

RE/MAX Crossroads Donates Over \$1 Million to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®

On Thursday, October 27, 2016, Mary Lou and Dennis Steed along with approximately 250 guests gathered at Todaro's Party Center, Inc. in Akron, Ohio for the 2016 Crossroads Annual Celebration. They opened their first office in Strongsville in the fall of 1993 and have passed the \$1 million dollar mark for donations to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®. The Steeds own and operate at least eight RE/MAX offices in Northeast Ohio.

Dennis Steed said, "I attended our International Convention in March 1994 and there was a presentation of the Miracle Child for that year and many details were given about the relationship with RE/MAX and CMN. Of course there wasn't a dry eye in the building and I was just completely on board. I returned to Strongsville and met with our agents, shared the story and experience. Every agent asked how do we get involved, and I explained the Miracle Home Program, and giving a donation from every transaction at closing. All of our agents made that commitment, and the foundation was formed."

RE/MAX Crossroads supports University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospitals and Akron Children's Hospital. Debbie Lewis, Manager of Strategic Community Initiatives – Senior Development Office at UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital said, "Mary Lou and Dennis reached out to me and asked what RE/MAX offices in the area were not supporting the hospital. They wanted to connect! RE/MAX Crossroads sets a wonderful example and are committed to helping children locally – they inspire other offices to give back to their local hospitals. Funds can be used for whatever is needed from specific equipment to "extras," like giving kids a moment of fun in the playroom. This brings healing. Yes, we need the doctors and staff. But the extras are important, too."

RE/MAX Crossroads has 100 percent agent participation in the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® program. "Agents contribute either a percentage or dollar amount from each real estate transaction. The donation is made in the client's name and they receive a "thank you" letter from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®. When clients find out about our connection with CMNH, they really like it," said Joe Dirk, REALTOR®, ABR, CRS, and Agent Team Leader of Joe Dirk and Associates, Rocky River, Ohio.

Nicci Avalon, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® Program Manager at Akron Children's Hospital said, "We accept every patient, regardless. No child is turned away! Everyone can give \$1, \$25, etc. – it adds up over time. The funds help us to implement and keep programs going such as art therapy, support groups (kids receive a stuffed dog named Barker), and more. RE/MAX Crossroads sets the "gold standard" for offices across the nation. Kids are given intangible hope and get the help they need."

Kelly Peters has been with RE/MAX Crossroads, Canton office, for 14 years. She, like many moms, knows what it's like to have a child who needs medical attention. "My daughter was three months old and in intensive care at Akron Children's Hospital; she had double pneumonia and a double ear infection. It was scary. But thanks to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, she received the medical attention she needed. Today, my eight-year-old daughter is happy, healthy and spunky," said Kelly.

Mary Lou and Dennis Steed are committed to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®! They usually have their March business meetings at the hospitals and even tour different units. And thanks to one of their staff, Sue Sisti, who helped design the online Miracle Home System, handling donations is a smooth and seamless process. Giving back is a part of the culture at RE/MAX Crossroads and embraced at all levels.