



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central New York Celebrates “Christmas in July”

Annual donation drive to help families of seriously ill children

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York](#) is celebrating “Christmas in July” and encouraging community members to collect items on its wish list throughout July to support the families of seriously ill children staying at the organization’s House.

Wish list items include butter, coffee, granola bars, juice boxes, dry cereal, English muffins, individual snack bags of chips, fruit snacks, fresh fruit, small (4-gallon) and extra-large (40-gallon) trash bags, gallon and sandwich size Ziploc® bags, liquid hand soap, paper plates, paper towels, white copy paper (8½” x 11”), newborn/infant sleep sets, baby dolls and family-appropriate video games for Xbox 360®, Wii™ and Wii U™.

The Central New York Ronald McDonald House wish list includes gift cards to BJ’s Wholesale Club, Wegmans, Wal-Mart, Price Chopper and Tops to help purchase items of more immediate need.

This year, the organization has also created a separate [wish list](#) through Amazon to make donations online. The list includes children’s toys and larger household items. Donations purchased through Amazon by community members will be delivered directly to the Central New York Ronald McDonald House. Additionally, community members can support the organization throughout the year with AmazonSmile, which donates a portion of each final purchase price to a desired charitable organization. To start shopping, log on to [smile.amazon.com](#) and select Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY from the list of eligible organizations. For every eligible purchase made on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price to the local organization.

Community events and fundraisers like Christmas in July have become increasingly important as the organization has seen an increase in its occupancy rate year-over-year. A large, handicap-accessible House allows the organization to meet diverse needs and offer expanded services for new populations of guest families including women whose pregnancies are classified as high-risk. In 2015, there was a 22 percent increase in the number of guests staying at the House, for a cumulative 5,755 nights. With more families to serve each year, there is a higher demand for wish list items.

“Christmas in July” will culminate with a donation drive for community members to drop off donations from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, at the CNY Ronald McDonald House at 1100 E. Genesee St., Syracuse. For alternative drop-off times, please contact Lee Wilder at lwilder@rmhcny.org or 315-476-1027.



All donations, including food items, must be new to safeguard the health of the seriously ill children that the House serves. To view the complete “Christmas in July” wish list, visit www.rmhcny.org.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central New York: Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY operates the CNY Ronald McDonald House 24 hours a day, year-round as a “home away from home” for families whose children are hospitalized with serious illnesses or injuries. For just \$25 a night per family, the House provides the convenience of a comfortable room and warm bed, a home-cooked meal, and support and compassion. The fully accessible Ronald McDonald House allows the organization to help keep even more families with seriously ill children together. For more information or to donate, visit www.rmhcny.org.

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