




Ronald McDonald
Care Mobile®

A Vehicle for Change

A white Ronald McDonald Care Mobile truck with red and yellow accents, including the Ronald McDonald logo and the text "Ronald McDonald Care Mobile" on the side. The truck is shown from a three-quarter front view.



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program is bringing care where it's needed most, providing access to health care for vulnerable children around the world.

Did you know—

Sixty percent of uninsured children do not visit a physician's office during the year, and more than half have no care from a provider of any type (physician or non-physician) in an office-based setting.

Poverty's impact is felt most by a nation's children. Children under the age of five are more likely to live in extreme poverty. Uninsured children are at greater risk of experiencing health problems such as obesity, heart disease and asthma that continue to affect them later in adulthood.

One in three children will be poor at some point in their childhood.

Each year nearly 10 million children die worldwide, mostly from *preventable* and *treatable* causes. This is greater than the annual number of deaths from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

(Source: Globalhealth.org)

Uninsured children are 25 percent more likely to miss school than insured children.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease today, five times more common than asthma. *(Source: Oral Health America)*

More than 51 million hours of schooling are lost annually due to the lack of dental care among children.

Helping children who need it most—

Ten-year-old Emir was born with Down syndrome and a malformed foot. The El Salvadoran boy has never walked. For years, his mother unsuccessfully sought treatment for her son who spends most of his days in bed, hurting and withdrawn.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program medical team heard about Emir upon arriving in his rural village. The medical director drove to Emir's home and brought him to the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile for an evaluation. The team arranged his ongoing medical care and connected him with psychological counseling and other support services.

“My hope is that one day Emir will be able to walk.” —**Aracely Aoreli**, Emir's mother

Tina Marie was 14 when she started having back pains. The pain stopped her from running, walking long distances, or sitting for too long. At the same time, her father was diagnosed with cancer and her family couldn't afford to send her to the doctor; they were using all the insurance coverage for her father.

The Tampa Bay Ronald McDonald Care Mobile came to her school and Tina Marie was diagnosed with scoliosis, which is a very treatable condition when caught in the early stages. Tina Marie was able to receive the immediate care that was needed. Today Tina Marie and her family are happy, because their daughter was helped by the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

“Thank you Ronald McDonald Care Mobile for the support you gave my family when we really needed it. You helped us and can help so many other people like us. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile cares for all.” —**Delma Chimelis**, Tina Marie's mother

“The impact that the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile has within this community . . . from an economic point of view is real. It's real because when there is health there is development and with development there is progress.”

Jose Ernesto Navarro Marin
Vice Minister of Health, El Salvador



“There seems to be a direct correlation between the preventative healthcare that they're getting along with the academic achievement of our students . . . our achievement levels have risen dramatically and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is certainly a very large piece to that puzzle.”

Karen Marler
Principal, Lacoochee Elementary School
Dade City FL

“Emergency department (ED) visits in the United States have ballooned in the past decade, with many of these visits substituting for primary care. Greater primary care access and scope of services can reduce ED use.”

**Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality**



“We have made a difference in not just one child or two, but thousands of children. We have improved their self esteem, overall health and childhood through dentistry.”

Craig Rechkemmer, DDS
Dental Director, Arkansas



“Residency can be particularly challenging, but working on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile reminded me of all the reasons I went into medicine and all the reasons I chose to specialize in pediatrics. The experience renewed my spirit.”

Carol Mannings, MD
Pediatric Resident, Jacksonville FL

An urgent need—

In an era of unprecedented medical advances, there are vast disparities in access to health care.

Poverty is one of the deciding factors in who receives care and who goes without. Because poverty disproportionately affects children, millions of children worldwide do not receive even the most basic medical care. Dental care and health education are even less accessible.

Children who live in poverty do not receive immunizations, well-child evaluations or routine screening exams. Chronic, life-threatening diseases such as asthma and diabetes go undiagnosed and untreated. Hospital emergency departments are used inappropriately—and at great public cost—by families who do not know where else to turn for primary care. Minor medical and oral health problems are ignored until they become acute, and far more difficult and expensive to treat. Pregnant teens do not receive prenatal care, leading to a higher incidence of low birth weight babies at greater risk for long-term medical problems.

Lack of access to medical and dental care has a profound impact not only on individual families, but on the entire world community. Illness and disability lead to lower educational attainment, reduced family income, lost worker productivity, and a strained national and world economy. Costs to care for preventable, avoidable and chronic disease are rising rapidly. Life expectancy is reduced.

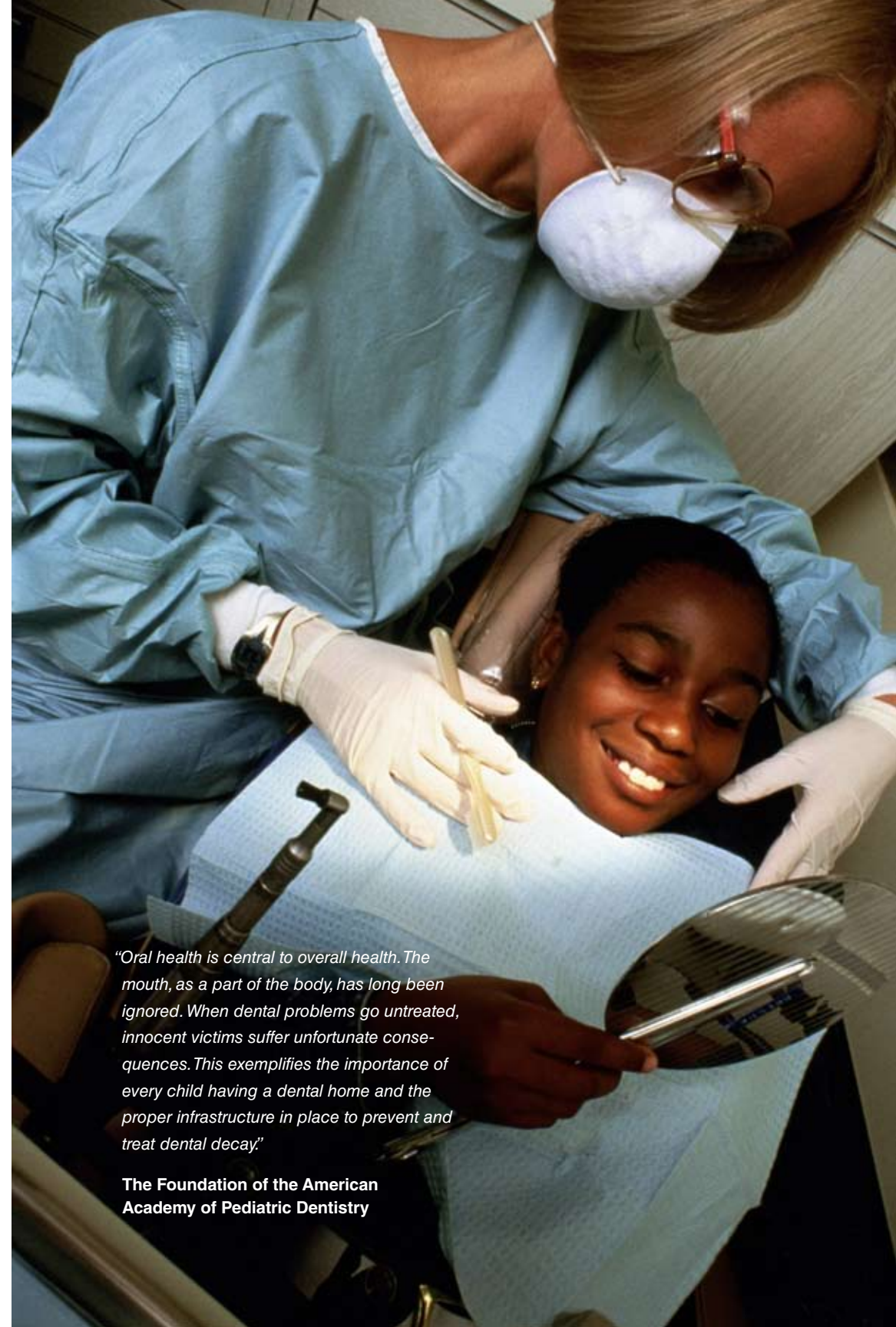
Barriers to care—

Numerous geographic, socio-economic and cultural factors present barriers to care.

Access to health care for underserved children is dependent on a complex, confusing, ever-changing patchwork of public and private programs. Often there is no coordinated approach to healthcare delivery, prevention and promotion strategies. Consequently, many families have no idea where to turn for help. If they do obtain care, it is often of poor quality and lacks continuity.

Family financial constraints and lack of health insurance or inadequate insurance are major barriers to care. Even in countries with public or universal health coverage, children may not be able to obtain care. Families in isolated rural areas could be hours from the nearest clinic with no means of transportation. Healthcare providers may have long wait times for appointments. Children living just a few miles/kilometers from major urban medical centers have equal difficulty accessing care. Many families do not have a car or the funds for public transportation. Often parents cannot take time off work to get their children to the doctor. Overstretched healthcare budgets lead to reductions in healthcare providers, services and program eligibility.

Language, cultural beliefs and other population-specific barriers such as distrust of the healthcare system prevent families from accessing care. Uneducated parents do not understand the need for preventive care. And for families struggling to obtain food, shelter and clothing, health care sometimes is an issue they don't have the time or emotional energy to worry about.



“Oral health is central to overall health. The mouth, as a part of the body, has long been ignored. When dental problems go untreated, innocent victims suffer unfortunate consequences. This exemplifies the importance of every child having a dental home and the proper infrastructure in place to prevent and treat dental decay.”

The Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



“Ill health leads to poverty and poverty breeds ill health. Poverty is the greatest threat to children’s health, regardless of a country’s level of development. Rates of disease and harmful behavior are closely linked to socioeconomic factors, which include poor neonatal health and lack of access to health care.”

World Health Organization

Improving health, changing lives— Designed for success—

Through a relationship with local healthcare organizations, RMHC® is tackling the access to health care problem head-on.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles operate in underserved communities around the world, providing primary care, diagnosis, treatment, referral and follow-up for medical and dental conditions, and health education for children without access to health care. All services are administered by RMHC’s reputable partners which include public and private healthcare organizations and academic institutions.

These community-based programs go beyond improving health outcomes. They reduce reliance on expensive and inappropriate health resources, such as hospital emergency departments; provide continuity of care; heighten awareness of childhood disease, healthy lifestyles, and safety; help eligible families obtain government-assisted health insurance; and partner with the community to address the area’s most critical childhood health needs.

Unlike most other mobile clinics, which are actually converted buses or recreational vehicles, the state-of-the-art Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles are designed and built specifically for the delivery of pediatric care.

Each Ronald McDonald Care Mobile houses two or three patient examination rooms, a laboratory, a reception area and a medical records area. Many have telemedicine capabilities and incorporate advanced technology for medical record keeping and information transfer.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile team has specialized pediatric training and staffing models vary based on each Program’s unique scope of service. Medical residents, nursing students and ancillary interns may also train with the permanent staff. The team partners with people directly in the communities they serve to determine health needs, identify children requiring health care, schedule appointments and gain the trust of the people in the community.

“Our program greatly impacts the lives of each and every child and family that we serve, whether it be for something as simple as a well child exam or dental exam, or as serious as an abscessed tooth or missing medication for asthma.”

Toni Ellingson

Nurse Practitioner

Rockford Memorial Health Care, Rockford IL



“Because we do one-on-one examinations, ours are much more personalized, which gives us the ability to pick up on many biopsychosocial issues as well as medical issues. This makes our services pretty unique.”

Jon Schneider, DO

*Chief of Adolescent Medicine,
University of Florida, College of Medicine;
St. Vincent Healthcare, Jacksonville FL*

Delivering Hope on Wheels—



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile programs offer different services, based on the unique needs of the communities they serve. These services are provided at schools, community centers, civic sites, commercial buildings, faith-based organizations and special events. Services may include—

- > **primary care, well-child visits and developmental screening**
- > **immunizations**
- > **diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental care**
- > **oral hygiene education**
- > **asthma treatment and self-management education**
- > **pulmonary function testing**
- > **vision, hearing and lead screening**
- > **school and sports physicals**
- > **prenatal care for pregnant teens**
- > **childhood health promotion and injury prevention education**
- > **nutrition counseling**
- > **pediatric specialty care, such as oncology, cardiology and otolaryngology**
- > **ophthalmology**
- > **mental health assessment and referral**
- > **blood collection**
- > **social service resource referral**
- > **health education**
- > **care for special needs children**

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“When you see Ronald McDonald, he doesn't only symbolize McDonald's. Something has been started that is beautiful, something that helps us all, as parents, most importantly, to find the assurance that our children are healthy.”

Dominik Gotebiowska

*Father of child examined on
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile
in Poland*





**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
*One Kroc Drive
Oak Brook IL 60523
www.rmhc.org*