

## Leaders for Host Church

Below is a list of leaders for your church's Celebrate Jesus Mission. Feel free to add other coordinators and/or committees needed by your particular church.

### Key Leader:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Hospitality Coordinator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer Coordinator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Follow-Through Coordinator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Visitation Coordinator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Block Party Coordinator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# CELEBRATE JESUS MISSION

## Block Party Coordinator Guidebook

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome! It's wonderful to have you as part of the Celebrate Jesus family! We look forward to working and praying with you for the success of your mission in the upcoming months. As you already know, prayer is essential for every aspect of an effective mission. As you begin to look toward your Celebrate Jesus Mission and your church brainstorms ideas that will appeal to your local community, continue in prayer.

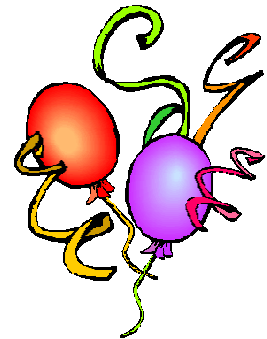
The position of Block Party Coordinator is important since the Block Party will most likely be the climax of your Mission. However, we must not get so wrapped up in the Block Party that we miss the heart of the mission - meeting our neighbors and beginning relationships with them. This information has been assembled to share some ideas to help you through the planning and implementation process. We are thankful for previous host churches that have shared their helpful hints with us.

This guidebook is designed to simply get you started; it is certainly not an exhaustive list of ideas. Ask God to give you and your team creativity and a clear understanding of the people you hope to reach in your community as you carry out this task.

### WHAT IS A BLOCK PARTY AND WHY HAVE ONE?

The main purpose of a Celebrate Jesus Mission is to help churches reach their neighbors for Jesus Christ. The way we do this is through offering the people in the community a free gift, asking them for prayer requests, and inviting them to a FREE BLOCK PARTY. As we meet them throughout the week making door-to-door visits and contacts at parks, business, sports fields, etc., we have found that a Block Party - either on the church grounds or elsewhere - is a wonderful, non-threatening

event that appeals to everyone. This event can be as simple as eating watermelon on the lawn while listening to Christian music or as complex as a pig roast with carnival games. The focus should be on building relationships with the neighbors around you. A successful block party will require many helpers and preparations made well in advance. Invite as many church members as possible to be involved—many hands make lighter work!



Block Parties can be more than offering hot dogs and having carnival games for kids. For instance, some Block Parties have focused on health screening and seminars using volunteers from local health and welfare organizations. Other churches have offered job fairs, connecting with employers around the city or county. A prayer tent is always appreciated at a Block Party. Evangelism could be the primary focus featuring a Christian hip-hop youth concert, tent evangelists or drama, ending with an invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Food can be a large or small factor at your Block Party. We have seen everything from a 60-foot banana split, a 40-foot ice cream sundae (served in a storm gutter!), a pig roast, barbecue, pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers or simply offering a dish of homemade ice cream. Some churches have coordinated with the city to have the streets blocked off, inviting community businesses as well as neighborhoods to participate in a huge street party. Pray as you plan, create and implement your unique Block Party. God will provide every resource!

### PRIMARY GOALS OF YOUR BLOCK PARTY

- ☛ Opportunity for the visiting Celebrate Jesus team members to introduce the people they have met in the community to your church family.
- ☛ Your church can gather names and information from the neighbors who attend the Block Party (via door prize info).
- ☛ This is a fun way to cultivate relationships and really begin “community” with your neighbors in an atmosphere of celebration.

### THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOUR BLOCK PARTY

1. Pray! Pray that the Lord will show you what kind of block party or community event will attract your neighbors. Examples: A church in a retirement neighborhood reached out to “boomers” with a 60’s concert. Churches reaching youth have had skateboard exhibitions and rock climbing walls. One church hosted a car show. A church in a rural area had a bluegrass band. Most churches try to have something for all ages.
2. Put your team together - You will need a group of people from your church who are detail oriented and love to throw a party.
3. Attend the Celebrate Jesus workshop on “Block Party” and bring your team with you. It is a great time to ask questions.
4. Location, location, location - Where are you going to have it? At the church? At a park? Jointly with another host church? At a public school playground? Somewhere else? Remember to check early with city, county or school officials in case permits or reservations are needed. Contact your local police department to review your traffic plan and to see if they are going to require you to engage the services of law enforcement.

# Testimonies

*“How do I describe our Block Party? **Heartwarming** - such a crowd! **Fun** - it was a lot of work by many people, but we had FUN! **Rewarding** - we have gained several new families into our congregation as a direct result of Mission Week. Our Block Party showed us that although we are an older congregation there are many young children and families in our neighborhood and we can and will reach out to them.”*

*“In the beginning planning for our Mission Week, the block party seemed like such an overwhelming task. Remember the power of prayer, put God in it, take one step at a time, involve people, and have fun!”*

## HELP!

**WORKSHOP:** A workshop will be provided by Celebrate Jesus for you and other Coordinators in your area so you’ll have the opportunity to share ideas, brainstorm together and ask questions. We will invite Block Party coordinators from prior missions who can give additional information. You will be contacted when a date has been set in your area.



**HELP-LINE:** Please feel free to contact the Celebrate Jesus office any time you have questions.

Phone: 407-893-7305

E-Mail: [celebrate.jesus@cimission.org](mailto:celebrate.jesus@cimission.org)

**TEAMWORK!**

In order for your Block Party to run smoothly, you will need many helping hands! Try to get your entire congregation involved. If you divide up areas of responsibility, different groups within your church can work together on an assigned task. For example, youth group, men's group, women's group, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Bible study, Sunday School class, etc. You might have different "teams" for responsibilities such as:

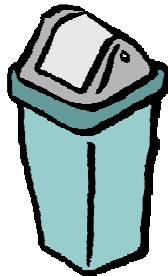
- Site prep
- Set up
- Games
- Food and drinks
- Hospitality (welcoming guests and talking with visitors)
- Entertainment
- Trash removal during event and clean up
- Clean up
- Door prize registration
- Prayer Tent

Your visiting missionaries will be able to help you with the set up and other tasks during the party. They should also have some time to mingle with the guests during the block party to introduce them to the church members. Church members need to remember to talk to and connect with the new people.

**DON'T FORGET!**

Some helpful hints from previous host churches:

- ◇ Have plenty of trash containers and someone to empty them.
- ◇ Have LOTS of cold water and beverages available - these should be cooled down well in advance.
- ◇ Plan for adequate portable toilets.
- ◇ Plan for extra parking.
- ◇ Plan early on for adequate electrical service.
- ◇ Be bold about asking for donations!
- ◇ Attend the Prayer Gatherings and the CJ workshops—you learn a lot!
- ◇ Remember to have fun!



5. Plan for food service - Plan your menu and prepare for keeping it cold, cooking, sanitary serving, ice, coolers, drinks.
6. Publicity - One of your team members should be a good PR person who will help design the hand-out flyer and posters to publicize the block party. The hand-out can be as small as a ticket or as large as an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper. Publicity flyers and posters should clearly state the date and location, the name of the sponsoring church, what will be offered, and indicate that everything is FREE! Weeks before the block party a big attractive sign should be placed in "easy sight" on the church property to publicize the date and time. The words FREE and COMMUNITY should be in large print. EVERYONE should feel welcome.
7. Collect door prizes - Door prizes are an important aspect of the Block Party. You will obtain names, phone numbers and addresses as guests register to win one of the great prizes you will offer. You will then be able to contact these folks in the weeks following the block party and later when you send out invitations for other special events at your church. Most churches find their local merchants very generous in making donations of items to use as door prizes. Don't forget to send thank you notes to the vendors who donate.
8. Collect donations - Donations are savings on your budget in addition to strengthening ties between church and community. A sample donation request letter is on the next page; your requests should be coordinated with your Hospitality Coordinator, who may also be seeking donations from area businesses. Be sure to follow up with a thank you note! (Other ideas regarding donations- give your business sponsors a thank you at your block party. Consider a post-mission follow up by taking a "thank you" tray of cookies to your business sponsors. One host church enlisted two restaurants to have a barbeque cook-off at their block party.)
9. Don't forget to give your church members opportunities to donate needed items: drinks, food, paper goods, door prizes, etc.
10. Reserve rented items - bounce houses, popcorn machine, sno-cone machine, carnival games, etc.
11. Make arrangements with bands and booth providers, porta-potty providers, extra electricity generators and lights if needed on your site.
12. Have someone in charge of site preparation (cut the grass, deal with fire ants) and parking. Plan for extra parking.
13. Plan the layout of your party.
14. Plan for chairs and tables for people to sit, eat and rest - think about shade.
15. For a big event, plan to have a first aid tent.
16. Plan for an inviting prayer tent and church members to staff it - include a fan.
17. What is the plan if it rains?

**IDEAS FROM PREVIOUS CHURCHES**

**ACTIVITIES**

- \* Pony rides
- \* Sack races
- \* Music (praise band, country gospel, etc.)
- \* Race car exhibit
- \* Police and/or fire department exhibitions
- \* Fingerprinting of children
- \* Cake walks
- \* Carnival games
- \* Petting zoo
- \* Clowns
- \* Climbing wall
- \* Face painting
- \* Christian radio station booth
- \* Balloons
- \* Bounce house
- \* Health screening
- \* Job fair
- \* Outdoor Christian concert
- \* Dunking booth
- \* Child Evangelism activities
- \* Children's craft tent
- \* Karate demonstration
- \* Skate board event
- \* Choo-choo train
- \* Car show
- \* Popcorn/sno-cones
- \* Free haircuts
- \* **Contact local merchants to donate door prizes**



**Sample Letter to Prospective Donors**  
*(This letter should be written on church letterhead)*

(Follow up with a phone call or personal visit)

Date

Company Name  
 Proper Name  
 Address  
 City, State, Zip

Dear Name,

We at \_\_\_\_\_ are hosting a "Celebrate Jesus Mission" during the week of \_\_\_\_\_. For our Church the Mission involves inviting Christian missionaries from several other states and countries to come into our community for a week. They will work alongside our local congregation proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ by doing intentional acts of kindness to businesses and individuals in our neighborhood.

During this week we will be creating and implementing events and activities designed to strengthen God's Spirit in our community. We are looking to you for support in this great community outreach.

Thank you for donating any of the following items:

*Items needed*

If you have any questions please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_

With appreciation,

Block Party Coordinator

EXAMPLE OF DONATIONS		
Door prizes	Hamburger/Hot dog buns	Pizza
Bottled water	Chips	Popsicles
Soda	Cups, napkins, paper towels	Fresh fruit
Desserts	Paper plates	Samples from their menu
Popcorn	Plastic utensils	