

# School Pop Tab Collection Program



**Pop tabs may be small, but they make a big impact on the families calling our House home!**



Since opening in 1984, Ronald McDonald House Charities® Eastern Wisconsin has been dedicated to providing a supportive and compassionate community for families with children in need of medical treatment far away from home. We are able to provide this **at no cost** because of your generous collection efforts!

## Why Pop Tabs?

Aluminum is one of the most recyclable materials in the world! 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 families staying at RMHC Eastern WI. Since 2000, recycling pop tabs has generated over \$400,000 to help keep families together!

## Starting Your Collection

Collecting pop tabs can be a great way to introduce students to philanthropy. Here are some tips and tricks to starting your school collection:

Place a labeled collection container in a centralized location - classroom, cafeteria, snack station, etc.

- Container can be an ice cream bucket, large pretzel bin or other wide-mouthed option. Please refrain from using milk and water jugs, as the tabs are difficult to remove from them. Monitor the amount of tabs per container - they can get heavy quickly!
- Pop tab collection houses are available for pick up at the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee.
- Use the collection labels below, or have students create and decorate their own!
- Consider acknowledging milestones by adding progress lines on the container to motivate students and build excitement!

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

The longer your collection timeline is, the better! If you choose to do a long-term collection effort, please be sure to have adequate space to store 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 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."*

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## Weighing Your Collection

Since the cost of aluminum fluctuates frequently, we encourage collectors to weigh their donation to maximize 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 the collection at the Ronald McDonald House, your local recycling center, or at Tab Toss Day.



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

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

## Make it a Competition

A little competition can go a long way to motivate students! Consider inviting your student body to compete against one another. Depending on the size and grade-levels at your school, you could do class versus class, grade versus grade, first one to fill the bin, etc.

Incentivizing your collection is another great way to engage students. Consider offering one of the following or another prize to award the students who collect the most tabs:

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

Regardless of what you choose, every participant is a winner because they contributed to a great cause and made a difference in the lives of RMHC families!

## Donating Your Collection

Once your collection is done, you can:

- Drop off at the Ronald McDonald House any day between 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Take the pop tabs to your local recycling center and have the check made out to RMHC Eastern WI.
- Drop off at any one of our collection sites listed [here](#).

## 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)*

For further information or support, please contact [Megan Foley](#),  
Community Events Manager.