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Ronald McDonald House adding rooftop garden for families, guests



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The proposed rooftop garden at Ronald McDonald House.

Friday, February 12, 10:28 AM EST

By Karen Brune, Mathis Managing Editor

Guests at the Ronald McDonald House on Jacksonville's Southbank will be provided a new place of peace this spring.

The house provides temporary lodging for the families of sick or injured children being treated in Jacksonville's medical facilities.

By late spring, it expects to complete a rooftop garden to provide a site of respite and relaxation for the families. It's called Ronald's Roof Garden on plans.

Angie Vennerstrom, marketing manager for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, said the space also will be used for events previously held off-site, such as volunteer appreciation and donor recognition events.

"It is going to provide a beautiful green space for families and guests of families to visit, reflect, share and enjoy the outdoors," Vennerstrom said.

It will provide a 360-degree view of Downtown and the St. Johns River, she said.

The charity's site plan includes a pergola, planters, a fountain, garden seating, a pavilion, an arbor garden and a statue.

Ronald McDonald House is at 824 Childrens Way.

W.G. Pitts Co. is the contractor for the project, shown on a pending building permit at \$390,000.

kmathis@jaxdailyrecord.com

@MathisKb

(904) 356-2466



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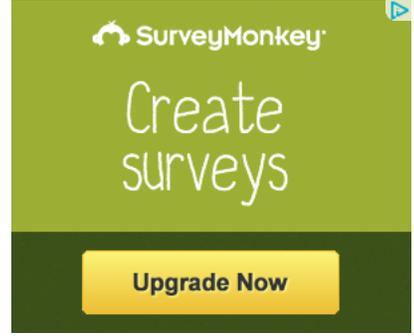
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10 North Newnan Street · Jacksonville, FL 32202 · (904) 356-2466 · Fax (904) 353-2628

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