

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ronald McDonald House Food Drive Record-Breaking Success!

Despite tough economy, L.V. community comes through for families in crisis.

LAS VEGAS, NV (Feb. 6, 2013) – Las Vegans proved, once again, just how generous our community really is by taking part in the Ronald McDonald House’s Annual Food Drive on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Valley residents donated more than 40,000 pounds of food and household supplies (that’s 20 tons!!) and more than \$13,800 in cash. Food donations were up significantly and cash donations were up nearly 8% from last year.

Smith’s Food & Drug locations throughout the Las Vegas area hosted the drive with the help of more than 300 volunteers who helped collect the donations. Volunteer drivers from the St. Therese Center picked up food and supplies and returned them to the Ronald McDonald House to be sorted, weighed and stored by even more volunteers.

In recognition of National Food Check-Out Day, this annual food drive provides enough food to keep the Ronald McDonald House pantry stocked for the entire year. At the House, families whose children are in local hospitals receive meals and snacks each day, including siblings staying with their parents.

“We are overwhelmed by the community’s support,” says Alyson McCarthy, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas. “Our cabinets and new elfa® shelves donated by The Container Store are overflowing. Because of all of the big-hearted people who donated on Saturday, food will certainly not be a worry for our families who need to focus their attention on their children recovering in the hospital. Thank you!”

National Food Check-Out Day is recognized by the National Farm Bureau as the day of the year when most Americans will have earned enough income to pay for their yearly food supply. The National

Farm Bureau presented RMHC with a generous donation of \$500 during the event. This is the 12th year Las Vegas Smith's stores have supported the Ronald McDonald House Annual Food Drive.

Many memories were made on Saturday as groups from across the Las Vegas area volunteered. At one store, volunteers organized by McCarthy Kaster CPAs received an incredible \$1,000 check. Carts overflowing with food were wheeled to the trucks to be taken to the House. Adults and children from all backgrounds stepped up to be a part of this huge effort. See our food drive photos on facebook! Like us!

The Ronald McDonald House of Greater Las Vegas provides a "home away from home" for families who must travel to Las Vegas to receive critical medical treatment for their children. These families face great hardship while their children undergo hospitalization or out-patient care for serious illness or trauma, and the Ronald McDonald House offers a place of comfort and support while they're away from home.

About RMHC of Greater Las Vegas

Believing that every child deserves a safe and supportive place to grow, Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Greater Las Vegas creates and supports programs that directly improve the health, education and well-being of children in our community. We fulfill our mission by providing a home-away-from-home at the Ronald McDonald House® for families who travel to Las Vegas to receive critical medical treatment for their children, and manage programs that service the immediate needs of children and families in our community.

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