

Celebrating 25 Years

Ronald McDonald House Expansion

It looked like the “the house that love built” would have to put its expansion plans on hold after contractors for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) discovered gasoline contamination on property slated to house their new 38,000 square foot facility located at 935 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) assisted RMHC by facilitating the installation of a vapor barrier so construction could proceed.

While excavating for a footing for one of the walls, contractors unearthed an old residential oil tank and found contaminated soils tested high for benzene. Exposure to benzene can cause serious health effects, particularly for sensitive populations. Total site remediation to remove all possible benzene on the property would be impractical and prohibitively expensive.

RMHC approached the environmental scientists in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program in DERR for assistance. The LUST program determined that some of the remediation efforts at the RMHC site could be funded by the Petroleum Storage Tank (PST) fund administered by the DERR. With DERR oversight, RMHC removed the contaminated soils around the tank, backfilled with clean soil, and installed a vapor barrier and passive venting system in the foundation of the new building.

Construction on the new facility was completed in 2014. RMHC conducts periodic indoor air testing and water monitoring at the site to ensure the health and safety of the occupants of the Ronald McDonald House and the surrounding neighborhood.



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HOUSE CHARITIES

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