

Ronald McDonald House near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital

Our History

For many years, staff and supporters of Advocate Hope Children's Hospital have been working towards building a "guest house" for the parents of critically ill children being treated there.

In early 2005, Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC®-CNI) learned about the need for housing for these parents and agreed to partner with Hope and its supporters to build a Ronald McDonald House near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital.

Through an agreement between RMHC-CNI and Oak Lawn Community High School District 229, the site of RMH® near Hope is located at the corner of 93rd Street and Kostner Avenue, directly across the street from the hospital.

The House has sixteen bedrooms with private baths. Our families also have access to welcoming common spaces that provide the feeling of home: a play room, game room, large kitchen, several living areas, library, and even outdoor patios to enjoy.

Our ribbon cutting ceremony was December 15, 2008 and we have been welcoming families ever since.



What else can we do to help the Ronald McDonald House?

We appreciate your interest in our Ronald McDonald House. Volunteers are the backbone of our charity and critical to our success in serving the children and families who need us.

Cooking a dinner is only one of the many ways that you can get involved at the Ronald McDonald House near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. For a current look at our "Wish List", please view our website at rmhccni.org for suggested items or call the House and ask for a current copy.

Another easy way to help is to save your **pop tabs** and drop them off at the House. For more volunteer opportunities, please call the House at 708-423-5285.

Our Mission

Ronald McDonald House near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital provides a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at area hospitals.



Serve a Home-Cooked Meal for the Families at the Ronald McDonald House® near Advocate Hope Children's Hospital



What makes “Meals from the Heart” a special program?

Thanks for your interest in our “Meals from the Heart” program at Ronald McDonald House near Advocate Hope Children’s Hospital. The families that stay with us often return to the House after a long day at the hospital and cooking a warm meal for themselves may be the last thing on their minds. Giving these families the chance to sit down to a home cooked meal is just another way to make Ronald McDonald House truly a “home-away-from-home” for families who need it the most.



How many people should we plan on cooking for?

Plan to cook for approximately 35-40 people plus your group. Our House has 16 guest rooms of various capacities. Once you have a date scheduled, you will be contacted a few weeks prior with a better estimate of how many people are staying at the House.

Will everyone show up at once to eat?

Please be aware that not all families show up at once to eat. Experience has shown that perhaps 2-3 families appear at the start, with others trickling in as the evening progresses. Although you may be putting leftovers in the refrigerator when you clean up, families usually pick at them throughout the evening and into the night. The leftovers rarely survive lunch the next day!

Who can sign up to prepare a “Meals from the Heart” meal?

This is a great service project for your work place, church, family, or a group of friends. Approximately 6-10 participants in the kitchen are optimal. Although the kitchen has 3 cooking stations, any more than 10 makes for a tight quarters. In order to protect children at the House who may be immune suppressed, we ask that everyone participating is healthy at the time of service.

Who cleans up?

We ask that you wrap up the food and put it away, clean up the kitchen, and empty the trash before you leave.

Where do we prepare the meal?

You can cook the meal right in the House. The kitchens are equipped with pots, bake ware, and cooking utensils. We also have a grill outside. You are welcome to bring any extra things you think you may need to cook. While cooking inside the House is recommended, we still welcome outside donations from local restaurants.

What should we cook?

Don’t be afraid to be creative! Just like you, our families enjoy a change of pace. We do ask that no alcohol be brought to the House. Rachel will contact you a few weeks prior to your date to see what you are cooking, so we can post it for our guests and try to avoid duplicate meals. Some options that worked well in the past are:

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| *Sloppy Joe’s | *Pizza | *Casseroles |
| *Hamburgers | *Hot Dogs | *Sandwiches/Subs |
| *Turkey | *Italian Beef | *Sausage & Peppers |
| *Lasagna | *Soups | *Stews |
| *Salads | *Calzones | *Breakfast for dinner |
| *Tacos | *Chili | |
| *Meatloaf | *Chicken | |

If you would like to prepare & serve a meal for the families at RMH near Hope, please contact:

Rachel Gunderson
Operations Manager– RMH near Hope
rgunderson@rmhccni.org
Phone: 708-423-5285

