



**Ronald McDonald House Charities®
of Jacksonville**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville Expands Meals that Heal Program to Support More Families

The expanded program will deliver up to 50 meals per night to families at Wolfson Children's Hospital with a high risk of food insecurity.

JACKSONVILLE, FL – June 13, 2025 – Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville (RMHCJ) is proud to announce the expansion of its *Meals that Heal* program to provide nutritious, chef-prepared meals to families in need, with children undergoing medical treatment at Wolfson Children's Hospital. This expansion reflects a continued commitment to supporting families during some of the most difficult moments in their lives.

Currently, RMHCJ provides warm, balanced dinners every night of the year—serving over 19,400 meals annually—to families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. With this new initiative, the program will deliver up to an additional 50 meals per night to Wolfson Children's Hospital for families who have been identified as having high risk for food insecurity. Families are identified through a collaborative process with hospital social workers to ensure support reaches those who need it most.

This program is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville and Ronald McDonald House Charities Global. It is also supported by a grant from the Robert T. Shircliff Discretionary Grantmaking Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. The generous support of these partners helps RMHCJ reach more families in need, providing care, comfort and kindness when they need it most.

"This expansion ensures families facing medical crises are also not facing food insecurity," said Joey Leik, CEO of RMHC Jacksonville. "By delivering nutritious meals to Wolfson Children's Hospital, we are providing for families who are facing economic challenges during their child's hospitalization."

To meet the needs of this program, RMHCJ is seeking to strengthen partnerships with local food suppliers, restaurants and community organizations. Support is needed through ingredient donations, funding and volunteer efforts.

"Food can be a powerful source of comfort and nourishment, especially during the already stressful experience of having a child in the hospital," said Allegra C. Jaros, MBA, President of Wolfson Children's Hospital. "We're grateful for the collaboration with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville on this initiative to bring meals to families when they need it most."

For more information about how to get involved, donate or volunteer, visit www.rmhcjacksonville.org.

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About Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville provides essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families and promote healing when children need healthcare. Over the past 36 years, our staff, volunteers and community partners have provided care, comfort and kindness for over 44,600 families. For more information about our mission and programs, visit www.rmhcjacksonville.org.