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**RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building officially commences operation
Expected to provide 24,000 nights to families with sick children each year**

HONG KONG, 20 November 2023 – Funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, RMHC Hong Kong announced that RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building officially commenced operation with the Grand Opening Ceremony taking place today. It is expected to provide 24,000 nights to families with sick children each year. As a non-governmental organization in Hong Kong providing “family-centered care” services, RMHC Hong Kong offers a “home-like temporary residence” and psychosocial support to seriously ill children and their families through House services. In addition to providing sick children with a clean and hygienic living environment, it also saves their families time as they commute frequently to and from hospital, relieving their stress and enabling them to focus on their fight against disease.

The first Ronald McDonald House (Shatin House) was established in 1996. Since the opening of the Hong Kong Children’s Hospital in recent years, the demand for House services has been increasing. The new Kwun Tong House can help care for more families in need.

Ms. Grace Fung Oei, RMHC Global Board of Trustees and RMHC Hong Kong Chairperson, said, “The opening of Kwun Tong House marks an important milestone for RMHC Hong Kong. It will further support the operations and needs of the Hong Kong Children’s Hospital and bring greater benefits to Hong Kong society. To better cater to the needs of families with seriously ill children, the design of Kwun Tong House has taken into account the opinions of various stakeholders, including families with sick children, medical professionals and foreign Houses.”

“Kwun Tong House would not have been made possible if not for the funding support of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, and staunch support of the HKSAR government, multiple organizations and individuals. It has enabled us to expand our ‘home-away-from-home’ services. We look forward to further cooperation with the government, the Hospital Authority and other NGOs and urge continual donations from generous donors to support the operations of the two Houses. This would help us provide comprehensive support to sick children with the most suitable

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treatment while keeping their families by their side at all times.”

Mr. Lester G. Huang, SBS, JP, Steward, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, explained that the Club is strongly committed to building a healthy community for all, which is one of the priority areas of the Club’s Charities Trust. Through supporting collaborative initiatives and promoting innovation, the Club is helping to expand medical care and support services in the community. The new RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building is one such example, providing a caring environment for children with serious illnesses to recover with the love and support of their families.

Kwun Tong House is located in close proximity to the Hong Kong Children’s Hospital, enabling families with seriously ill children to travel to and from the hospital conveniently. With an area of 8,000 sqm over 16 floors, the new House offers 66 rooms and an enhanced suite of service facilities, including 10 barrier-free rooms and 6 special needs room designed for families with bone marrow transplant child patients. It caters to children suffering from cancers, cardiovascular, kidney or rare diseases, and is expected to provide an estimated 24,000 nights to families with sick children each year. Moreover, Kwun Tong House provides a wide range of psychological and social support services for families with sick children. It features a gym room, a spiritual room, a music room and a family library to address their physical health and mental wellness needs. Its multiple common areas also allow for a variety of activities and volunteer services, such as private or group tutorials, arts and crafts, yoga classes, music groups, and festivities. These activities encourage sick children to continue with their hobbies and interests and maintain a social life to relieve their stress while fighting illnesses. The House also provides a conducive environment for mutual support among families and fosters cohesion within a small community to face the weight of illness together.

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Mr. Lester G. Huang, SBS, JP, Steward, The Hong Kong Jockey Club (left); and Ms. Grace Fung Oei, RMHC Global Board of Trustees and RMHC Hong Kong Chairperson (right) unveil the plaque of RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building.

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Mr. Chris Sun Yuk-han, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, HKSAR Government (5th from left); Dr. Libby Lee Ha-yun, JP, Acting Secretary for Health, HKSAR Government (6th from right); Mr. Lester G. Huang, SBS, JP, Steward, The Hong Kong Jockey Club (4th from left); Ms. Grace Fung Oei, RMHC Global Board of Trustees and RMHC Hong Kong Chairperson (5th from right); Mr. Henry Fan Hung-ling, SBS, JP, Chairman, Hospital Authority (4th from right); Dr. Tony Ko Pat-sing, JP, Chief Executive, Hospital Authority (3rd from right); Dr. Lee Tsz-leung, MH, Hospital Chief Executive of Hong Kong Children's Hospital (3rd from left); Prof. Randy Lai Wai-sze, Representative of Founding Mission Partner and CEO of McDonald's Hong Kong (2nd from right); Ms. Imelda Chan, Head of Charities (Healthy Community), The Hong Kong Jockey Club (1st from left); Mr. Raymond Wong Fook-lam, Chairperson of Building Committee, RMHC Hong Kong (1st from right); and Ms. Karen Cheung Tih-loh, Chairperson of Development Committee, RMHC Hong Kong (2nd from left) officiate at the opening ceremony of RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building.

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RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building has 16 floors; it offers 66 rooms and a variety of common areas and an enhanced suite of service facilities catered to children suffering from cancers, cardiovascular, kidney or rare diseases. Officiating guests tour the House after the opening ceremony.

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Kwun Tong House has been made possible with the staunch support of the HKSAR government, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and different organizations and individuals, enabling it to expand “home-away-from-home” services.

Photo link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vDmJRj4nt8KaJ_-CGHvsAOvrgGmUhaB?usp=sharing
(available until November 30, 2023)

About RMHC Hong Kong

Ronald McDonald House is the core program of RMHC Hong Kong. The House in Shatin is the first House in Asia, providing “home-away-from-home” service. Established in 1996, RMHC Hong Kong is a Chapter 88, non-profit organization. For the last 27 years, RMHC Hong Kong has been committed to a “family-centered care” service model, providing temporary residence and psychosocial support to families with seriously ill children, sharing their stress and burden. While the ill children receive medical treatment at a hospital nearby, parents can rest, cook, and find mutual support with other families.

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The current Shatin House has 23 family suites, including one separate isolation suite for families with children receiving bone marrow transplants. Other facilities include a communal kitchen, laundry room, computer room, children's playroom, an organic farm, etc. The House's proximity to the hospital ensures that these young patients can receive immediate care should their condition become unstable. The service also benefits children who live in less-than-optimal conditions with high risk of bacterial infection. The House provides a comfortable and hygienic environment where they can rest until their conditions stabilize.

The new RMHC (Kwun Tong House) Jockey Club Building offers 66 rooms and an enhanced suite of service facilities to serve more children suffering from cancers, cardiovascular, kidney or rare diseases. In addition, more activity rooms and multi-function rooms are available to open up more collaborative opportunities with other social welfare organizations so as to further promote the "family-centered care" concept in supporting families of ill children. To the parents of ill children, the House provides a safe platform for seeking mutual support and encouragement from other parents in similar situations and finding relief from their burdens and struggles. Most children residing here are either seriously ill, traumatized or have undergone serious large-scale surgeries, including patients of leukemia, brain tumors, burns, lymphoma and bone marrow transplants.

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This press release is issued by Bentley Communications on behalf of the RMHC Hong Kong. For enquiries, please contact Ms. Aria Lau, Senior Account Executive of Bentley Communications at 3960 1911, or Mr. Ian Li, Account Director (Media Service) of Bentley Communications at 3960 1905.

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