



Advent Group Ministries

House Party Host Kit



Advent Group Ministries
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Dear Advent House Party Host,

Thank you for your willingness to host a house party! House parties are a great way to spread the word about Advent Group Ministries' mission to bring hope, healing and Christ's love to abused, neglected and addicted teens through quality treatment.

Advent is excited to partner with dedicated supporters like you to raise awareness of the devastating problem of teen substance abuse and to show our community how they can make a difference by getting involved. Your participation in this effort is greatly appreciated.

This House Party Host Kit will provide all the information you need to host a successful house party. In addition, an Advent staff member will be available to attend your party and give a powerful Interactive Presentation that will help your guests understand how and why kids get involved in the destructive cycle of substance abuse.

From all of us at Advent Group Ministries, thank you for supporting us in the battle against addiction. We look forward to working with you! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 408-281-0708 x125 or email me at jmorrow@adventgm.org.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Morrow
Director of Resource Development





Why a House Party?

The purpose of an Advent Group Ministries House Party is to educate the public on the issues of abuse, neglect and addiction among children and teens, and to encourage people to get involved in the solution. You do not need to be an expert on these issues or our organization's activities in order to host a house party. Your passion for the children we serve will shine through to your guests and inspire them to get involved in this worthy cause. This is the perfect opportunity to let others know how the Lord has blessed you as you have blessed our kids through service.

Our goal is to build a community of resources and support throughout California and beyond. Through these events, we hope to recruit volunteers, mentors and foster families, expand our base of financial supporters and raise awareness in the community about Advent's services. We ask that you encourage people to take an Advent Information Packet that includes a Take Action card detailing the many ways that your guests can get involved in this worthwhile ministry. We do not expect you to ask for money from your guests. We only ask that you encourage them to take the packet home and pray about how they might be able to partner with Advent in the fight against abuse, neglect and addiction.

Feel free to contact Jennifer Morrow, Director of Resource Development at Advent Group Ministries, for more information or help with planning your party. Call 408-281-0708 x125 or send an email to jmorrow@adventgm.org.

Whom Do I Invite?

Invite anyone you wish: friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, church members...everyone is welcome! We recommend that you invite between 10-20 guests. You may invite more, or even less if you choose, but we have found that 10-20 guests is a good number for a house party. You may hold the party anywhere you wish – your home, a friend's home, a park, or better yet - in one of our group homes to help your guests understand what life is like for our residents.

We recommend using www.Evite.com for your invitations. It is a free, easy-to-use service; you just need to sign up, then get started designing a personalized invitation. You can even keep track of RSVP's online. Of course, you can always mail invitations if you prefer – it's your choice!

If you need assistance with invitations, please call Jennifer Morrow at 408-281-0708 x125.





Suggested Timeline for your House Party

Below is a suggested timeline for your house party. This timeline may vary depending on when or where your event takes place, the number of guest who are attending, and other factors. Remember, this is a party – *HAVE FUN!*

15-30 minutes	Guests arrive, sign-in, get food / drinks and mingle
15-20 minutes	Guests take a brief tour of the group home (if held at a group home). The tour may have to take place in small groups depending on the size of the party.
20 minutes	Begin the Interactive Presentation* (see details on next page)
10-15 minutes	Discuss the Interactive Presentation* (see details on next page)
10 minutes	Testimony from an Advent group home client or graduate** (<u>optional</u>)
10 minutes	Advent staff member shares Advent's vision
5 minutes	The host gives testimony about his/her involvement in our ministry
5-10 minutes	The host or Advent staff member suggests action steps and hands out an Advent Information Packet with a Take Action card detailing ways to get involved.
10 -15 minutes	Question and answer time / closing prayer

Again, this is just a suggested timeline. Please feel free to adjust the schedule as you wish. The only thing we ask is that you ask your guests to sign-in, that a staff member facilitates the Interactive Presentation, and that you pass out the Advent Information Packet that includes a Take Action card.

*** We will do our best to have an actual Advent group home client or graduate available to give their testimony, however, due to the sensitive nature of the issues our kids deal with, this option may not always be available. Recorded testimonies on DVD are available.*



The Interactive Presentation

Your guests are invited to participate in an exercise that will help them understand the complexity and severity of the cases we see every day at Advent. These are real case histories and most are very disturbing. However, we want the emphasis to be on the positive work Advent is doing to help these kids overcome such serious issues.

1. Guests gather in groups of two with one playing the role of a teen “client” and the other in the role of an Advent “intake counselor”. The more you “get into” the role, the better.
2. The guest playing the role of “client” will receive an actual case history of an Advent client to read over and familiarize themselves with. The “client” will answer the questions asked of them by the “intake counselor” as if they are actually the teenager.
3. The guest playing the role of “intake counselor” will receive a list of questions to ask the “client”. These questions will be similar to questions actually asked of the youth interviewed for placement in our group homes.
4. Once the interview is complete, the guests can turn over their paper to see the actual outcome of that client’s case.
5. Guests discuss the exercise and the impact it had on them. The host or an Advent staff member can get the conversation started by asking some of the following questions:

Discussion Questions

- For those of you who played the role of the “client”: How did you feel as you read the profile? Was it difficult to put yourself in the client’s shoes?
- For those of you who played the role of “counselor”: What was it like to ask your “client” those questions? What was your reaction to their responses?
- How did you feel as you turned the page to find out the outcome of your case history?
- How would you describe the feelings you experienced during this presentation?



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I am not an expert on Advent Group Ministries or on abuse, neglect and addiction...should I host a house party?

A: YES! You do not need to be an expert on these issues or our organization's activities in order to host a house party. House party hosts are people who are passionate about the plight of abused, neglected and addicted youth and who want to inspire others to get involved in this worthy cause.

Q: What is the purpose of holding a house party?

A: The purpose of an Advent Group Ministries House Party is to educate the public on the issues of abuse, neglect and addiction among children and teens, and to encourage people to get involved in the solution. Our goal is to build a community of resources and support throughout California and beyond. Through these events, we hope to recruit volunteers, mentors and foster families, expand our base of financial supporters and raise awareness in the community about Advent's services.

Q: Whom should I invite?

A: Invite anyone you wish: friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, church members...everyone is welcome! We recommend that you invite between 10-20 guests. You may invite more, or even less if you choose, but we have found that 10-20 people is a good number of people at a house party.

Q: Where should I hold the party?

A: You may hold the party anywhere you wish – your home, a friends home, a park - you may even hold the party in one of our group homes to help your guests see what life is like for the teens in our program.

Q: When should I hold the party?

A: Anytime that is convenient for you! Many people choose a weekday evening from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, but it is entirely up to you! If you choose to hold the party in one of our group homes, there may be some time constraints. We will work with you to find a date and time that will work for you and our group home clients.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much money will this cost me?

A: Hosting a house party does not need to cost you anything, but we do suggest having some refreshments available. One idea - ask friends who are attending your party to bring a snack or desert to share and you provide the beverages. NOTE: please do not serve alcoholic beverages, as we are an addiction recovery program.

Q: Do I have to ask my guests for donations?

A: No. The goal of a house party is to raise awareness of the devastating problem of teen substance abuse and to show others how they can get involved in the solution. We only ask that you encourage them to take our Information Packet home and pray about how they might be able to partner with Advent in our mission. However, soliciting donations is always welcome if you are comfortable doing so.

Q: Will there be materials for me to give to my guests?

A: Yes. We will provide an Advent Information Packet for all of your guests that will include an informational brochure, a list of volunteer opportunities and a Take Action card for your guests to fill out and return.

Q: What materials will I need?

A: We will provide you with a House Party Host Kit that includes everything you will need. Please see the next page entitled List of Materials and Resources for further information.

Q: What if my guests have questions I can't answer or if they need advice?

A: An Advent staff member will attend your party to facilitate the Interactive Presentation and to answer any questions that may come up.

Q: How should I follow-up with my guests after the house party?

A: Sending a thank you note is a great way to follow-up with your guests. If you would like assistance with thank you notes, please let us know.



List of Materials and Resources

House Party Host Kit Folder (for you)

House Party Host Kit

Guest Sign-In Sheet

Advent Brochure

List of *Advent Volunteer Opportunities*

Take Action Card

Interactive Presentation Sample (for your review)

**Advent staff will bring all the materials needed for the Interactive Presentation to your house party*

Advent Information Packet (for your guests)

Advent Brochure

List of *Advent Volunteer Opportunities*

Take Action Card