



## Ronald McDonald House Charities Burlington, Vermont

Today is a very special Valentine's Day! Forty years ago today, we opened this home-away-from-home to families who needed a place to stay when their children were in the hospital.

It all started when a group of people from Christ Church Presbyterian, The First Congregational Church, and Harry Wallace, a local McDonalds Owner-Operator, decided to open a Ronald McDonald House in Burlington, VT.

### **A few of our proudest moments....**

- In 2005 we knew it was time to expand. We added 5 guestrooms and grew our common areas to broaden our overall space.
- When the world changed in 2020 due to the pandemic, we were compelled to alter our overall volunteer program, eventually building out our Guest Chef Program to the exceptional feature it is today.
- For many years we benefited from our generous rental agreement with the First Congregational Church. When they decided to sell the property in 2022, we became the proud and permanent owners.
- Over the past several years we've been able to add spectacular updates to our guestrooms and common spaces to continue modernizing the house.

It's been a remarkable journey of hope and memory-making. As we continue to evolve, one thing always remains constant: extra love and that little bit of normalcy when distress enters lives unexpectedly. We've provided 40 years of hope to 25,000 families!

I want to thank our donors, partners, businesses, and community for supporting us for the last four decades. It has been an incredible journey we've taken together achieving milestones and magical moments.

**Happy Anniversary to us!**

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