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**EXCEPTIONAL HORSEBACK RIDERS OF SAGINAW COUNTY, INC. RECEIVES GRANT  
FROM RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES**

**Saginaw, Mich., Feb. 4, 2009** – Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Outstate Michigan announced it will award \$5,000 to the Exceptional Horseback Riders of Saginaw County, Inc. to pay for more than 30 physically and mentally challenged student to participate in a seven week horseback riding program.

Horseback riding has been know to develop self awareness and build self confidence as well as relax and strengthen muscles. “We’ve learned that horseback riding is a very beneficial form of recreational therapy for disabled children,” said Lesa Dion, executive Director of RMHC of Outstate Michigan, “We’re glad to help provide these services to children in the Saginaw County area.”

Ronald McDonald House Charities seeks, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. Since 1990, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan, which serves 66 Michigan counties, has supported programs, projects and organizations that focus on the social, physical and emotional well-being of children. This past year, RMHC of Outstate Michigan has donated more than \$600,000 to children's programs, including \$50,000 donations to both the Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan and the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan. For more information please visit [www.michiganrmhc.org](http://www.michiganrmhc.org) or contact Lesa Dion at 616-669-0953.

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