



February 22, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Joyce Halldorson, 206-838-0624, joyce@rmhcseattle.org

CELEBRITIES AND LOCAL COMPANIES SKATE IN HOCKEY CHALLENGE 2007

TV and movie actors skate to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska

WHAT: HOCKEY CHALLENGE 2007
A benefit for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska

WHEN: MARCH 3, 2007, SATURDAY
10:30 am – Games begin
5 pm – Celebrity Autograph Session
6:05 pm – Seattle Thunderbirds vs. Portland Winter Hawks
8:40 pm – Celebrity All-Star Game

WHERE: KEY ARENA, Seattle Center, Seattle

CELEBRITIES SCHEDULED TO APPEAR:

Tom Arnold (Pride, True Lies),
Paul Guilfoyle (CSI),
Michael Rosenbaum (Smallville),
Jason Thompson (General Hospital),
Cameron Bancroft (24: Day 4, Hockeyville on CBC),
Brian Basset (Red and Rover and Adam @ Home, cartoonist),
Kelly Stephens (2006 U.S. Women's Olympic hockey bronze medalist),
Bill Wixey (KCPQ news anchor).
Former Seattle Thunderbirds alumni: Corey Schwab, Jamie Huscroft, Pat Smith, Al Kinisky, Brett Duncan and Lloyd Shaw.

TICKETS: \$20, includes entry to Seattle Thunderbirds vs. Portland Winter Hawks game. For ticket information, contact Vanessa@rmhcseattle.org or (206) 838-0613.

Seattle – Fans will see stars when they show up for Hockey Challenge 2007, an annual fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Western Washington & Alaska. It has raised more than \$3 million for the Seattle Ronald McDonald House over the past eight years. Movie and TV actors will match up with local teams and National Hockey League alumni players to play a Celebrity All-Star game capping a day of hockey.

Hockey teams formed by sponsors such as Microsoft and WaMu, along with celebrities appearing in the **Celebrity All-Star Game**, skate to support the children and families served by RMHC. The Celebrity All-Star Game follows the 6:05 p.m. Seattle Thunderbirds vs. Portland Winter Hawks hockey match-up.

A ticket to the Challenge gives fans access to all Challenge events at Key Arena on March 3. These include the **Celebrity Game and autograph session**, all other Challenge games and the T-birds game that night. **The celebrity autograph session will begin at 5 p.m. and last until 5:30 p.m.** Special "kid captains," chosen from children staying at the Ronald McDonald House, will walk out to center ice before both the Thunderbirds and the All-Star Celebrity games for the annual puck drop.

Now in its ninth year, Hockey Challenge got its start when a rivalry between hockey-playing Microsoft employees went public. They enlisted the help of the Seattle Thunderbirds ice hockey team, who suggested a donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska in exchange for coaching assistance.

Each year the teams raise money from businesses and individuals and skate to support children battling serious illnesses and staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Proceeds from this annual event directly support operations at the Seattle Ronald McDonald House, enabling families with critically ill children undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital to have a caring "home-away-from-home," regardless of their financial situation.

GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – AUTOGRAPH SESSION WITH FANS AND ON THE ICE!

ABOUT RMHC Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Western Washington & Alaska supports families with seriously ill children by providing a caring "home-away-from-home" at the Seattle Ronald McDonald House® and by operating a grants program benefiting children's health-related nonprofits in Western Washington and Alaska.

About the Seattle Ronald McDonald House

The Seattle Ronald McDonald House® provides a caring "home-away-from-home" for families of seriously ill children being treated at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle. The House can accommodate 80 families each night and currently is the second largest House in the world, serving 1,100 families annually. The House is operated and maintained by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Washington & Alaska through individual, corporate and foundation donations.