

Guidelines for Food Donations

Thank you for your interest in donating food or hot meals to the children and their families staying at The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. Because The Children's Hospital is a regional facility, many of our patients come from other towns. This creates more stress for families who must also contend with staying at expensive hotel rooms and eating most of their meals at restaurants. The mission of The Children's Hospital Foundation is to welcome and foster charitable giving to The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis and to provide and care for the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of children and their families. We want to thank you for your generous spirit which allows us to make the mission a reality. Please read the following suggestions for a successful visit.

ITEMS FOR DONATION:

- 1) All prepackaged, commercially prepared and individually wrapped foods with a list of ingredients are acceptable, unless they are expired.
- 2) Examples of prepackaged and individually wrapped items are breakfast bars, oatmeal, wrapped muffins, soups, macaroni and cheese, microwavable meals, snack items, crackers, Crystal Light, popsicles, popcorn, and beef jerky.
- 3) We may not accept expired food donations.
- 4) Some kids or family members may have peanut allergies. Peanuts or mixed nuts should be individually wrapped packages that are clearly marked.
- 5) Foods prepared at home are not allowed due to the risk of infection.
- 6) Prepackaged, prepared frozen items such as lasagna, meatloaf, pastas, pies, cakes, vegetables or casseroles sold at the grocery stores in the frozen foods section are allowed if they can be put in the freezer for use by a family staying at the hospital.
- 7) We cannot take donations from the prepared food items available at a grocery store deli area.

MAKING YOUR VISIT:

- 1) A church or group may bring hot, prepared meals to a single patient or family from their church or parish being treated at the hospital.
- 2) Meals may be delivered to the family respite room and marked with the patient/family name they are intended for.
- 3) To serve all of our patients/families, vouchers or gift cards to restaurants are encouraged. These are nice because a family can order food when they feel hungry.

- 4) All community groups and special visitors bringing either individually wrapped items for the hospital or hot food to a family are screened and approved in advance by the Children's Hospital Foundation volunteers. Please call (918)502-6761 or email Foundation@saintfrancis.com to schedule a visit.
- 5) All visitors requesting to deliver or serve food to one of the patients or families must be 14 years or older to be allowed onto a floor. Children under 18 years old must be chaperoned by an adult.
- 6) Visitors bringing or serving food are limited to 10 people per visit. If more than 10 show up at the time of the visit, only 10 will be allowed in the respite room.
- 7) Your visit should not last over 90 minutes. Our patients tire more easily than non-hospitalized children and they need their rest.
- 8) If you will be staying to serve your donated food, please make sure you have plastic gloves and clean, new utensils in order to decrease the spread of germs which can cause infection.
- 9) Personal photos of patients may not be taken or distributed. This includes the use of cell phones and the internet.
- 10) In order to protect our patients from infection, we ask that visitors who have been exposed to contagious diseases (chicken pox, measles, mumps, German measles, hepatitis) or had any flu-like symptoms (vomiting, rash, fever, and diarrhea) within the past 4 weeks not visit the hospital.
- 11) Please remember to limit physical contact with our patients including hugging, shaking hands, kissing, or other displays of affection.
- 12) Religious literature and flyers may not be distributed in the hospital.
- 13) Parking is available on the north side of the hospital (signage will direct you to the Children's Hospital parking). Enter through the Children's Hospital entrance (underneath the purple awning) and sign in at the Information Desk. Ask the volunteers to page the Foundation Office or hospital volunteer you are meeting and someone will meet you there.
- 14) Hospitalized children's reactions differ from those of healthy children because of coping with the stress of illness and hospitalization. Expressions of appreciation or affection may be restrained. A child in the

hospital will usually not react to a performance/visit in the same way a child in, for example, a mall setting would react.

- 15) If interacting with children, approach them slowly and bend down to their level, allowing the patients to decide to what extent they wish to interact with you. If the child shows resistance to greeting you, please do not approach further.
- 16) Greet hospitalized children as you would other children. Comment on their clothes and eyes, and/or ask general questions about them or their interests. Some suggestions are: "I like your shirt!"; "What a nice smile!"; "How old are you?"; "What grade are you in?"; "What's your favorite subject in school?"; "What do you like to do?" and "What is your favorite t.v. show?"
- 17) Avoid questions related to illness and hospitalization such as: "What happened to you?"; "How long have you been here?"; "When are you going home?" Comments such as "Get well soon!" or "See you next time!" are also confusing and should not be used.
- 18) To protect the patient and family's right for privacy, we are unable to disclose information regarding the patient's reason for hospitalization. Please do not ask staff or volunteers why a child is in the hospital.
- 19) Please respect the confidentiality of our patients and their families, and do not discuss any information that you may have gained during your visit outside of the hospital via electronic or verbal communication.