

Project Profile



Ronald McDonald House

Detroit, Michigan



Fast Facts

RMH serves families of critically ill children. Striving for the safest, cleanest environment RMH employed cutting-edge strategies for indoor air quality (IAQ) to ensure staff and guest safety.

- Year Renovated: 2015
- Size: 24 family suites plus common areas

Goals:

- Improve indoor Air Quality
- Reduce Risk of Transmission of Infectious Aerosols

Strategy:

- Advanced air cleaning technology

Property Owner: Ronald McDonald House Charities
Indoor Air Quality Consultant: Newman Consulting Group, LLC
Air Cleaning Contractor: Continuum Services

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Project background:

In 2020, COVID-19 affected how the Detroit Ronald McDonald House (RMH) could operate. Physical distancing, face masks and frequent hand washing became the norm. “The health and safety of our families, staff, and volunteers is of the utmost importance to (us),” said Executive Director Jennifer Litomisky. “Pre-pandemic, hundreds of people would pass through our House in a single year, all with different allergies, pre-existing conditions, and immune system concerns. During and post-pandemic it is even more important to ensure the environment in our House is safe and germ free.” With mounting evidence that ambient air conditions within a building might contribute to the spread of the disease, RMH leadership wanted air cleaning technologies that could mitigate it.

Strategies

After several discussions with Newman Consulting Group (NCG), energy conservation and indoor air quality specialists, and much deliberation, RMH Detroit chose a bi-polar ionization (BPI) air cleaning system manufactured by AtmosAir Clean Air Group.

The BPI system creates active ions in the air that react with airborne contaminants. It can be very effective in suppressing airborne and surface microbials and pathogens, including viruses, bacteria and mold, and reducing odors as well as unhealthy and irritating volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



Continuum Services, Farmington Hills, MI, installed components in the air handling system that serves the common areas and in the fan-coil units in some of the individual rooms where the families stay.

About RMH



Through the generosity of McDonald’s, the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) was born in Philadelphia in 1974. In 1979, the Detroit RMH was the 11th House to open, adjacent to Children’s Hospital. In 2015, the Detroit House moved to a new building just up the street.

The mission of the RMH is to allow families to be near their hospitalized children while the child is receiving life-saving medical treatment. Rather staying in the hospital or at distant hotels, they are taken care of in a comfortable and safe, home-like environment with other families who are experiencing many of the same stresses.

About Newman Consulting Group

Newman Consulting Group, LLC (NCG), headquartered in Farmington Hills, Michigan, is a globally recognized authority in energy efficient, sustainable and resilient buildings. The NCG reputation rests on a team of highly skilled engineers, analysts, program managers and professionals certified in efficiency implementation and verification to guarantee a positive ROI.

The team helps commercial, industrial and multi-family property owners all over the U.S. implement energy efficiency projects (including renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal), eliminate waste, and save money through innovative financing solutions.