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Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Greater Las Vegas
2323 Potosi St. * Las Vegas, NV 89146
(702) 252-4663 phone * (702) 252-7345 fax
www.rmhlv.org



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CONTACT: Teresa Kunze
Marketing Manager
Cell: 702.245.9855

[HeArt of Giving Gala](#) Presented By **McDonald's® of Greater Las Vegas and Lexus of Las Vegas** **Raised Nearly \$300,000 for** **Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Greater Las Vegas**

LAS VEGAS, NV (Thursday, Oct. 3) – On Saturday, September 7, [McDonald's®](#) of Greater Las Vegas and [Lexus of Las Vegas](#) raised nearly \$300,000 through the [HeArt of Giving Gala](#) to benefit families served through [Ronald McDonald House Charities® \(RMHC®\) of Greater Las Vegas](#). This art-infused soiree was held at the [Keep Memory Alive Event Center](#), located at the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, 888 W Bonneville Ave, Las Vegas.

“We are thrilled with the results of this event and are so thankful to our sponsors and supporters,” said Alyson McCarthy, RMHC of Greater Las Vegas Executive Director. “The venue of [Keep Memory Alive Event Center](#) at the Lou Ruvo Center offered a surrounding of artistry at its best while the décor created by ByDzign and lighting by PSAV added eloquent touches suitable for our exquisite dinner by Master Chef Gustav E. Mauler. It was the perfect setting to celebrate the mission of RMHC.”

Celebrating the work of RMHC and a commitment to the health of children as their parents stay by their side offered the opportunity to recognize community partners who help make this possible. [Sunrise Children's Hospital](#) was recognized as the 2013 Gala Honoree for their commitment to quality, specialized and compassionate care for children across the region. And, [Children's Heart Center of Nevada](#) was honored as the 2013 House Hero for providing specialized heart care for children, unparalleled in Nevada.

“The relationship that Ronald McDonald House® has with Sunrise Children's Hospital and Children's Heart Center of Nevada is what makes it possible to wrap families in the care and support they need,” said Rick Fields, RMHC of Greater Las Vegas President of the Board and SVP of Casino Operations at Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino. “We are pleased to honor these two organizations for their ongoing commitment to quality health care for children and dedication to supporting these children's families.”

The evening included entertainment by [Tommy Ward & Swayd](#) and a special appearance and performance by [Jean Francois Extreme Art](#). Jean Francois Detaille painted two portraits in just 20 minutes that were auctioned to raise money for those served at Ronald McDonald House. The pieces went on to raise \$4,000 and \$2,200 for a total of \$6,200 in the live auction. [Celebrity Master Chef Gustav E. Mauler](#) prepared four courses full of enticing and satisfying flavor for more than 250 guests. [Mix 94.1 FM's Mark & Mercedes in the Morning](#) gracefully served as Masters of Ceremony and [Auctioneer Christian Kolberg](#) led perhaps the most successful live auction in the RMHC of Greater Las Vegas history, raising \$43,800 through the live auction. Top selling items included tickets to Super Bowl XLIX in 2015 raising \$8,000 and an Exclusive Party Package at [Ubiquita's](#) Corporate Mansion, formerly owned by Mike Tyson. This all-inclusive party package for 40 guests raised \$10,000.

Special guests Nan Schwartz and Susan Tose Spencer, daughters of RMHC Founder Leonard Tose, shared the early beginnings of the first Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House in 1974. In addition to sharing her father's passion for Ronald McDonald House, Spencer shared insights on what it was like to be the only woman to have ever been the General Manager of an NFL team, the Philadelphia Eagles.

Little Grace Myers caught the attention of everyone present as her family shared how Ronald McDonald House helped them as they waited for a miracle, trusting doctors and nurses through Sunrise Children's Hospital when Grace was born at just 24 weeks last year. Today, Grace is strong and alert, a miracle according to Mom. [Click here to see photos of Grace's first birthday party at the House.](#)

This fundraising event for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Las Vegas was possible thanks to the generous support of Presenting Sponsors [McDonald's®](#) of Greater Las Vegas and [Lexus of Las Vegas](#). Special thanks also to Platinum Sponsor [The Private Bank by Nevada State Bank](#) and Gold Sponsors [CareMeridian](#), [Children's Heart Center of Nevada](#), [Cox Communications](#), [e-gads!](#), [IGT](#), [Lotus Broadcasting](#), [NV Energy](#), [Pediatrix Medical Group](#), [Southwest Gas Corporation](#), [Southwest Medical Associates](#), and [Sunrise Children's Hospital](#).

To see event photos by Rick Vierkandt of GRJV Studios at <http://www.grjvstudios.com/gala2013>.

Read the history of Ronald McDonald House Charities starting in 1974 and the Leonard Tose at <http://www.rmhc.org/our-history>

About Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Greater Las Vegas

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of Greater Las Vegas is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that provides temporary housing for families who travel to Las Vegas to receive medical treatment for their children. RMHC of Greater Las Vegas also creates and supports programs that directly benefit children and families in the greater Las Vegas area through grants, scholarships, and community outreach projects. Learn more about RMHC of Greater Las Vegas at www.rmhlv.org.

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