Ronald McDonald House goes green with GREENSCAPES™ Greenroof

The Ronald McDonald House Charities is an international, non-for-profit organization that creates a “home-away-from-home” for families with seriously ill or injured children. In July 2012, the newest Ronald McDonald House was completed. Located in the heart of Chicago at 211 E. Grand Avenue, this location is the largest Ronald McDonald House Charities building.

**CHALLENGE:**
The Ronald McDonald House Charities wanted to install vegetated greenroof assemblies consisting of various types of plantings, pavers and vegetated trays on each section of their roof deck. Due to the importance of this location, the designers wanted maximum performance of the greenroof assembly and maximum protection of the occupied space below.

**SOLUTION:**
As a single-source manufacturer of building envelope solutions, CETCO provided the entire roofing system, from the waterproofing to the vegetation. By working with a single-source manufacturer, the owner has the peace of mind knowing that all products are designed to work together. CETCO’s integrated product approach ensures component compatibility and maximizes the performance of the complete system.

The finished design for this space included a wide variety of plantings (trees, shrubs, and various sedums), a turf grass play area, a fountain, patio and Bar-B-Que area, decorative burms and a children’s play slide.

To complete the intricate greenroof design, a CETCO GreenScapes Intensive Greenroof Assembly was chosen as the base assembly. The GreenScapes Intensive Assembly allows for a wide range of configurations making it an ideal choice for this project.
Ronald McDonald House goes green with GREENSCAPES™ Greenroof

To start, maintaining a dry, healthy building is vital to Ronald McDonald House Charities and the families it helps. To ensure a successful installation, COREFLEX™ Waterproofing Membrane was selected. COREFLEX consists of a weldable thermoplastic membrane that is integrally bonded to a proprietary Active Polymer Core (APC) Technology layer. The two membrane layers work together to ensure superior waterproofing protection. Upon completion of the waterproofing installation, the entire roof surface was covered with 60 PSI insulation.

GS-310 Moisture Retention and Drainage Board was installed followed by the distribution of six semi-truck loads of GS-510 Intensive Growing Media to provide an ideal planting substrate. The combination of GS-510 Growing Media and GS-310 Moisture Retention & Drainage Board provides the proper amount of moisture retention and drainage required for the varying moisture needs of the diverse vegetation. Once the GS-510 Intensive Growing Media was distributed and the proper soil depths were reached, various plants were installed to bring the greenroof to life.

To complete the greenroof design, a walkway and hardscape area, constructed of pre-cast concrete pavers, was integrated into the various planted areas. CETCO also provided several vegetated trays and UV resistant, white, reflective PVC membrane for the penthouse portion of the greenroof. As a single source provider of greenroof solutions, CETCO’s products are designed to work together, in multiple configurations, to maximize the success of the roof.

RESULT:
Between the three roof sections, CETCO provided Ronald McDonald House Charities with 7,000 square feet of complete GreenScapes Greenroof System technology. The GreenScapes assembly combined with the superior waterproofing protection of COREFLEX and CETCO white, reflective roofing membrane provided Ronald McDonald House with unsurpassed technology and product compatibility. This space will give the families of Ronald McDonald House valuable space for relaxation and recreation for many years to come. CETCO is proud to support our communities and salutes the Ronald McDonald House Charities on their continual support of families with seriously ill or injured children.