



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
South Central Ontario

905-521-9983
1510 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario | L8S 1E3

Charitable Registration # 13277 9836 RR0001

December 7, 2020

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

Since 1993, Ronald McDonald House Charities South Central Ontario (RMHCSCO) has been providing comfort and respite to the people of Hamilton and surrounding areas through our House and Family Room programs. In 2019, we had the privilege of providing accommodations to more than 700 families at the House and host more than 150,000 visits at our two Ronald McDonald Family Rooms located at McMaster Children's Hospital. The services provided by RMHCSCO are a critical part of the children's health network in the region supporting family centred care.

Since opening our doors, the City of Hamilton has been a leading partner of RMHCSCO. It was only through the provision of City of Hamilton property that we were able to build the original house in the early 90's and add our extension in 2012 only steps away from McMaster Children's Hospital. Because of the continued support of the City, we can provide peace of mind to our families just minutes away from their child's bedside.

RMHCSCO is committed to providing the safest and most comfortable environment to our families. At the same time, we are committed to keeping the asset of the House (and by extension the property) in the highest, most up-to-date condition as possible. We continually make upgrades and improvements to the House each year to ensure it is always in the best possible condition. We make every effort to address all priorities but are always faced with the issue of the high cost of these projects. RMHCSCO does not receive operational funding from any level of Government and relies upon the generosity of both our Founding and Forever Partner, McDonalds Canada (which provide approximately 30% of our annual donations), and the generosity of our community (which provides the remaining 70%). To help offset the expenses associated with costly upgrades and improvements to our infrastructure, RMHCSCO seeks every available opportunity to find funding grants to allow us to do the necessary work.

RMHCSCO is asking the City of Hamilton to consider partnering with us through the *Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Program*, by allowing RMHCSCO to add several critical infrastructure projects to the City's submission of your grant application. The projects that we ask the City to consider have been identified below:

RMHCSCO Infrastructure Project Priorities	
Project Description	Estimated Cost
HVAC Upgrade: Our current HVAC system, installed on the roof of the building, has deteriorated rapidly due to the cold climate. As a result, an upgrade of the system is required to ensure no disruption of heating/cooling to families. As part of the complete upgrade, a venting and filtration audit will be completed to ensure that families are receiving the best quality air.	\$375,000.00
Back-Up Generator: The installation of a back-up generator would ensure continued service to families (accommodations and meal service) during an extended disruption of power saving both stress to families and costs to the House.	\$75,000.00
Window Replacement: The windows on the original side of the building are almost thirty years old and are showing significant wear. As part of the Reserve Study, funds were designated to purchase and install new windows in 2020, however, it was necessary to re-direct these funds due to our emergency COVID-19 response.	\$325,000.00
Carpet Replacement: To ensure the safest environment for the immune-compromised children staying at RMHCSCO, funds had been designated for replacement of all carpets in 2020. These funds were re-directed due to our emergency COVID-19 response.	\$115,000.00
Total cost of projects	\$890,000.00

The projects identified above are the highest priority items from our master list of renovations and upgrades required at the House. As you can imagine, maintaining a 41-suite House with large common areas, a fully equipped culinary kitchen, recreation, and leisure spaces both inside and outside of the House can be a challenge. With the limited resources we can dedicate to this work each year, we are continually looking for funding opportunities to help ensure that we can continue to deliver our mission to the people of South-Central Ontario. The support of the City of Hamilton by adding all, or some of these projects to your application to the *COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream through the Invest in Canada Infrastructure Program*, will have a lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of our families, volunteers, and staff both today and for years to come.

On behalf of the team at RMHCSCO, our Board of Directors, more than 350 volunteers and especially those within our community that we have the privilege to serve, I would like to thank the members of City Council in advance for your consideration of this request and your support of our important work. Together we can help to ensure that our House and Family Rooms continue to be there for our families when they need us the most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bridgman", written in a cursive style.

Catherine Bridgman
Chief Executive Officer

December 7, 2020

Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

On behalf of McMaster Children's Hospital, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the RMHSCO application for the *Invest In Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake Program*.

McMaster Children's Hospital has been providing care to expectant mothers, infants, children & youth and their families from across south-central Ontario (a population of nearly 2.5 million) since 1988. Here, patients ranging in age from infancy to 17 receive care through a family-centred approach that accounts for the child's emotional, mental and physical well-being. The hospital is home to the fastest-growing kids-only emergency department in Ontario, one of Canada's most advanced neonatal intensive care units, and a range of programs and clinics with unique expertise in a number of areas including children's cancer, digestive diseases, and mental health.

Our partnership with RMHC-SCO is of the utmost importance, given the nature of the services we provide and the needs of our families. In particular, the House itself includes that families have a proximate place to go for a warm bed, a nourishing meal, and family-centred support. In that respect, we are fully supportive of efforts to ensure the on-going operation of the House.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this request for support.

Best wishes,



Bruce Squires
President, McMaster Children's Hospital
RMHC-SCO Board Member
squiresb@hhsc.ca