



SPOTLIGHT  
ON YOUR  
BOARD:  
JUDY  
GILBERT

When Judy Gilbert is asked questions about her accomplishments, she responds by singing the praises of everyone else in her life. Indeed, it was hard for this interviewer to keep her from simply listing individuals whom she'd like to thank in print. That brand of marrow-deep selflessness is rare in this world, and Ronald McDonald House of New York is lucky to have Gilbert serving on its Board.

Gilbert is a retired advertising executive

who owned her own firm for twenty years, and now runs a small, high-level entertainment company for corporate clients. She's been married for sixteen years to Rod Gilbert, New York Rangers Hall of Famer and co-founder of RMDH's annual *Skate with the Greats* fundraising event. Her daughter Brooke is a Thursday night volunteer at the House, making the Gilberts' commitment to Ronald McDonald House a truly family affair.

Gilbert first joined the RMDH Board three years ago, but her involvement with Ronald McDonald House began much earlier. She first came to the House at the invitation of her husband Rod, after the first successful *Skate with the Greats*, to see the newly dedicated "NY Rangers room," which had been furnished from the event's proceeds.

"It was so special," she says of that first visit. "Everything about it. It tugged at your heart, but it was heartwarming to see what the community was doing for the families and children. Before I knew it, I had a passion."

For decades, the Gilberts have helped all sorts of charities, but Judy knows that Ronald McDonald House is closest to her heart. "This

is the one where you can really wrap your arms around it, even hug it," Gilbert says. "This one is a home."

The Gilberts' most high-profile involvement with Ronald McDonald House has been the *Skate with the Greats* fundraiser, which has become a cornerstone of RMDH's annual activities. Last year's event raised an amazing \$1.2 million, and as Gilbert says, "you have to credit Steve Bensinger [Benefit Chair] for the success." Bensinger went out on a limb by setting the event's fundraising goal at \$1 million – much higher than past events – staking \$100,000 of his own money to kick off donations. Of course, he far exceeded his goal.

Gilbert also credits Glen Sather, GM and President of the New York Rangers, and Tom Renny, Rangers Coach, for authorizing the ongoing involvement of Rangers players in *Skate with the Greats*. She would also like to thank – here's more of that list! – Kerryanne Tomlinson, Jeanie Baumgartner, and Anthony Zucconi of the Rangers charitable organization "Garden of Dreams," as well as Brian Leetch, Walter Tomenson and Jerry de St. Paer, all of whom started *Skate* with Rod back in 1994.

Like many outstanding leaders, Gilbert is too busy thanking others to take much of the credit for herself. For that quality of selfless giving and for her passion, Ronald McDonald House of New York is fortunate to have Gilbert hard at work on our behalf.

## CHILDREN'S HAPPY FACES FOUNDATION

A NEW CHARITY MAKES AN IMPACT



**A BRAND NEW CHARITY HAS JOINED THE CAUSE** of helping families and kids fighting illness, and Ronald McDonald House is proud to welcome our new partner. Comprised of leaders from the building management industry, Children's Happy Faces Foundation held its first annual Golf – Tennis – Bowling & Awards Dinner Event on October 2nd at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle. The event's major sponsors included Century Management, an apartment building management company; NCB, National Cooperative Bank; and Mustang Harry's, a popular midtown restaurant. The inaugural event raised an outstanding \$50,000 in net proceeds for Ronald McDonald House of New York.

The new Foundation's mission – "to assist the families of sick children through the difficult and challenging times they are faced with" – is in perfect synergy with the RMDH cause. Many thanks to Children's Happy Faces Foundation for their phenomenal efforts, and we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership to benefit children and families in need.

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### PARTNER HOSPITALS

Bellevue Hospital  
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Hospital for Joint Diseases  
Hospital for Special Surgery  
Manhattan Eye & Ear Hospital  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
Montefiore Hospital

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital  
Mount Sinai Medical Center  
NewYork-Presbyterian-Cornell Medical Center  
New York University Hospital  
Rusk Institute  
St. Vincent's Hospital