



## **Ronald McDonald House Charities™ Italy Makes A Donation In Torino In Honour Of The 2006 Olympic Winter Games**

*100.000 Euros given to Regina Margherita Children's Hospital in Torino for a new recreation-educational area for hospitalized children: the Bibliomouse*

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*Milan, February 20, 2006* – In the spirit of the Olympic Winter Games, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC™) Italy today unveiled a renovation and extension project inside the Regina Margherita Children's Hospital in Torino. Called Bibliomouse, the project is an educational area where teachers, parents and volunteers can organize games and readings for hospitalized children and their families to help them get through difficult times while undergoing treatments.

RMHC donated 100,000 Euros to construct this new area through global, European and local funding. In addition, McDonald's® restaurants in Piemonte promoted a special fundraising campaign in January to further support this effort.

The XX Olympic Winter Games and the role of McDonald's as a TOP Sponsor served as the backdrop for the initiative that RMHC and Forma, the Foundation of Ospedale Infantile Regina Margherita identified and launched inside the hospital.

During the presentation of the new Bibliomouse, Mario Resca, President of RMHC Italy, declared: *"There have been many activities carried out by RMHC for the benefit of children, but on this occasion, we are especially proud that this project has been realized at a time when Torino is at the center of such a great, thrilling sports event as the XX Olympic Winter Games".*

*"Ronald McDonald House Charities is committed to improving the well-being of children throughout the world, so the opportunity to provide Regina Margherita Children's Hospital with this new space is a natural partnership for the Charity,"* added Ken Barun, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ronald McDonald House Charities. *"On behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities, we are proud to help give back to the Olympic host community of Torino with a lasting, meaningful donation."*

Stefania Belmondo, Italian Olympic legend, member of McDonald's Balanced Lifestyles Athlete Team and the patroness of the event, revealed the Bibliomouse together with Mario Valpreda, Assessore alla Tutela della Salute e Sanità of the Piemonte region, Mario Resca, the President of RMHC Italy and Ken Barun, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Bibliomouse is a library inside the Hospital, managed by the Gruppo Gioco in Ospedale ("Play in the Hospital Group") of the Istituzione Torinese per una Educazione Responsabile (Turin Institution for a Responsible Education) of the Turin Municipality.

Since 1997, RMHC Italy has been active with renovation projects, as well as providing medical equipment, inside some of Italy's most important children's hospitals, including: San Raffaele in Milan, Santo Bono in Naples and Bambin Gesù in Rome.

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Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Its programs are grassroots-driven to enable the Charity to offer help where children need it most — right in their own communities. RMHC makes an immediate, positive impact on children's lives through its global network of local Chapters in nearly 50 countries and its three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room™ and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile™. RMHC and its global network of local Chapters have awarded more than \$430 million in grants and program services to children's programs around the world. For more information, visit [www.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org).

*Ronald McDonald House Charities Italy is a non-profit association whose purpose is helping sick children in difficulty to have a better future. This commitment is realized through a number of humanitarian and scientific initiatives.*

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