

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Provides Dental Care to Children in Rural Nevada

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- Who:** Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Greater Las Vegas and Nevada Health Center's Miles for Smiles
- What:** Ribbon cutting and presentation of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Luncheon to follow
- When:** Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005  
12:00 PM
- Where:** The Ronald McDonald House  
2323 Potosi St., Las Vegas, NV 89146  
(Off Sahara, just West of Decatur, behind the Las Vegas Athletic Club)

**Las Vegas, 2005** – In an effort to provide access to dental care for underserved children in rural Nevada, Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Greater Las Vegas (RMHC), in partnership with Nevada Health Center's Miles for Smiles, is launching a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program - a mobile dental unit that delivers care directly to children in their own neighborhoods.

The program will serve Elko, White Pine, Humboldt, Eureka and Lander counties in Nevada, making scheduled visits to accessible locations like schools, churches and community centers. Thousands of children who would otherwise go without dental care will be served through the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program.

“For many of these children, it will be the first time they have ever even been to a dentist,” says Jo Ann Malone, Executive Director of RMHC in Las Vegas. “It’s a dream come true for us to have a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program to serve the rural areas of Nevada. It’s just one more way of continuing RMHC’s commitment to improve the health, welfare and education of children.”

The vehicle was designed and built specifically for the purpose of providing dental care, and houses two dental hygiene / treatment rooms, a lab with x-ray capabilities, and reception and

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records area. A variety of services will be offered by the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program, including:

- Restorative and preventive dental care
- Dental hygiene and healthy lifestyle education
- Referrals
- Follow-up treatment
- Helping eligible families obtain government-assisted dental insurance

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be fully staffed with dentists, dental hygienists and support staff. Nevada Health Center's Miles for Smiles will facilitate the program, overseeing the scheduling, staffing and maintenance of the vehicle. Miles for Smiles oversees their own mobile dental units here in Las Vegas, and is a reputable Nevada based service provider.

RMHC Global established the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program in 2000 with a goal to improve health outcomes and provide continuity of care for medically underserved children around the world. To date, there are 18 Ronald McDonald Care Mobile programs in service in the United States, one in Argentina, and a new program will be launched this year in New Zealand. Each program offers medical, dental or a combination of health services tailored to meet the specific needs of the local community.

Research indicates that Nevada ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in access to dental care and experiences among the highest rates of decay in the nation. Children who don't receive preventive and primary care are at greater risk for serious and long-term health problems. Pain from dental disease restricts a child's ability to eat, affects their nutrition, sleep patterns, ability to play or participate in sports, and experience healthy social growth and development. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program directly addresses these issues.

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