



## Welcome to Ronald McDonald House Oxford

Ronald McDonald House Oxford is an 18 bedroom House situated within the Oxford Children's Hospital. The House provides free 'home away from home' accommodation for families of critically ill children from Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire and across the UK, enabling families to stay close to their child and maintain a degree of normal family life.

### Gala Dinner Glitz & Glamour

This year's gala fundraising dinner was held at the beautiful Heythrop Park Resort in North Oxfordshire. 180 guests joined us for the evening and were firstly wowed by the amazing David Bonsall and his close up magic, accompanied by wonderful music from our string trio, before sitting down to a sumptuous feast.

A huge thank you goes to Diane Amey who shared her story with us, and to our fantastic auctioneer Mark Head who helped us to raise a total of £11,200. It was lovely to see so many of our supporters out in strength on the evening, and we thank them all for their continued and enthusiastic support of our House.



### Race Night Success



Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October saw the return of the Ronald McDonald House Oxford race night, once again organised and hosted by Ismail Anilmis and his team from McDonald's in Bedford.

The night was great fun; with an interesting twist on traditional racing... it was pigs rather than horses! The staff from our House attended as guests of Carl Room, the Ronald McDonald House Oxford Chair of Governors, and all had a great time.

The event raised £9,000 which is a fantastic result. Thanks to everyone who attended, including Iraina and Marcus Witts who shared their story with the guests, and brought along their daughters Molly and Daisy.

### Sponsored Skydive

On a bright and frosty morning in late October, five brave supporters of our House made the trip to Hinton Airfield near Brackley to take part in a tandem skydive from 10,000 feet. Well done to Denise Andre, Craig Loughman, Martin Streeton, Sam Robinson and William Fairbrother for having the guts to jump out of the plane, and for raising money for the House. Huge thanks also to Daniella Graham for organizing her friends to take part.

If you'd like to do something daring for charity, get in touch: [andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk)



Get in touch - share all your news, plans and stories by email: [fundraising@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rmhcoxford.org.uk)

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## Bollywood comes to Bicester

The sights and sounds of Bollywood glamour came to Bicester in November, when our friends at the Meet and Mingle Network and Red Edge Events put on a night of food, music and dancing.

70 guests enjoyed a champagne reception and a feast of Indian food, followed by a fantastic display of Indian drumming and dancing.

Including the proceeds from a raffle and auction on the night, the event has raised £2,300. Thanks to all who came along to support this event.

## A New Way to Support RMH Oxford

You can now donate directly to RMH Oxford by using JustTextGiving. It's a quick and simple way to make small (or big!) donations and it's completely safe too.

If you'd like to try it out for yourself, grab your phone and text OXFH11 £3 to 70070. It couldn't be easier, and it all goes directly into supporting families with children in hospital who really need our help.

£3 will buy a jar of coffee for families staying in the House; £25 will keep one of our family bedrooms open for 1 night. Go on, drop us a text and help NOW!

**JustTextGiving™**  
by **vodafone**

If supporters want to give:

£ 3

They text the message:

OXFH11 £3

To this number:

70070



## What's happening in 2012?

We've got another busy year planned for 2012 and will be offering a wide range of fun and challenging fundraising, and awareness events to suit everyone. Our mission for the next 12 months is to stamp our mark across Oxfordshire and beyond, and promote the work we are doing at the House to as many people as possible. We hope with greater awareness of the charity, more support will follow, and with that support we can continue to support many hundreds of families each year.

Below are details of some of the events we have already confirmed. Please get in touch if you'd like more details. We'd love to hear about ideas you may have to raise awareness, or to raise funds for the House. Let us know what you are up to in your own community, and send photos if you have any!



If you would like our fundraiser Andrew to come and talk to a group of people, either a community group or colleagues at work, please let us know. Andrew can tailor events to suit YOUR Company if you'd like to support us as your chosen charity of the year.



## Rome Marathon 2012

Following the success of this year's marathon in Rome, a team from our Oxford House will be returning to the city in March 2012 to pound the streets again to raise money for the House.

We so far have 8 runners confirmed, but we've got room for plenty more if you or anyone you know is ready for the challenge. There's no denying it's a tough 26.2 miles, but the feeling you get from completing a marathon, especially if it's your first, is second to none. You'll also get a big shiny medal!

To take part you need to be fit enough to complete the challenge, and willing to raise a minimum of £1,500 for the charity. We take care of all the logistics, including your flights, accommodation and race entry.

For more details please contact: [andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk)

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## 100ft Sponsored Abseil 2012

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 we'll be scaling the dizzy heights of the Women's Centre again with our 100ft sponsored abseil. This is a fantastic opportunity to see the dreaming spires of Oxford from the highest point of the hospital, and you get an exhilarating journey down thrown into the bargain!

We've only got 40 places available, so get in touch NOW to secure your place. All we ask is that you pay a £15 registration fee and commit to raising a minimum of £100 in sponsorship. Our top fundraiser raised £2,093 for our last abseil, and in total we raised nearly £15,000. Can you help us beat this total next year???



## London to Brighton Cycle Challenge

In September 2012 we'll be taking on a new challenge, the London to Brighton bike ride. It's 56 miles from city to sea, through some really beautiful countryside, and we'll be with you all the way on our bikes too!

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with an exciting challenge event that will put your physical endurance levels to test, and give you a huge sense of achievement.

If you would like to secure your place NOW, get in touch. You'll need to pay a £30 registration fee, and commit to raising a minimum of £150 in sponsorship. Places are limited, so get in early to avoid disappointment.

## Rotary Club of Bicester

Following a presentation Andrew gave to the club earlier in the year; Ronald McDonald House Oxford has been selected as one of the President's chosen charities for 2011/2012.

Members of the club are busy organising events to help raise our profile locally, and raise funds for the House. So far this year they have held an auction of promises, supported the Bollywood night in Bicester, organised a "Children Singing for Children" concert at the local Roman Catholic Church and are currently running a Santa's Grotto in Bicester town centre where they are promoting the local charities that they support and selling jams, chutneys and Christmas gifts in support of the House.



Rotary have a global reach and it is the largest service organisation in the world with approximately 1.3 million members and their motto is "Service above self" and members everywhere continue to promote these ideas whilst enjoying the fellowship of others as they carry out projects large and small.

In addition to direct support of our House Mike Daniels has also been able to introduce Andrew to a number of others (individuals and organisations) who in turn are now supporting RMHC, one such example was the recent Bollywood evening held at the Trinity restaurant in Bicester when 17 Rotarians and friends attended and helped to raise £2,300 for the charity.


Club President Mike Daniels recently came to the House with some other club members for a tour; "a number of the Rotary Club members were able to join me in a visit to the Oxford House to see the facilities first hand. We were all very impressed with what we saw and were able to speak to some mums and dads using the home and to learn first-hand how vitally important the facility is for them, a real refuge at a time of great stress" said Mike following the visit.

Events already planned for 2012 include the "East Meets West Dance Extravaganza". The event will be held at the Bicester Community College commencing at 7.00 p.m. Tickets in advance are £10 adults and £5 children under 12 (£12.50 and £7.50 at the door) and are available through Andrew or directly from Mike Daniels (Tel: 07808 763 837) This promises to be a fantastic night and we are limited to only 240 tickets so please order yours now to be sure of getting one.

Have a look at their website for more details of all the wonderful work they are doing in the community: [www.rotarybicester.org](http://www.rotarybicester.org)

Get in touch - share all your news, plans and stories by email: [fundraising@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rmhcoxford.org.uk)

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## Show your love for our House

We are always looking for support, and this doesn't always mean we're after your money! There are lots of ways you can help improve the lives of families staying in the House; you could organise a collection at your workplace or school of toiletries for the families, or bake us a cake for one of our cake sales.

We run a number of fundraising events throughout the year and we can always make use of the following items: raffle or auction prizes, for example champagne, wine, gift sets, chocolates, hampers and vouchers.

We always have a wish list of things we need for the House. Things we currently need include:

Children's DVD's    Travel Cots    Baby Monitors    Batteries – AA and AAA    Universal Remotes

Hairdryers (new only)



## A few thank you's to our wonderful family of supporters

We are very lucky to receive support from so many people each year, and we value each and every one of you, so thanks you for your continued and committed support. Here are a few names of people who have been busy fundraising for us and supporting the charity recently:

Sibford School, Oxford Spires Rotary Club, Michaela Middleton, Beth Pizzey, Gillie Stannard, Alfred Masonic Charities, Yeah Baby Music Festival, Nicky Tappin, Elena Bond, Suzanne Wrigglesworth, Daniella Graham, The Gilmore family, The Whyte family, The Daley family, Gillian Breakspear, Valerie & David Tee, Primrose Gallimore, Hazel Howe, JJ Hine & family, 4Networking Bicester, Claire Willis, Marcus & Iraina Witts, Michaela & Steven Waddup, Andrea & Peter Shearman, Kate & Andy Ransome and Paula Stillman @ Oxaera.



Thanks to Dave Crosthwaite and Helen Rees (pictured above) for calling in to present us with a cheque for their fundraising this year. Dave & Helen were two of our marathon runners and raised a whopping £4,940.83. Thanks for all your hard work, and keep on running!

## Can you help us to promote the charity?

Are you willing to share your story? We are looking for families who have stayed in the House and are willing to work with the Charity and tell the local / national media how staying at the House helped them.

Promoting case studies helps us to raise our profile and spread the word about what the charity is doing to help families across the UK. If you feel this is something you would be interested in please contact Andrew our fundraising coordinator on 01865 234273 or email [andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk)



**If you have a story for our next newsletter, would like some info on fundraising, or would like to speak to a member of the team about anything else, here's how to get in touch:**

**House Manager:** Michelle Francis [michelle@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:michelle@rmhcoxford.org.uk)

**Fundraiser:** Andrew Tee [andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk](mailto:andrew@rmhcoxford.org.uk)

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