

# Burger chain finances rest house for hospital

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

To Children's Hospital, McDonald's means more than the golden arches. Detroit's soon-to-be-built "Ronald McDonald House" will be a temporary home away from home for families whose children are receiving treatment for serious illnesses at Children's Hospital, the second largest pediatric hospital in the country.

The "Ronald McDonald House" is a joint venture between the Children's Oncological Service of Michigan, Inc. (COSOM), a non-profit corporation made up primarily of parents of children who have been treated for various illnesses at Children's Hospital, and McDonald's restaurants across the state.

The house, which is expected to be ready for occupancy late next summer, will be located next to Children's Hospital in the Detroit Medical Center. Construction will begin late this summer, according to the E. V. Monahan Co.

"PARENTS WHO HAVE a child that's critically ill being treated at Children's Hospital will have a chance to sleep, catch a cup of coffee, change clothes, shower, relax and feel human again," said Dan M. Levitsky of COSOM, vice president of Birmingham, who has been treating for a child critically ill. It's the most emotionally draining experience a parent may ever face. It can be economically devastating," he said.

Levitsky knows what it's like. Two years ago his son David, who is now four years old, underwent surgery and extensive chemo- and radiation therapy to cure a malignant tumor of the kidney.

"I live in the Birmingham area. Even so, my wife stayed at the hospital day and night. If she wanted to change clothes or bathe, she'd have to drive back home," he said.

WHILE THE HOUSE may be convenient for parents in the metropolitan area, it could prove to be even more valuable for families from the outstate area.

"Children come to the hospital from all parts of the state—many of them traveling great distances," according to Dr. Jack H. Hertzler, president of COSOM and chairman of surgical services at Children's Hospital.

The "Ronald McDonald House" is a godsend for families from out-state Michigan, say Hertzler and Levitsky. Because it is equipped with beds for more than 40 persons, recreation space and cooking areas, the house will eliminate costly motel and restaurant bills.

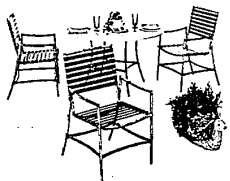
The cost of using the house will be \$5 per family per room per night, but no family will be turned away, Levitsky said.

In addition, participating McDonald's restaurants will conduct a major promotion to raise money for the house the week of July 24.

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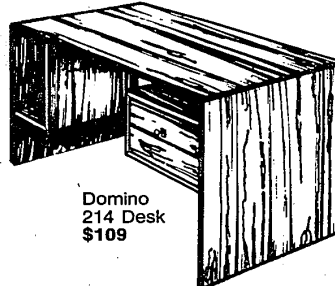
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