

CONTACT

Julia Baumeyer, RMHC of the Ohio Valley
julia@rmhcohoiovalley.org
812-402-7642 ext. 3



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF THE OHIO VALLEY ANNOUNCES NEWEST HAPPY WHEELS CART AT EASTERSEALS REHABILITATION CENTER

Evansville, Indiana, March 2019 – Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley (RMHCOV) has officially expanded their Hospitality a la Carte program by adding a 5th Happy Wheels Cart to serve pediatric patients and their families. This newest cart is stationed at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, 3701 Bellemeade Avenue in Evansville. "The Center is the first non-hospital partner in this program. Upon early discussions between the two organizations, it was evident that this location was a good fit for a Happy Wheels Cart," states Theresa Floyd-Maas, RMHCOV Executive Director. The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center provides a number of outpatient services for children including medical rehabilitation, early intervention, the Early Learning Center, psychology services, and Augmentive & Alternative Communication services among others. RMHC's mission is to create find and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. Mrs. Floyd-Maas adds, "The missions of both organizations align nicely with each other."

The cart at Easterseals is designed to support families who are there for appointments and services. This cart will be stationery in a visible place once a month, allowing children and their family members to select a toy, treat, snack and/or beverage of their choice on that special day.

Common items stocked on the cart include, complimentary coffee, hot chocolate, juice boxes, small waters, snacks, coloring books, small toys, toiletries and other items. In addition to taking care of the immediate needs of the parents and children, these small tokens from the Happy Wheels Cart provide simple reminders to the families that the Easterseals and RMHC teams are there for them, providing compassion and encouragement.

"We are so grateful that RMHC volunteers will serve our clients and their family members during the monthly cart roll," states Lisa Fisher, Vice President of Clinical Services at the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. "I foresee this program serving not only as a source of welcome and comfort, but also as a form of encouragement for successes. For example, if a child does a great job in a therapy session, they can pick an extra toy or treat from the cart. It will be a well-deserved reward for making progress toward their goals and a wonderful incentive to strive for future achievements."

To donate items for the Happy Wheels cart or to volunteer, contact the Ronald McDonald House at 812-402-7642.

###

About Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. More than 10,000 guests have been welcomed since opening the doors at the Evansville house in 2010.