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Leicestershire woman skydives for sick children

A Leicestershire woman is to take to the skies to complete a breath-taking parachute jump to raise money for charity.

Kit Rakkar, a local businesswoman and mother from Evington, Leicester, will bravely bail out of a plane on Saturday 7 July 2012 to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities, which provides free 'home away from home' accommodation to families with children in hospital.



Kit resolved to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities after she stayed in its Birmingham House while her son, Ekam, was being treated at the nearby Birmingham Children's Hospital for a serious illness.

Kit's high-altitude adventure, in which she will jump out of a plane at 13,000 feet, will be the latest in a long line of fundraising exploits. A serial fundraiser and charity donor, Kit has previously volunteered to encourage people to join the stem cell donor register, raised money for Leicester Royal Infirmary, and shall be taking part in a charity run with her family for Sports Relief in March.

Speaking about her skydive, Kit says: "Jumping out of a plane is not something I decided to undertake lightly and it will test my courage to its limits.

I couldn't be doing it for a better cause, as without the help of Ronald McDonald House Charities my son's illness would have been even more difficult to cope with. In fact, without the accommodation provided to us by the Charity in Birmingham, we would have most certainly lost our sanity.

I can't praise the Charity or the staff enough and I know it is helping people like us every day of the year."

Kit has already received support from friends and family and is hoping to raise at least £1,000, a sum that Kit says she hopes will help the Charity to continue to do "great things". She has set up a JustGiving page for donations at: www.justgiving.com/Kit-Rakkar

To find out more about Ronald McDonald House Charities, or to make a donation, please visit www.rmhc.org.uk.

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Notes to editors:

1. Kit Rakkar is available for interview. Please contact Rebecca Lynch or Alex Goldup on the number above to arrange an interview.
2. Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is an independent charity which provides free 'home away from home' accommodation at hospitals and hospices across the UK. It enables seriously ill children to have their families close by when they are undergoing treatment and allows them to maintain a degree of normal family life.

3. Since 1990 the charity has opened 14 Ronald McDonald Houses which, together with over 25 sets of Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, provide more than 400 bedrooms to families every night of the year. A fifteenth house is currently being built next to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and is due for completion in Spring 2012.
4. The charity relies on the generosity of supporters and fundraisers, including McDonald's customers, without whom it would be unable to continue its work.