

Lunch FAQ's

Why provide a lunch at CCA?

CCA is completely funded by donations. We do not accept state or federal funds. We do not charge tuition. Instead, our students each give 100 hours of community service in exchange for tuition. About 50% of our students are homeless during the school year.

Lunch is, by far, our students' favorite time of the day. They greatly appreciate lunches from our volunteers, and for most, it is their only hot meal of the day. This is a great way to get to know the students and to be able to pray for them by name.

How often do people typically provide a lunch?

For individuals or families, once or twice a year is a big commitment. For community groups / home groups, once a month is a meaningful way to serve together. Sometimes different people in the group will prepare the lunch while others deliver/serve.

How does it all work?

Students' lunch time begins at 12:00, so we ask volunteers to arrive by 11:45 to set up or drop off. The lunch volunteer brings lunch for 35 students and staff.

There is an oven that we can use to warm food, if needed. It is usually best to let Brandie know ahead of time if we should have the oven warm.

CCA provides paper plates, napkins, forks, & cups. If the lunch volunteer would like to bring drinks, that is OK, but the students are OK drinking water, as well.

Bag lunches are OK for any day, but especially on Fridays.

Can I provide a meal ahead of time?

Yes! The lunch volunteer may bring a frozen meal ahead of time and the CCA staff will thaw and warm it on the day lunch is needed.

Can I donate a meal?

Yes! If you would like to donate the fund for a meal, we usually spend about \$60 on pizza or sandwich items from the grocery store. Any amount given toward that amount is greatly appreciated!

Is this tax-exempt?

Yes! We can provide a copy of our 501c3 letter if you would like to use it when you're purchasing items for lunch, or if you would like to cater / purchase a prepared lunch. Additionally, we can provide an in-kind receipt for the cost of the meal!

Please just email us to request either or both of these documents!

What do the students like to eat?

That is such a great question! We have noticed a few little quirks over the years! For example, our students eat everything with hot sauce! Think Frank's Hot Sauce or Crystal Hot Sauce. They also LOVE RANCH DRESSING! On everything!! Have you seen Buddy the Elf and his syrup? That's not too far from how our students love ranch dressing . . . on everything!

Each year we survey the students to find out what their favorite fruits, vegetables, and meals are. We will be updating this page when we collect that info from our 2016-17 students. 😊

In the past few years, some of the favorite side items are: salad, collard greens, and corn.

How can I prepare meals on a budget?

We have created a Pinterest board with some ideas of meals that you can prepare on a budget. Please feel free to join our board and add your favorites to our board, as well!

What do you do with leftovers?

Food rarely goes to waste at CCA! We either package food up for the students to take home for dinner, freeze it for another day, or share it with some of our neighborhood friends who help out at the school.

Is safety ever a concern?

We are on the campus of Cornerstone Baptist Church. There are several other ministries around the school on the same campus, so there are a lot of friends of CCA around the school most of the day. While there may be times when uncomfortable situations happen, we have noticed that our students and neighborhood friends are very protective of our guests and their children.

When you first come to visit CCA, you will most likely meet Ronnie, "Rock." He is a dear friend of the school's and of Cornerstone. He is protective and enjoys sharing information about the neighborhood. (Side note from Kristi – My husband has been a Garland Police Officer for about 30 years and he always says if Rock's around, he knows we will be protected.) Rock is one of our Guardian Angels who watches over students, staff, and volunteers alike.