



Read for RMHC Fast Facts

What is Read for RMHC:

Read for RMHC-CR is a reading based community service program that works in partnership with area schools, small groups and individuals. Participants ask family and friends to sponsor the time they will spend reading, with donations coming to support Ronald McDonald House Charities® of the Capital Region (RMHC-CR).

Your Reading Month:

Your school is reading for the month of **March**.

Your School's team page / program materials:

Visit your school's team page to see your school's current donation total and to find Read for RMHC informational videos and student packet materials. <https://give.rmhcocalbany.org/Castleton2024>

Gathering Donations:

You can track your sponsors/donations on the sponsor form in your student packet and/or you can create an online fundraising page here - <https://give.rmhcocalbany.org/Castleton2024>

Donations are due in to your school or to be entered online by **April 9th**.

After your reading month:

Students who read and earn donations will receive a Read for RMHC participation certificate and Read for RMHC prizes.

Questions:

For assistance, contact Nancy Damato at ndamato@rmhcocalbany.org or 518-438-2655.



Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of the Capital Region (RMHC-CR) is excited to welcome you and your child to the **10th year** of our **READ for RMHC-CR** program! Read for RMHC is a reading based community service program that benefits your child and school, as well as the families served by RMHC-CR. By combining reading with community service, the program enables students to take an active role in helping other children, while also developing their own reading skills. We are thrilled to invite you to join us during this milestone year to help make a difference in the lives of families that need us.

READ for RMHC-CR supports the services that RMHC-CR provides for children and families in our community. Our Ronald McDonald House® provides a home away from home for families of seriously ill children, keeping them together while their child receives treatment. We offer a supportive home environment including secure guest rooms, home cooked meals, transportation to and from the hospital, children's play areas, and a host of other services designed to allow families to focus on their child's health during their stay with us. Our Ronald McDonald Family Room® provides respite and support to families within the Bernard & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Med. Our Ronald McDonald Family Retreat provides a peaceful, supportive setting where families experiencing serious childhood illness can enjoy being together, making lasting memories. We would love for you to join us and participate in our **READ for RMHC-CR** program to see the amazing difference we can make in the lives of children and families.

With Read for RMHC-CR, children help other children and families by reading, while simultaneously building their own reading skills — skills that are vital to each student's future success. Because our program focuses on minutes read and not a total number of books or pages, children can focus on understanding what they read without being rushed. In addition to growing academically, students will experience the power of giving their time to help others in need. Our readers will be empowered by the difference they make in the lives of others — an invaluable lesson!

We extend a warm invitation to you and your child to join us for **READ for Ronald McDonald House Charities® of the Capital Region**. We hope you will join us to celebrate 10 years of this amazing program and to see the amazing things that we can accomplish together. If you have any questions, please contact me at 518-438-2655 or email ndamato@rmhcofalbany.org. Learn more about RMHC-CR by visiting www.rmhcofalbany.org. Thank you for considering this worthwhile program. We look forward to your child's participation.

Sincerely,
Nancy Damato, Read for RMHC-CR Program Director



About the Program

Read for RMHC-CR is a reading based community service program that raises funds to support RMHC® of the Capital Region through partnerships with local elementary and middle schools. In addition to helping the children and families served by RMHC-CR, the program:

- Promotes the value of community service
- Encourages students to read
- Gives students first hand experience with the difference they can make in the lives of others

Program Details

FEBRUARY

- A special assembly or video presentation is offered to get students excited to read for a good cause.
- Students seek out family and friends to sponsor their reading for the month with pledges of either a flat amount for all reading accomplished during the month, or a specific amount of money pledged per minute read during the month.
- Visit your school's team page to find informational videos, student materials, create an online fundraising webpage and more!
<https://give.rmhcofalbany.org/Castleton2024>

MARCH

- On **March 1**, students start reading. Students may keep a record of their minutes spent reading on their reading calendar. Minutes can be entered in the calendar electronically and saved on the computer or students may print the calendar to write in minutes. Minutes when others read to students count too, so be sure to count them! Readers are welcome to listen to stories from our Read for RMHC Video Story Library too! Take a look here:
www.rmhcofalbany.org/readresources.

After the selected reading month has ended:

- Donations are to be **either entered online or turned in to school with completed sponsor forms by** the deadline set by the school - **April 9th**.
- All student participants receive a personalized participation certificate.
- Students who read and raise donations will receive Read for RMHC-CR prizes and an invitation to tour RMHC.
- All participating schools receive a personalized thank you letter.

2023-2024 Program Prizes!

The following prizes are available for 2023-2024 Read for RMHC-CR participating students and schools:

- RMHC 2024 Birthday Bash** - child admission free with paid adult admission for each student who reads and earns donations for RMHC-CR.
- Read for RMHC-CR Slap Bracelet** - awarded to every student who reads and earns \$10 or more in donations for RMHC-CR.
- Read for RMHC-CR Water Bottle** - awarded to every student who reads and earns \$100 or more in donations for RMHC-CR.
- Tri-City Valley Cats** - two 4-packs of tickets to the Valley Cats games will be donated to each participating school
- Apex Entertainment** - one free attraction coupon (for laser tag, bumper cars or Hologate) for each student who reads and earns donations for RMHC-CR.
- BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse** - one free kids meal for each student who reads and earns donations for RMHC-CR.
- University at Albany - Child basketball/football/lacrosse tickets** - 5 child admission free with paid adult admission tickets to each of the following will be provided to each school - UAlbany men's and women's basketball games, UAlbany football and men's lacrosse games.

Prizes for the 5 top earning schools and for the school with the highest student participation:

Grand Prize Bag - The 5 schools that earn the most in donations and the 1 school with the highest student participation will receive prize bags including: two **Six Flags Great Escape** Amusement Park day passes, two 4-packs of tickets to a **Tri-City Valley Cats** game, a 4 pack of tickets in the designated RMHC seating section for all of the following: men's and women's basketball, football and men's lacrosse games - **University at Albany**, 4 \$50 gift cards good for any attraction at **Apex Entertainment** and select memorabilia from **RMHC-CR**.

Grand Prizes for the school earning the most in donations:

- Apex Entertainment - 2 hour exclusive party** - Apex Entertainment's Albany location will be reserved for a two hour exclusive party for the winning school. Party will include access to all of the Apex attractions at the Albany location (bowling, candlepin, laser tag, bumper cars, Hologate, arcade games, sports simulators, escape rooms)
- Albany Broadcasting – 1 hour dance party** - Albany Broadcasting will provide a 1 hour dance party with a DJ to be held at the winning school.

Grand Prizes for the school with the highest level of participation:

- Albany Broadcasting – 1 hour dance party** - Albany Broadcasting will provide a 1 hour dance party with a DJ to be held at the winning school.
- Stewart's Shops - Ice Cream Party (for up to 100 students)** - Stewart's Shops will provide ice cream and toppings for up to 100 students from the winning school.
- Drawing for 5 Kindle Fire Tablets** - Students who read and earn donations will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of 5 Kindle Fire tablets - drawing occurs in May

Our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors for providing these wonderful prizes!





Sponsor Form

Student Name _____ School _____

Teacher/Grade _____ Total Minutes Read _____

Name	Email Address	Amount/minute or flat donation amount	Final Donation Received

(This form is fillable and may be completed, saved on your computer, and printed.)

Please return this completed form to school with your donations.

Donations by check can be made payable to RMHC.

In order to receive a thank you letter/tax receipt, please provide your email address.
Email addresses provided will not be used for solicitation purposes.

Consider doubling your gift by asking your employer to match your donation!

Thank you for supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of the Capital Region!



RMHC
of the Capital Region

Our donation entry system automatically creates a fundraising webpage for students when cash/check donations are entered at RMHC CR. This is done in order to document the donations related to each student and to recognize each student as part of their school's team. If you do not want a webpage created in your student's name or do not want your student's name to be listed as part of your school's team, please check here. ☐

Collect **Read for RMHC-CR** pledges and donations online through your own fundraising webpage!



To set up your fundraising page, please visit rmhcofalbany.org/read2024



1. Once you have reached the webpage, in the upper right corner, click on the magnifying glass and search for **the name of your school** and click your school's name under **Teams**.
2. Click the **Join Team** button on the left side of the page.
3. In Start Fundraising box, click **Login** if you have done online fundraising with Read for RMHC in the past. If you do not remember your password, click **Forgot Password** in the Login box to reset your password. Click **Create an account** to create a new account if you don't already have one. Enter your email address and create a password. Click **Next**.
4. Under "Complete your profile," enter the first and last name of the **student** who will be participating. Click **Sign up**.
5. Enter information to "Create your page," to customize your fundraising webpage. Click **Finish**.
6. Now you are ready to spread the word that you are reading and raising funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities® of the Capital Region!

***If you share your fundraising page to Facebook, DO NOT click to add a donation button through Facebook when prompted. This will create a separate Facebook fundraiser not connected to Read for RMHC-CR. ***

To create multiple fundraising accounts with one email address, see directions on your school's team page. For additional assistance, contact Nancy Damato at 518-438-2655 or email ndamato@rmhcofalbany.org.



Learn more about RMHC® of the Capital Region at rmhcofalbany.org

Special Thanks to Our 2023-2024 Business Partners



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