



## Manna Ministry Fact Sheet

### **Program Description**

Breakthrough operates two Interim Housing Facilities for Men and Women experiencing homelessness. Manna Ministry is Breakthrough's Food Service Program, which enables volunteers to regularly serve meals to our guests. We ask groups for a three meal commitment (usually once/month for three months). Many groups choose to stay in that rotation for a year or more.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Breakfast (7:00-9:00am)

Lunch (11:00am-1:00pm)

Dinner (7:00pm-9:00pm)

To discuss volunteering in the Manna Ministry program, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 773.722.1144 x271 or email [volunteer@breakthroughministries.com](mailto:volunteer@breakthroughministries.com).

### **Locations**

Men's: 402 N. St. Louis Ave, Chicago, IL 60624

Women's: 3330 W. Carroll Ave.; Chicago, IL 60624

### **Format**

Food service is typically done by volunteers who work in groups (we recommend 5-10 as the ideal size group). The group has an appointed leader who serves as the main contact person to Breakthrough's Volunteer Coordinator, and ensures that all responsibilities of the group are fulfilled. The group then takes full ownership of that month's meal, from start to finish. They create the menu, purchase all ingredients, cook the food, serve the food, and eat the food with our guests.

## Manna Ministry FAQs

**Q – Can I volunteer by myself in Manna Ministry?**

*A – Possibly for Breakfast or Lunch, but groups are preferred for Dinner. An individual volunteer will serve more as an assistant to the kitchen staff, and will not be expected to provide a whole meal. If you would like to volunteer as an individual, try registering at [www.chicagocares.org](http://www.chicagocares.org) for a “Rise and Shine Breakfast at Breakthrough” meal. There are two per month to choose from, no cost, and no three meal obligation.*

**Q – Can children do Manna Ministry?**

*A – YES, but under two conditions: That the child be supervised by an adult, and that the legal guardian provide a liability waiver on behalf of the child.*

**Q – Can we come early to prepare?**

*A – At the men’s shelter, you can come up to 30 minutes earlier than your scheduled time if you need additional preparation time. At the women’s shelter, you cannot come early without making arrangements with the Volunteer Coordinator. We suggest planning meals that do not require longer than one hour to prepare from start to finish.*

**Q – Do we need to bring any disposables?**

*A – No. Breakthrough provides plates, bowls, cups, silverware and napkins.*

**Q – How many people will we be serving?**

*A – Unless told otherwise, please prepare for 30 guests, 2 staff, plus the volunteers in your group.*

**Q – Are there food allergy requirements to work around?**

*A – No.*

**Q – What kind of meals should we serve?**

*A – Whatever you would enjoy eating. Try being creative while also working within the time allowed for preparation if you plan to cook on-site. The quality of food we serve to our guests makes a statement, so be sure that the food communicates love and respect.*

**Q – Will there be any Breakthrough Staff available?**

*A – Yes, there will always be two staff available at all meal times.*

**Q – Do we need to bring Drinks?**

*A – Yes, the drinks are an important part of the meal that we depend on groups to provide. Please try not to serve drinks that have a lot of caffeine. For breakfast, Breakthrough provides coffee each morning.*

**Q – Do we need to bring Ice?**

*A – At the women’s shelter, please bring a bag of ice. At the men’s shelter, there is an ice machine.*

**Q – How should we go about serving the food?**

*A – As personably as possible. You can either have guests move through a line or individually plate and serve to the guests at their tables. If you are planning on doing the latter, please let the staff know that.*

**Q – Is it OK for us to talk to the guests?**

*A – Absolutely, in fact we encourage volunteers to sit down, relax, and enjoy the meal with our guests. It's the best way to get to know them!*

**Q – Is it OK to facilitate a game or craft for the guests?**

*A – Yes, as long as the activity is sensitive to the guest's situation, and they do not feel pressured to participate. Please discuss with the Volunteer Coordinator any ideas before implementing them.*

**Q – Is it OK to decorate the dining hall for something extra special?**

*A – Yes, tablecloths, candles, and other nice touches go a long way to make our guests feel valued.*

**Q – Is it OK to take pictures or video of the guests?**

*A – Yes, but only if a guest gives you their permission. Taking pictures should not be considered until the guests are familiar and comfortable with you (ie: not on the first few visits).*

**Q – Can we lead devotions for the guests?**

*A – Breakthrough offers training for volunteers interested in leading devotions. If you have been trained, please let the shelter staff know you will be facilitating the devotions for that evening. Devotions are only conducted during the dinner meal.*