



Perris Press Release

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer
Phone: 951-956-2120
jvargo@cityofperris.org

Perris McDonald's Restaurants Lead in Fundraising

A pair of McDonald's restaurants in Perris raised more money to help sick children and their families than any of the other 650 franchises in Southern California.

During a month-long fund-raising effort to support the six Southern California Ronald McDonald Houses and Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times in Idyllwild, the McDonald's franchises on Perris Boulevard and Ramona Expressway and Perris Boulevard and Nuevo Road topped all the competition by a long ways, said owner Mary Vega Nichols.

Employees at both stores encouraged patrons to spend an extra \$1 to buy a slip of paper with a picture of Ronald McDonald's feet and write the name of a family member or friend for whom they made the purchase.

Vega Nichols said the response was overwhelming. People pitched in \$5, \$10 and \$20 for the cause.

"It was amazing," she said. "Perris is the small community with the big heart. I'm amazed by the outpouring of generosity. Perris is the kind of place where people want to help one another. They realize there are people out there who need help."

The store at Perris and Nuevo topped all McDonald's locations in Southern California during the fund-raising effort from March 9 to April 2, raising \$9,456. The McDonald's at Perris and Ramona raised \$9,099. Vega Nichols said McDonald's officials told her no other locations were close to what the Perris pair raised.

"I am so of the City," Vega Nichols said. "We went up against restaurants in Beverly Hills, San Marino and Rancho Mirage and outperformed them all. I'm overwhelmed. Perris customers are so generous in these bad economic times."

Ronald McDonald House is one of the signature charities for the famed Golden Arches franchise.

Parents of children battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases can stay for little or no payment in Ronald McDonald House to be near their youngsters as they undergo treatment. Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times in Idyllwild provides recreational activities for children fighting cancer.

McDonald's employees became jubilant as news they took top honors.

"Perris is a very united, tight community," said Armando Frausto, who supervises the store on Ramona Expressway. "We are happy to provide services that help children."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch said he is pleased to hear that the City took the fund-raising appeal to heart. Pleased, but not surprised. The Mayor noted that Perris has for several years topped the state in supporting March of Dimes fund-raisers and draws hundreds of people to take part in the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life.

"The City of Perris is made up of a lot of kind, generous people," Busch said. "It makes me proud to live in a community that is so generous."



The team from the Perris McDonald's on Ramona Expressway in Perris: Armando Frausto, Celena Solares, Marlene Sanchez, Stephanie Solorio, Mary Vega Nichols, Michelle Glick, Travis Kasper and Lissette Garcia.



McDonald's employees sold these "Walk for Kids" placards as part of the fund-raising effort.