

# What is Room in the Inn?

**Mission:** To provide programs that emphasize human development and recovery through education, self-help and work, centered in community and long-term supports for those who call the streets of Nashville home.

**Core Values:** Through the power of spirituality and the practice of love, we provide hospitality with a respect that offers hope in a community of non-violence.

**History:** Room in the Inn (RITI) was started by Fr. Charles Strobel who invited a few people into his church building for the night when they had no other place to go. In December 1986, four congregations began to shelter homeless people through March 1987. By the end of that year, 31 congregations had joined. Today, 100s of congregations in Middle Tennessee and over 7,000 volunteers shelter more than 2000 men and women from November 1 through March 31 each year.

In 2010, Room in the Inn opened a new campus located on Drexel Street. The 45,000 square foot campus operates 365 days a year offering emergency services, transitional programs, and long-term solutions to help people rebuild their lives.

**FUUN** has been a part of RITI since 1996. We host 8 male guests the first and third Fridays of each month starting in November and ending in March. The churches around Nashville involved in this program provide an evening of food and lodging every night for 5 of the coldest months of the year.

Room in the Inn takes place in the Morgan House on the FUUN church campus.

Our commitment on the first and third Fridays takes at least 15 committed volunteers each time we host. The breakdown goes something like this:

- 1-2 volunteers to set-up from 4pm - 6pm;
- 3-5 volunteers to make food\* at your home and bring to the church between 430 pm and 530 pm on Friday evening;
- 2 volunteers to pick the men up at RITI at 6 pm on Friday and bring them to the church;
- 2 volunteers to host the dinner from 6 pm to 10 pm;
- 2 volunteers to spend the night from 10 pm to 4 am;
- 2 volunteers to arrive at 4 am to finish preparing the breakfast and clean-up from the evening prior;
- 2 volunteers to drive the men back to the RITI at 6 am on Saturday morning;
- 1 volunteer to wash the bedsheets and towels used.

\*The food dishes that need to be prepared consist of: Entree and vegetable (1 volunteer); Breakfast casserole (1 volunteer; recipe is provided, however, you are welcome to substitute another hearty breakfast type casserole, such as a Quiche); Dessert (1 volunteer); Bread and drinks (1 volunteer) and Sack lunches for the next day (1 volunteer).

We ask that food volunteers plan to feed 12-13 hungry people; the evening hosts join the guests and eat dinner with them.

Entrees and vegetable ideas - we ask for no pork (there are a number of the guests that do not eat pork for a variety of reasons). The men get lots of chili, so we ask that no one make chili. They love stews, Lasagna, baked chicken, fried chicken! The men who have been to our church before usually remember us because our "food is awesome!". The mini-meatloafs made by one church member are a favorite!

The men are not really big on "fancy" spices; however, well-seasoned green beans or mixed vegetables are favorites. We generally also stock some additional frozen vegetables, just in case. The men love BREAD and ROLLS, especially the Hawaiian rolls.

Page four of the attached Orientation information includes information on what might be included in the sack lunches that they receive as they leave on Saturday mornings. Please make sure that the items included don't require silverware or be refrigerated. These lunches get them through the day till the following evening when they go to a different church for dinner and the night.

**The breakfast casserole recipe that may be used is as follows:**

6 slices of bread, cubed;  
1 pound of cheddar cheese, grated;  
1.5 pounds of sausage, browned and crumbled;  
8 eggs  
2 tsp. Salt  
2 tsp. Pepper  
2 tsp. Dry mustard  
4 cups of milk

Place cubed bread in greased 9X13 pan. Add sausage and sprinkle with cheese. Beat eggs, add salt, dry mustard, pepper and milk. Pour over top of bread, sausage and cheese. **Please bake uncovered for 1 hour in 250 degree oven before bringing to**

**church. The following morning it will be cooked for an additional hour at 250 before serving.**

For a quick run through of the different tasks at the church; please watch the orientation video and read through these explanations:

**AM and PM drivers (2 volunteers for AM and PM)**

- **The PM drivers may meet at the church and follow each other over to Drexel Ave. to pick up the guests;**
- If the drivers prefer to meet at Drexel Ave. and not follow each other over to Drexel then please make sure each driver knows who is driving that evening and keep in touch by cell phone. Each car should be able to handle 4 men and some small luggage;
- **Please MAKE SURE TO ASK FOR BLANKETS FROM RITI;**
- The AM drivers should be at the church by 6 am that Saturday morning to drive the men back to RITI on Drexel;
- **Please MAKE SURE THE BLANKETS ARE RETURNED TO RITI.**

**Set-up 4 pm - 6 pm (1-2 volunteers; If person is familiar with set-up it can be done by 1 person):**

- Enter the Morgan House through the door of lower parking lot using the Key Code that will be provided;
- Set the thermostat to 70 degrees and hit "hold";
- Other volunteers will be bringing food to the Morgan House between 430 - 530 pm; please prop the front door open so they can enter and drop off their food. To keep the entree warm set the oven temp to 250 degrees.
- The beds used are kept in the middle storage room on the 2nd floor; 4 beds go in each of the classrooms at either end of the 2nd floor; place beds with enough room apart so men can walk around in the room. The configuration is usually 3 beds vertically on the outside walls of building with one bed horizontal against the inside wall.
- There are fitted and flat single sheets for each bed; a pillow and pillow case to make up the beds;
- Place a towel and wash cloth at the end of each bed after made up. The men will bring blankets with them from RITI;
- Place a shower caddy with toiletries (should already be filled) in each bathroom. If extra things are needed please get from the shoe caddy behind the door which is stocked with items such as shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, razors, etc.
- If additional toilet paper is needed, please put out a second roll.

- Make coffee and have hot water for tea ready. Coffee/tea are located in the cabinet to the left of the refrigerator, along with sugar packets etc. Place the coffee makers with coffee and hot water in the living room with couches along with sugar, teas, etc. We use coffee mugs located in the cabinet to the right of the stove/oven.
- Set up 2 long tables in the other living room to make one large square table and put 10 chairs around the table. There will be cloth tablecloths to cover the table with upstairs in the supply room. They will be either rust or black in color.
- Place salt, pepper, hot sauce, ketchup etc. on the table. Please put the silverware on the table as well and paper napkins. Plates will be at the start of the buffet line.

#### **Evening Hosts 6 pm - 10 pm (2 volunteers):**

- The men usually arrive between 615 pm and 645 pm. Want to make sure that dinner is ready. They like to eat almost as soon as they arrive. A few men will shower first.
- Have the food set out buffet style on the island in the kitchen. The men will enter from the living room with couches and take a plate and go through the buffet line and then go to living room to eat.
- Please put out drinks for the men.....we have a variety of choices.
- Eat with the men. Then clean up after the meal. Sometimes the men will offer to wash dishes.
- Hang out with the men, talk, watch DVDs with them. Many will just shower and go to bed.
- **Laundry - WE NOW HAVE A WASHER and DRYER located in the Morgan House. The men can place the clothes they need in the numbered mesh bags in a laundry basket and the host can drive the clothes over to the Norris House. The washer/dryer is in the downstairs (Orange building). Use the physical key located in the RITI book to get in the house from Norris house parking lot. Detergent is located in the Norris house. The overnight volunteers may need to finish the laundry once they have arrived.**

#### **Overnight hosts 10 pm - 4 am (2 volunteers):**

- Overnight hosts may need to finish the laundry started by Evening hosts.
- One person will stay awake while the other can sleep. Please bring sleeping bag or pallet to lay down on. Can lay down in the front living room.
- Take the casserole out of the refrigerator at 345 am and turn on the oven to 250 degrees.

#### **Morning hosts 4 am - 7 am (2 volunteers):**

- Begin heating the casserole and start coffee.
- Serve breakfast around 5 am; use paper plates and disposable coffee cups.
- Clean up after breakfast; give men the sack lunches to take with them.
- Make sure the men have the blankets to return to RITI.
- Strip beds and place linens and towels in the clothes basket. Take beds back to the storage room and place on the wooden platform.
- Put the toiletry caddies back on the shelf in storage rooms.
- Put the thermostat back to “run schedule”.