



**American Hospital  
Association**

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**AHA AWARD OF HONOR TO BE PRESENTED TO  
RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES**

**WASHINGTON** (April 12, 2012) – The American Hospital Association (AHA) will present its Award of Honor to Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), Oak Brook, Ill., for its efforts to improve the health of children and their families and its contribution to family-centered care. The award, presented at the AHA’s Annual Membership Meeting on May 7, is given to organizations and individuals in recognition of exemplary contributions to the health and well-being of people through leadership on major health policies or social initiatives.

The first Ronald McDonald House® opened in 1974 in Philadelphia and the charity was established officially in 1984. With 175 Ronald McDonald Houses throughout the country located near hospitals, families can stay near their children while they receive services. The housing is provided at little to no cost for the families.

“RMHC understands that, for a child, family is the best medicine,” said AHA President and CEO Rich Umbdenstock. “By providing a ‘home-away-from-home,’ Ronald McDonald Houses allow families to make the health care journey with their children, while lifting the burden of where to stay and how find their own rest. The AHA is pleased to honor RMHC for providing comfort and support to families and children when they need it most.”

RMHC also supports families in the U.S. through 93 in-hospital Ronald McDonald Family Rooms and 38 Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® programs which offer medical, dental and health education services to vulnerable children in their neighborhoods.

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RMHC also strives to provide strength and stability to families so their children can reach their full potential. One of the ways the Charity does this is by opening the door to education, through its Scholarship Program. Along with participating RMHC Chapters and with the support of the community at large, scholarships in the U.S. are offered to high school students who have demonstrated financial need, academic achievement, leadership and community involvement.

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare in Boston also will receive the 2012 AHA Award of Honor.

Previous Award of Honor winners include organizations such as Center to Advance Palliative Care, The Institute for Safe Medication Practices and Habitat for Humanity. Individuals such as Steven A. Schroeder, M.D., former president and CEO of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Donald M. Berwick, M.D., former administrator of the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and former president and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement have also been honored.

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### **About the AHA**

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes close to 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 42,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

### **About Ronald McDonald House Charities**

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Through its global network of local Chapters in 57 countries and regions, its three core programs, the [Ronald McDonald House<sup>®</sup>](#), [Ronald McDonald Family Room<sup>®</sup>](#) and [Ronald McDonald Care Mobile<sup>®</sup>](#), and millions of dollars in grants to support children's programs worldwide, RMHC provides stability and resources to families so they can get and keep their children healthy and happy. All RMHC-supported programs provide a bridge to quality health care and give children and families the time they need together to heal faster and cope better. For more information, visit [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org), follow RMHC on Twitter ([@RMHC](#)) or like RMHC on Facebook ([Facebook.com/RMHC Global](https://www.facebook.com/RMHCGlobal)).

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