

# 2018 Build Connecticut Awards Submission

Presented to

## **AGC of Connecticut**

For

## **Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut Project**

New Haven, Connecticut



**December 15, 2017**

Presented by



98 Rebesch Drive

North Haven, CT 06473

T 203-865-6043 | F 203-865-6847

[www.petraconstruction.com](http://www.petraconstruction.com)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Cover Letter
2. Application Form
  - Project Directory
3. Judging Criteria Narrative
4. Summary
  - Project Photos
5. Supporting Documentation



98 REBESCHI DRIVE ■ NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473  
203.865.6043 ■ 203.865.6847 FAX

December 15, 2017

Associated General Contractors of Connecticut, Inc.  
912 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 112  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Re: 2018 Build Connecticut Awards Program

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit the Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut project for the 2018 Build Connecticut Awards Program in the CM/GC New Mid-Size Construction category.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit our entry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica J. Parkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jessica J. Parkins  
Marketing Manager



**APPLICATION – 2018 Build CT Awards**

**Project Name** Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut  
**Address** 860 Howard Avenue  
**City** New Haven **State** CT **Zip** 06519  
**Date of Completion** June 2017

**Project Type (check one):**  CM/GC New Large Construction (>\$30 m.)  
 CM/GC New Mid-Size Construction (\$10 m. to \$30 m.)  
 CM/GC New Small Construction (<\$10 m.)  
 CM/GC Large Renovation (>\$30 m.)  
 CM/GC Mid-Size Renovation (\$10 m. to \$30 m.)  
 CM/GC Small Renovation (<\$10 m.)  
 Specialty Contracting: Electrical  
 Specialty Contracting: Mechanical  
 Specialty Contracting: Concrete  
 Specialty Contracting: Interiors (Drywall, ceilings, flooring, wall coverings)  
 Specialty Contracting: Exteriors (Exterior walls, roofing, building envelopes)  
 Specialty Contracting: Sitework/Landscape  
 Other Specialty Construction (Other construction not included in above categories)

**Applicant**

**Firm name** Petra Construction Corporation  
**Contact name** Jessica Parkins, Marketing Manager  
**Phone** 203-410-3190 **Email** jparkins@petraconstruction.com

**Please List Project Participants (owner, designer, subcontractors, major suppliers etc.)** Use additional pages if needed

**Owner**

\*Please refer to our attached Project Directory.

**Firm name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designer/Architect**

**Firm name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other**

**Firm name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

This completed form is the cover sheet of your application package. Application packages must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 15, 2017. **Return to: AGC/CT, 912 Silas Deane Hwy, Suite 112, Wethersfield, CT 06109 or to [jwilhelm@ctconstruction.org](mailto:jwilhelm@ctconstruction.org) (Up to 5 mg file).**

**PROJECT DIRECTORY****Owner**

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts  
860 Howard Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06519  
Mr. Stocky Clark, Executive Director  
203-777-5683 / sclark@rmhc-ctma.org

**Owner/Property Manager**

Yale New Haven Hospital  
20 York Street  
New Haven, CT 06510  
Mr. Stephen Carbery, Vice President for Facilities Design, Construction and Real Estate  
203-688-3055 / stephen.carbery@ynhh.org  
and  
Mr. Gary Corso, Property Manager  
203-688-2599 / gary.corso@ynhh.org

**Owner's Representative**

Leland Torrence Enterprises  
17 Vernon Court  
Woodbridge, CT 06525  
Mr. Leland Torrence, Owner  
203-397-8505 / Leland@lteweb.com

**Architect**

Svigals + Partners, LLP  
84 Orange Street  
New Haven, CT 06510  
Mr. Ronald Cooper, AIA, Associate Principal  
203-786-5110 / rcooper@svigals.com

**Construction Manager/General Contractor**

Petra Construction Corporation  
98 Rebesch Drive  
North Haven, CT 06473  
Mr. Al Pacelli, Vice President/Project Executive  
203-401-2456 / apacelli@petraconstruction.com

**Civil Engineer**

TPA Design Group  
85 Willow Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Mr. Dave Sacco, Project Engineer  
203-562-2181 / dsacco@tpadesigngroup.com

**MAJOR SUBCONTRACTORS / SUPPLIERS****Architectural Woodworking**

Petra Construction Corporation Millshop  
98 Rebesch Drive  
North Haven, CT 06473  
Mr. Casey Ziegelmeier, Project Manager Architectural Millwork  
203-401-2154 / [cziegelmeier@petraconstruction.com](mailto:cziegelmeier@petraconstruction.com)

**Drywall**

Interior Drywall System Construction LLC  
18 Callahan Lane  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
Mr. Jasson Lariviere, Owner  
860-568-5764 / [jasson@intdrywall.com](mailto:jasson@intdrywall.com)

**Electrical**

Interstate Electrical Services Corporation  
800 Marshall Phelps Road, Building 2, Suite A  
Windsor, CT 06095  
Mr. Mark Madore, Division Manager Construction-CT  
860-697-3105 / [mmadore@iesc1.com](mailto:mmadore@iesc1.com)

**Glazing**

Kensington Glass & Framing Co. Inc.  
124 Woodlawn Road  
Berlin, CT 06037  
Mr. Frank Carfora  
860-828-9363 / [kensingtonglass@aol.com](mailto:kensingtonglass@aol.com)

**Lumber Supplier**

Ring's End Inc.  
25 East Industrial Road  
Branford, CT 06405  
Mr. Andrew Bussmann, Sales Associate  
203-488-3551 / [andrew.bussmann@ringsend.com](mailto:andrew.bussmann@ringsend.com)

**Mason Contractor**

Ronnie DeMeo Construction, Inc.  
150 Dividend Road  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
Mr. Charles Fendt, President  
860-563-9924 / [c.fendt@snet.net](mailto:c.fendt@snet.net)

**Mechanical Contractor**

Sarracco Mechanical Services, Inc.  
61 Mattatuck Heights Road  
Waterbury, CT 06705  
Mr. Chris Boisclair  
203-720-3809 / [cboisclair@sarracco.com](mailto:cboisclair@sarracco.com)

**Sitework and Concrete**

Colossale Concrete, Inc.  
510 Christian Lane  
Berlin, CT 06037  
Mr. Michael Colossale, Project Manager  
860-223-3179 / [mcolossale@snet.net](mailto:mcolossale@snet.net)

## JUDGING CRITERIA NARRATIVE

### State-of-the-Art Advancement

The Ronald McDonald House of Connecticut was in dire need of a facility larger than their 12-bedroom residence as occupancy was expected to triple within the next decade. This new 28,000 square foot house provides families with a warm and welcoming environment within an inner-city neighborhood. In addition to more bedrooms, the residence offers a large state-of-the-art commercial kitchen where families can interact and cook side-by-side. It also has two respite rooms where parents can relax or hold private conversations. Families also have their own private bathrooms rather than needing to share a community bathroom that was on each floor of the old house. These new resources provide innovative ways for the staff to help the families during their stay.

### Excellence in Project Management

The relationship amongst the entire project team was unparalleled. Communication throughout the project was effective and efficient, RFI's were clear and concise, project meeting minutes were detailed, three week planers were issued timely, the schedule was strictly adhered to, and the follow up on tasks and subcontract documentation was excellent. Due to the nature of the project, Petra was able to get all the subcontractors to buy into the schedule and the commitment of the building. As a result, the original schedule held true to the end of the project.

### Project Team Effectiveness

Petra assisted the Ronald McDonald House, Yale-New Haven Hospital and Svigals + Partners on pre-construction and construction for this new facility. The process included assisting the design team entering at the schematic design stage providing accurate estimating proposals and value engineering suggestions to enable the project to be constructed within the owner's budget. The original program size and scope of work vs. the established budget posed a challenge; however, after multiple re-workings of the building size and value engineering the team was able to arrive at an acceptable budget.

The deadline for the project to be completed was critical so that families would not have to be turned away. Through good planning and a team approach to decision making and managing the project site and sub consultants, the original schedule held true to the end of the project.

**Innovation in Construction Techniques, Materials or Design**

Combining EIFS for the upper two floors of guest rooms with a hardwood rainscreen for the first floor commons creates an accessible program readable from the street. State-of-the-art single-ply membrane roofing, storefront and metal roofing all lend towards materials with longevity. A state-of-the-art kitchen provides ample opportunity for families to be able to cook meals together. Petra's in-house millshop completed all the millwork for the project including the mail cubbies and elevator screen, kitchen cabinetry, vanities and office millwork.

**Excellence in Client Services**

The Petra team worked collaboratively to exceed the client's expectations. "Even in the face of adversity, the best thing about Petra is the transparency of presenting the factual information and the ability to elevate themselves to do the right job. It's presented in kind way where they are not adverse right off the bat when they are having a problem and there is not an impasse that cannot be communicated and worked through to an amicable solution for both parties," exclaimed Gary Corso, Property Manager of Yale New Haven Hospital.

The Petra team embraced the neighborhood, where there were blighted houses, before the project was able to get off the ground. The team worked incredibly to communicate with the neighbors on a high level and efficiently on what they were doing, if there would be noise, and how it would be obtrusive to them or their families.



**Contribution to the Community**

“Our mission is to provide more than just a home away from home,” says Stocky Clark, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Massachusetts. “We work to keep families together as they endure the trauma of their lives, and the Svigals + Partners team and Petra Construction are helping us to do just that.” A relationship to the adjacent neighboring buildings was established by keeping the massing in the same scale and a relationship to the street and hospital was maintained by creating an entry courtyard that is inviting and welcoming. A playful color palette reflects the real nature of the purpose of the building: children and their families. Artwork was provided that makes the building more accessible to all who view it by pointing out that children are the key and families are together.

The project team also helped to improve the neighborhood by working in conjunction with the hospital to clean the neighborhood’s streets from other litter and garbage that was not a result of the project.

**Meeting the Challenge of a Difficult Job**

The project faced multiple challenges beyond budget and schedule control. In order to construct the new facility, six buildings (one commercial and five residential) needed to be demolished. The incoming cold weather posed a challenge for one house as temperatures dropped below freezing putting demolition on hold. The Project Superintendent took advantage of a rainy day to use the rain as natural dust control and demolished the house in six hours. Additionally, EFIS work on the exterior of the building was completed during the winter months requiring staging and heated tenting to enclose the building.

As with other nonprofit groups, this client faced significant challenges in budget and site availability. Midway through design development, city officials required a change of site. At another point, project economics drove a reduction in building size and an expanded scope to include a leased portion. Using value engineering and creative architectural solutions, the architects adapted the U-shaped footprint and met client objectives with a streamlined budget.

**Sensitivity to the Environment and the Surroundings**

In addition to cleaning the neighborhood's streets, Petra took precautions above and beyond the normal environmental impacts due to the close proximity to the hospital and neighboring medical facilities. The building was completely contained with staging and a wrap to contain dust and anything else from the EFIS work to make sure nothing would travel onto the sidewalks or neighboring properties.

One of the most important aspects of this project was establishing a positive relationship with the neighbors and surrounding businesses. The Project Superintendent always kept the neighbors well informed and involved in the process. Before the project began a letter was sent out to the neighbors to inform them of the project and provide contact information for the team in the event they had any questions or concerns. During construction the Project Superintendent individually notified neighbors when something was taking place that could affect them such as blasting or deliveries so they could protect their cars. In return the neighbors kept watch of the site during off hours and would help out by blocking off their own personal parking spaces for truck access in and out of the site. As a thank you for their help, Petra gave the neighbors gift cards.



Ronald McDonald House®  
FRANKFURT

860





EXIT











114

210

307

313

115

211

308

314

206

212

309

207

213

310

208

214

311

209

306

312

## SUMMARY

The need to increase capacity brought the team of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Svigals + Partners and Petra Construction together to replace the nearby facility with this new 28,000 square foot residential facility. A singular aim guided the design solutions for this new house: to create a home where families of nearby hospital patients would feel cared for. This experience of care begins when arriving families first see the facility's uplifting, colorful façade, playful sculptures and inviting entrance. With careful siting and orientation, the entry and main façade are visible from the children's hospital, establishing a strong dialogue between patient and family experience. The entryway, set back from the street, forms a welcoming, embracing courtyard.

The architecture works to integrate the interior and exterior of the site. The reception area is illuminated by southern light coming from the rear of the building, to warm and reassure families. Gathering spaces open up with higher ceilings, admitting light deeper inside. Colorful walls and furnishings echo the friendly, open architectural gesture. Relationships to the surrounding community and natural environment add to the families' sense of well-being. Windows in the stair towers offer views of active streets and neighbors below, as well as others entering the shared home, reinforcing a sense of community and welcome.

The first floor boasts a large commercial kitchen and pantry where families can interact and cook side-by-side. It also includes dining and living areas, glassed in play room, teen room, board room, reception/lobby, offices, and two respite rooms for private space for parents to relax or have private conversations. The second and third floors contain guest bedrooms all with private baths, meeting rooms that can be converted to guest rooms in the future, laundry rooms, and sunrooms overlooking the rear courtyard. The lower basement level contains additional meeting rooms, storage, laundry, mechanical and electrical rooms.

A great team effort allowed the project to be brought in on time and under budget. When asked what his favorite part of the project was, the Project Superintendent responded without hesitation "the meaning behind the project, the new building's purpose and what it represents." Petra was proud to be a part of this inspiring project.



Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Connecticut & Western Massachusetts  
860 Howard Avenue Suite A, New Haven, CT 06519 www.rmhc-ctma.org  
203-773-6951 tel, 203-777-3082 fax

December 12, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been asked to provide a reference for Petra Construction. I have never had such great pleasure to highly recommend a Contractor as I do with Petra Construction and their entire staff.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of CT and Western MA Board of Directors made a decision to build a 43 bedroom Ronald McDonald House in 3 Phases in New Haven, CT. Petra was the successful bidder for Construction Management of the \$11.35 million 20 bedroom Phase I. There were many complex negotiations with the City and the community, as well as fundraising challenges, which led to a myriad of changes and cutbacks in design and construction. Through each stage of the process, Petra Project managers and leadership, worked diligently and often under very tight timelines to suggest possible changes and work through the implications and cost.

Once construction began, the quality of the organization began to show in the cleanliness of the sight, the organization of the subcontractors, the craftsmanship, the ability to integrate changes, the anticipation of seasonal issues and, most importantly, the involvement of our leadership in ensuring that each element was completed to our specifications. There were no needed change orders and the quality of construction was superb. This was a testament to the entire team of workers. The Petra Team, including the owner were the best in my experience.

Suffice it to say, I would always recommend Petra for any job whether it is for CM or the actual construction. They finished the project on time and on budget. Should you have any questions, feel free to call at 914-474-3270.

Sincerely,



Stocky Clark

Executive Director, RMHC CTMA

## An exclusive look of the new Ronald McDonald House

By Jocelyn Maminta Medical/Health Reporter (<http://wtnh.com/author/wtnhjocelynmaminta/>)

Published: August 8, 2017, 5:15 pm | Updated: August 8, 2017, 5:45 pm



Courtyard at the brand new Ronald McDonald House on Howard Avenue in New Haven (Twitter/JocelynMaminta)

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (WTNH) – Families travel long distances so their sick child can get the necessary care they need. Many are faced with life-threatening illnesses. Their lifeline, the Ronald McDonald House (<http://wtnh.com/?s=Ronald+McDonald+House>) — a house, full of heart.

“We find love here in each corner,” says Claudia Candido, from Venezuela. (<http://wtnh.com/?>

s=Venezuela)

It's for families from Connecticut and beyond.

The only Ronald McDonald House in the state is home away from home for families with children needing critical health care. Now there's a newly constructed house , where outside, 8-foot architectural designs, stand out with new meaning.

"It portrays the larger than life challenge that they have, of both holding up the building and taking care of their children," says Executive Director Stocky Clark (<http://wtnh.com/?s=Stocky+Clark>).

**Related Content: Ronald McDonald House Celebrates Groundbreaking for New \$11 Million House** (<http://wtnh.com/2016/05/13/ronald-mcdonald-house-celebrates-groundbreaking-for-new-11-million-house/>)

Inside, there is enough space for 20 to 30 families.

Clark explains, "The architects wanted to use light, wanted to bring light into the building."

There's a modern kitchen facility, "We've got four essentially commercial areas," Clark adds. There are also sun rooms for privacy, and bedrooms that say 'welcome'. All of it is designed to build up a reservoir of hope.

Clark says, "They can't leave here bedraggled, and financially ruined and psychologically spent and physically spent, it won't work."

What does work is its new location, which is right across from Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital (<http://wtnh.com/?s=Yale-New+Haven+Children%27s+Hospital>).

**Related Content: New Ronald McDonald House to come to New Haven** (<http://wtnh.com/2015/11/04/new-ronald-mcdonald-house-to-come-to-new-haven/>)

"The Ronald McDonald House and Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital are family. And we are united by the families we serve," says Executive Director of YNHCH, Cynthia Sparer.

The land for the new Ronald McDonald House was donated by Yale-New Haven Health.

Sparer says, "The truth is that everyone who got together around this project got it right away. They understood this is something we can do, and the logic of doing it together."

Doing it together for families like Claudia Candido's.

"And always with love," says Candido, "When we arrive. Hi! You are here again. Welcome Back."

Back this time for more surgery for 16-year-old son Maurizio; coming here since diagnosed with cancer 11 years ago.

"He has here all his history, his doctor who cured him," says his mother.

Along, with a host of volunteers, "This is not a house, it's a home and we feel with so much love."

The official opening of the new house is set for September.



#### Top News

8

### Former Career star Tanaya Atkinson leading AAC in scoring,...

One of the most exciting high school girls' basketball players to come...



# New Ronald McDonald House opens in New Haven across from the Children's Hospital

New Ronald McDonald House opens across from the Children's Hospital

By Mary O'Leary, [moleary@nhregister.com](mailto:moleary@nhregister.com) @nhrmoleary on Twitter Published 8:33 pm, Saturday, August 5, 2017



**IMAGE 1 OF 4**

Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media Claire DiMartino is photographed outside of the new Ronald McDonald House on Howard Avenue across the street from Yale New Haven Children's Hospital in New Haven on ... [more](#)

NEW HAVEN >> Claudia Candido and her family, not knowing anyone and struggling with a new language, first arrived here in 2006 from Venezuela with an appointment for emergency medical treatment for her very sick child.

Her 5-year-old son had rhabdomyosarcoma, an aggressive cancer of the soft tissue, a condition that had not been correctly diagnosed in her home country and was now stage four, having spread to his lymph nodes.

Lacking a support network and fearful he would not survive, she said it was a terrible feeling made worse by a sense of isolation staying in a hotel room.

Candido said a social worker at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital suggested she contact the Ronald McDonald House, which was then located on George Street.

"When we arrived at that house, it was so familiar and warm. All the people came out to welcome us," Candido said last week.

She and her family are now staying at the new Ronald McDonald House at 860 Howard Ave., directly across from the Children's Hospital, as her son is back for a procedure.

"I can't imagine how I could have handled it that year, which was so terrible, without the Ronald McDonald House. This is my family when I come here," Candido said.

Maurizio Candido, now 16 and cancer-free for a decade, has been here since July undergoing surgery to lengthen one leg and fix a problem with his tibia, the side effects of his initial radiation and chemotherapy.

The Candidos, which includes her husband, Gilberto Candido; another son, Gianfranco Candido, 14; and her mother, Maria Balduini, have come back every year since Maurizio's initial diagnosis for checkups. Joining them since 2000 for the trips to New Haven is the baby of the family, Isabella Candido, age 7

Claudia Candido said her husband would stay for a month at a time when he could that first year, flying back and forth to Venezuela for his work as a civil engineer. The rest of the extended family were here for that initial 12 months of treatment.

Cathy Zorgo-Bignolas, chapter administrator at the house, said the average stay for families is between three and six months, but several have remained there for more than a year.

Another family currently at the facility, has been in residence over a year and a half, with transplant operations usually requiring the longest stays, particularly for those coming from medically underserved countries.

The new \$11.35 million, 27,000-square-foot Ronald McDonald House, which has 18 rooms for the guests and two additional respite rooms for parents of children at the hospital who just need to take a break, has now been open for a few weeks.

Ten other rooms at the facility used for conference space, offices and storage will be converted to bedrooms when the organization gets the funds as part of phase two.



Phase three is a 12-bedroom addition that will be possible when they take down the adjacent building owned by Yale New Haven Health,, but that is not scheduled until 2020 at the earliest.

There was a sense of urgency that they needed more than the 12 bedrooms at the George Street site, as inpatient and outpatient visits to Yale New Haven Children's Hospital are expected to triple in the next decade.

The new facility, designed by Svigal + Partners, features a huge kitchen where the families can cook their own meals, with refrigerator and freezer space for all of them. There is a playroom for the siblings of hospitalized children and a spacious dining and living room area, filled with color and light, as well as smaller common areas on the upper floors.

It is run by a small staff and many volunteers pulling three-hour shifts, with some groups arriving on a regular basis to cook a meal for the guests or help with the children staying there.

Mostly, they are there to listen and extend their friendship to the families, many of whom travel here from outside the country.

Stocky Clark, the executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, said the capital campaign to support the new house had a goal of \$2.7 million, but was able to raise \$5.3 million.

The house, which is one of an estimated 350 around the world, gets about 20 percent of its operating expenses from its relationship with the local McDonald restaurants.

He said, in addition, much of the donations for the new house came from the 28 owner-operators of the McDonald franchises in the region, who gave \$2 million as a group, while there were individual pledges as well.

Yale New Haven Hospital donated the land for the new building and is buying the 501 George St. property. It is also subsidizing the facility with a lease space arrangement of \$3.5 million over 10 years to help the organization pay back the \$5 million construction loan it took out.

For the new house, all of the office and staff furniture was donated, as were the mattresses.

"It is all kind of remarkable," he said. Produce, milk and bread for the guests are all donated on a regular basis and they are about to start a Pantry Pal Program to keep it full for the increased number of guests.

He said many past occupants give back to the house, including one family who furnished one of the laundry rooms available on each floor.

The mother told Clark that when her special-needs daughter was born, they had one change of clothes for the 13 weeks she was in the hospital. When a nurse found out about it, she took their clothes home every night to wash them.

"She was crying when she was talking about it 30 years later," Clark said. "I get that from any number of families."

He said he doesn't care about the size of the donation, but only that they think of the house and its needs.

"That is the community of caring that brings us all into the field of human services and sustains our own involvement and our own sense we are contributing to our fellow man," Clark said. He said it is the kind of thing that sustains the staff.

"There is a culture and a soul to this house. There is a feeling, a sense of belonging that permeates the place. Families feel welcome and they feel that this is their house," Clark said.

The director, who splits his time between here and the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, Mass., said he is often asked if it isn't depressing to work here, given the stress the parents feel dealing with their children's serious medical conditions.

"I say no. Every day when I come to one of the houses, I am moved by the grace, the dignity and the courage by what I see in these families. ... They begin every day with a positive attitude and so it a privilege for us to fill that well of hopefulness and optimism about the future," he said.

Clark said it is difficult to be a parent of a sick child.

"We try to take everything away that we can. Let them worry them about what they eat tonight. Nothing about money. We ask for a donation and we get a little bit, but by and large, we don't get a donation. We have very low-income families," he said.

Many of the volunteers have been coming for a long time, including Richard Elder, who is in his 16th year.

Those who have been making regular stops here since its inception in Connecticut three decades ago, are David and Meryl Silver; Ann Orum, Claire DiMartino and Steve Merz, who was vice president and executive director of behavioral health at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Claudia Candido said she can't say enough about Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and the doctors who continue to treat Maurizio.

She called Dr. Kenneth Roberts, director of the pediatric radio therapy program, who first treated him, "my guardian angel."

Candido said she has made many friends here over the last 11 years and visits with them when she comes back annually.

"I am impressed by the generosity of the American people. They are always concerned and worried about us," Candido said.

She thanked those who donate time. "It is very important. They need the help to maintain this wonderful place," she said.

© 2017 Hearst Communications, Inc.

**H E A R S T**



# New Ronald McDonald House facility opens

ELLIOT WAILOO | SEP 22, 2017  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

City officials and staff from the Ronald McDonald House of New Haven held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Wednesday to celebrate the completion of the house, a \$11.35 million project.

The Ronald McDonald House gives families a place to stay while their children are in long-term care at any one of several area children's hospitals, although the majority are served at Yale New Haven Hospital. Thirty percent of families come from Fairfield County, but another 30 percent are international, coming from as far away as Peru or Venezuela.

The new Ronald McDonald House is located on 860 Howard Ave., directly across the street from the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. The house contains 20 guest rooms, eight more than its old location at 501 George St.

“Planning for this new Ronald McDonald House began about six years ago when Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital said that they needed more home-away-from-home bedrooms for families with children who had traveled a great distance,” said Stocky Clark, director of the Ronald McDonald House charities for Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. “They offered the property across the street from the children’s hospital for us to build on.”

In late June, the Ronald McDonald House enlisted volunteers to pack up supplies and belongings from their previous location. Although move-in was in early July, the house’s official opening was not until September because of some lingering issues, such as the front sign not arriving or being set up until more than a month after the house’s opening, said manager Wendy Kirby.

The new location has added more than convenience and physical space: Now, the staff can utilize new resources to help guests in innovative ways. In addition to 18 traditional bedrooms on the second and third floors, house organizers designated two rooms on the first floor as respite rooms and piloted its respite program on Sept. 20.

“The respite program allows families to reserve a room for two hours to take a nap, take a shower, or just to be on the first floor, which includes our kitchen, our living room and our TV room,” said Brittney Ferraro, the coordinator for the house’s respite and volunteer programs. “Especially if you have two surgeries during the day, it’s a chance for families to come and get away instead of staying in the waiting room.”

One of the most popular amenities at the new location is the house’s kitchen. It contains four six-burner stoves, four dishwashers, four microwaves, two industrial-size refrigerators and freezers, as well as a walk-in pantry that is always stocked. The house receives weekly corporate food donations: orange juice and milk from the dairy company Hood, bread from the baking company Freihofer and produce from the supermarket Trader Joe’s. Coca-Cola also donates

soft drinks to stock a vending machine, and the house charges only a quarter for these beverages — money that is then rolled back into the budget to buy essential items.

Many guests appreciate the privacy they can find at the new Ronald McDonald House, even though there are numerous social spaces such as living rooms, elevator landings with couches and dining areas, Ferraro said.

“In the old house, there was a community bathroom on every floor, and now they love having their own bathrooms,” she said.

House staff have already set in place long-term plans for phase two and phase three of construction, which are scheduled to finish before 2020, pending adequate funding.

Phase two will require no further construction. Rather, 10 office spaces and conference rooms inside the new facility will be converted into guest rooms, increasing the bedroom count to 30.

“The third phase will be the demolition of the building next door, which is currently called the Adler Center,” Clark said. “We will then convert [it] to a wing of the Ronald McDonald House which will contain 12 bedrooms.”

Ronald McDonald House Charities was founded in 1974 and currently runs more than 350 facilities across the globe.

**Elliot Wailoo** | [elliott.wailoo@yale.edu](mailto:elliott.wailoo@yale.edu).



## **Svigals + Partners completes 28,000 s/f first phase of new Ronald McDonald House**

August 18, 2017 - Connecticut (<http://nerej.com/section/CT>)



**New Haven, CT** Architecture, art and advisory firm Svigals+Partners has completed the first phase of construction of a new Ronald McDonald House residential facility to serve families of patients from Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital. The new residences, which were built by contractor Petra Construction and replace a nearby, older facility, are the result of a collaboration with the nonprofit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.

The new Ronald McDonald House embodies the charity's commitment to providing services to support the families of children receiving life-saving care at the hospital, and reflects Svigals+Partners' stated vision of "a world of prosperous, compassionate communities."

"Our mission is to provide more than just a home away from home," said Stocky Clark, executive director of Ronald McDonald House. "We work to keep families together as they endure the trauma of their lives, and the Svigals+Partners team and Petra Construction are helping us to do just that."

Replacing a nearby facility, the newly built residential complex is larger and more conveniently located. The new building offers a welcoming and natural setting in an urban context, providing both privacy and community for residing families. The new Ronald McDonald House is located across the street from the hospital's entrance. With its colorful facades featuring noteworthy sculptures that enchant visitors and neighbors alike, the new building is a memorable and significant addition to the Hill neighborhood of the city.

The new residence opened its doors for the first time in late June to 18 families of patients. Representing the first phase of a three-phase project, the staged construction will allow families to occupy the facility while building continues outside. The first portion of the building provides 18 guestrooms with a private bath in each – offering a level of privacy to resident families that was previously unavailable – in addition to two private “respite rooms,” where parents can relax quietly or hold private conversations. When all phases are completed, the 28,000 s/f facility will house almost three times as many families as the residence it replaces – 30 bedrooms plus the two respite rooms – while providing those families with much needed privacy.

“For all of us involved in the creation of the new Ronald McDonald House we had a single aim: to create a home where the families would feel cared for,” said architect Barry Svigals, FAIA, the firm’s founder and also the artist behind the integrated sculptures. “From the client group to the entire design team and all of the contractors, we have shared a collective hope that all the families who enter Ronald McDonald House will feel the love and commitment that are the hallmarks of the decades of service from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Massachusetts.”

In fact, one of the early decisions from the leadership of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Massachusetts (RMHC-CTMA) was that the families would feel cared for even before entering the new building. “We asked Svigals+Partners to show on the outside of the building what goes on inside,” said Clark.

The U-shaped building’s central courtyard is framed by two stair tower elements, creating a welcoming main streetside entrance. With its architecturally integrated sculptural forms, the building depicts an image of people who appear to be holding up the towers – a reference to the charitable group’s themes of support and community.

The rear of the three-story building, with integrated sculpted forms of frolicking children, is defined by an exterior patio and play area for children, cantilevered sunrooms on the upper floors, and a one-story glass façade element to open up the shared living and dining areas to views and sunlight. Alternating materials of glass and colorful stucco play off the soft edges of the courtyard greenery. The design strives for connections between indoors and outdoors, bringing in natural daylight and providing a connection to the landscaped natural environment. The efforts of interior design group CAMA, Inc. help Svigals+Partners to realize a space that promotes an overall sense of wellbeing.

*Photograph by [Robert Benson Photography](#)*