
Hagen Hill  
Long Ho  
Maria Liceaga

*No person was ever honored for what they received.  
Honor has been the reward for what they give.  
~ Calvin Coolidge*

## HONORARIUMS:

Barbara Riley  
Southern Bush  
Mila Rose Burnett  
Bill and Jane Cohen  
Bruce Sanderson  
Jerald Moore  
Joe and Tina Dalton  
Luis and Lissette Mirando-Castillo  
Mike Ansolabehere  
Todd and Melissa Bains



# HOUSE TO HOME

Nothing brings home the reality of your new normal after you have gone through a medical crisis with a child more than traveling home to an empty refrigerator and empty cupboards. Getting to go home is the greatest gift and then you realize the road ahead may not be the one you planned. RMHC is proud to introduce our House to Home Program that gives families a few more hours to settle in and get used to their new normal.

The extreme rise in medical costs, living expenses, and trying to keep a family afloat is something that most families face today. A majority of the families in our service area live at or below the median income level. Realizing that for many of the families leaving RMHC, financial stress from the experience is still ahead of them. We have started a House to Home Program. Each family receives a departure bag designed to provide essentials to cover the bases for a few days to help make a successful transition home.

While our house operations team gathers and organizes a bag that includes, but is not limited to, cooking essentials, household essentials, pet items, gas assistance and other available products, the family can fill out a simple survey that shares their experience at RMHC to help us improve and sustain the programs we already have in place.

Our mission is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. This program is one way that RMHC is helping keep families close.

## UPCOMING EVENTS SUPPORTING RMHC

- October 16th - Harvest Music Festival at Two Docs Brewery
- October 31st - Panda Express Give Back
- October 31st - Main Event Trunk or Treat and Raffle
- November 11th - Woody's Brick Oven Pizza Give Back
- November 30th - Panda Express Give Back
- December 5th - Carol of Lights Run at TTU



## #GIVINGTUESDAYWTX

Join us October 26th through Giving Tuesday, November 30th to give back to our community and give thanks for all we have.

When you give through #GivingTuesdayWTX, a percentage will be matched on all gifts—the higher our total, the higher the matching percentage!

To donate, follow the Giving Tuesday link on our homepage: [www.rmhcsouthwest.com](http://www.rmhcsouthwest.com)

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Your gift helps  
Families and  
Hospitalized  
children!



**RMHC**  
of the Southwest

Please use my gift to support the Ronald McDonald House Charity mission of 'Keeping families close'. I've enclosed a donation in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TO COMPLETE YOUR DONATION:**

- ☐ Visit [rmhcsouthwest.com](http://rmhcsouthwest.com) & click DONATE
- ☐ Send a Check back in the return envelope - Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make payable to RMHC of the Southwest)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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