

2025-2026 School Pop Tab Collection



Pop Tab Collection

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Why Collect Tabs

Ronald McDonald House Charities® Eastern Wisconsin has been keeping families together and promoting the health and well-being of children since 1984. Through our 84-guest room House, Family Room, and Hospitality Cart, we provide all the comforts of home to families seeking critical medical care for their children. Support from the community through volunteering, fundraising, and pop tab collection has allowed us to be a home away from home at no cost to families.

How Do Pop Tabs Help?

Aluminum is one of the most recyclable materials in the world and, although the whole can is valuable, the pop tab is smaller and cleaner, making it easier to collect in large quantities. The pop tabs collected are taken to our recycling partners, Complete Recycling Services and Goldin Iron & Metal, and are exchanged for funds to be donated to directly support the children and families staying at RMHC Eastern WI.

Pop tabs may be small, but they make a big impact! Since 2000, recycling the little aluminum tabs from soda cans has generated over \$400,000 for our Ronald McDonald House®. Your pop tab collection helps keep families together!

How to Get Started

Collecting pop tabs can be a fun way to introduce your students to philanthropy. Here are some tips and tricks to get your school collection started.

Where To Collect

To get started, place a collection container in a central location in classrooms, cafeterias, or snack stations. Pop tab collection houses are available for pick up at our Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee. Your students can also decorate their own container labels or use the RMHC Pop Tab Collection Labels included below.

You can also be creative with your containers – try an ice cream bucket, large pretzel bin or other wide-mouthed containers. Please refrain from using milk and water jugs, as the tabs are difficult to remove from them. Please note that containers can get heavy quickly!

Consider acknowledging milestones with your collection--adding tape lines on a container or first to fill their first container wins, etc.--to motivate your students and build excitement throughout collecting!

It can take quite a while to collect pop tabs, so consider inviting your community to help support your effort! Encourage students to ask their friends, family, neighbors, and local businesses to help collect tabs - the more, the merrier!

Timeline

Before you launch a collection, consider how long you would like to host your fundraiser. We recommend collecting from February through May, leading up to our annual [Tab Toss Day](#), where your donation will be matched by our recycling partners. This allows you to promote in December and January, and for your students to collect over the holiday season.

The longer your collection timeline is, the more tabs you will have! If you choose to do a long-term collection effort, be sure you have adequate space to house the tabs. If you have limited space, consider a long-term collection for students at home with a shorter donation period to bring the tabs into the school, such as a "Spirit Week" or the last week of the semester.



"To me, RMHC is the ultimate sense of peace, comfort and hope when you're going through a difficult time with a child who is critically ill."

Weigh-In

Since the cost of aluminum fluctuates frequently, we encourage collectors to weigh their donation to see its impact. Donors have used:

- Hanging Scales (with a bag or basin with handles.)
- Floor Scales
- Industrial Scales



If your school is unable to access one of these options, consider weighing your donation on the scale at the Ronald McDonald House® when making your donation, at your local recycling plant, or at [Tab Toss Day](#) in May 2026.

Alternatively, here are estimated values based on the size of common collection receptacles:

- Sandwich Bag: .65lbs
- Gallon Bag: 2.6lbs
- Bin: 32lbs

Where to Donate Your Tabs

You can drop your pop tabs off at the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee, any day between 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

You may also visit one of our Recycling Partners:

- [Complete Recycling](#) in Southeast WI
- [Golden Iron & Metal Recycling](#) in Northeast WI

Drop off your tabs at any one of our collection sites listed on our [website](#).

Make it a Competition

A little competition can go a long way to motivate your students! Consider inviting your student body to compete against one another and level-up your drive. Depending on the size and grade-levels at your school, you could set your competition using one of the following premises:

- Class vs. Class
- Grade vs. Grade

Incentivizing your collection can always motivate your students. Consider offering one of the following or another prize to award the students who collect the most tabs!

- Out of Uniform Day
- Ice Cream Party
- Pizza Party
- Extra Recess
- Afternoon Movie with Snacks
- Pop Tab Patch

Every participant is still a winner because they contributed to a great cause and made a difference in the lives of RMHC families!

Resources & Tools

- Custom Flyer
 - [Vertical](#)
 - [Horizontal](#)
- [Jedwabny Family Story](#)
- [Benefiting RMHC Logo](#)
- [Pull Together Logo](#)
- [Cannister Labels](#)
- [Giant Pop Tab Blueprint](#)
- [3D Pop Tab Trophy Blueprint](#) (must have 3D Printer Software to access file).

Contact Us

For further information or support, please reach out to Megan Foley, Community Events Manager, at mfoley@rmhc-easternwi.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Eastern WI

Address: 8948 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226

Phone: 414.475.5333

Website: www.rmhc-easternwi.org

Donate Today!

