



What Is A Host Congregation?

Host Congregations provide lodging, meals, and caring hospitality for homeless families in our community. Hosting families allows congregations to reach out by providing families who have lost their homes with safe, secure lodging and a sense of community. Hosting also gives volunteers the opportunity to provide hands-on outreach in their own congregational facility. The following are the basic elements needed to be a Host Congregation:

- Designated space to host up to 4 families (14 individuals) for a week at a time, 3-4 times a year. Since a host congregation is providing hospitality to families for the week, the guest areas should remain set-up and secure all week. Congregations host families from 5:00pm to 7:00am Monday through Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. The Day Center and Network Van are available for congregations to use while hosting on weekends.
- Sleeping Accommodations should be as homelike as possible. Ideally, each family (4) will have a private sleeping area, probably in a separate religious education classroom. Alternatively, if one large room must be used for a sleeping area, partitions will be needed to provide privacy for each family.
- Living Area/Hospitality Room separated into an adult lounge (with sofa, chairs, tables, and a TV) and a children's activity area.
- Two bathrooms: one for women & one for men that includes a baby changing station (The day center provides showers).
- Kitchen, dining area, refrigerator, food staples and necessary clean up items for meal preparation (dinners may be cooked at the congregation or brought in and heated).
- Designated Smoking Area located at least 20 feet away from any building entrance.
- Space for Over Night Hosts to sleep (any available space at the congregation can be used, e.g. offices, hallway, etc.).

- The congregation provides all meals (nutritious cooked dinners, simple breakfasts and supplies for sack lunches), utilities, access to a phone, linens and various basic items such as toys, soap, etc. (see attached Host Supply List). The network supplies the beds.
- Volunteers: A congregation should always have at least 2 volunteers present and generally not more than 6 at a time. Volunteers can come from other congregations and organizations; all volunteers complete training and orientation before they begin serving.
- The congregation provides a person(s) to serve as the Primary Coordinator to recruit needed volunteers for the host week, attend scheduled meetings and act as the main contact for the congregation.
- The Host Congregation also commits to:
 - ✓ Make a minimum one year commitment in writing.
 - ✓ Publicize and promote the Family Promise Program within the congregation.
 - ✓ Promote and support fundraising events.
 - ✓ Consider budgeting annual contributions to support our mission.

To become a Host Congregation contact our Network Director at 678-376-8950 or familypromise@bellsouth.net.