

Home for Dinner Information Package



Food Programs Coordinator

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PROGRAM IMPACT

7,394

Meals
served

165

Home for Dinner
meals served by
97 groups

\$115,751.80

The cost of
groceries

*2023 Stats

Program Description

The Home for Dinner program is a volunteer opportunity for small groups of people (corporate, peer, or community groups) to prepare and serve a home cooked meal for the families at the Ronald McDonald House. This program provides compassionate support during what may be a very stressful time in their lives, and provides the tastes of home for families.

What is involved in the Home for Dinner Experience?

Home for Dinner volunteer groups have the opportunity to create a menu and prepare a home-cooked meal for the families at Ronald McDonald House. Group members will be invited to bring skills and strengths in the areas of menu planning, grocery shopping, cooking and kitchen clean up. In the week before your scheduled meal, a representative from your group will visit the House for a Home for Dinner orientation meeting, to help your group leader feel comfortable in the House, and orientate themselves with the kitchen facility. While House occupancy fluctuates, we invite groups to prepare for ~80/90 people, as any leftovers will be plated for families arriving late, or frozen for families who prefer to take their meals to-go. All cooking utensils and supplies, including aprons will be provided for your group to use.

What are the benefits to our group?

Home for Dinner volunteers enjoy an opportunity to connect while providing community outreach to families of sick children. Groups will be offered a tour of the House to get a good sense of how families are accommodated, and what supports are offered during their time at the House. Groups will be encouraged to engage with the families being served and learn more about their journeys. After the meal has been prepared and families have been served, the volunteer group is invited to dine together or sit with guest families.

Keep in mind that family schedules are hectic, and the 5:30 meal time may not work for everyone. Be assured that all leftovers will be shared with those families who are unable to attend and that they truly appreciate your efforts.

Catering Meals

Groups who are unable to prepare the meals on-site may opt to cater a meal for the House, which staff or the volunteer group may serve, reducing the time required for volunteer groups to be on-site.

Dinner Preparation

Home for Dinner volunteer groups will be hosted by RMHC-SK staff and volunteer teams, to ensure the team is supported and the meal is prepared in accordance with health and safety standards. The staff act as a liaison between the volunteer group and the families. RMHC-SK has well-equipped kitchens and large commercial fridges and freezers. During the summer months, an outdoor gas BBQ is also available.

ALL food must be prepared on site as per Food Safe guidelines.

When is the Home for Dinner program offered?

Home for Dinner is offered on the days of highest occupancy - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Time & Involvement

Home for Dinner groups are typically on-site from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for food preparation, service and clean-up. Financial investment varies by menu, generally \$200-\$500. Although the number of people staying in the House can change daily, we typically serve supper for ~80 individuals (plus your team).

Scheduling

If the Home for Dinner program appeals to your group, reach out to staff or apply through the rmh.sk.ca website. Once your preferred date is confirmed, the Food Programs team will schedule an orientation for the group leader, and welcome your team on the scheduled dinner date. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!



Meal Service

RMHC-SK takes the health and safety of prepared meals seriously, and Home for Dinner groups are expected to consider the many sensitivities and diverse needs the families have.

Important notes for your team to be aware of;

Staff will have access to the food sensitivities that families have shared. During the Home for Dinner, families may confirm allergies with the volunteer group.

- Please sanitize your hands upon arrival.
- Ensure the team is washing their hands thoroughly throughout food preparation. Glove use is optional, and can be requested through the Home for Dinner host.
- The Home for Dinner Host will assist in monitoring the following temperatures of foods as they are being served.
- Frozen foods should be kept frozen, and may be dropped off at RMHC-SK 24 hours before your event to safely thaw.
- No alcohol may be brought to the House, including the use of it as an ingredient in food preparation.
- We are unable to serve unpasteurized fruit, milk, and eggs.



Group Experiences



"Participating in the Home for Dinner program was a wonderful experience for our group. It was a fantastic team building exercise. We felt welcomed and appreciated. The team at RMHC were so incredibly helpful that we were able to just enjoy preparing the meal and interacting with the people staying at the house."



"Truly one of the greatest experiences that you can do. the smiles and happiness on the families face knowing they will get a good healthy meal and able to focus and spend more time with their family is such a heart warming feeling.... we plan to do this every 6 months. it gives our team such an amazing opportunity to bond while helping others. that's a WIN - WIN in my books."

"Of the many volunteering experiences I've had, participating in the RMHC-SK Home for Dinner program was easily one of the most rewarding. In their fully-stocked, warm and inviting kitchen, our crew was able to prepare and serve a freshly cooked meal for families in need. Despite the overwhelm and stress of their day, it was clear that having easy access to healthy home-cooked food was both a relief and a gift. The gratitude on their faces said more than enough."



"Humbling. Seeing what the parents of sick children go through is tough. We want to try to help the parents be with their children and families. We hope that with a good meal they don't have to think about, lets them concentrate on what is important".





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