



FOUNDATION FOR
Foster Children



GATHER FOR good

Thank you for joining us in supporting the Foundation for Foster Children through the Gather for Good initiative. Gather for Good is all about bringing people together to make a difference in the lives of foster children and youth in our community. Whether you're hosting a dinner party, a backyard BBQ, a game night, or any other gathering, your event can help raise crucial funds and awareness for our cause — and the best part? All expenses you incur while hosting your event are tax-deductible as a charitable donation!

There are still 4,000 foster children in Central Florida and we want to be able to come alongside every single one of them and provide them with the support and resources they need to live successful, independent lives.

This packet will serve as the pathway to everything you need to know about planning a Gather for Good party. Please read thoroughly and be sure to visit our FAQ section.

Thank you for your support!

What's in this Toolkit

To make your event planning as easy and enjoyable as possible, we've put together this toolkit filled with resources and ideas to help you host a successful fundraiser. Inside, you'll find:

- **Ready-to-Print Invitations:** Spread the word about your event with customizable invitations.
- **Table Tents:** Use these to share information about the Foundation for Foster Children and our mission with your guests.
- **Fundraising Tips and Ideas:** From simple donation jars to fun activities that encourage giving, we have plenty of suggestions to help you reach your fundraising goals.
- **Talking Points:** Helpful information to share with your guests about the impact of their donations and the work of the Foundation for Foster Children.
- **Thank You Cards:** Show your appreciation to guests and donors with our ready-to-use thank you cards.

First Steps

Choose Your Event Type

- Decide what kind of event you'd like to host. Whether it's a dinner party, a potluck, a game night, or a casual get-together, the choice is yours. Think about what your friends and family would enjoy the most!

Set a Date and Time

- Pick a date and time that works best for you and your potential guests. Consider choosing a day and time when most people are available, such as a weekend evening or a holiday.

Create a Guest List

- Make a list of people you want to invite. It can be as small or as large as you'd like—every gathering makes a difference! Think about friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, or community members who might be interested in supporting a great cause.

Send Out Invitations

- Use the ready-to-print invitations in this toolkit to let your guests know about your event. Include details about the date, time, location, and purpose of the gathering. Be sure to mention that it's a fundraiser for the Foundation for Foster Children!

Plan Your Fundraising Activities

- Decide how you will raise funds during your event. You could set up a donation jar, host a raffle, organize a silent auction, or simply ask guests to contribute. Check out the Fundraising Tips and Ideas section of this toolkit for more inspiration!

Prepare Your Space

- Think about how you want to set up your event space. Make sure there's enough seating and room for activities. Consider using the table tents from this toolkit to share information about the Foundation for Foster Children with your guests.

Collect Your Supplies

- Gather any supplies you'll need for your event, such as food, drinks, decorations, and any materials for fundraising activities.
 - **Remember to keep all your receipts, as these expenses are tax-deductible!**

INVITATION MOCK UP

- Print out the template under “Print Materials” tab on Gather For Good page
- Fill in the blanks with your own personalized details
- Mail to your guest list
- 8.5"x5.5"



DONATION BREAKDOWN HALF PAGE MOCK UP

- Print out the template under “Print Materials” tab on Gather For Good page
- Place on tables or chairs at your event! These provide a clear breakdown of what your guests donations have the power to do!
- Size: 8.5"x5.5"



RECORD YOUR *expenses*

To make the most of your Gather for Good event, we've included an Expenses Tracker to help you keep track of all the costs associated with hosting your gathering.

Here's how to use it:

- **Record Your Expenses:** As you plan and prepare for your event, use the Expenses Tracker to write down every purchase you make. This could include things like food, beverages, decorations, supplies for fundraising activities, and any other expenses that help make your event a success.
- **Save Your Receipts:** Make sure to save all receipts for the items and services you purchase for your event. This will make it easier to document your expenses and provide proof for tax purposes.
- **Calculate Your Total:** Once you've finished planning and hosting your event, add up all your expenses to get the total amount you've spent. This total represents your financial contribution to the event.
- **Submit for a Tax Deduction:** One of the great benefits of hosting a Gather for Good event is that all your expenses are tax-deductible as a charitable donation to the Foundation for Foster Children. When you file your taxes, you can include these expenses to potentially reduce your taxable income. Be sure to consult with a tax professional to understand how to properly report these expenses and maximize your deduction.

Important Reminder:

To ensure that your expenses are eligible for a tax deduction, it's crucial to keep detailed records and receipts. The more organized you are with tracking your expenses, the easier it will be to claim them as a deduction on your taxes.

By using the Expenses Tracker, you're not only helping us raise funds for foster children, but you're also benefiting from a tax deduction that recognizes your generosity. Thank you for your support and dedication to making a positive impact!

ICE BREAKER - FOSTER CARE TRIVIA

- 1. True or False: Over 400,000 children are in foster care in the United States alone. (True)
- 2. True or False: The average age of a child entering foster care is 8 years old. (True)
- 3. True or False: Only about 50% of children in foster care are eventually reunited with their birth families. (True)
- 4. Fill in the blank: Did you know: How many children do you think are waiting to be adopted in the U.S. foster care system? (100,000+)
- 5. Fill in the blank: Did you know: What age group makes up a significant portion of those awaiting adoption? (Older youth, aged 12 and over)
- 6. True or False: The chances of an older youth being adopted decrease as they age, leading to many aging out of the system without permanent families. (True)
- 7. Fill in the blank: Did you know: Approximately _____ youth age out of the foster care system each year in the United States. (20,000)
- 8. Fill in the blank: Did you know: Only about _____ of youth who age out of foster care will have gainful employment by the age of 24. (half)

Talking Points

About the Foundation

- FFC's 3 programs: Enrich, Educate, Empower.
- FFC mission is to create meaningful connection for children in foster care through personalized support.
- Started in 2008, since then FFC has served 7,596 total youth.

About Our Services

- When a foster child turns 12, their likelihood of being adopted drops to just 3%. When foster youth "age out" of the foster care system at 18 years old they are told they have no more resources. FFC provides integral support to the youth that society has turned its back on.
- Through monthly workshops on topics like housing, employment, money management, self care, etc., FFC's Empower students are guided through the hurdles of a successful, independent life.
- FFC's full-time staff Advocates spend one-on-one time with their students weekly, at a time and place that works for the youth's schedule. Advocates only have a caseload of a maximum of 15 youth each, ensuring the personalized support and meaningful connection promised in FFC's mission.

FAQ

What is a “Gather for Good” party?

A "Gather for Good" party is a fun and engaging way for you to support the Foundation for Foster Children by hosting a fundraising event with your friends, family, or community. You can raise awareness and funds to help foster children thrive.

How do I sign up to host a party?

You can sign up by visiting our website and filling out the host registration form. Once registered, you will receive access to our ready-to-print party package and additional resources to help you plan your event.

What support will I receive from the Foundation?

The Foundation will provide you with a comprehensive party package, including invitations, decorations, an expenses tracker, a donations goal planner, engagement strategies, and more. Additionally, our team is available to answer any questions and provide guidance as needed.

Do I have to pay to host a party?

There is no fee to host a party. However, you may incur costs for party supplies, food, and beverages. You can keep track of these expenses using the provided tracker, as many of them may be tax-deductible.

Can I host a virtual party?

Absolutely! Virtual parties are a great way to connect with friends and family from different locations. You can use video conferencing tools and share digital materials from the party package to engage your guests.

How do I collect donations?

You can collect donations in several ways:

- *Online: FFC has a dedicated Gather for Good donation page where guests can donate directly.
- *In-Person:* Collect cash or checks at the event and use the provided donations tracker to keep records.

FAQ cont.

What should I do with the donations after the party?

After the party, submit all collected funds through our secure online portal or mail checks directly to the Foundation for Foster Children. Detailed instructions will be provided in your party package.

Are donations tax-deductible?

Yes, all donations made to the Foundation for Foster Children are tax-deductible. We will provide donation receipts for your guests to use for their tax purposes.

How do I set a fundraising goal?

Use the donations goal planner included in your party package. Consider the number of guests and their potential contributions to set a realistic and achievable goal. We suggest setting a specific target to motivate your guests.

How can I make the party fun and engaging?

We've included a variety of engagement strategies in your party package, such as games, activities, and impact stories. You can also share videos, host a raffle, or organize a silent auction to keep guests entertained and involved.

Can I get help promoting my party?

Yes! We provide social media graphics and templates in your party package to help you promote your event.

What if I have more questions or need help during the planning process?

Feel free to contact us anytime! Our team is here to support you. You can reach us by email at info@ffc.org or by phone at 407-422-4615.