



## **Pittsburgh Steelers Play Pivotal Role in RMHC Pittsburgh and Morgantown History**

Ronald McDonald House Charities has a long and rich history with the National Football League (NFL). The idea of the Charity was initiated 50 years ago by Fred Hill, a Philadelphia Eagles player, and his wife, Fran, whose daughter Kim had leukemia. Following many nights of sleeping on waiting room couches and eating from vending machines, they realized a need for a “home-away-from-home” not just for them but for so many other families as well. Through the help of the Philadelphia Eagles organization and regional McDonald’s office, Hill’s dream became a reality. The concept of helping families while their children are fighting significant illnesses began to expand rapidly in other cities. Five years after the first House launched, the seventh House in the country opened in Pittsburgh.



Having the support of the Pittsburgh Steelers was instrumental in opening the Pittsburgh House. Art Rooney Sr., owner of the team, reinforced the need for the Charity by attending a Council Meeting to get approval on locating the House in the Shadyside neighborhood of the city. Additionally, Pittsburgh Steelers Public Relations Director Joe Gordon attended planning meetings and helped facilitate the renovations by bringing former Steelers players like Jack Lambert, Andy Russell and Tony Dungy to help. Joe is not only a founding Board Member but remained an active leader for decades.

The Steelers have continued their generosity throughout the Charity’s history, supporting the mission as leaders on the Board, sponsors, and friends spending time at the House. 45 years ago, the same year the Pittsburgh Steelers won their third Super Bowl, the team also helped to bring a special place to the city that has helped thousands of families over the decades, making them true champions on and off the field.

