

Volunteer Cooking at Ronald McDonald House

What time do families in the House eat dinner?

We generally try and have dinners ready for our families for around 6.30pm.

What time do volunteer cooking teams need to be at the house?

It doesn't matter what time teams come into the House to cook for the evening, we just ask that they allow enough time to have dinner prepared for 6.30pm. This will depend on what volunteers choose to cook, but for most teams, arriving after work allows enough time.

How many people need to be a part of a volunteer cooking team?

Most of our teams bring as many people as they are comfortable with. For the majority of our cooking teams, 5-6 people are more than enough.

Who can make up a volunteer cooking team?

Anyone can make up a volunteer cooking team - you don't have to be a culinary master! Our cooking teams are made up of everyone from families, friends and social clubs, to community groups, church groups and colleagues.

How many people are volunteer cooking teams required to cook for?

The number of guests in the House each night can vary hugely, but generally sits between 15-25 people. The final numbers are confirmed with cooking teams on the morning.

What facilities does the House have for cooking?

The House has a large, well-stocked kitchen, complete with ovens, microwaves and hot plates. Volunteer cooking teams do not need to bring any tools or cooking utensils with them when they come and cook in the House. We do have a dishwasher for general dishes, but larger items will need to be washed by hand.

Are volunteer cooking teams required to provide all of the food for each meal?

The House has a well-stocked pantry, and can generally provide some of the basics for each meal. We do request the cooking teams to provide all fresh produce, meat or extras, however.

How frequently do volunteer cooking teams cook in the House?

Cooking teams cook as frequently as they are happy doing so. For some groups, cooking is a one-off thing - for others, cooking can be rostered on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Is there any parking available at the House?

There are plenty of off-street parking spaces available for our volunteer cooking teams, especially from 5pm onwards.

Please note:

First time volunteer cooking teams are welcome to visit the House prior to coming in to cook, in order to familiarise themselves with our facilities.

We currently have quite a full roster of volunteer cooking teams, and therefore require plenty of notice in order to be able to accommodate groups into suitable time allotments.

For any further information, please contact Brent Taylor at Ronald McDonald House on 04 389 5505 or brentt@rmhw.org.nz