

Meal Sponsorship Information

Thank you for your interest in sponsoring a meal for the families staying at Hawaii's Ronald McDonald Houses! We are a community supported "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children who must travel to Oahu to receive care. The families who stay at the House come to us from the neighbor islands, Pacific Islands or other areas. The families staying with us are often under a great deal of stress and appreciate a home-cooked, nourishing meal prepared by caring individuals and group volunteers in the community.

Scheduling a Meal and Date

As part of your service to the House, please plan for time to prepare the meal (as needed), set out the food for the guests, and clean up. Our small staff truly appreciates your help.

Breakfast times vary; please check with the Volunteer Services Department for more information. Lunch is served at 12:30 pm and Dinner at 5:30 pm.

Please schedule your meal (breakfast, lunch or dinner) and date (meals can be provided daily) at least two weeks in advance with the Volunteer Services Department. It's best to schedule a meal and date with us well in advance; we recommend that volunteers provide an alternate date in the event that the first choice has already been reserved by another group. We guarantee that families will have dinner every Sunday and most holidays, and appreciate when volunteers are available to help with providing these meals.

Meal Ideas and Dietary Restrictions

Meals can be made in your kitchen, made in our kitchen, or purchased/catered. Meals do not need to be elaborate. Simple ideas for meals: spaghetti, chili, lasagna, meatloaf, etc. A barbeque grill is available upon prior request. You can also create themes (e.g. Mexican taco/burrito bar or Chinese cuisine) as part of your meal.

As families with varying dietary restrictions could be staying with us, volunteers are not required to avoid certain food items. We ask for the menu one week in advance so we have enough time to post a flyer for the families; families plan accordingly once the menu is provided.

Meal Procedures: Volunteer Forms, Guidelines and Safety Precautions

Staff will provide volunteers with an orientation and house tour upon arrival. Volunteers are required to sign a waiver/release form for liability purposes; we have forms available on site. Volunteers under the age of 18 will need waiver/release forms signed in advance by their parent or legal guardian. Volunteers without a form are not allowed to volunteer.

Volunteer groups should not exceed 15 people. While children are allowed to volunteer, a parent/guardian must accompany and supervise those under the age of 12 at all times. We ask that volunteers please respect our families' space; all volunteers should refrain from the children's playrooms (indoor and outdoor) and the living room area. While families may be home, we ask that volunteers respect their privacy and only communicate with them if the family initiates communication. Families may be resting when the meal is being prepared and/or served; we ask that volunteers please keep noise levels to a minimum to help us maintain a quiet and relaxed refuge for our families.

Please make sure your hands, utensils and cooking areas are clean. Many of our guests are medically fragile; please do not prepare food and/or visit/volunteer at the House if you are feeling even slightly ill. Our staff reserves the right to excuse those we feel could put our families at risk.

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Meal Procedures: Information to Provide to the Volunteer Services Department

Please provide the information below by 5pm one week ahead of your scheduled date:

Point of Contact's Name and Phone Number	
Number of Volunteers	
Number of Volunteers under 18	
Waiver/Release forms: Will volunteers turn their forms in ahead of time or when they arrive?	
Estimated Arrival Time: No earlier than 10:30 am, unless otherwise notified	
Estimated Departure Time	
Meal Menu: We post a flyer with this information for the families	
Name of Group: We include this on the flyer we post for the families	
Would You Like Our Staff to Cook Rice?	
Would You Like to Use our BBQ Grill?	

The Kitchen

You may prepare your meal using our large communal kitchen. It is equipped with two stoves/ovens, an island in the middle of the kitchen, serving utensils, pots and pans, etc. Please make room for families who may need to share the kitchen while your group is here. We have also have a big rice cooker. To alleviate cost, Ronald McDonald House will provide soft drinks, paper goods (plates, napkins, and utensils), and rice (upon request).

How Many People We Serve and Other Guidelines, Information About the Families

Our two houses can accommodate up to 17 families; one house is located on Judd Hillside and the other is located on Oahu Avenue. Please plan on serving between 35-40 people. If your party is planning to eat with the families, be sure to prepare additional food for the number in your party. If your time allows, we encourage you and your group to eat and spend time with any families who may be home. The families' priority is to be at their seriously ill children's bedside, and we cannot guarantee how many people will attend your scheduled meal. Be assured, however, that the families appreciate your food, and it will be eaten at a later hour. We suggest bringing a disposable container for leftovers as a large refrigerator is available for storage. This will allow family members who stay late with their child at the hospital to eat at their convenience. If possible, we also suggest bringing containers to transport food over to the Oahu Avenue house.

Our families come from a variety of religious backgrounds. We do not allow any religious preaching or teaching in an effort to make sure no one feels uncomfortable. In the instance that it does occur, we hope you understand that your group will be asked to leave.

Location and Parking

Ronald McDonald House is located at 1970 Judd Hillside Road in the Manoa area. Driving directions and street parking instructions will be emailed to you once you confirm a meal and date. Please do not park on Judd Hillside Road it is a private road, and your vehicle may be towed. Please feel free to drop off any supplies and volunteers at the Judd Hillside house before finding street parking.

Thank you again for supporting the families of the Ronald McDonald House!
If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Services Department at 973-5683 ext. 241 or the House Operations Manager at ext. 224.