

AMERICAN CLEAN SKIES FOUNDATION

PRESENTS



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Ronald McDonald House of Dallas Gets *The Trains at NorthPark* Chairs On Board

Committee Starts Selling Railcars, A Perfect Holiday Gift

DALLAS, Texas (July 11, 2008) – On June 27, Ronald McDonald House of Dallas kicked off *The Trains at NorthPark* with a committee chairs meeting at Natalie Dossett's home in Bluffview. Announcements made at the meeting were the co-chairmen, Natalie Dossett and Nancy Kerr, and this year's Presenting Sponsor, American Clean Skies Foundation. Formed in 2007, the American Clean Skies Foundation provides facts on clean energy, such as natural gas, wind and solar, and about the need for greater energy efficiency.

In its 21st year, *The Trains at NorthPark* will roll from November 22, 2008, through January 4, 2009 at NorthPark Center, Level 2 by Neiman Marcus.

Kerr said, "This attraction provides almost half of the operating budget for the House, so we encourage everyone to join us in bringing children to see the trains roll, volunteering for a shift, or supporting it through a donation."

Dossett added, "We would love the community's support of *The Trains*. If you are looking for a perfect holiday gift for a loved one or a business colleague, purchase a railcar and support the House. We have talented local artists hand-paint railcars, which are then used as part of the exhibit."

Those wishing to purchase a personalized painted railcar can place those orders today by going online to www.rmhdallas.com or calling 214.631.7354. A standard railcar is \$175, a caboose is \$225, and an engine is \$275. For underwriting sponsorship information, please contact Sarah Leverett at 214-631-7354.

Last year, more than 80,000 people visited the exhibit, the proceeds of which provide the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas nearly half of its annual \$1.3 million operating budget. “We are thankful to the American Clean Skies Foundation, our co-chairmen and our other chairs who are giving their time, talent and resources to help us raise these critical dollars,” said Barbara McDermott, executive director of RMHD. “The dollars raised go to the children and families served by the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, which is a home-away-from-home for those traveling to Dallas with their children for treatment in local hospitals.”

Displayed at NorthPark Center, The Trains at NorthPark has become a local holiday tradition since it began in 1987. The exhibit is the most elaborate toy train exhibit in all of Texas, with vintage locomotives whizzing on a journey across America, past miniature national landmarks including Mount Rushmore, Dallas’ skyline, New York City’s Times Square and Washington, D.C.’s famous landmarks.

More than 40 Lionel-type O-Gauge and the larger G-Gauge locomotives chug simultaneously on 2,500 feet of winding track. The exhibit spans 2,800 square feet, with Dallas’ Reunion Tower and the Statue of Liberty towering overhead.

The exhibit will be on display from Saturday, November 22, 2008, through Sunday, January 4, 2009. Hours and times are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The early closing dates are as follows: November 26, Thanksgiving Eve, at 6 p.m.; December 24, Christmas Eve, at 4 p.m.; December 31, New Year’s Eve, at 6 p.m.; January 1, New Year’s Day, at 6 p.m. The exhibit will be closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas, but it will be open on New Year’s Day.

The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children (ages 2 to 12) and senior citizens (65 and older). Children under 2 admitted free. Discount tickets are available at Tom Thumb (\$1.00 off regular admission). NorthPark Center is located at North Central Expressway at Northwest Highway, Dallas, Texas 75225. Visitors can also use valet parking off the Boedeker entrance on the second level (between Neiman Marcus and Barney’s New York).

McDermott added, “We are always looking for volunteers to sell tickets, meet and greet visitors, and monitor the exhibit.” Individuals and groups work three-hour shifts under the supervision of an exhibit manager. For more information, visit www.rmhdallas.com or call 214.631.7354.

ABOUT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OF DALLAS:

In its 27-year history, the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas has served as a home-away-from-home for more than 24,000 families of seriously ill children who have traveled to Dallas seeking medical treatment in area hospitals. By providing a caring, supportive, home-like environment, the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas keeps the family intact and helps allow a family to establish a normal routine in the midst of crisis. It also provides families with the opportunity to share their concerns with other families in similar circumstances. The organization is currently building a new House, which will double its capacity. The new House will open in late 2009. For more information, please contact the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas at 214.631.7354, or visit the website at www.rmhdallas.com.

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