



**Attention News/Health and Lifestyle Editors:**

## **Ronald McDonald House Charities® Awards MukiBaum Treatment Centres a \$100,000.00 Helping Hand Grant**

**Toronto, ON, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – MukiBaum is proud to welcome Shelagh Barrett, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC®), Devon Friedman, Manager of Communications and Development for RMHC, Rem Langan, Chairman of RMHC's Board of Directors, Gary Reinblatt and his sons BJ and George for the official cheque presentation having been awarded a \$100,000.00 Helping Hand Grant. The presentation will take place at MukiBaum's Centre For Ability, located at 40 Samor Road in Toronto.

This grant was awarded for the project "Empowering Ability – Nurturing Sensational Children". It will enable us to purchase specialized equipment for our rehabilitative, cognitive, fitness, play and sensory programs as well as supplies for the Arts and Crafts Area within our Art Campus at our new state of the art Centre For Ability.

The \$75,000.00 from RMHC will be supporting the equipment in the Virtual Reality, Multi-Sensory and Gross Motor rooms which will provide children with complex disabilities such as dual diagnosis, autism, sensory processing disorders and other developmental disabilities with a specialized educational rehabilitative program. The Virtual Reality room allows children to experience interactive sensory stimulation full of motion activated multimedia products. The Multi-Sensory room offers experiences in the senses of seeing-visual, hearing-auditory, touching-tactile, smelling-olfactory, movement and balance-vestibular and body awareness-proprioception. The Gross Motor room is a fun environment for children to develop their gross motor skills (ie. balance, coordination, muscle strength, motor planning) and relax their nervous system.

The additional \$25,000.00 from RMHC was raised by the Reinblatt Family and was donated in the memory of Sandra Reinblatt, who sadly passed away on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Sandra loved helping others and had a true passion for the arts. MukiBaum is truly honoured to be the recipient of these funds in order to support the Arts and Crafts Area within our Centre For Ability. This area will provide children with art education, help them develop as artists and demonstrate their talents far beyond their disabilities.

**The tours of the Centre For Ability begin at 10:30 am followed by the official cheque presentation and photo opportunities.**

### **About Ronald McDonald House Charities®**

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Canada (RMHC®) is a registered charity that is dedicated to helping children with illnesses or disabilities and their families lead happier, healthier lives. RMHC achieves this by supporting each Canadian Ronald McDonald House®, the Ronald McDonald Family Room® Program and by awarding grants to many other children's charities across the country. Since its inception in 1982, RMHC has awarded over 2,100 grants totaling over \$59 million to children's charities across Canada. These grants have helped benefit thousands of children & families in more than 600 communities. McDonald's® Restaurants of Canada Limited pays 100% of the administrative costs of RMHC in Canada, so that 100 cents from every dollar donated directly to RMHC goes directly to helping children and supporting families. For more information about Ronald McDonald House Charities, visit [www.rmhc.ca](http://www.rmhc.ca).

### **About Mukibaum Treatment Centres**

Founded in 1979 by Dr. Nehama Baum, Mukibaum Treatment Centres ([www.mukibaum.com](http://www.mukibaum.com)) is a non-profit charitable organization for children and adults with dual diagnosis (developmental disabilities and emotional / psychiatric disorders), as well as autism, Down's syndrome, Tourette's syndrome, Prader Willi, and other rare conditions. Since its inception, Mukibaum has pioneered the use of psychotherapy, including play, music and art therapy in the treatment of people with complex disabilities. In addition, sensory therapy has become an integral part of all of Mukibaum's programs thus meeting the needs of the children and adults who suffer from various sensory challenges.

Its' mission is to provide children and adults with complex disabilities the opportunity to develop their talents, actualize their potential, fulfill their ability, achieve personal growth and become contributing members of society.

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For more information on Mukibaum, its innovative treatments and more, go to [www.mukibaum.com](http://www.mukibaum.com) and click on "Media & Press"

For further information or to schedule interviews contact:

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