



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 17, 2020**

## **CNY Ronald McDonald House Temporarily Opens Doors to Front-Line Health Care Professionals from Upstate University Hospital**

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** — **Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central New York** (RMHC® of CNY) will temporarily shift its program care model and repurpose the CNY Ronald McDonald House to help support local health care professionals who are tirelessly working the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective immediately, the nonprofit organization will temporarily turn over occupancy of the CNY Ronald McDonald House to Upstate University Hospital in order to provide emergency sleep accommodations to their front-line health care professionals. With the exception of a modest cleaning fee, there will be no usage fee for the hospital or those who stay at the House.

“We greatly appreciate the support of one of our community’s most cherished agencies— Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York—for making its House available to our staff,” said Robert Corona, DO, MBA, chief executive officer of Upstate University Hospital. “A comfortable, safe place to retire to at the end of a shift on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight goes a long way for our employees. Thank you to the Ronald McDonald House board members and staff. We are grateful for their generosity.”

In response to the pandemic, RMHC of CNY previously closed the CNY Ronald McDonald House to guest families and volunteers.

“While we believe that temporarily closing our House was the most responsible way to help protect our guest families, it has now presented us with a unique opportunity to contribute to the local fight against COVID-19,” said Beth Trunfio, executive director, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York. “Local front-line health care professionals are working long hours during these uncertain times and we are proud to be able to provide them with a place of respite. It is our profound privilege to be working together through this crisis and beyond.”

While the CNY Ronald McDonald House remains closed to guest families, RMHC of CNY continues to support families with seriously ill children and keep them close. The nonprofit made alternative accommodations at a local hotel for the guest families that were staying at the House at the onset of the pandemic, and is providing the families with daily meal vouchers and checking in with them to offer support. RMHC of CNY is covering the associated costs so that families can continue to focus on what really matters: the health and well-being of their child.

Community members who are interested in supporting the CNY Ronald McDonald House, and the families and the health care professionals that it is currently serving, can donate at [www.rmhcny.org](http://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](http://www.rmhcny.org).

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