

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore Awarded \$5 Million Weinberg Foundation Grant

## *Capital Grant Helps to Make New House a Reality*

**Baltimore, MD** – (February 23, 2017) Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore today announced that it is the recipient of a \$5 million Capital Grant awarded by The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States. This significant grant will help to close the gap on a \$30 million capital campaign, enabling RMHCB to break ground this Spring on a new House, which will be located in the Jonestown neighborhood of Baltimore.

“The magnitude of the Weinberg Foundation gift is overwhelming and transformative in every way. Because of this \$5 million Capital Grant we can now bring this long dream to reality,” said Sandy Pagnotti, President and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore. “Beyond our own bricks and mortar, we hope to be an anchor and a part of the positive future development in our new neighborhood. We are grateful for the Weinberg Foundation’s belief in our vision of a future that will allow us to help more families in crisis now, and for generations to follow. Our increased capacity will enable thousands of families access to the world-class pediatric medical care provided in Baltimore. We are proud to continue a legacy of love, compassion and community through this partnership.”

The new 60,000 square foot Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore will be located at 1 Aisquith Street and will replace the existing House on Lexington Street. In addition to offering a state-of-the-art facility, the new six-story House will have 55 rooms and accommodate 2,200 families annually, more than doubling the capacity of the current House. Some amenities include an entire floor with suites dedicated to serving oncology families, a teen room, a classroom, a rooftop outdoor space and a two-story underground garage.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore serves as an extension of care for six Baltimore-area hospitals including the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Kennedy Krieger Institute, University of Maryland Medical Center, R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, The Rubin Institute at Sinai Hospital, and Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital.

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“The Weinberg Foundation has a long-standing relationship with Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore (RMHCB),” said Rachel Garbow Monroe, Weinberg Foundation President and CEO. “Prior to this \$5 million grant, since 2002, the Foundation has provided 15 grants to RMHCB totaling nearly \$1.5 million.” Monroe added, “This project will allow RMHCB to provide compassionate care to many more families who are coping with a medical crisis, and will contribute to the positive development of the Jonestown community. For the Weinberg Foundation, this is a significant and meaningful contribution that will endure for decades.”

Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore embarked on the New House Campaign more than three years ago under the stewardship of campaign chairs Bill Paterakis and Chuck Langmead and to date has raised \$27.5 million. Under their leadership, the campaign has garnered support from hospital partners, foundations, corporations, and individual donors including the Paterakis/Tsakalos Family, the Johns Hopkins Hospital Children’s Center, Kennedy Krieger Institute, University of Maryland Medical Center, McDonald’s Owner Operators of Greater Baltimore and the Eastern Shore, Drescher Foundation, Edward St. John, France-Merrick Foundation, Northeast Foods, The Kenneth Batty Foundation, McCormick & Co., Bob Pascal, Peter Grimm, and The Kahlert Foundation. Construction and building partners include Beatty, Harvey and Coco Architects, Morris and Ritchie Associates, Whiting Turner, Kirk Designs and Harbor East Management. There are still room naming opportunities remaining, and donations are still needed to fund the final phases of the new building. Groundbreaking is anticipated this spring and construction is expected to take 18-24 months.

#### **About The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation**

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, one of the largest private charitable foundations in the United States, provides approximately \$100 million in annual grants to nonprofits that provide direct services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families, primarily in the US and Israel. Grants are focused on meeting basic needs and enhancing an individual’s ability to meet those needs with emphasis on older adults, the Jewish community, and our priority communities of Maryland, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Chicago, and Hawaii. The trustees, some of whom also serve as executive officers of the Foundation, are Alvin Awaya, Donn Weinberg, Robert T. Kelly, Jr., Fay Hartog-Levin, and Chair Barry I. Schloss. Rachel Garbow Monroe serves as the Weinberg Foundation’s President and Chief Executive Officer. For more information please visit [www.hjweinbergfoundation.org](http://www.hjweinbergfoundation.org).

#### **About Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore**

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore is the only Ronald McDonald House in the state of Maryland. More than 35,000 families have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House Charities Baltimore since opening in 1982. Coming soon, a new 60,000 square foot, more accessible House to be built in the Jonestown neighborhood of Baltimore. The new House will more than double the size of the existing House and meet an urgent and growing demand to be a home away from home for families in need of

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respite care while their children are being treated at area hospitals. For more information on the new House, please visit [www.rmhcaltimore.org/ournewhouse](http://www.rmhcaltimore.org/ournewhouse).

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Ronald McDonald House Charities creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children