



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Planning a Party with a Purpose!

Your Guide to Hosting a Successful Planned Parenthood House Party

Introduction

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England provides essential reproductive health care services to women, men, and young people at our 18 health centers in communities throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Mission

The mission of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is to protect the fundamental right of all individuals to manage their own fertility and sexual health, and to ensure access to the services, education and information to realize that right.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit health care provider. The care we provide our patients is made possible by the generosity of our donors and supporters.

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood!



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

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planning a party with a purpose

Thank you for your interest in hosting a fundraising house party to benefit Planned Parenthood! Hosting a house party is a great way to spread the word about, and financially support, the work of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE).

Planning a party, while fun, is serious business. Your event will help Planned Parenthood of Southern New England ensure that our nearly 70,000 patients are able to access reproductive health care at their preferred providers and neighborhood health centers – no matter what.

Your event will provide birth control access, life-saving cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infection education and testing, and well-woman visits. Our patients depend on PPSNE health centers to provide these services.

A house party is a fundraising tool. PPSNE can help you define your goals for the event, and build a target guest list of people you think will have an interest and the ability to support Planned Parenthood. As the host, you'll provide the space, food and beverages for your event, and send the invitations.

PPSNE can support you by:

- Providing templates for print or digital invitations
- Tracking and collecting your donations online
- Providing promotional giveaways, informational materials, talking points or videos, or a representative to speak on behalf of PPSNE, if one is available

This house party toolkit provides guidelines to make your party a success. Great parties reflect their hosts' creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment to the work of Planned Parenthood!

The staff at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England can help guide you through your house party. Reach out to us today so we can begin supporting your party!

Thank you for standing with Planned Parenthood,

Marjorie Wren
Vice President of Development

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getting started

Once you've decided to host a house party, begin by contacting PPSNE's Director of Donor Engagement at special.events@ppsne.org or **203-752-2813**. A staff member will be in touch with you throughout the process to provide support and materials. Things to determine in advance are:

- The date of your event
- The location, such as your home or another venue
- Approximate number of guests
- How much in contributions you hope to raise

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setting your goals

Setting Your Goals

Set specific goals in order to measure the success of your party. Be ambitious! The higher you set your goals, the more successful you will be at raising funds and awareness of the needs of Planned Parenthood's patients!

Sample Goals

- Get at least 10-40 people to attend
- Set a specific dollar amount goal
- Ask everyone to "donate their age" in a one-time donation or as a recurring, monthly donation
- Ask everyone to become a recurring, *Guardian Society* (monthly) donor at any level
- Get everyone in attendance to sign up for text or email alerts related to reproductive health care in CT, RI and the U.S. Congress
- Get one new person to agree to host their own house party

Feel free to choose goals that you are most comfortable with.

Remember:

No contribution is too small to make your party a success.

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structure your party

We encourage you to make your event a reflection of the things you value about Planned Parenthood and that will resonate with your guests. Make your event as traditional or as outrageous as you dare!

- **Appoint a co-host.** You might consider asking a friend or two to help coordinate the party and invite their own friends.
- **Presentation materials.** PPSNE can send a representative to speak at your event, if one is available on your selected date and time. We can also provide you with talking points about PPSNE and links to inspiring videos about the patients we serve.
- **Menu.** Potluck? BBQ? Hors d'oeuvres? Catered sit-down dinner? How much do you plan to spend on food? Will your guests prepare the food with you?
- **Asking for support.** This is the big moment! How will you encourage your guests to support PPSNE? Will you have a silent auction? Will you charge tickets at the door or in advance via an invitation? Will you ask for donations in lieu of other gifts? Consider asking your guests to become *Guardian Society* (monthly) donors at a level that is most comfortable to them. For example, \$50 per month amounts to less than your daily cup of coffee!

We will provide the necessary collection tools to make this portion of your event easy for you. Party themes? We have a list of possibilities. **Keep reading!**

4.1 Types of House Parties

Ideas for types of house parties:

- **Share your birthday.** Consider hosting your next birthday as a benefit. In lieu of gifts, ask your guests to make a donation to Planned Parenthood!
- **Activity groups.** Do you participate in a cycling, dining, knitting, or walking group? How about a book club? Why not turn your intimate club into an opportunity to engage with your friends on the issues that matter to you? Read a book that involves reproductive rights (ask us for recommendations), or lead a discussion about the issues facing women's reproductive health care and rights? Do you belong to an alumni association, corporate group, or neighborhood association? Incorporate Planned Parenthood into your next meeting and increase awareness!
- **Mother/Daughter events.** Host a tea, brunch, or sit-in where you can share what Planned Parenthood has inspired you to do in your life and why you are involved with Planned Parenthood. Come up with ways to get involved together!

Consider hosting a house party based on a theme occurring during a certain month:

- **January:** National Cervical Health Awareness Month; *Roe v. Wade* anniversary;
- **February:** PPSNE Anniversary (1923), National Black History Month; Valentine's Day/National Condom Week; National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- **March:** National Women's History Month; International Women's Day; National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers
- **April:** National Minority Health Month; Get Yourself Tested (GYT) Month; STD Awareness Month; National Volunteer Week, National Equal Pay Day
- **May:** National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month; Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, National Women's Health Week, National Nurses Week
- **June:** Planned Parenthood Anniversary (1916); National LGBTQ Pride Month; Immigrant Heritage Month; National Men's Health Week; National HIV Testing Day; *Griswold v. Connecticut* Anniversary
- **July:** National Foreign Language Month; World Population Day
- **August:** National Health Center Week; Women's Equality Day
- **September:** National Ovarian/Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month; National Hispanic Heritage Month; Women's Health & Fitness Day; World Contraception Day; National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- **October:** Breast Cancer Awareness Month; LGBTQ History Month; Let's Talk Month; National Health Education and Health Care Quality Week; National Coming Out Day; National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day
- **November:** National American Indian Heritage Month; Family Week; Transgender Awareness Week; "Thanks, Birth Control" Day; Transgender Day of Remembrance; Election Day
- **December:** World AIDS Day; United Nations Human Rights Day

4.2 Recommendations and Tips

We recommend the following:

- Set a fundraising goal for your event. This way, you can encourage your guests to give as you get closer to the goal. Think of a reasonable goal that will be a stretch, but not impossible to achieve.
- Invite your guests approximately one month before your event.
- Create your online donation page to collect donations - we will help with this too!
- Advertise your event on social media.
- Send at least one follow up email as the date approaches.
- Include a date by which you would like RSVPs.
- Create name tags for guests, especially if many people haven't met before.
- Send a post-event thank you email from your personal email address, including opportunities to engage with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. Please include our link to donate to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England: ppsne.org/donate

Tips and tricks:

- **Donate to your own fundraising efforts.** When your friends and family visit your page, they'll see that you donated to support Planned Parenthood before asking them to chip in too.
- **Talk about your fundraising efforts on social media.** Reach your friends and family where they hang out online by posting progress updates and links to your fundraising page on your social media accounts a few times per week.
- **Double donations through company matching gifts.** When your friends and family donate, remind them to see if their employers have matching gift programs, and encourage them to fill out the necessary paperwork (usually with someone in HR at their place of work).
- **Ask your favorite local business for a donation.** Local businesses love their customers and rely on your support, so why not ask them to return the favor and give?
- **Personalize your page and tell your story.** Inspire your friends and family to give by sharing the reasons why you support Planned Parenthood.

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party planning timeline

Depending on the size, location, and theme of your party, you may want to allow as few as 4 to 6 weeks or as many as 8 to 12 weeks to plan your event.

Preliminary Planning:

- Pick a date for your party
- Invite co-hosts and assign tasks
- Decide on party theme
- Chose a topic
- Set goals for the event (\$ amount, RSVPs, attendees)
- Establish your guest list
- Secure the location
- Register your party with Planned Parenthood by contacting special.events@ppsne.org or **203-752-2813**

5.1 Timeline Checklist

6-8 Weeks before Party:

- Confirm the location
- Send out invitations/evites; ask that guests RSVP and include directions
- Confirm you have the Planned Parenthood materials you need for party, including donation forms, envelopes, guest sign-in forms, volunteer applications, PPSNE talking points, and other materials
- Ensure you have a table for check-in
- Determine the menu (light beverages and snacks suggested)
- If applicable, make the request for PPSNE representative to speak

4 Weeks before Party:

- Review all RSVPs; call people who have not responded
- Send out reminder evites
- Finalize the menu and purchase beverages and supplies
- Confirm tasks with co-hosts (greeter, food, beverage, equipment, photographer, etc.)

1 Week before Party:

- Make reminder calls or send emails to guests
- Finalize the guest list
- Set the agenda for evening
- Confirm the menu and beverage logistics, including preparation and arrival

3 Days before Party:

- Check-in with co-hosts and review assigned duties
- Make reminder calls and emails as needed
- Check the venue for proper tables, seating, and equipment
- Decorate if necessary

Day of Party:

- Greet guests; ask that they sign-in (have sign-in sheets and name tags ready)
- After allowing guests to mingle, begin the program
- Thank guests for attending, tell them why you support Planned Parenthood, and ask for their advocacy support
- Encourage guests' questions and distribute materials
- Get at least one other person to volunteer to host their own party
- Continue the party and thank guests before they leave

Day after Party:

- Send thank you notes or emails to guests
- If appropriate, encourage them to consider hosting a party or making a donation online
- Email pictures to special.events@ppsne.org
- Enclose sign-in sheets and petitions or actions and mail them to:

**Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
345 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511**

1 Week after the Party:

- Expect a call or email from PPSNE to follow-up on your event

THANK YOU.

We are incredibly grateful for your willingness to show your support for Planned Parenthood in this special way. We appreciate your support, and look forward to assisting you in creating an outstanding event for the benefit of the women, men, and young people who depend on Planned Parenthood of Southern New England!