Ronald McDonald House Charities® Greater Las Vegas

Dinner Program

FAQ's & Participation Requirements

Participation Requirements – To ensure the health of everyone in our House, all volunteers must be completely illness/symptom free. All volunteers will sign our Liability Release (under 18 must have a parent sign for them).

Do we have to purchase the food for our meal? Yes, groups are required to purchase the ingredients for the meal they are preparing. In the case that you forget an ingredient, we MIGHT have some pantry staples which you can use, but NO GUARANTEES.

What can we cook? Your group should provide a menu when initially submitting your date request. If a menu was not provided at that time, please send your menu ASAP (preferably no less than 3 weeks from the dinner date). The meal should be balanced, i.e. an entrée, a side(s) and possibly a dessert if you'd like. Pasta dishes are discouraged, simply because they're so common, but not prohibited. Please check the menus during the week of your visit, to verify that there are not others making the same dish. The calendar, with menus, is on our website.

Do we need to provide drinks? You do NOT need to provide drinks; our families have access to coffee, tea, juice, milk and soda.

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 must adhere to food safety standards.

How many people will we be preparing for? Our occupancy varies slightly each week; so a few days prior to cooking, please email kimberly@rmhlv.org for an updated headcount. You must ensure you have enough food for all our guests, so if your group would like to eat dinner at the House as well, please be sure to add this number of people to the overall headcount. **IMPORTANT NOTE: We also have limited space for leftovers. So please do not over prepare, and please do not bring any bulk items with the intention of leaving them behind.** Any abundance of leftovers, that we cannot fit in the fridge, will need to be taken home with you or thrown away unfortunately.

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 (Instapot 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.

Can we bring in more than 8 people to cook? No. The group size allowed is 8 (eight) people due to the size of the kitchen. Additional people who arrive with the group of eight WILL NOT be

permitted entry. If you have more than eight people, please consider signing up for a second date. Due to security reasons, we cannot allow groups to swap people in and out.

Can we bring children in our group? Yes, but they are considered part of the group of 8 and must stay in the kitchen and be actively supervised at all times by an adult from the group.

How long will we be at the House? Approximately 3 hours. Dinner should be ready at 6.00pm. Once families have been served you can begin to clean up any remaining cookware / serve ware, as well as cleaning up the kitchen.

Leftovers - Leftovers must be stored in our individual Tupperware containers (with a lid) as a pre-packaged meal. Labels will contain the food inside, the date it was prepared, and the letter "H" (for House).

Is it OK to just prepare the meal then leave? No, groups are required to prepare the meal and serve our families, then store the leftovers and clean the kitchen before leaving.

What if we need to cancel? We hope you don't, but if you do, we ask you provide us with at least 10 days' notice, so that we can try and fill the slot. If you are unable to provide 10 days' notice, **please consider having a meal delivered from a local restaurant or providing a $200 donation to the House for us to purchase dinner.** The donation could be tax deductible. Make sure **all** of your group is committed before signing up – it's unfair to other groups who may have wanted your date, if you sign up and then cancel because some of your group decide not to help. 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.

What's the Dress Code? 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, "short" shorts, sleeveless tops, flip flops/sandals are not permitted. Dinner Program participants will be required to wear a hairnet (covering ALL their hair or head), and gloves while preparing and serving the meal. All facial hair must be covered with a beard net.

Will we meet the families? You may get to meet some of our families, but many stay at the hospital, with their child, until late evening. Then they come home and look in the refrigerator for the meal you have made. **IMPORTANT NOTE: Some days are better than others at the Hospital, so some of our families may not want to be around people at the moment. However, they WILL come down late at night and heat up the food you've prepared and then tell us how amazing it was. They're extremely grateful. So don't be discouraged if not many of our families show up to eat while you're here.**

Behavior - We encourage this to be a fun and fulfilling time for your group, however groups who are loud and disruptive will be reminded that this is someone's home and bedrooms are located above the kitchen. We would strongly encourage you to hold meetings and social time once you have left the House.