

TYPICAL HOST WEEK

During the week there are approximately 35-50 slots for volunteers. Some congregations have a different member for each slot; others have volunteers take on multiple roles. Volunteers come from the host and support congregations and are assigned duties by the *Host Coordinators*—members of the host congregation who oversee the week.

Note:

On the Thursday prior to the host week, the Family Promise office will e-mail details of the planned families for the host week. Details will include names, gender, and ages of each family member, by family. Although this list can change, this provisional list is used by the Host Coordinator for organizing sleeping quarters, and meal planning for the host week. A list of cold breakfast and lunch supplies, for the week, will be sent by the staff on Thursday as well.

Sunday:

▶ *Beds are delivered to the new hosting congregation by the previous host congregation. In some cases, the host congregation has their own set of blow-up beds. Staff will advise of any changes to this plan.*

▶ *Sleeping quarters are arranged utilizing blow-up mattresses. Beds and pumps are supplied in two large Family Promise rolling bags. Each family will have a separate space. The congregation will provide sheets blankets and pillows and make up the beds prior to the families arriving Sunday evening.*

▶ *Guest families arrive at the Host congregation Sunday evening between 5:30pm and 6pm. The rooms for the families and the common area have been set up prior to the arrival. Families are shown to their rooms. After placing their belongings, most congregation will have a brief introduction meeting to introduce the volunteers at the location, and to orient families regarding use of the space, off-limit areas, and the general plan for the week.*



Each night of hosting:



▶ *Families settle in, relax and meet the coordinators and the evening volunteers. At 6:00 PM dinner is served family style. Guests and volunteers share the meal together. Families are responsible for their children and may help with clean up and chores.*

▶ *After dinner, volunteers will normally fellowship with families. Hosts and their families play games, help with homework, watch videos, or just talk. This can be an opportunity for more volunteers to be involved.*

▶ *Adults turn in around 9:00 PM; children at appropriate earlier bedtimes. Wake up is around 5:00am for a 5:30 am van pick up M-F, and 7 am on Sat/Sun. 1-2 Volunteers will spend the night at the congregation as overnight chaperones.*

During the day (Families are not at the congregation):



▶ Supplies for cold breakfasts and lunches, for the week, will normally be sent to the Family Promise day center on the Van Monday morning, supplied by the congregation.

▶ The Driver takes guests to the Day Center. From there, children will go to school and the parents to their jobs. In the afternoon the reverse is done.

▶ If the parents do not have a job, they work with the Staff at the Day Center to seek employment, housing, and other resources to help them regain their independence. The Day Center has bathrooms with showers and other necessities to prepare for the day.

▶ Everyone returns to the Host Congregation around 5:30 PM and the cycle repeats.

Saturday:

▶ On Saturday the congregation has the option to keep the families later so they can sleep in and enjoy a hot breakfast. Optionally, families go back to the Day Center at 7:00a.m., or another pre-arranged time, and prepare their own breakfasts, do what families typically do on weekends, and see friends and relatives, take children to activities, etc.



The next Sunday:



▶ On Sunday the families are packed up and out of the facilities prior to Sunday services. They are taken to the Day Center for the day until it is time to move on to the next congregation. ...and the next host congregation begins its week. Traditionally, additional congregational members are involved in doing laundry at their respective homes and returning the cleaned and folded sheets in the pillowcase to the congregation in preparation for the new hosting week.