



HOME COOK HEROES | Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Home Cook Heroes Program?

The Home Cook Heroes (HCH) Program is an integral part of making Gift of Life Howie's House a comfortable and relaxing place for our families. It is our volunteer-sponsored meal program that allows us to guarantee our guests a home-cooked meal each night.

How can I provide a meal?

Meal sign-ups can be honored in five ways.

1. **On-Site Meal Preparation:** Your group prepares the meal in Howie's House's kitchen. Our kitchen is equipped with four stoves, four ovens, and four microwaves. Kitchen tools are also provided for meal preparation.
2. **Meal Drop-Off:** Your group prepares the meal off-site and brings the meal to Howie's House for our staff to serve to guests.
3. **Arranged Catering Order:** Your group organizes a catering order from your restaurant of choice to be delivered at Howie's House.
4. **Wish List Drive:** Your group organizes a collection of the items we need the most at Howie's House. Our current Wish List is linked [here](#).
5. **Monetary or Gift Card Donation:** Your group provides a monetary or gift card donation to cover the cost of a meal. We generally ask for donations of \$250 for this option. Monetary donations can be submitted [online](#) or mailed to the following address.

Gift of Life Howie's House
Attn: Genevieve Moore
401 Callowhill Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Gift cards can be electronically sent to gmoore@giftoflifehowieshouse.org or mailed to the aforementioned address.

What meals are available for sign-up?

Baking and dinner sign-ups are offered daily. Brunch sign-ups are offered on Saturday and Sunday mornings only.

How do I sign up to provide a meal?

Complete our [HCH Volunteer Sign-Up Form](#) to reserve a date and meal. Our HCH Program Calendar, linked [here](#), shows a monthly view of our availability. Any date that does not mention a dinner, baking, or brunch group is available for sign-up.

How many people should I order/ prepare food for?

Currently, we serve an average of 40-45 guests each night. After reserving a date, the group's leader will be given an updated headcount 3 to 5 days before your reserved date.

Is my group responsible for purchasing the food to prepare?

Yes. When participating in the Home Cook Heroes Program, your group is responsible for purchasing the food you plan to prepare.

What should I expect when preparing a meal on-site?

A Howie's House staff member or volunteer will assist you with anything you may need while on-site. Once meal preparation is complete, we will move the food to a server where a staff member will serve the guests. Your group is welcome to stay during the meal service and partake in the meal.

On-Site Meal Preparation

Participant Requirements

- Maximum of 10 fully vaccinated participants
 - Staff will check vaccination cards against a photo ID at arrival
- Participants under the age of 18 are welcome to participate in this opportunity with one adult chaperone per three children. For example, if five children are participating, two adults must be present.
- Temperatures will be taken upon arrival
- Masks are required throughout the meal preparation

Timeline

- Baking
 - For on-site preparations from Monday to Friday, groups can start any time between 8 am-12 pm and must bake and clean up within 3 hours.
 - For on-site preparations on Saturday and Sunday, groups begin promptly at 12:30 pm and must clean up by 3 pm.
- Dinner
 - Groups are welcome to arrive as early as 4 pm. Dinner is served by staff promptly at 6 pm.
- Brunch (Saturday and Sunday only)
 - Groups are welcome to arrive as early as 8 am. Brunch is served by staff promptly at 10 am.

Meal Drop-Off

Participant Requirements

- Groups of any size, age, and vaccination status are welcome to participate in this opportunity
- If someone has displayed signs of illness within the last 14 days, they may not participate in cooking or handling any of the ingredients.

Timeline

- Baking
 - Drop-offs are accepted between 9 am and 9 pm.
- Dinner
 - Drop-offs are accepted between 9 am and 5 pm. Dinner is served by staff promptly at 6 pm. Therefore, if your food needs to be reheated, please allow ample time for our staff to do so.
- Brunch (Saturdays and Sundays only)
 - Drop-offs are accepted between 8 am and 9 am. Brunch is served by staff promptly at 10 am. Therefore, if your food needs to be reheated, please allow ample time for our staff to do so.

Arranging a Catering Order

Timeline

- Baking
 - Catering orders are accepted between 9 am and 9 pm.
- Dinner
 - Catering orders are accepted between 9 am and 5 pm.
- Brunch (Saturdays and Sundays only)
 - Catering orders are accepted between 8 am and 9 am.

Recommended Caterers: Below are some caterers and restaurants that we have previously worked with. This is not an exclusive list. We will gladly accept a meal from a caterer or restaurant that is not listed below.

- Dinner
 - [12th Street Catering](#)
 - [Boston Market](#)
 - [D'Oliva Pizza](#)
 - [Delightful Dinners by Dawn](#)
 - [Di Bruno Bros.](#)
 - [Maggiano's Little Italy](#)
 - [Miles Table](#)
 - [Panera Bread](#)
 - [Rustica](#)
 - [Whole Foods Market](#)
- Brunch (Saturdays and Sundays only)
 - [12th Street Catering](#)
 - [Di Bruno Bros.](#)
 - [Miles Table](#)
 - [Panera Bread](#)
 - [Whole Foods Market](#)

Menu Suggestions

- Beef Stew and Biscuits
- Breakfast for Dinner
- Chili and Cornbread
- Ham Dinner
- Hoagies/ Subs with Chips and Potato Salad
- Hot Dogs and Hamburgers with Salads
- Meatball Sandwiches
- Pasta with Garlic Bread
- Pork Roast with Potatoes and Vegetables
- Pulled Pork Sandwiches with Coleslaw
- Sausage and Peppers
- Shepherd's Pie
- Sloppy Joes
- Soup and Sandwiches
- Stir Fry
- Taco and Nacho Bar
- Turkey Dinner
- Vegetable and Meat Lasagnas

If you have any further questions, please contact Jolene Fulmore, Resident Manager, by email at jfulmore@giftoflifehowieshouse.org or by phone at (267) 443-3329.