Ronald McDonald House Special Feature

Starting October 1, 2026,

"Ronald McDonald House" Will Be Our New Name!

Ronald McDonald House Japan

Did you know that around the world, the House is already known and loved under the name "Ronald McDonald House"?
This year marks two milestones — the 50th anniversary of our global founding in Philadelphia and the 25th anniversary of the opening of Japan's very first House in 2026. To mark the occasion, starting October 1, we will standardize the name to "Ronald McDonald House" in Japan as well.
The logo is getting a refresh too, and the character who has long served as the House's beloved ambassador will now be known as Ronald McDonald (previously known as Donald McDonald in Japan). But our mission — standing by children facing illness and their families, and providing them with a place where they can feel safe — remains completely unchanged.
We're also strengthening our collaboration with the global network and expanding our services, including making the House free to use and providing nutritious meals at no cost. Together with our partners around the world, we'll keep broadening our support for children facing illness and their families.

For more details, please visit the Ronald McDonald House website. https://www.mhsj.or.jp/english/

Voices from Families Who've Stayed at the House

Here, we share some of the smiles the House has brought to life.

Scan to learn more about supporting Ronald McDonald House

I Overcame My Illness, and Became a Mother

The first time I stayed at Ronald McDonald House was when I was 12 years old. I was in the hospital for a long stay in Tokyo, far from my home in Okinawa. My mother understood how hard it was for me, being so far from home and unable to stay overnight anywhere else, so she booked us a room at the House. That' s how I was able to stay outside the hospital for the very first time.
On the day we arrived, a volunteer greeted us warmly and said, "Make yourself at home here," and I remember feeling so relieved. My mother cooked for us in the House' s kitchen, and the two of us shared a happy meal together. We talked about how helpful it was to have "help yourself" ingredients donated to the House, and how it made us feel that even in ways we couldn't see, there were people out there supporting us as we faced this illness.
Being able to stay at the House together with my mother gave me strength, and once I went back to the hospital, I was able to focus on my treatment again. In the end, I overcame my childhood cancer.
Twenty years later, I gave birth to my eldest son at that very same hospital where I had once been a patient, and became a mother myself. I hope the House will keep standing by children who are facing illness, keep gathering people' s warmth and support, and keep being a place where people help one another — a true "home away from home," just like family.

A Gentle Embrace for Siblings, Too

My two children are a close brother and sister. But my younger son went through two major surgeries and was in and out of the hospital again and again. Of course I worried about my son, but what pained me most was seeing my daughter, unable to see the little brother she loved so much, and unable to go out anywhere together as a family — I could tell how lonely it made her.
That' s when Ronald McDonald House became our support. Before, the travel time made it hard for us to visit often, but once we started staying at the House, my daughter was able to see her brother several times a day. My son would even look for his big sister the moment he arrived for a visit — the two of them clearly drew strength just from being near each other.
We also got to have cake together at the House at Christmas, and the time we spent there became a joyful substitute for the outings my daughter had lost. The House looks after not just the child who is sick, but their siblings too. To everyone who supports the House, it feels like you' re cheering on both of my children as they grow.

The People I Met There Made Me Stronger

For my son' s treatment, we had to move from our home in Yamanashi to a large hospital in Tokyo. I wanted to stay by his side for as long as I possibly could, and it was around that time that someone introduced me to Ronald McDonald House.
Meeting other mothers at the House who also had children facing illness gave me real strength. Just spending ordinary time together, we ended up encouraging one another. Thanks to that, I found the strength to face another day tomorrow.
I hope more people come to know about the House, and all the encounters and moments of hope it has given us, so that even more children can look forward to a bright future.

As a Mother, and as a Donor — Supported Through Our Hospital Stay

I became my son' s donor for a liver transplant, since he was suffering from a liver condition. The hospital was two hours away one way, far too far to commute every day. That' s when the hospital' s doctor told us about the House.
Both before and after the transplant were incredibly hard on me, physically and emotionally, but I was able to stay by my son' s side throughout, thanks to the support of the House. Everything we needed was already there, so I could focus completely on caring for my son and resting my own body. Since leaving the hospital, my son has made a full recovery and now happily goes to daycare every day. I hope that, little by little, I can also do something to help other children facing illness, and their families, just as we were helped.

A Father' s Resolve, Held in a Gentle Touch

Since the day he was born, my son had been through repeated surgeries at a hospital in Miyagi. When he was seven months old, my wife became his donor, and he underwent a transplant at a hospital in Saitama. I decided that I was the only one who could support the two of them, as their father, so I took a month off work to be by their side. That' s when we turned to the House.
The House was just a short walk from his hospital room, so I could visit my son every day. Even on the days he wasn' t conscious, I could still gently pat his head to encourage him. Maybe he remembers it somehow, because even now, patting his head still seems to put him at ease.
My son was able to leave the hospital safely, and our family still uses the House whenever we go back for check-ups. Thanks to everyone' s support and encouragement, I found the courage to face his illness with hope.

I' m Not Alone

When I was four, I got sick with a condition in my hip. I was admitted to a big hospital right away, and my happy, everyday life suddenly became something completely different. I made it through the tough rehab because my dad was always there for me, no matter what. During my roughly two years in the hospital, my dad stayed at the House for almost 500 days. He cheered me on through rehab, and gave me massages for over an hour every day to help me walk more easily. That' s what gave me the strength to keep trying.
I' m 12 now, and I' ve gotten healthy enough to play soccer with my friends at school. But I' ll never forget getting sick. And of course, I' ll always remember how the House helped us. So that this wonderful place never disappears, I really hope lots of people will keep supporting the House.

© McDonald' s Holdings Japan Ltd.