Family Respite Stay -- Frequently Asked Questions

How does a patient get nominated to participate?

Potential candidates and their families are identified and referred to Domus Pacis Family Respite by: Case managers, social workers, oncology nurses, patient navigators from health care settings throughout the state of Colorado and beyond.

The nomination process is based on a number of factors, such as:

- can the patient travel and will the patient need only limited medical care
- does the patient need and want to participate in the offerings of the family respite
- does the patient have a family support system that would be ready and willing to join the patient.

If all of these factors and other factors are met, then the patient would be referred by their Health Care professional to the Domus Pacis Family Respite organization to work with the family to schedule a time for the stay dependent on the availability of housing.

Do I need doctor approval to participate in the respite?

Yes, you need your doctor’s approval. Summit County is in a high altitude area of the Rocky Mountains. In fact, the homes are located between 9,000 to 11,000 feet above sea level. Therefore all participants need to discuss high altitude risks with their health care provider and have their doctor(s) sign the certificate attached to the application.

What is the cost for a family to participate?

A family participating in a respite will need to be prepared to cover their transportation, food and activities. Summit County residents support/contribute as best they can to make a family’s mountain escape memorable. Our volunteers are generous in their contribution of dinners and baked goods. In addition, the business community does provide some complimentary services such as bike rental, trail rides, family photo sessions, etc. for the immediate family but not everyone participating in the respite stay.

What does Domus Pacis expect of nominated families?

Domus Pacis asks that nominated patients and families be cognizant of the size of their parties, are responsive to Domus Pacis staff throughout the coordination process, cover the accommodation damage deposit, complete thank you notes prior to departing and that they compose a Reflection after their week of respite.
How long will it take for my family respite request to be granted?

The process can take several weeks. Emergency requests (made for those with a guarded life expectancy) can be handled more expeditiously on a case by case basis. All aspects of each respite week are subject to Domus Pacis Family Respite board approval. Once the application has been approved, the home matching process begins. And, the time needed to schedule an applicant’s request depends on our existing housing resources.

How does the Domus Pacis Family Respite find appropriate housing accommodations?

Houses are donated by Summit County property owners and managers throughout Breckenridge, Copper, Dillon, Frisco, Keystone and Silverthorne. The usage of these properties given to the Domus Pacis Family Respite for your families get-away is truly a gift from one family to another.

How long can we stay at the respite?

Domus Pacis Family Respite provides housing for no more than seven nights, not less than five nights and the get-away is not all-inclusive. We do our best, however, to provide appropriate housing based upon the applicant’s condition and number of participants.

Who can I include as part of my family respite?

An applicant decides with whom they want to share this time away. Participants can include family, friends, and/or caregivers...in other words, you define “family”. The donated respite homes can accommodate two to twelve participants ... children are welcomed but not non-related minors or pets ... sorry.

When we arrive, are we on our own?

A respite host of Domus Pacis Family Respite will be there to welcome you to your home. The host will provide an overview of the home as well as the community and orient you to the activities available. Our goal is to have you settled from the start. It is our assumption that most families will want their private time, but don’t hesitate to call the respite host if you need to discuss anything during your stay.
What if I require special medical assistance?

While we will do our best to provide resources information, we are not a medical foundation. Therefore, we cannot assist with such medical needs as air-ambulance transportation, treatments, nurses and aids, or specially-equipped vans. If a participant needs in-home care, perhaps the family could inquire about a transfer contract being set up prior with Bristlecone/CenturaAtHome Care which serves Summit County.

If there was an emergency or unplanned complication while a family is staying in a respite home, then the family would be referred to St. Anthony Summit Medical Center (www.summitmedicalcenter.org) which is approximately ten miles from any of our donated homes. Of course, calling 911 is always highly recommended!