



ROOM
IN THE INN

A Partnership of DRC Solutions and the Faith-Based Community

History

Room in the Inn began in the winter of 1985 when Father Charles Strobel of Nashville, Tennessee opened the doors of his parish to individuals seeking sanctuary in the church parking lot. This simple act of kindness marked the beginning of Room in the Inn.

Each time I visit, I leave with strength, energy and renewed faith to face another day.

The idea spread across the country, and since 2008, women and men of faith in Tarrant County have joined together to open their doors and hearts to hundreds of men each year.

What is Room in the Inn?

Room in the Inn is a ministry of local congregations working in partnership with the DRC, offering individuals who are experiencing homelessness a restful night off the streets or away from emergency shelters during the coldest and hottest months of the year.

The basics are simple: transportation, two hot meals, a safe place to sleep, and plenty of hospitality.

Depending upon an individual congregation's resources and facilities, showers, laundry, clothing or other services may be offered. Some congregations may show a movie or play games with their guests.

The DRC provides guest screening and professional case management support for Room in the Inn, as well as a safe and secure location for participating congregations to pick up and drop off their guests.

Who benefits from Room in the Inn?

Room in the Inn benefits many people including:

- **People of Faith**

Because there's Room in the Inn, people of faith can satisfy their hunger to help in a way that brings faith to life.

- **People Experiencing Homelessness**

Because there's Room in the Inn, people experiencing homelessness are less likely to be turned away from shelters when temperatures reach extremes and demand for beds is highest. Guests of Room in the Inn also enjoy the benefit of safe, supportive friendships that form between guests and their hosts.

- **Social Service Providers**

Because there's Room in the Inn, night shelters can better manage demand for shelter beds in seasons people experiencing homelessness need shelter most.

A child was playing card game with me one night when he suddenly asked 'Are you homeless?' I answered 'Yes I am.' He replied 'Well you aren't tonight and I am glad.' Out of the mouths of babes come wonders. Yet he summed up Room in the Inn.

How It Works

- Individuals interested in being guests meet with DRC staff at The Transfer Center on Mondays at 9am-3pm to be PRE-SCREENED.
- Once approved by staff, guests arrive at The Transfer Center at 1100 East Lancaster in Fort Worth at 3:00pm Mon.-Fri. to check in for the evening.
- Congregation volunteers pick up their guests at The Transfer Center, between 4:00-4:30 pm on their assigned evening.
- DRC staff provides the hosting congregation with emergency contact information as well as any important medical information about their guests for the evening.
- Congregation volunteers transport their evening's guests to their congregation building.
- Congregations provide guests with accommodations, including mattresses or air mattresses with pillows and bed linens, a place to store their things, and some privacy.
- Guests and congregation volunteers enjoy dinner and fellowship prior to the guests turning in for the night. A few congregation volunteers also stay the night.
- The following morning, congregation volunteers provide guests with a hot breakfast.
- Around 7:30am, congregation volunteers transport guests to True Worth Place.

Thank you for such a lovely night of cool A/C and warm smiles.



Room in the Inn set up at Calvary Lutheran

Frequently Asked Questions

• Will someone train us?

A local active Room in the Inn congregation periodically holds Room in the Inn training sessions. We are happy to help you connect with this resource.

• How many people are we talking about?

Usually, each congregation hosts about ten guests. Some have only room for five while others host fifteen or more.

• Do we have to do it every night?

No, you work with DRC staff to choose a regular night, say Tuesdays, and host once a week during the season.

• Does this happen all year long?

No, Room in the Inn runs in the summer during July and August, and in the winter from December through February.

• How do we get started?

We'd love to have your congregation on board!

Contact Liesl Manone at 817-575-7948 or Imanone@DRC-solutions.org today!

We came as guests and left as friends.

Having met a tremendous group of people who have been so much a spiritual and emotional support for me, I have become a much better person and one who is much clearer about his walk with God.