



# Involving Young People at Mealtime

The shared meal at Room In The Inn is the most important experience during the evening. It is while we sit down together at the table that stories are shared, a few moments of respite from the day can be found, and people are made to feel at home. There are many ways that young people in your congregation can be involved in creating a hospitable environment, even if they aren't able to be present for a Room In The Inn meal.

## Involving children and youth

- Instills the value of service to others
- Helps shape positive attitudes for the future
- Provides community-building for groups within a congregation
- Gives a special experience to guests who are often separated from their own children



## IN ADVANCE

- Make sack lunches
- Decorate sack lunch bags
- Make placemats and table runners
- Make table decorations
- Bake sweets for dinner
- Make snack bags for guests (late night snacks!)
  - Chex Mix
  - Rice Krispy Treats
  - Trail Mix
  - Chocolate Chip Cookies

## DURING DINNER

- Allow children to “take orders” at dinner time
- Children can take guests’ dirty plates for them
- Kids can offer drink refills
- Bring a dessert tray or cart around to guests
- Help guests with mobility difficulties to carry plates and drinks to the table, especially if you are serving buffet-style

## THINGS GROUPS CAN COLLECT TO SHARE

- Purchase or bring leftover Girl Scout cookies for an evening treat
- Bring in leftover Halloween candy or make treat bags that can be handed out to guests or at Room In The Inn’s downtown Campus