



**Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®**  
Midwest | MN, WI, IA

## **Ronald McDonald House of Rochester merges with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota, becomes Ronald McDonald House Charities Midwest | MN, WI, IA**

The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, Minnesota, has expanded its services and service area by merging with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota, forming Ronald McDonald House Charities Midwest | MN, WI, IA. The new Chapter serves 8 counties in southeastern Minnesota, 16 in western Wisconsin, and 7 in northeast Iowa.

“The merger of our Chapters creates a synergy of resources and passion, allowing us to amplify our impact and deliver greater support to families in need,” said Nick Mueller, CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Midwest | MN, WI, IA.

The Ronald McDonald House of Rochester has provided a home away from home and support to families seeking medical care for their children at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. The 70-room House is the largest Ronald McDonald House in the state of Minnesota, the 13th largest in the country (out of 186), and the 17th largest in the world (380).

Since its beginnings as Northland House—a 12-bedroom home started by four Rochester area families—the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester built a new building (1995) and expanded that building twice (2004, 2019), all to meet the growing needs of families from around the state, the Midwest, the United States, and the world.

Today, the House is serving more families than ever before, providing a place to stay for more than 1,000 families each year, and providing support to hundreds more beyond its walls.

“Our services for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester reflects the care and compassion we provide,” Mueller said. “We bring comfort and hope to families that turn to us for support.”

The former Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota Chapter created found, and supported programs in its communities that directly improved the health and well-being of children by addressing educational, social, and medical needs. Over the past 29 years, RMHC of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota delivered its mission by awarding more than \$12 million in grants to medical partners and nonprofit organizations. In 2022 alone, it awarded \$1.1 million to nonprofits in a 62-county area spanning Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

“We are excited for the future,” said Wendy Lommen, former president and director of RMHC of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota. “Our organization worked to address unmet needs and strengthen communities, all while serving the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities.”

“Together, as one larger Chapter, we have the ability to build and support core programs in a much broader way.”

The newly formed RMHC Midwest | MN, WI, IA and its programs (Ronald McDonald House, grants) will operate out of its existing physical location in Rochester.

“Moving ahead, the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester will continue to be the heartbeat of our organization and core to delivering our mission,” Mueller said. “And we are so excited for the future as RMHC Midwest | MN, WI, IA.”

As a full Ronald McDonald House Charities Chapter, RMHC Midwest | MN, WI, IA will have additional opportunities to serve children and families in 16 counties in western Wisconsin, 7 in northeast Iowa, and 8 in southeastern Minnesota, including those who live in Olmsted County and those who receive services from other healthcare partners in the Chapter’s territory.