



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES ITALY

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.

Our Interventions in Italy Children's Hospital

Since 1997, RMHC has been present in Italy with renovation and fitting operations, as well as providing medical equipments, inside some of the most important Children's Hospitals:

- 1998 - Mayer, Florence;
- 1999 - San Raffaele, Milan;
- 2001 - Santo Bono, Naples;
- 2002 - Formaroli, Magenta (MI);
- 2002 - Ospedale Pediatrico Casa Sollievo, San Giovanni Rotondo;
- 2003 - Bambin Gesù, Rome;
- November 2005 – RMHC is collaborating with the Hospital of Catanzaro Ciaccio, in support of the Pediatric Oncology-Hematology unit;
- November 2005 – RMHC will realize the renovation and enlargement works inside Ospedale Regina Margherita in Turin. The aim is creating a spacious, functional educational area for young patients as well as a large service area for the public.

The Associations

- In 1999, RMHC collaborated with Operation Smile. Italy – the only EC country involved in the project – gave hospitality and cured 50 Romanian children. A team of Italian doctors, working as volunteers in Ospedale San Pietro dei Fatebenefratelli in Rome, beside operating the children, also transferred its know-how to the Romanian doctors, helping them to reach a higher medical self-sufficiency in their country;
- In 2002, RMHC collaborated with associations and institutions like AIRC – Associazione per la Ricerca sul Cancro directed by Prof. Veronesi;
- Since 2002 RMHC has been collaborating with ABIO – Associazione per il Bambini in Ospedale;
- In 2004, RMHC collaborated with AGEOP – Associazione genitori di bambini ospedalizzati at Ospedale San Orsola in Bologna.

Support to the Communities

RMHC joined the programs of Comunità di San Patrignano supporting the Sampa Junior project to provide more than 120 children of the community's guests with large child-friendly spaces and the daily collaboration of teachers, psychologists and psychomotor experts.

International support

On July 26, 2005 – RMHC donated 15,000 Euros to the Ministry of Equal Opportunities in support of the "Tsunami Emergency: adopt a Sinhalese family" project. According to criteria of maximum effectiveness and transparency, RMHC chose to join this project promoted by the Ministry, starting a fruitful, constructive collaboration.

World Children's Day

Every year since 2002, on November 20 all McDonald's restaurants celebrate World Children's Day and, for each Big Mac sold, McDonald's Italy and its licensees donate 1 Euro in support of RMHC's activities throughout the world. In 3 years, 50 million dollars have been collected.



Casa Ronald in Italy

In Italy, RMHC started the building of its first House in San Giovanni Rotondo – 10 fully-equipped rooms with large spaces and common services for the families of children hospitalized at Ospedale Casa Sollievo – the opening is expected next spring 2006. The project includes the realization of a structure provided with warm, comfortable environments on two floors, plus a basement. Built on a 1,300 sq m surface, it comprises 10 rooms, provided with common spaces like a kitchen, a sitting-room, a TV room, a laundry, a playroom and a small apartment for the House Manager, the person who will run the House. In this structure children will be welcomed together with their families, when not undergoing hospital therapies, feeling a bit more like home in such a difficult time.

The House will be run by RMHC Italy in close collaboration with Associazione Genitori e Amici Piccoli Emopatici, A.G.A.P.E., a voluntary association mainly involving the parents of children affected by leukemia and cancer.

Ronald McDonald House will support Ospedale Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, in particular the Oncology-Hematology unit specialized in bone marrow transplant, counting 55 beds (the national average is 12) and a school space.