

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley Names “Volunteer of the Year”

Evansville, IN –In 2018, volunteers served more than 12,000 hours supporting programs facilitated by Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley. Programs include Meals of Love, the Hospitality a la Carte program and the Ronald McDonald House. Each program supports critically ill children and their families. The charity recently recognized its active volunteers at an annual volunteer appreciation celebration, including the *Sallie Ann Hill Volunteer of the Year Award*.

The 2018 recipient of the *Sallie Ann Hill Volunteer of the Year Award* is Mrs. Madeleine Reffett. Madeleine began volunteering for the House in 2014. Since that time, she has logged nearly 600 volunteer hours for the charity. RMHC Program Volunteer Manager Carol Pace states, “Though many RMHC volunteers are equally deserving of this award, Madeleine has taken on many volunteer responsibilities and extra shifts when needed. She is genuinely invested in helping families through our programs. In 2018, in addition to completing extra shifts at the House, Madeleine also started working with our Hospitality a la Carte program, rolling the Happy Wheels Cart at St. Vincent. We are so proud to have Madeleine as part of our RMHC family and congratulate her on this award.”

“I remember when the House was first being built. I thought, what a great idea!” While she worked and her kids were growing up, Madeleine stayed involved in school related activities. Upon her retirement in May 2013, she knew she wanted to give back to the community through volunteering. She researched where she wanted to become involved and said after reading an article in the paper about the House, she wanted to learn more about RMHC. She met with the volunteer coordinator, toured the house and knew that she wanted to volunteer here.

“RMHC of the Ohio Valley has always been a needed facility,” Reffett added. “From day one, it’s been great. Everyone is nice and the environment is pleasant. All of the volunteers are deserving of this award. I am humbled and honored to be this year’s recipient.” Madeleine is also active in other community organizations as well and serves on the board for Touch, Inc. The staff, volunteers and RMHC families who have come to know Madeleine know that this is a well-deserved honor for her.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley started in 1988 when Sallie Ann Hill successfully united local McDonald’s owner/operators to establish a chapter. The charity was primarily a granting organization until opening the 16,000 square foot house in 2010.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities and Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley’s mission and programs by visiting rmhcohoiovalley.org.

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