



HOST FAMILY MINISTRY

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WHAT IS THE CCC RESIDENCY PROGRAM?

CCC Church Residency is a two-year program that combines focused leadership training with practical ministry experience, enabling residents to earn their master's degree through Crown College. Our purpose is to raise up and equip next-generation leaders for work in church ministry. We offer a well-rounded experience that will develop a resident with a variety of leadership, ministry, practical, and personal skills, and competencies needed to be successful in full-time church ministry. Additionally, we offer a variety of different "Areas of Focus" which allow residents to gain experience and training within their specific callings, gifts, and passions.

A CCC Resident Experiences:

- A two-year program at CCC (three-year if counseling track)
- 28–30 hours per week of practical ministry experience and general competency development
- 12-18 hours per week of graduate level academic work through Crown College
- Monthly support raising with a church stipend match of up to \$400/ month
- Option of living with a Host Family
- A fully funded master's degree through Crown College

HOST FAMILY MINISTRY CONSIDERATIONS

One aspect of the resident's development is providing a healthy, positive place to live while in the program through the Host Family ministry opportunity.

The following describes what is involved in becoming a Host Family:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A HOST FAMILY:

- **Pray.** First, we ask that you listen to the Holy Spirit to discern if this ministry opportunity is right for you and your family.
- **Be in agreement.** If you are married, we ask that you and your spouse be united on the decision to host and that both of you are 100% onboard for this journey.
- **Agree to host a resident for 1 – 3 years.** We believe long-term stability is better for the resident's development than quarterly shifts. It also allows the opportunity to build a deeper, long-term relationship with the resident, which aids in their overall development.

- **Fill out the online application and background check.** We ask that one member of the host family fill out and submit the online application form. All adults living at the host home residence will need to submit a background check. We require this from our incoming residents as well. The application and background forms can be found at our website: www.cccresidency.org/hosthome
- **Home visit.** After the application is received, a member of the CCC Residency staff will set up a time to walk through the living space and connect with you again regarding the ministry. This may be done in person or virtually.
- **Be able to provide a private bedroom and private/semi-private bathroom.** This could include a basement, mother-in-law suite, guest house, etc. with common amenities (bed, bedding, dresser, closet). This space should be solely for the resident's use for the duration of their stay with you. Access to a bathroom with a high level of privacy is also important.
- **Provide a clean and safe living environment.** We don't expect a home to be perfectly clean all of the time. However, we would expect the host to keep a house that is generally clean and secure in a way that the resident feels comfortable and safe. The residents will be given similar expectations of cleanliness and respect.
- **Not expecting payment for rent and utilities.** Offering to host a resident free of charge helps the resident not be burdened with that substantial cost of living and helps the church financially as well.
- **Provide an adequate internet connection.** Because each resident will be taking online courses through Crown College, a stable Wi-Fi connection at home is required.
- **Communicate early.** A wise Host will have discussions with a Resident early in their experience concerning house rules, desired codes of conduct, and expectations.
- **Not require or expect babysitting or pet sitting or heavier tasks/chores that are above the normal lighter housekeeping tasks.** You certainly can ask the resident for help with certain things (Example: "Could you please help me move a couch into the other room?"), as long as it doesn't become a consistent expectation that takes away from their residency experience (Example: "I'm spending the day in the yard and I'm going to need you to clear your schedule to help").
 - Regarding babysitting or pet sitting: As a rule, please plan to pay your resident if babysitting is needed for an extended period of time or on a consistent basis. An exception to this might be something like, "I'm running to the store to get a few things. Are you going to be here for the next 30 minutes? If so, can you keep an eye on the kids?"



RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CCC RESIDENT:

- Be respectful of the host's personal space and "house rules."
- Abide by the same "code of conduct" standards as CCC staff (see Resident Handbook 1.2, p 4).
- Clean up after yourself in both your private space and common spaces (including weekly bathroom cleaning, cleaning kitchen after use, etc.).
- Proactively offer to help with light tasks around the house and yard (dump trash, sweep/vacuum, rake leaves, shovel snow, etc.).
- Ask permission before inviting guests to the home.
- Be responsible for your own groceries and meals.
- Provide your own vehicle and transportation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CCC RESIDENCY STAFF:

- Communicate expectations and boundaries to both the host and the resident.
- Provide mediation and conflict resolution as needed.
- Provide ongoing support through quarterly check-ins (or as needed) and two host family gatherings per year.
- Recruit additional hosts for future years as needed for current and future residents.
- Provide another host for the resident if the need arises. If this is the case, we ask that you give 60 days' notice to give us time to find another host.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS WHEN HOSTING A RESIDENT

1. **Communicate clearly from the beginning** (see **Communication Guide** on p 7).

- Cover “house rules” within the first couple of days.
- Clearly define boundaries, especially regarding personal space and common spaces.

2. **Don’t let any potential conflict or tension build.**

Residents appreciate the hospitality and want to follow the boundaries and house rules of host families but may be unsure of what those are if they haven’t been discussed. They appreciate clear, direct communication of expectations!

If you feel your resident isn’t respecting your expectations, communicate as soon as possible. Difficult conversations happen best in person, not via multiple texts or e-mails.

If you need someone from the church to help mediate a situation, or you need advice, please contact Shanna at ShannaB@cccomaha.org.

3. **Check expectations.**

Before applying to host a resident, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have an expectation that the resident be an active member of my family, or am I comfortable with a resident or resident couple living in my home with the potential they may “do their own thing” and not be as involved or “close” relationally with my family?
- Do I expect the resident to be home at a certain time each night or do I understand they need young adult community and sometimes late-night ministry?
- Am I willing to frequently and clearly communicate with the resident our expectations and boundaries, when needed?

None of these expectations are wrong in themselves, but the questions will help you assess if the time is right for you to host and/or the type of relationship you wish to have with your resident.

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

CCC Residency staff highly recommends you read through and discuss this guide as a host family. Once you have sorted through some of your own expectations and boundaries, start this conversation with your resident prior to their arrival. We realize a lot of expectations and boundaries work out naturally, but you will find some recommended topics below to discuss with your resident. Every host and every resident are different; you should not assume the resident will have the same expectations or needs as you!

We acknowledge that even when a person knows they are following God's will and are united with their spouse on a decision, there may still be nervousness and unknowns to navigate! Continue to lean into prayer to discern what the Holy Spirit intends during this time of hosting a resident and to help navigate the process. Our prayer is not that this process would be perfect, but that this journey will be God-honoring, life-giving, and joyful for all involved!

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATION

1. Best done in a direct, kind, and frequent manner.
2. As the situation permits, communicate in person (or over Zoom/FaceTime prior to their arrival)
3. Acknowledge your nervousness, as it will affirm the same with them.
4. Communicate early.
5. Convey an openness to any topic that the resident may feel needs to be addressed.
6. Open the discussion around house rules / boundaries / expectations, rather than waiting for the resident to bring up the conversation.

RECOMMENDED TOPICS TO COVER

- Logistics
 - Share with them about yourself & your family (and vice versa)
 - Offer to show them around town if they are new to the area.
 - Provide info regarding the living space.
 - Find out what the resident's living situation was prior to your home.
 - Communicate your preferred method of communication (text, phone, email)
 - What is your expectation on "response time"?
- House Rules (create your own priority list from these ideas)
 - Allergies
 - Food sharing/ not sharing
 - Food storage space (Residents are responsible for their own groceries and meals; they may need a designated shelf in the pantry or drawer in the fridge, freezer, etc.)
 - Expectation of sharing kitchen / cooking spaces
 - Cleanliness expectation of shared living spaces (dishes, laundry, etc.)

- Cleanliness expectation of bedroom, personal living spaces
- Shared living space chores, if applicable (taking out trash, running a load of dishes, etc)
- Laundry usage
- Guests
- Overnight guests
- Expectations / boundaries regarding dating / significant others
- Alcohol (Is it allowed in your home? Any boundaries concerning its use?)
- Firearms (Do you own any? Are they safely stored?)
- Entry and exit (keys, garage door openers, alarm codes, garage code, etc.)
- Parking
- Internet access codes
- Other (shoes off at the door; lights off when leaving a room, etc)

- Boundaries
 - Opposite gender communication (group texts and emails)
 - Physical boundaries (side hugs vs frontal hugs; home alone with opposite spouse)
 - Space boundaries (knocking before entering personal spaces)
 - Time
 - Awareness of “normal” schedule – what to expect.
 - Acknowledge the resident’s ministry, school commitments, and relationship. Their need for alone time / decompressing is key.
 - Express your own personal commitments and personal time.
 - Open dialogue about how to avoid monopolizing each other’s time or what to do if one party feels this is happening.
 - Nature of the host home family / resident relationship
 - What are both parties’ expectations for the nature of the relationship between host and resident?



EXAMPLE EMAILS TO START THE CONVERSATION

The following example is from a former host couple. They communicated some info via email, along with FaceTime conversations. Once the resident couple moved in, the host family took them out for dinner and initiated the conversation of expectations / boundaries. The resident couple appreciated the directness of the host family and open communication right off the bat because it cultivated openness and frequent communication as they all navigated the process together.

EMAIL #1

We are very excited for you and your fiancé on your pending nuptials and graduation. We certainly want to be respectful of your schedule, knowing the pressures of having to do a lot in a very short amount of time, so we can talk, email or video chat when it's convenient. While we have never hosted or participated in this type of program, we are very much looking forward to meeting you two and having you both live in our home. We know that there are a lot of uncertainties and anxieties that can occur in this type of situation, and we're sure we'll have a lot of questions of each other, but we're confident that the Holy Spirit will guide us appropriately.

We'll have plenty of time to talk through your transition to Omaha and the move, but we didn't want too much time to go by before we had a chance to say welcome and that we want to help any way we can.

Sincerely, John & Jane Doe

EMAIL #2

Good Evening!

Thank you for your contact information and for writing. Wow - what a great picture - you both look so happy. We've probably written or rewritten this message more than a few times; trying to not only answer your questions but also to properly convey the blessing it'll be to have you both here. It might be easier to conference sometime to talk through the mechanics of move in: likes, preferences, etc. Please keep in mind that we've never done this before and much of what needs to be determined we may need to work out as things progress, but again, we're happy you're coming to Omaha and staying with us.

Below is our attempt at answering your questions:

House Rules: This is one where we may need to figure things out on the fly. In general, however, we're kind of a shoes off at the door type of family. In terms of privacy, and maybe this goes without saying, but your bedroom and bathroom are yours exclusively. Most of the house is open and available for use as you see fit and we can talk more about this later. You are welcome to use the kitchen and laundry room as



needed. Hopefully, we can share some meals together as schedules permit. We want you two to truly feel free to eat any food we have in the house - this may require some additional explanation (and we don't mean restrictions), but we should discuss things like allergies, etc.

Bedroom: The bedroom you'll be using is our son's former bedroom. He's in the Navy now, and as of late it has been turned into a storage room of sorts. We would be horrified to send you photos presently but will after some clean up. The short version is that the room is furnished with a bed (full), armoire, dresser, bookcase, and a large walk-in closet. Attached to the bedroom is a bathroom - shower, toilet, sink, and some storage. We'll have sheets, towels, wash cloths, soap, toilet paper, etc. Again, probably something to talk about, as I'm sure we're forgetting something.

Furniture & Housewares: I strongly suspect, and not knowing your needs or wants yet, that you will not need to bring any housewares or furniture. As mentioned above, you all are welcome to use the kitchen anytime. While we would enjoy shared meals, we also understand that there will be times that you want your own meal space. The downstairs bar area has a dishwasher, sink, refrigerator, plates, utensils, etc. There isn't a microwave down there, but we could easily put one there.

Move In: The move in date works great - we would be happy to help, but also understand if the date needs to be moved up or back - let us know. The preferred way of generally entering the house is through the garage. We'll need to get you the garage code, openers, alarm code, etc.

Do you both have time for a call this week or weekend?

Sincerely,
John & Jane Doe

CCC RESIDENCY STAFF INFO / cccresidency.org

Karl Pagenkemper / Residency Academic & Placement Dean / KarlP@cccomaha.org

Dawn Gentry / Residency Director / DawnG@cccomaha.org

Shanna Beachy / Residency Recruitment Administrative Manager / ShannaB@cccomaha.org

Would you like to talk to a former host family about their experience and receive some advice about yours? Contact one of us and we'll connect you with another host who would love to be a resource and encouragement to you and your family!