



Serving at *Room In The Inn* With Your Children

ClearView strives to provide opportunities where families can serve together, allowing parents to teach and model the importance of missions to their children. Thank you for considering serving as a family for Room In The Inn. Below are helpful tips to make your experience a positive one with your younger children.

- Talk with your children before they come, taking time to explain that our guests are staying with us because they don't have a home right now. Many of our guests will look different from the people they normally see at church. Children need time to process that this experience is not the same as when they come on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights.
- Practice with your children proper ways to interact with our guests. Help them understand how important it is to smile, wave, and shake hands with our guests. Children are welcome to eat dinner with you and our guests at the table. Most guests enjoy hearing what your children like to do, but help your children understand not to share personal information for them or your family.
- Our guests love handmade decorations. You and your children are encouraged make cards or placemats for our guests, setting them on the cots or at the table for dinner.
- There is often a lot of "down time" as teams wait for guests to arrive, especially if there is traffic. *Parents are responsible for their own children.* Consider bringing a bag of games/books/toys so your children can entertain themselves. They should not be allowed to run around the gym.
- Children **should not** stay with parents to collect prayer requests and pray with our guests. Often guests will share things that are not appropriate for children, or guests may feel uncomfortable opening up with children around.
- It is perfectly acceptable for you and your children to leave after dinner is served. These are often late nights for young children. Do not feel that you have to stay for the devotion time and prayer requests. There are normally enough volunteers here to assist with those.
- If your schedule allows, consider serving with your children before the guests arrive such as setting up and praying over the cots, preparing the lunch bags for the next day, creating/coloring placemats for the guests, etc.

If you have additional questions, contact ttogle@comcast.net or jennie@clearview.org