

# MEAL DONATIONS

## ALBANY EMERGENCY SHELTER



Thank you for your interest in donating a meal for Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH). As we work to address the needs of the homeless and low-income community, partners like you help keep our programs and services strong.

## OVERVIEW

Opportunities to prepare meals include:

### MONDAY - FRIDAY

Lunch: Served at **12:00 p.m.**  
Dinner: Served at **5:30 p.m.**

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Brunch: Served at **12:00 p.m.**  
Dinner: Served at **5:30 p.m.**

*Meals are prepared for guests residing at our Albany Emergency Shelter (176 Sheridan Avenue, Albany)*

- **Plan to prepare a meal for 30 guests.**
- We ask that meals consist of a *main dish* and a *side dish*. Salad, bread, and/or dessert are recommended but not required.
- Beverages are available for the guests but we welcome drinks such as juice or soda.
- Not all guests will be present during the meal time, but will be looking for leftovers when they return. Please know that whether food is eaten during meal time, carried away, or warmed up later, it will be eaten, and is extremely appreciated.
- Please keep in mind the guests you will be serving are presently experiencing a crisis in their lives and it is important to be empathetic and to set a respectful mood during your visit.

*Meals may be prepared in your kitchen or ours.*

- If it is more convenient for you to prepare a meal in your kitchen and drop it off, that may be arranged.
- If it is more convenient for you to prepare a meal in our kitchen, you are more than welcome. Our kitchen is equipped with stove, two ovens, griddle, microwave and basic kitchen utensils.
- We ask that volunteers under the age of 16 are supervised and refrain from using sharp objects (knives, can opener, etc.)
- Plan to arrive at an appropriate time necessary to prepare the meal at the designated meal time.
- **Our kitchen works best with groups of up to 8 individuals.**
- Volunteers are not required to do dishes, but it is helpful.
- Volunteers should sweep floors and clean tables after the meal is complete.
- Because we go through cleaning supplies quickly, it's helpful if groups can bring a small container of dish soap and sponges or rags.
- We have a limited supply of spices and seasonings. It's best if groups bring their own.

*We want the experience to be best for both volunteers and guests.*

- For the safety of our guests and staff, all volunteers should be healthy: free from fever, cough or colds, or stomach virus symptoms.
- Be sure to have each member of the group wash their hands prior to cooking. Gloves must be worn while handling food during both preparation and serving times.
- Tours of our facilities may be given upon request, please ask the Volunteer Coordinator if you'd like to arrange one.

# MEAL SUGGESTIONS

Need help planning your menu?  
Your Volunteer Coordinator can help, just ask.

## MAIN DISHES

### *Dinners*

Spaghetti and meatballs  
Baked Ziti  
Meatloaf  
Sloppy Joes  
Taco bar  
Baked macaroni and cheese  
Chili  
Stew  
Hamburgers and hotdogs  
Lasagna  
Chicken fajitas  
Turkey dinner  
Pizza

### *Lunches*

Make-your-own sandwiches  
Grilled cheese  
Hot sandwiches/melts

### *Brunches*

Pancakes  
Egg sandwiches  
Bacon/sausage  
Fresh fruit  
French toast

## SIDE DISHES

Salad  
Fresh vegetables  
Baked potatoes  
Mashed potatoes  
Oven roasted potatoes  
Rice  
Egg noodles  
French fries  
Pasta salad  
Potato salad  
Potato chips  
Pita chips

## DESSERTS

Cookies  
Brownies  
Cupcakes  
Pudding  
Cake

## QUICK TIPS

- Plan a menu to feed 30 guests. If your group would like to eat with our guests, increase the headcount.
- It's best to arrive about 1.5 hours before the designated meal time. Depending on your menu and group size this time could differ.
- Parking is limited, it's best to carpool. Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the Albany Emergency Shelter. If it's full, street parking is available.
- Feel free to bring utensils and cookware of your own. Don't forget to bring it home with you!
- Because we go through cleaning supplies quickly, it's helpful if groups bring a small container of dish soap and sponges or rags.
- We have a limited selection and supply of spices and seasonings. It's best if groups bring their own.

## READY TO SCHEDULE YOUR MEAL DONATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact your Volunteer Coordinator:

**Clarice Nichols**

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**WWW.INTERFAITHPARTNERSHIP.COM**