



For immediate release

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Ronald McDonald House Charities and Peak Vista Community Health Centers Partner on Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

-Community's Children to Benefit from Expanded Medical and Dental Care-

February 13, 2009, Colorado Springs, CO--Peak Vista Community Health Centers and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado held a press conference today to unveil the 35th Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (RMCM), the first "green" version ever produced in the US. The RMCM will provide check ups, health education, immunizations, and medical and dental care for children through age 20 in need of a healthcare home. Medicaid, CHP+ and sliding scale for those without insurance will be accepted. The RMCM will begin operation immediately!

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program is a fleet of state-of-the-art vehicles that delivers cost-effective medical, dental and health education services directly to underserved children in their own neighborhoods. Unlike most mobile clinics, Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles are designed and built specifically as pediatric healthcare vehicles. Through a relationship with Peak Vista, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado developed and executed this Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program with clinical and educational services tailored to the specific needs of the Pikes Peak Region. The 35th Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a 40-foot long, 8-foot wide vehicle. The vehicle accommodates two patient rooms that double as dental operatories and medical exam rooms, a laboratory, a reception area and connection to specialty care.

According to Beth Alessio, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado, "We are truly thrilled about our partnership with Peak Vista and the opportunity to serve more children and families in the Pikes Peak Region with their much-needed medical and dental care. We embrace and look forward to the rewards our children will reap from the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile operating in our region, and are confident the community will find it mutually beneficial."

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BJ Scott, Peak Vista's President and CEO, concurs. "Peak Vista could not provide the high quality comprehensive services we do in our community without our valuable partnerships. We are honored to work with Ronald McDonald House Charities to serve more children in our community. They are our future and good health is vital to their success."

Pediatrician Darvi Rahaman, MD, (Peak Vista's Vice President of Medical) states that, "The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile fits nicely into our underlying mission of providing health care for those facing access barriers. Transportation to and from a health care provider has been an ever increasing challenge for our patient population. Now we can go directly to children and provide comprehensive pediatric medical care, including well check ups and immunizations. This saves parents time away from work and saves students valuable time away from school."

James Kuhar, DDS, (Peak Vista's Vice President of Dental) agrees. "The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will allow Peak Vista to provide dental access to hundreds of school aged children in this region who currently have no healthcare home." He shares that, "Dental caries is the most prevalent childhood disease, 80% of dental decay disproportionately affects 25% of children from lower income families and almost 52 M school hours are missed annually by children because of oral problems (988 K missed in El Paso County alone)."

About Ronald McDonald House Charities

Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) corporation, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Families and children being cared for at seventy-three percent of the most prestigious children's hospitals in the world benefit from one or more of the RMHC core programs. Its programs are grassroots-driven to enable the Charity to offer help where children need it most - right in their own communities. RMHC makes an immediate, positive impact on children's lives through its global network of local Chapters in 52 countries and its three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House®, Ronald McDonald Family Room® and Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®. RMHC and its global network of local Chapters have awarded more than \$460 million in grants and program services to children's programs around the world. These programs and grants provide a bridge to accessible health care and allow families more time together which helps in the healing process.

RMHC of Southern Colorado began operations in 1987, and has since aided over 7,000 families through the Ronald McDonald House and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Memorial Hospital. RMHC of Southern Colorado has awarded more than \$600,000 in grants to children's programs in Southern Colorado and now partners with Peak Vista Community Health Centers to provide the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Operation of the local Charity is supported in large part by the generosity of local donors and volunteers. To learn more about RMHC of Southern Colorado, visit www.rmhcs.org.

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About Peak Vista

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide exceptional healthcare for people facing access barriers. Established in 1971, Peak Vista annually offers primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to more than 53,000 El Paso and Teller residents...most from working families without health insurance. Accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc, Peak Vista has fourteen centers at eleven sites. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit www.peakvista.org.

A schedule will be published periodically on both the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado and Peak Vista Community Health Centers websites as to where the RCMC will be providing care. The public may call 866-6789 for more information about the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Additional information is available at <http://www.rmhc.com/what-we-do/ronald-mcdonald-care-mobile/>

For more information, contact Sam Rush-Walton at Ronald McDonald House Charities at 471-1814 or sam.ronhouse@yahoo.com /Lynn Pelz at Peak Vista Community Health Centers at 228-6606 or lpelz@peakvista.org

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