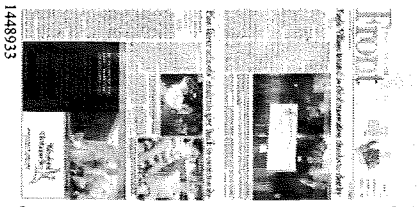


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Eagle Village treated to third renovation thanks to charity

BY ASHLEY BOX
CADILLAC NEWS

HERSEY — For the third time, Ronald McDonald House Charities have gifted the lives of children at Eagle Village.

In 1999, Gary Bennett was pleased to become part of Eagle Village, but was dismayed by the aging structures and facilities the staff and children had to work with. It became his goal to update every building on the grounds. How that was actually going to happen, however, was the biggest unknown.

Three years ago, Ronald McDonald House Charities stepped in with a grant to fund a home renovation. The next year, another grant was awarded, and again the next year.

November marked the completion of the third home renovation, Putnam House, with a grant of more than \$35,000. In total, Ronald McDonald House Charities have donated over \$100,000 to Eagle Village.

Given the gift of \$35,000, Putnam House made it stretch as far as possible. The building was re-sided and received new counter tops, flooring, appliances, and a fresh coat of paint in addition to the removal of a

deteriorating porch.

"So much can be accomplished with these girls in a healthy, happy environment," Bennett said. As each home renovation is completed, Bennett feels the service that Eagle Village provides improves, impacting the lives of the children they treat.

"It's an important part of their program — to have a pleasant, updated, environment in their treatment facilities," said Larry Lounsbery, manager of the local McDonalds.

The girls in the home have truly appreciated the improvements. At the dedication ceremony, guests were treated to a personal tour of the home, highlighting all of the updates.

"What's been done in this house has been simply powerful," House Supervisor Drue Nelson said. Because the girls have more pride in their home, they have more responsibility to step it up even more — treat the house well and maintain it.

"It can be a very therapeutic tool for us," Nelson said. "The environment has truly changed because of you."

"We're pleased and delighted to be a part of your efforts," said Bob Harrell,



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Ronald McDonald House Charities donated \$35,106 toward the Putnam House home renovation at Eagle Village. In honor of the donation, a plaque on the wall of Putnam House reads, "Helping children is a passion that transcends nations, languages, and cultures. Whether children in need live just down the street, in an isolation rural village or in an inner city halfway across the world, they are our reason for being." from the Ronald McDonald House Charities 2007 Annual Report.

owner of the local McDonalds' restaurants.

With three of the six residential treatment facil-

ity renovations completed, Bennett's goal of updating each structure is at the halfway point. Based on the

tremendous success of the last three projects, Ronald McDonald House Charities said they look forward to

partnering with Eagle Village again in the future.