

## ST. LOUIS TEAM COOKS UP SMILES AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE



*Left to right, Dorothy Laux, Teresa Hasenmueller, Sandy Silger, Diana Daniels, Pam Schmidt, Michael Silger*

In St. Louis, Avnet Electronics Marketing employees volunteer quarterly at the Ronald McDonald House, preparing and serving dinner to families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. For more than three years they have chosen a theme – barbecue, Mexican and soups are a few recent examples – delegated the cooking, collected donations from suppliers, purchased decorations and spent time talking with families and getting to know their stories. They even wash dishes.

“It is amazing how food can bring a smile to someone’s face, get a conversation going and eventually lead to a hug of support,” says Pam Schmidt, account manager. “We are committed and passionate about this program and feel we are totally rewarded and overwhelmed by the strength and hearts of the residents. Volunteering adds to our feeling of being family – we have found an experience we have totally embraced, both personally and as a branch.”

Employees take turns attending and providing food. Those who attend give an update on the residents – many of whom stay at Ronald McDonald House for months – at the branch’s Monday morning meeting. “This volunteer work is near and dear to all of our hearts,” says Pam.