



Baking Cookies at RMHC

Provide Home-Baked Goodies for Our Families

Thank you for your interest in baking cookies for the families of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Charleston! The baking cookies program is great for families, groups, co-workers, classmates, church members, and clubs. This program is also an excellent opportunity for some of our younger volunteers to get involved. We strive to provide the comfort of home for our families, and we just couldn't do it without amazing families and groups like yours.

This program provides a home-like environment and comfort to families who are supporting their sick children and will not have the ability or energy to bake otherwise. The following guidelines will help you plan a successful experience baking cookies at our "home away from home" for families of critically ill children. Please share this information with all members of your group. Our families appreciate coming back from a long day at the hospital to the aroma of great ready-to-eat cookies!

We have 32 guest rooms at the Ronald McDonald House and house an average of 60 people per night. We are able to serve the families of up to 12 transplant patients at once. Because these patients are immune-suppressed, we all need to take extra precautions in food handling.

Ronald McDonald Charities Global requires us to serve baked goods that are prepared in our kitchen only. Baked goods prepared in commercial cooking establishment, such as restaurants, catering services, or cafeterias, and then brought in or delivered are acceptable. However, baked goods purchased from these establishments must be delivered directly to the House.

The Ronald McDonald House has everything for baking cookies here in our kitchen! The House has all the bowls, mixers, dishes, and baking sheets you will need to prepare and bake the cookies. However, we do recommend providing your own nonstick spray. You are welcome to bring groceries directly into the House to prepare dough or purchase premade dough from the grocery store.

We ask that your cookie group has no more than 5 members. Larger groups are encouraged to select additional dates. Chefs aged 3 and older are welcome to participate as long as they are actively participating in the cookie making process and heavily supervised.

The actual number of people you will see while baking cookies will vary greatly even when the House is full. This is due to a number of factors, none of which are predictable. Not all families are able to make it to the House in time for your cookies, so we do leave the cookies out for the night. Some families will prepare to-go plates for children in isolation or to take back over to the hospital. Rest assured that whether the cookies are eaten in the House when they come out of the oven, carried away, or warmed up later, they will be eaten and are very much appreciated!

Baking cookies at the House is offered Saturdays and Sundays from 1-3 PM. If you are interested in baking cookies during the week, please contact Kimberly Lemasters at the House for scheduling. The meal calendar and baking cookie requests can be found on a website at www.rmhcharleston.org/prepare-a-meal-request. To help our groups, the USDA Cooking for Groups Guide can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/pdf/cookingforgroups.pdf. The guide is packed with useful information regarding food preparation.

Please contact Kimberly Lemasters at the Ronald McDonald House with any additional questions. She will be at the House Monday through Friday and can be reached at 843-723-7957 ext. 305 or via email at Kim@RMHCharleston.org.

Thank you for preparing and baking cookies for our families, and thank you for being part of *The House That Love Built!*

