

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, many families must travel far from home to receive medical care for their children, often requiring the child to remain for extended periods of time at treatment centers, and it is vital that their parents remain with them for love and support; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 the first **Ronald McDonald House** opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to provide a home-away-from-home at little or no cost for families needing to stay close to their hospitalized child, allowing them to focus their attention fully on healing their child and not on where they will eat a meal or rest for the night, and currently there are 309 Ronald McDonald facilities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay was established in 1989 on Davis Islands in Tampa, Florida and provides temporary lodging for families of children receiving treatment at Tampa General Hospital, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and Shriners Hospital for Children; and

WHEREAS, Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay has provided comfort and care during difficult times to more than 40,000 families since opening its doors two decades ago, and its staff of volunteers and supporters are dedicated to the well-being of approximately 300 pediatric families with children hospitalized in our community they serve each year; and

WHEREAS, *Charity Navigator*, an independent nonprofit organization that evaluates American charities, awarded its coveted **4-Star Rating** to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay for its sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its 20th Anniversary, Ronald McDonald House Tampa Bay will host a **Backyard Barbeque** on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at 35 Columbia Drive and will include Happy Meals for the children, cupcake contest, music, games and a tree planting ceremony.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 3, 2012 as

"RONALD McDONALD HOUSE TAMPA BAY DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating the volunteers, community donors and friends of Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay for their commitment and dedication to the families and children that come to our community for medical treatment.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 29th day of October, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

