

Fundraising House Party FAQs

So you want to host a fundraising house party?

Thank you so much for considering this step! This type of fundraising is hard work and requires time and effort, but can make a big difference in furthering the ministry of Passion Missions! We will equip you with everything you need to have for a successful fundraising party.

Q: What is a house party?

A house party is a fundraising event that includes socializing, refreshments, and most importantly, a presentation of the project followed by an appeal for donations. This is a fun way to champion Passion Missions and spread the word to garner a wider net of support.

Q: Who makes an ideal host?

The ideal host is someone who believes in our missions and vision and are willing to tell others. You are also willing to open up your address book and your home and are willing to make a donation to motivate their guests to follow suit.

Q: How do I get started?

The first step is to pick a date. This should be at least six weeks out in order to prepare everything necessary for a successful house party. The best times are usually two hours on a weeknight or a Sunday afternoon. Remember, this is not a huge soiree- it's a social gathering with a distinct intention.

Q: Does a house party have to be held at my house?

Your home is a comfortable, inviting setting in which to share your passion for Passion Missions and show your personal investment in our message. However, fundraising parties can also be held at churches, small groups, schools, community centers, restaurants, and other venues. What matters most is the spirit and sense of purpose for the event.

Q: How big should the party be?

A fundraising house party can be as large or small as you like, although if it gets too big you may lose the intimacy that encourages people reach for their checkbooks. It is important to invite many more guests than you hope will show up. A general rule is to send invitations to three or four times your goal – so invite 30 guests if you would like 10 people to attend. Of course, this rule will vary depending on the connection your guests have to the mission of our project and to you.

Q: Who should be on the guest list?

Reach out to your friends, family, work colleagues, members of religious or social groups, fellow parents, school alumni – anyone who you believe cares about our community.

Q: What about invitations?

Some people prefer to send paper invitations, some like email, and others like to use Evites and other online tools. Once you contact us about hosting, we will provide you with a house party kit which will include templates and easy-to-use instructions for both paper and digital invitations. As the party date approaches, you will likely need to make some follow up phone calls or send reminder emails in order to collect all your RSVPs.

Q: Should I serve refreshments?

Most hosts choose to provide refreshments at a house party. This need not be a full meal, but just some light snacks and drinks to keep guests satisfied during the presentation. Finger food that is easy to eat standing up and is not too messy is the best way to go. These are served in the first half hour or so while guests arrive and mingle before the presentation.

Q: What does the presentation involve?

After about 30-45 minutes, which allows for everyone to arrive, put on name tags, look at the informational materials, chat, and enjoy refreshments, you as the host will gather everyone in front of the television or projector (which has been tested earlier in the day to make sure it is working properly) for the presentation. The presentation consists of a brief introduction to the party and Passion Missions by you, the host. Then, if we are present, we will take over, going into more detail about Passion Missions and how we are making an impact on the community by showing pictures or a video clip to give an idea of our story and the direction of our missions and vision. If we are not at your house party, we will be sure to share talking points with you to guide the presentation. This should take about 15 minutes, leaving an additional 20 minutes for Q & A and conversation in the group.

Q: When do we ask for donations?

After the presentation, someone will make the “ask.” This is the most crucial part of the evening. This appeal for donations can be made by you, the host, or by someone else who is a respected, enthusiastic peer of the guests, but not by the presenter. This peer will talk about the project budget, the monetary goal for the evening and how specific amounts of donations will help, then ask everyone to contribute. Both the peer and the host should ideally be willing to make a donation and publically share that information. This gesture shows that you believe in Passion Missions, which coming from you will inspire your friends to do the same. After all of this, the party doesn’t end immediately.

Q: How can guests make donations?

There should be several opportunities for people to donate – we want to make it very easy for them once they have decided to give. We will provide a way for you to take credit card payments, and give everyone receipts for tax purposes. We will also provide ACH debit forms and envelopes for those that wish to write a check. Donation cards should be available at the entrance, on their seats at the presentation, after the pitch, and at the end of the evening. There will be a link on our provided email

invitations as well as an option on paper invitations for those who cannot attend but wish to contribute.

Q: How do I follow up after the event?

After the party, send thank you notes by mail or email to everyone who came, whether or not they donated. Passion Missions will provide you a template in the House Party Fundraising Kit. Emails can include a link to our website and donation page. This is also a good chance to follow up with people who said they were possibly interested in donating later or hosting their own party. This leaves guests with a positive impression and cements networking contacts.

Hosting a house party takes some work, but it is worth the effort. These events can bring in several thousand dollars for Passion Missions, as well as invaluable support and connections. If you feel ready to move ahead with a house party, contact us and we will help you get started.