

RMHC Atlantic – Home For Dinner Program

UPDATE: January 2020

Ronald McDonald House Charities Atlantic wanted to touch base with our incredible partners such as yourself! With a new year upon us, we are reconnecting to share the good news of our plans to reinstate our Home for Dinner program. As you know, this program is greatly appreciated by the families we serve. While 2020 proved to be a challenging year for everyone, we know first-hand the strength our families continue to show through it all. During the past nine months our staff had to shift gears and find new ways to support families of sick children. We provided health kits to families staying at the IWK, introduced a To-Go Snack Program delivered out of our Halifax and Moncton Family Rooms, and started a revamped staff run meal program. The hurdles were great but our incredible team rose to the challenge to deliver these programs.

And today we are making plans to restart our volunteer Home for Dinner program out of the Ronald McDonald House on Tower Road. We are looking to you for your kind support of this program. While COVID19 is still present in our community, we have taken great safety measures to protect our families, staff, volunteers and donors. With increased cleaning/sanitizing of our facilities, daily wellness checks, social distancing measures, masks and following the recommendations of public health, we feel positive to be able to begin offering this program again. We are wanting to introduce volunteer prepared meals at the House 2-3 days per week. The program will run very similar to the way you remember it with a few changes.

Updated Home for Dinner guidelines:

- Prepare individually packaged meals for 30 people
- Maximum 4 Home for Dinner volunteers allowed in our facility at a time
- Health Check screening upon entry of the facility before each meal
- COVID19 waiver is required to be signed by all participants
- Kitchen is blocked off so no other staff or families can access the space during cooking time
- Cooking prep time of 1:30 – 3:30pm
- Individually packaged meals left at RMHCA for families and the remainder of meals delivered (by your team) to the Halifax Family Room in the IWK. Our essential volunteers and staff will meet you at the IWK Pavilion entrance to accept the meals and serve families starting at 4pm.
- Meals provided on Monday and Thursday's weekly

So while these new guidelines look a little different, we know you can appreciate the measures we've taken to help keep all members of our community safe. We hope you and your team are able to consider this ask. Attached is an updated Information Package detailing the program requirements and safety protocols. If you have any questions and would like to discuss a meal booking request, please reach out to me at your convenience (my coordinates are listed below). Ronald McDonald House is so grateful for the assistance in furthering our mission of helping Maritime families in need. I look forward to hearing from you.