



RMHC
Richmond

The Volunteer Fund

November 1, 2018

Dear Fellow RMHC Richmond Volunteers,

A year ago, I left New Jersey and resettled in Richmond. One of the first things I did - even before fully unpacking! - was apply to volunteer at RMHC Richmond. It may sound trite or cliché, but I've wanted to volunteer for this charity for nearly two decades. Let me explain.

When he was an infant, my youngest son needed spinal surgery. Having a sick child, especially one requiring a complicated operation, is very stressful. I can't underscore that enough. It's plenty to worry about your child and his health. It's overwhelming to focus on anything else, and yet we had to worry about logistics such as where to stay during his recovery.



That's how I learned about Ronald McDonald House Charities and how they provide an affordable, home environment for families whose children are hospitalized. Over the years, I've collected stories about chapters around the country, and I've been blown away by the generosity and kindness of the staff and volunteers. I wanted to become part of this team, but in NJ, I lived too far away to make volunteering feasible. Instead, I donated financially.

When I discovered RMHC Richmond was within walking distance of my apartment, I didn't hesitate. Although I did not stay at RMHC all those years ago, I now get to see first-hand the impact RMHC's efforts have on families.



As a volunteer, it would be easy for me to say I don't need to contribute financially to the House. But working at the House has had the opposite effect. I'm *more* inclined to give.

This year, as volunteers, we have a goal of covering the cost of room fees for the House's most popular guest room, the Library, the only room with handicapped accessibility and a private bathroom. Did you know that in 2017, we received an average of less than \$2 a night in room fees from families staying at the House? A gift of \$15.00 would cover a family's one night fee to stay in the Library. A gift of \$105 would cover one week.

I hope you're also similarly inspired and will consider donating too. Even a small amount helps. After all, you need only look around the next time you volunteer to see the difference it makes for guests of the House. Thank you.

Best regards,

Diane S. Thieke, RMHC Richmond House Volunteer

You can donate online at www.rmhc-richmond.org, by mailing or dropping off your donation at 2330 Monument Avenue Richmond, VA 23220, or by phone. Just call (804) 355-6517 and make sure to mention you're contributing to the Volunteer Fund!