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**Local McDonald's Fundraiser Reaches Halfway Mark, Raises \$1,183 for Area
Ronald McDonald House**

Portion of every Shamrock Shake and OREO Shamrock McFlurry sold will help keep families staying at the RMH of Southwest Louisiana close during critical times

Louisiana – March 5, 2021 – The beloved Shamrock Shake and Oreo Shamrock McFlurry has been back at McDonald's restaurants in Louisiana for just over two weeks. These seasonal minty favorites support the area's local Ronald McDonald Houses and the families who stay there. The Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Louisiana supports area families in a desperate time of need: keeping them close to their young children while they're being cared for at local hospitals for life-threatening illnesses and injuries.

In the first two weeks of the fundraiser, locally owned Patel McDonald's has raised more than \$1,183. These funds will support 118-night stays for families at Louisiana's local Ronald McDonald House.

"Families with a child being treated at an area hospital shouldn't have to worry about where they will stay, if they can afford it, when they might get their next meal or shower," said Ricky Patel, an owner/operator of family-owned Patel McDonald's. "They should only have to worry about supporting and loving their child. That's where the local Ronald McDonald House comes in and where customers' small change can make a big difference."

The giving tradition of Shamrock Shake will continue this year as a portion of every Shake and McFlurry sold until Wednesday, March 17th will support families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Louisiana. With just a few dollars, customers can enjoy the minty, green classic and an exciting dessert while supporting a night stay for a family in need.

This year's fundraiser comes at a pivotal time for Louisiana's Ronald McDonald Houses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Houses have been forced to cancel fundraising events, experienced a decrease in donations and limitations on volunteer support due to safety precautions. In 2020, Patel McDonald's 25 restaurants raised \$3,035 in support of their charity of choice – a goal they hope to exceed in 2021.

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Patel McDonald's owns and operates 35 McDonald's restaurants across Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina. The organization was founded by Ajay Patel in 1996 is proudly run by two generations of the family, including his three sons Niel, Ricky and Mikesh.