

# Cooking for a Cause

Host a charity dinner and share your love of food with others.

If you have a passion for food as well as philanthropy, consider hosting a fund-raising dinner to support New Haven Home Recovery. It's easy to have fun while introducing friends, neighbors, or co-workers to your cause. Here's how to organize a successful dinner.

■ **Enlist help.** Contact NHHR for agency brochures and hand outs. Download agency information from [www.nhhr.org/downloads](http://www.nhhr.org/downloads) page.

■ **Send invitations.** Mail them four to six weeks in advance. Suggested wording: "Please join us for a fundraising event to benefit New Haven Home Recovery" or "You are invited to a dinner party to benefit New Haven Home Recovery". Propose a minimum donation (suggested \$30 per person as starting point). Be sure to indicate checks should be made payable to New Haven Home Recovery, and include a response card, in case people can't attend but want to send donations.

■ **Expand your circle.** In addition to family and friends, invite acquaintances who may be unfamiliar with your cause. You'll be surprised at how willing people are to contribute.

■ **Be creative.** People have arranged formal dinners, world cuisine buffets, and casual cookouts. Try serving finger sandwiches and desserts using antique china, silver and linen napkins and have your husband and his male friends don tuxedos to serve.

■ **Personalize the event.** During the party, briefly explain why you've chosen NHHR. Distribute a booklet containing the menu, inspirational poetry and information about the cause. Perhaps say a prayer to honor those who struggle with homelessness.

■ **Follow up.** Send personalized thank-you notes to guests. Tell them how much money the event raised, which helps everyone see how we can make a difference when we pull together. Remind guests to check with their tax advisors about charity deductions\*.

*-As seen in  
"Cooking Light"  
September 2008.*



From homelessness to hope.

Contact NHHR at:  
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[www.nhhr.org](http://www.nhhr.org)

\*New Haven Home Recovery is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. The federal tax exempt number is 22-3037451.