



EVA KONEČNÁ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE SLOVAKIA



Eva Konečná leads Ronald McDonald House Slovakia as Executive Director, overseeing the organization's strategic direction, financial management, key projects, and partnerships. She brings experience from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, including roles at Volvo and the League Against Cancer. She is passionate about building meaningful brands and collaborations with real social impact. Her motivation in this role is rooted in a strong belief that a family's presence is essential for a sick child. As a mother of three, supporting families during difficult moments is not only her mission, but something truly personal to her.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE OPERATES GLOBALLY, BUT EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS SPECIFICS. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MISSION OF RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE SLOVAKIA AND ITS GREATEST BENEFIT FOR FAMILIES OF HOSPITALIZED CHILDREN?

At Ronald McDonald House Slovakia, just like anywhere in the world, we implement and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of hospitalized children and their families. At its core, Ronald McDonald House Slovakia creates a space where families can stay together, even during a child's hospitalization.

The presence of a parent is not a luxury, but a vital part of a child's recovery. It has a profound impact on their emotional well-being and their ability to cope with treatment. Feeling safe and having loved ones close gives children the strength they need to keep fighting. In many ways, we also support the healthcare system itself. A parent's presence often means a calmer child, better cooperation during treatment, and ultimately a more positive overall experience with care.

ONE OF THE KEY PROJECTS IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE BANSKÁ BYSTRICA. WHAT WILL THIS PROJECT BRING AND HOW WILL IT CHANGE THE SITUATION FOR FAMILIES IN PRACTICE?

Ronald McDonald House Banská Bystrica is bringing something that has been missing in Slovakia until now, a place where entire families can stay together throughout a child's treatment, no matter how long it takes.

In practice, this means a significant change. Families will no longer have to face daily commuting, search for accommodation, or carry the financial burden that comes with it. Instead, they will have a safe, welcoming space close to the hospital.

The House will offer more than just a place to stay, it will provide understanding, support, and a sense of community among people going through similar experiences. It will transform everyday life for families, replacing uncertainty and exhaustion with a space where they can focus on what truly matters: their child's health.

WHAT LONG-TERM IMPACT CAN RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE BANSKÁ BYSTRICA HAVE ON THE SLOVAK HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SYSTEM?

In the long term, Ronald McDonald House Banská Bystrica can significantly shape how we approach care for pediatric patients in Slovakia. It highlights that treatment is not only about medical care, but about recognizing the family as an essential part of the healing process.

This model shows that high-quality healthcare should be complemented by support systems that nurture the emotional well-being of both the child and their loved ones. When families are actively involved, it can lead to better outcomes, lower stress levels, and a more manageable experience for everyone.

Ronald McDonald House Banská Bystrica introduces a model that connects healthcare with social support, setting a new standard for a more compassionate and modern approach to treating children. It also demonstrates the power of collaboration between the non-profit sector, public institutions, and private partners, an approach that can inspire broader systemic change.

ORGANIZATIONS LIKE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE SLOVAKIA RELY ON COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS AND DONORS. WHAT ROLE DO THEY PLAY AND WHERE DO YOU SEE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR ENGAGING NEW PARTNERS?

Partners and donors are absolutely essential to everything we do. Without their support, projects like these simply wouldn't exist or be able to grow sustainably. Ronald McDonald House Slovakia is built on collaboration, where each partner contributes their expertise, resources, or know-how.

We deeply value every donor and partner, because their trust and willingness to help allow us to truly change the lives of families in difficult situations.

Partnership for us is not only about financial support. Services, professional expertise, and practical solutions are just as important. The greatest potential lies in long-term partnerships, those that go beyond one-time support and allow us to build meaningful, lasting solutions together.

For a sick child, nothing is more important than having a parent close and thanks to our donors and partners, we can make sure that closeness is never lost.