



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nov. 1, 2018**

## **Community Invited to “Give the Gift of Togetherness” this Holiday Season**

*17<sup>th</sup> Annual Many Hearts One Home Celebration benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities® of CNY*

**SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central New York** is encouraging community-minded individuals to “give the gift of togetherness” this holiday season to help support the many guest families who rely on the CNY Ronald McDonald House as a place to stay to be close to the medical care their children need.

“Families are stronger when they are together and, as an organization, we are fortunate to be able to help families stay close to each other every day of the year. But to do so, we continue to rely on the generosity of the community to help support the services we provide,” said Beth Trunfio, executive director, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York. “This holiday season, we are asking community members to consider giving the gift of togetherness that will also help alleviate a huge financial burden on families in need.”

The CNY Ronald McDonald House serves as a temporary home for families who travel to Syracuse from across New York state and northern Pennsylvania, and in some cases, foreign countries. The House provides guest families with the convenience of a private room and warm bed, and home-cooked meals. Over the course of a year, the local organization saves families \$1.4 million in out-of-pocket lodging and meal expenses. But the impact goes far beyond numbers. Above all, the House is a comfortable and supportive environment where families have an opportunity to talk with other guests who are in similar situations and understand what it’s like to face the unthinkable.

“When parents learn that a child is seriously ill, everything changes. But, the gift of being able to stay together can make life a little easier for families when it does, allowing them to focus on what really matters: the health and well-being of their child,” said Trunfio.

Community members that are interested in giving the gift of togetherness this holiday season can do so by making an online donation at [rmhcny.org/giving](http://rmhcny.org/giving).

Individuals can also support the local nonprofit organization by attending its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Many Hearts One Home Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the SRC Arena and Events Center. Tickets can be purchased online at [rmhcny.org](http://rmhcny.org) or by calling (315) 476-1027. This year’s honorary event chairs are John and Erin Keib. Attendees will enjoy live entertainment, live and silent auctions, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and food stations. Cocktail attire is suggested.

**About Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central New York:** Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central New York operates the CNY Ronald McDonald House 24 hours a day, year-round 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 CNY Ronald McDonald House allows the organization to help keep even more families with seriously ill children together. In 2017, the nonprofit organization celebrated its 35th anniversary. For more information or to donate, visit [rmhcny.org](http://rmhcny.org).

###