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## Ronald McDonald House Charities Brings Back Annual Student Challenge Fundraiser

*Fundraising initiative offers accessible way for students to get creative while giving back*

**BOSTON (September 2022)** – The Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England (RMHCNE) is pleased to announce the return of its annual Student Challenge fundraiser. This initiative by RMHCNE offers a creative outlet to students of all ages who are interested in giving back to their communities.

“We are thrilled to be hosting the Student Challenge fundraiser again,” said Gretchen Manning, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England. “This unique fundraising model was purposely developed to engage the robust network of student leaders at all levels of the continuum. With students being some of the greatest ambassadors for our mission, we saw the Student Challenge as an opportunity to encourage and strengthen their leadership development skills while also raising critical funds to fulfill our mission.”

The Student Challenge will take place from September through November 30th, 2022 and is open to students in kindergarten through college. Participants can choose how they would like to raise funds for RMHCNE, with options such as completing a fitness challenge, a reading challenge, using their artistic talents, or all of the above. This open-ended challenge that culminates on Giving Tuesday encourages increased participation, creativity, and an interactive way to make philanthropy accessible and approachable to students of all ages.

A previous participant in RMHCNE’s Student Challenge and student at Boston University, Sophia Sullivan, remarked that “taking part of this challenge allowed me not only to use my creativity to help further RMHCNE’s mission, but furthermore allowed me to learn about the foundational workings of nonprofits and how essential they are in addressing public issues.”

Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England supports and provides programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. They support the families of seriously ill children, providing them with housing and comprehensive care programs to ensure that families remain close to each other and their children receive the vital healthcare services they require. All services and housing are provided free of charge.

Another former student participant from Tufts University, Meggie Murphy, expressed that “the Student Challenge allowed me to collaborate with and be mentored by strong female leaders while gaining exposure to nonprofit work. Ronald McDonald House is a global organization that creates a meaningful connection with local communities. The impact you make is tangible and personalized. RMHCNE makes a conscious effort to share the experience of every family. It was touching to be able to follow these stories and see very clearly the “why” behind the work we were doing.”

To participate, students must start a fundraiser through RMHCNE's website. From there, participants are encouraged to raise \$1,000 for students K-12 working as individuals or in teams, and \$2,500 for college students working as individuals or as teams. RMHCNE will be providing incentives throughout the fundraiser for participants, as well as special surprises and recognitions for the team or individual that raises the most. Further details and information can be found within the Student Challenge Guide.

### **About RMHCNE**

Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves families from around the United States and the world through our core programs: Ronald McDonald Houses, Ronald McDonald Hospital Family Rooms and Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles. RMHCNE provides a comprehensive and supportive network of resources to families of children receiving treatment for pediatric illnesses at hospitals and other medical facilities in Boston, Providence and throughout the region.