



HOSTING A TFI CHRISTMAS PARTY



**The
Forgotten
Initiative®**

We are so excited for your support in hosting a TFI Christmas Party for foster families! You and those in your church have been given strengths, life experiences, and resources that you can use to help those who are feeling overwhelmed, misunderstood, or forgotten. When you support foster families at this Christmas event, and others in the foster care community throughout the year, you have the opportunity to show them Jesus.

By entering into relationship with the foster care community, you are changed too. You are drawn to Jesus in new ways, your perspective is shifted, and your need for Jesus is made more apparent.

At this Christmas party, our hope is that you support foster families and experience Jesus together.

Steps to Host

1. Commit

Contact TFI and commit your church to the TFI calendar as a host for the next available host date.

2. Form a Party Planning Team

Areas of Focus: Party Agenda, Decorations, Entertainment, Arts & Crafts, Food, "Family Focused" Foster Home Gifts, and Kids' Gifts

Appoint a single team leader as a direct contact for TFI.

3. Plan & Prepare the Party

Schedule an official party planning collaboration with the TFI Event Coordinator.

Optional invitation for team members and partnering churches' team members (if applicable).

4. Host the Party & Celebrate Christmas!

What to Expect

- A lot of excited and hungry kids!
- Very tired and worn out parents.
- Varying actual headcount from TFI's RSVP count (plans change).
- Chaos that will bless your socks off.

This is usually the first Christmas event of the year for these kids so let's propel them into the holiday with the best Christmas Spirit we can offer....JESUS!

TFI's Support to the Host Church

- Host Training and What To Expect.
- Creation of invite list and provides the host church with an estimated headcount from minimum to maximum.
 - » Unfortunately, it is impossible for TFI to have a 100% accurate family/child headcount. However TFI will make helpful suggestions for accommodating the estimated headcount in Tips for Success.
- Creation and distribution of party invitations.
- Attendance of TFI representatives at the event to serve as support for your team leader.

Tips for Success

Volunteers

It is helpful when volunteers can clearly be identified. Encourage your party team members to stand out.

Examples: similar color theme, wacky holiday headgear, event t-shirts, name tags...get creative and have fun!

Church Partnerships

We realize you may need some help with an event of this size. Get others involved. Reach out to sister churches and group host the party!

Party Agenda

The Party Agenda does not need to be anything fancy. This is more for your team than for attendees. Attendees are accustomed to showing up, doing art, having a blessing, eating, entertainment, presents, and socializing.

Decorations

This area is completely up to you and your team to choose a theme! Stay classic or go as crazy Christmas as you'd like. We look forward to experiencing your expression of a winter wonderland.

Entertainment

This area is optional. If your church has a team that does drama, puppet shows, worship, etc., show us what you've got! If not, Christmas music playing in the background is always helpful to drown out some of the commotion.

Arts & Crafts

When kids arrive—they are so excited! It is helpful to have something for them to go and do as soon as they arrive. This also gives the parents a chance to get settled and visit with others before dinner is served.

We recommend setting up multiple art tables, appropriate for a wide range of ages. It can also be helpful to hand out bags for the kids to keep their art in and hand over to their parents.

It's helpful to parents if you have volunteers take the kids to the art area and bring them back to the dining area when dinner is served.

Food

We have found it helpful to prepare food that freezes well or is contained easily so it can be packaged for leftovers and given to the foster families as an extra blessing from the church. Often kids will come back asking for seconds, so it is always better to over prepare food and recycle leftovers.

It is important to set up the food buffet style, with your team members serving the food, to ensure food safety and portion control.

It is helpful if table servers can fill glasses at the tables and also help the parents with their kids' plates and getting them seated. Often times, churches' older youth serve in this capacity.

“Family Focused” Foster Home Gifts

We recommend you budget \$20-\$30 for each family in attendance. You can even encourage your whole congregation to get in on the fun. If you need help getting ideas rolling, connect with the TFI Event Coordinator to hear what other churches have done in the past.

Kids' Gifts

Encourage your members to get creative and make the gift giving special for both donors and the kids. Budget \$1-\$5 per gift, or have your whole congregation get involved on the blessing.

The Forgotten Initiative will reconnect with you on _____

The Forgotten Initiative Contact Information:

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Host Church Contact Information:
