



Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass



Prepared for: Committee on Families and Children



Our Purpose

Caring for families of children who are ill or injured.

Our Mission

We provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare.

OUR VISION

Every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children.

“It’s not enough to just save the children of these very desperate families. We also need to save the families... a family with a sick child is a sick family”

**- Dr. Audrey Evans
RMHC Founder**



50 Years of RMHC 40 Years in the Bluegrass

- 1974** First Ronald McDonald House program opens in Philadelphia
- 1984** RMHC of the Bluegrass opens in Lexington, KY as the 73rd House
- 2024** RMHC of the Bluegrass launches Just Imagine Capital Campaign



Today, there are **over 1,000 programs** for families in **62 countries and regions.**



WHAT WE DO



RMHC of the Bluegrass

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of the Bluegrass knows that a family with a sick child is a sick family. We were built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on the health of their child. At RMHC, we spend our days serving families through our three Core Programs.



**Ronald McDonald
House[®]**

**A 21-room home with a kitchen,
laundry, and indoor + outdoor play
areas**



**Ronald McDonald
Family Room[®]**

**An area of respite inside the walls of
Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH)**



**Ronald McDonald
Care Mobile[®]**

**A mobile dental clinic providing
preventive dental care to Eastern
Kentucky children**



Our partnership with University of Kentucky:
Together we serve Kentucky's sickest children and their families.



Launched Care Mobile with UK College of Dentistry in 2005 that serves Eastern KY children. Relaunching a second partnership that will serve children in Central Kentucky beginning Fall 2024.



Opened Family Room inside Kentucky Children's Hospital in 2009. Launched Care Cart program as subprogram of Family Room that serves children (and their families) who are receiving treatment at the DanceBlue Hematology/Oncology Clinic, Pediatric Speciality Clinic, Diagnostic and Infusion Clinic, Pediatric Overflow Unit, KCH Richmond Road, and 6 East.



Have an agreement in principle with University leadership for a 5+ acre parcel in new South Campus development.

Ronald McDonald House

The needs of families dealing with a child who is sick go far beyond medical care. By fulfilling those needs through programs at our House, parents are strengthened to care for and support their child's medical team. Services include transportation to and from the hospital, meals, laundry services, and a community of support beyond the walls of the hospital.



Our cost to operate is **\$125 per night, per family.**



In 2023, RMHC of the Bluegrass provided **6,437 nights of stay to 417 distinct families, saving them over \$804,625!**

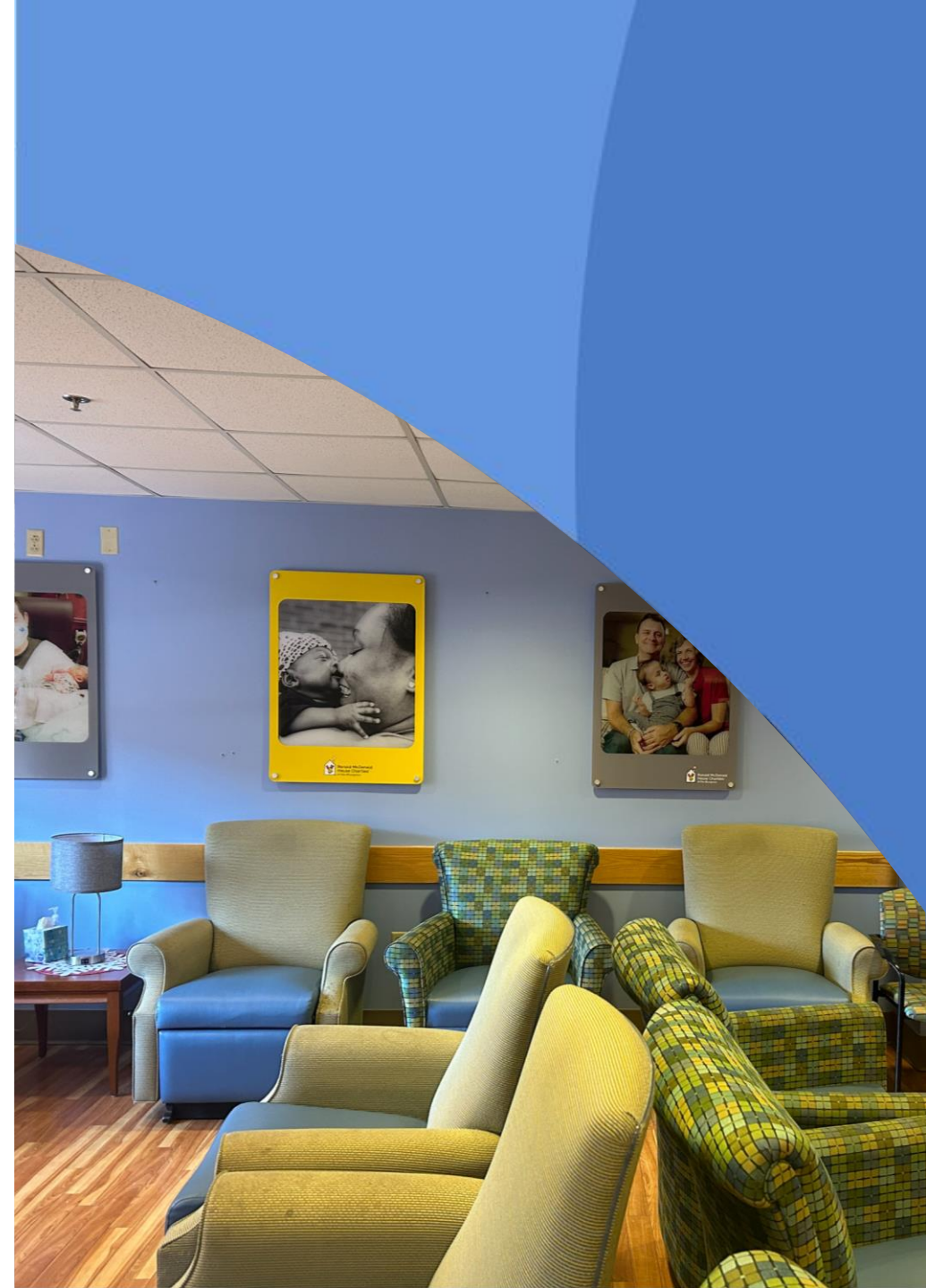


Ronald McDonald Family Room

- The Ronald McDonald Family Room has welcomed guests since 2009 in Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH).
- The Family Room provides a comforting and quiet area of respite, relaxation and reflection for families and loved ones of children who are being treated at KCH.



In 2023, Family Room volunteers served **1,412 families**.

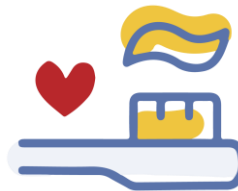


Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Since 2005, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program has offered Eastern Kentucky children free professional dental services and education in a mobile clinic.



Each school year, the Care Mobile provides services to **over 2,000 children.**



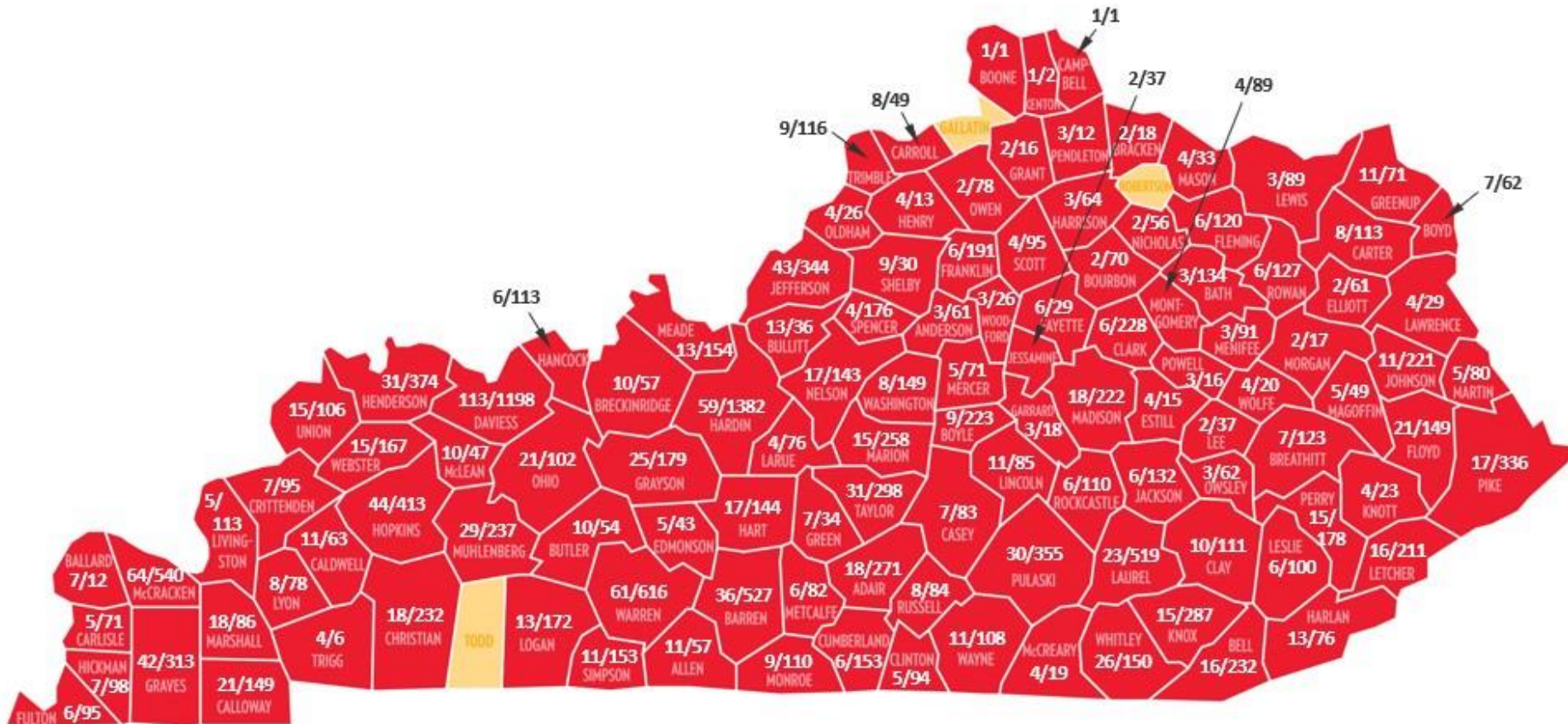
Untreated decay rates have fallen 23% since the Care Mobile began providing preventive dental services.



WHO WE SERVE



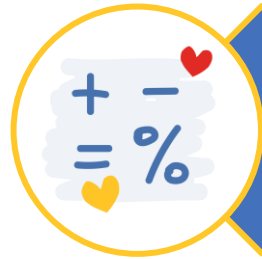
Total Kentucky Impact of Both Ronald McDonald Houses in 2023



Total Number of Kentucky Families = 1,454
Total Number of Nights They Stayed = 17,230

Number of Families / Number of Nights They Stayed

We support the sickest of sick children and their families from Kentucky. A handful of details about our Guest Families:



62% of Guest Families have an Average Median Income of <\$30,000 annually.



To date in 2024, 50% of Guest Families have a child in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), 8% have a child receiving orthopedic care, and 5% have a child being treated in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).



On average, Guest Families are receiving treatment >100 miles from their home.

Serving Families, Together.

RMHC of the Bluegrass has long enjoyed a strategic partnership with UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH). Over 80% of our Guest Families are referred by KCH and our collaboration ensures that families facing medical crises receive not only top-tier healthcare but also a "home-away-from-home" environment that alleviates the stress of long hospital stays.

The proximity of the Ronald McDonald House to Kentucky Children's Hospital means families can focus on their child's recovery without the burden of travel or housing expenses. Together, our two institutions strengthen our collective mission to promote health, healing, and family togetherness, making a lasting impact on the well-being of the entire community.

While the majority of Guest Families have a child who is a patient at KCH, RMHC of the Bluegrass accepts referrals from area hospitals and medical centers including: Baptist Health Lexington, Barnstable Brown Diabetes Center, Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital, Gill Heart Institute, Hopebridge Autism Therapy Center, Kentucky Clinic, Kentucky Eye Clinic, Markey Cancer Center, Ridge Behavioral Health System, Saint Joseph East Hospital, Shriner's Hospital, and local outpatient surgery centers.

WHY IT MATTERS



For leaders in hospitals serving children:



Family-Centered care is a priority.



Key family centered care trends are declining.



**Partnership with RMHC
improves family experience and outcomes.**

Leaders in over 90% of hospitals strongly agree or agree that the partnership with RMHC



Enhances a hospital's ability to provide family-centered care.

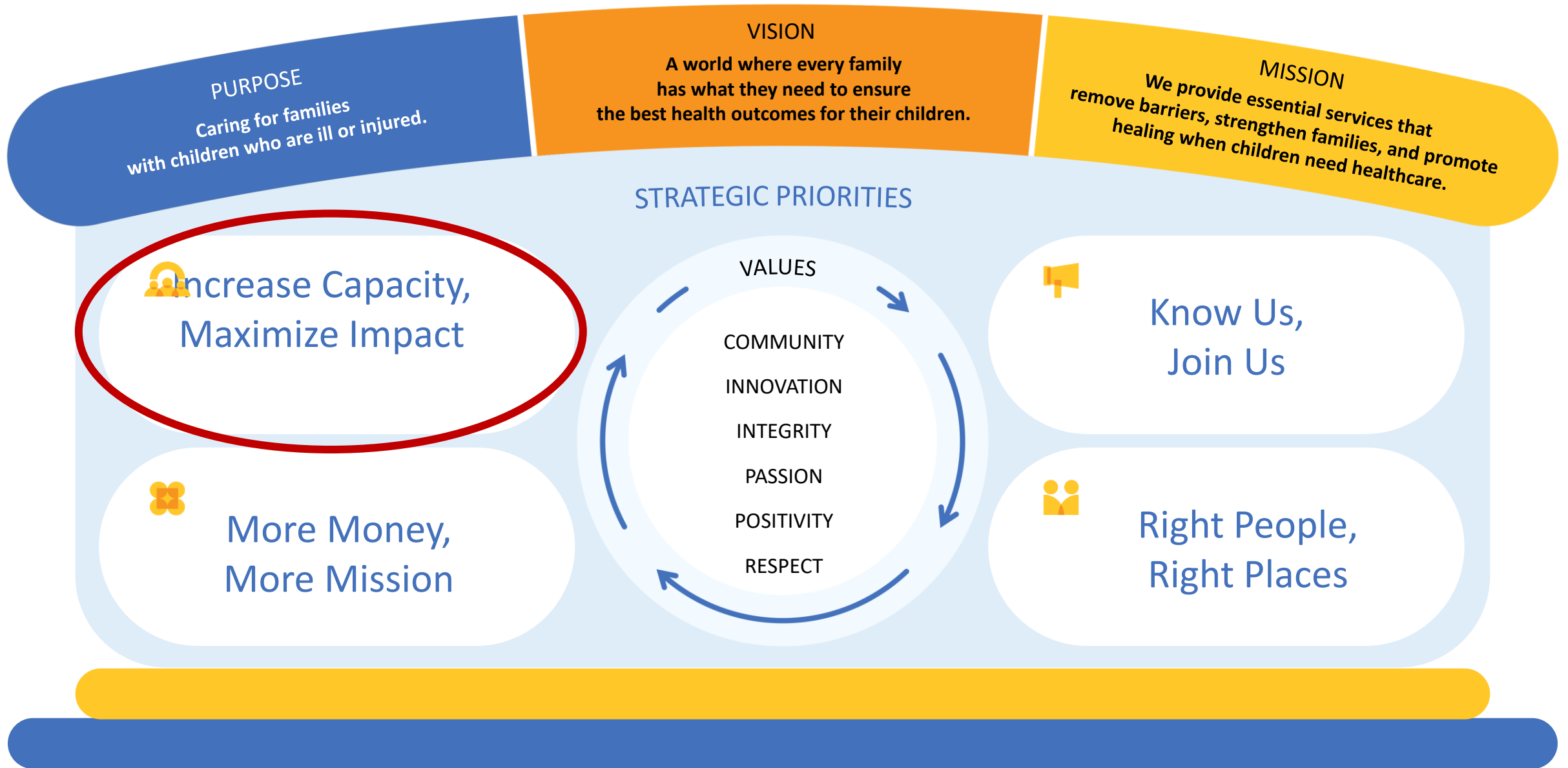


Reduces cost to families.

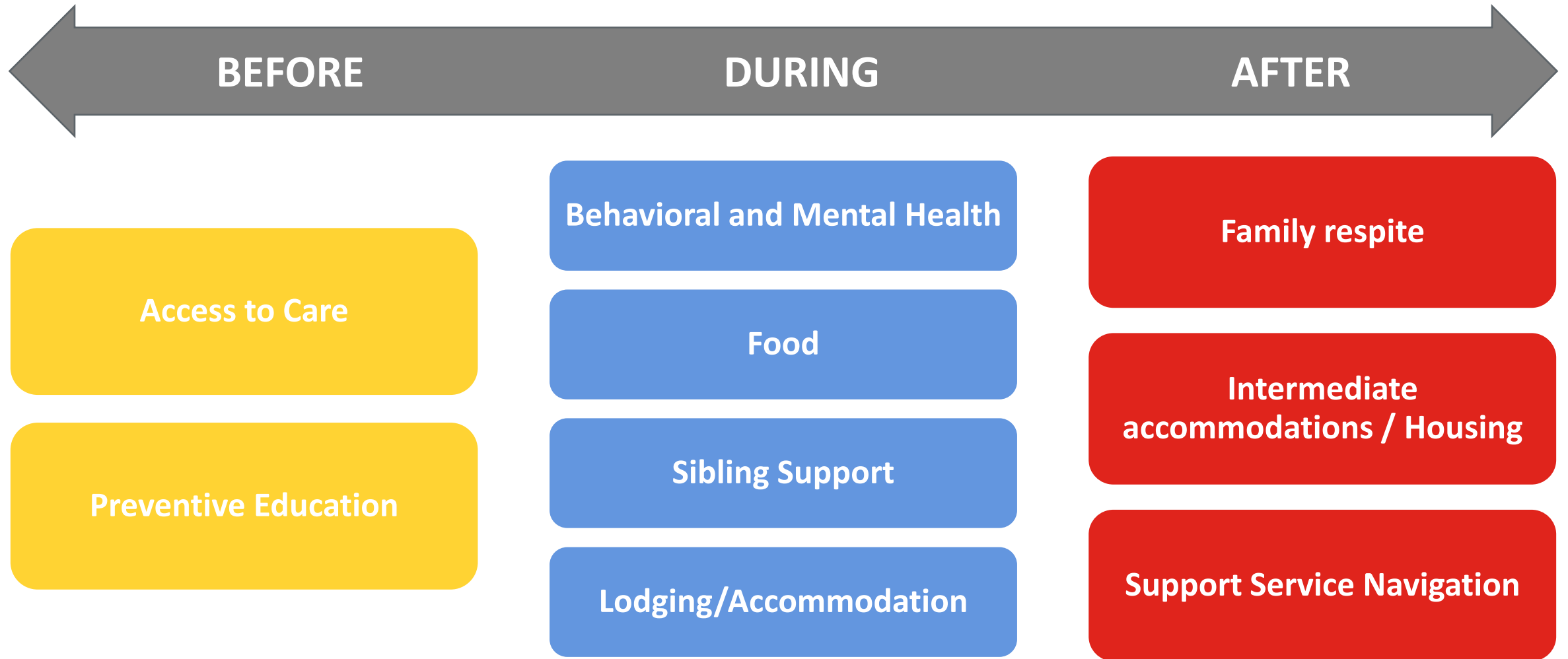


Improves parent/caregiver satisfaction with hospital care.

Impact Strategy Framework



Serving families BETTER: *Vital needs for our families along their children's healthcare journey*



NEED FOR GROWTH

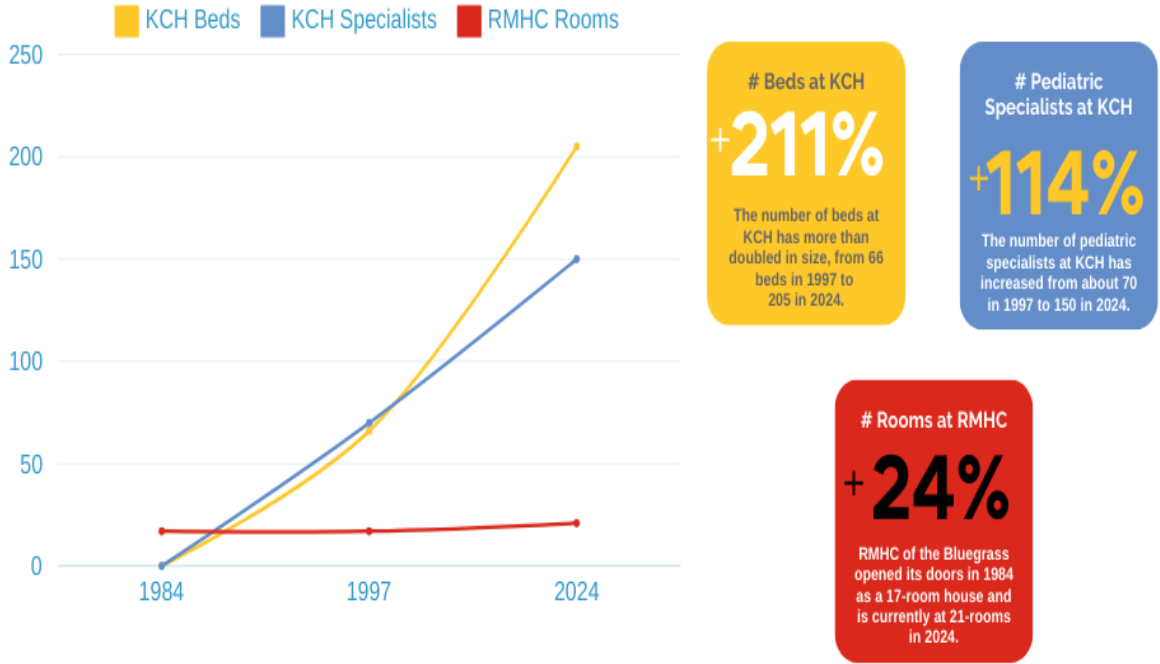


NINE THINGS TO KNOW

- 1** Over the past **5 years**, **1,316 families** have stayed at Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) of the Bluegrass, totaling **26,788 nights**.
- 2** **80% of those families** had a child(ren) being treated at UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH).
- 3** Of those 1,316 families, **62% had an average median income of less than \$30,000**.
- 4** On average, these families lived **100 miles away from Lexington**.
- 5** Our longest stay was **267 nights**, saving that family an estimated **\$32,000** in accommodation, food, and transportation costs.
- 6** However, during the same period, we had **1,784 nights on our waiting list**.
- 7** Since we started our **hotel program** in 2023, we have paid for **336 nights**.
- 8** Even with the hotel program, **929 family needs were still unmet**.
- 9** Looking ahead, if demand remains unchanged **over the next 5 years**, we predict we will **turn away nearly 1,000 more families**.

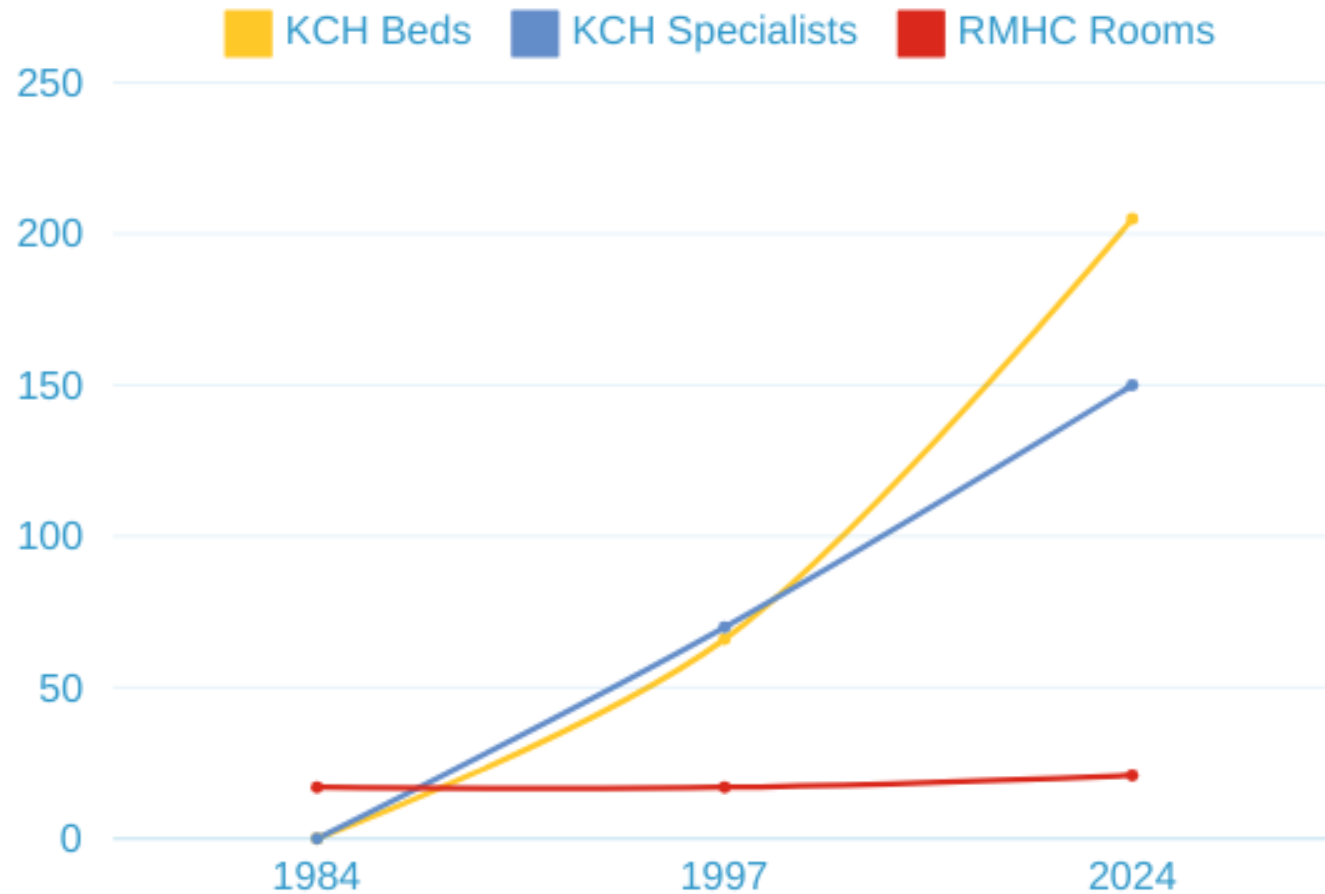
- Over the years, **UK HealthCare’s Kentucky Children's Hospital has experienced remarkable growth, with the number of hospital beds more than doubling from 66 in 1997 to 205 in 2024—a 211% increase.** Similarly, the number of pediatric specialists at KCH has grown significantly, from around 70 in 1997 to 150 in 2024, a remarkable 114% increase. This expansion has allowed the hospital to better serve the growing needs of pediatric patients and their families.
- In contrast, while RMHC of the Bluegrass has provided crucial support to families, its growth has not kept pace with the hospital’s expansion. **The House opened in 1984 with 17 rooms and expanding to 21 rooms in 2014 —a modest 24% increase over four decades.** This disparity highlights the critical need to expand RMHC’s capacity to support the rising number of families seeking care at KCH. As the hospital grows, so does the demand for lodging and support services for families, making it essential for RMHC to scale its operations to meet this urgent need. An expanded RMHC will ensure that far fewer families will face the burden of finding accommodation during an already challenging time.

Comparison



(enlarged on next slide)

Comparison



Beds at KCH

+211%

The number of beds at KCH has more than doubled in size, from 66 beds in 1997 to 205 in 2024.

Pediatric Specialists at KCH

+114%

The number of pediatric specialists at KCH has increased from about 70 in 1997 to 150 in 2024.

Rooms at RMHC

+24%

RMHC of the Bluegrass opened its doors in 1984 as a 17-room house and is currently at 21-rooms in 2024.



“The House is an incredible home environment. It's not just food and beds and clothing; it's an atmosphere of care and support. So, it's ... the **epitome of care.**”



Thank You!

Nate Graham

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