



Dinner Program - FAQ's

What can we cook?

Your group has to provide a menu once your date has been confirmed. We will provide you with meal suggestions to give you some ideas. The meal should be balanced and include an entrée, starch, vegetables and/or salad and a dessert. We request that you do not prepare any pasta dishes or tacos as these are our standby meals when groups cancel at the last minute and we cannot fill the date. Also soup and sandwiches are not considered dinner items.

Can I cook the food in my own home kitchen?

No, RMHC Global Food Safety Guidelines specify no food can be prepared offsite unless it comes from a commercial kitchen and is kept at the proper temperature during transportation. This includes peeling, chopping, marinating, mixing, crock pots etc. Please understand this is of the utmost importance, as we have to adhere to food safety standards.

How many people will we be preparing for?

Our occupancy varies from day to day; expect to prepare for 20-35 people. You will be asked to call 24 hours ahead of your date to get a more accurate headcount. You must ensure you have enough food for all our guests, even though some may not be present for the meal, they will look for left overs when returning from the hospital. We encourage groups to eat with our families, so please increase the amount of food you prepare to accommodate this.

What cookware and serve ware do you have?

Our kitchen is fully stocked with cookware, bakeware and serve ware, but if you require something specific (rice cooker etc.), you're welcome to bring it. The kitchen has 2 commercial stoves, 2 griddles, 4 residential ovens, 2 residential dishwashers, a gas (not propane) grill. We have full sets of crockery and cutlery for you to use. You can use disposable plates but we want to make our families feel at home, so the use of "real" plates/cutlery is strongly encouraged.

Do we need to provide drinks?

You do not need to provide drinks; our families have access to coffee, tea, juice, milk and soda.

I'm not feeling well; can I still come to the House?

No, because some of our residents could have compromised immune systems getting an infection could be very dangerous to their health. **If you are not feeling well, please don't attend with your group.** Please do not visit the House if you currently have or recently had the common cold, flu, chicken pox, shingles, measles, sore throat or any other communicable disease. This includes children who are coming with a group.

How long will we be at the House?

This is a 3-4 hour time commitment. Groups are responsible for packing away leftovers after the meal and cleaning the kitchen.

Is it OK to just cook the meal then leave?

No, groups are required to prepare, serve and then clean up after the dinner. We have limited staff working during the evening and they are not available to clean up after dinner groups.

Can we bring in more than 10 people to cook?

No - groups of up to 10 are great for the size of our kitchen. Families returning from the hospital, can be overwhelmed to be met with a very large group. If you have more than 10 people who want to participate in making a meal, please consider signing up for a second date. Due to security reasons we cannot allow groups to swap people in and out – we need to know how many people are in the House.

Can we bring children in our group?

Yes, but they are considered part of the group of 10 and must be actively supervised at all times by an adult from the group.

Can I join another group who's already signed up to cook?

No, sorry we can't add you to another group of people who are cooking.

What if we have to cancel?

We request that should you have to cancel your date that you provide us with at least 14 days' notice, so that we can try and fill the slot. If you are unable to provide 14 days' notice, please consider a donation to the House for us to purchase ingredients or a meal from a local restaurant. The donation could be tax deductible. Due to the popularity of our meal programs, groups who no-show or cancel with little notice multiple times, may be excluded from participating in our meal programs.

Dress Code

The dress code is closed toe shoes, pants/capris/knee length shorts or skirt, long or short sleeved shirt/blouse/t-shirt. Ripped or torn pants/jeans, spaghetti straps, off the shoulder tops, tank tops, open toe shoes/sandals are not permitted.

Behavior

We encourage this to be a fun and fulfilling time for your group, however groups who are loud and disruptive will be asked to leave. We would strongly encourage you to hold meetings and social time once you have left the House. Our families are under a great deal of stress, we want to provide them with a calm and stress-free mealtime.