

Great Tips for Maximizing Your Participation in FPNI's Cardboard Box City 2015

The goal is to build a House out of cardboard boxes to sleep in, and to get sponsorship donations of \$125.00 or more for each participant. Each Cardboard House will be judged and prizes awarded for Most Creative, Most Durable, the most monies raised, and a variety of other categories. There will also be random prize drawings throughout the night. If you need help with ideas, you can research on line by searching Cardboard Box City (there are many to view), check out our Facebook Page or ask one of the Family Promise Event Coordinators.

For Youth Organizers

1. Promote this to your youth groups/students as a way to directly help children secure homes.
2. Remind prospective participants that this is a great opportunity to meet community service requirements.
3. Have students and parents complete and sign the registration form to ensure that they will stay on board.
4. Consider setting up a Facebook event to promote the event among a wider group of school, church, and community friends.
5. Appoint a student or scout to foster peer to peer mobilization.
6. Make this a senior project, "The Plight of the Homeless and How We Can Help."
7. Send reminder emails encouraging gaining sponsorship, count down to the event, and discussing possible home construction ideas for the group.
8. Create a theme for your neighborhood – same colored shirts, any ideas that will make your group stand out.
9. In the weeks before the event, put up participant photos at school, church, or club house to promote support.
10. Have group leaders record the event on photos, videos, and post on organization's website or Facebook.
11. Set an amount as a group goal (event has a prize for biggest amount, but you can establish one within your own group).

For Participants

1. Send emails to ALL your friends and families telling them that you're going to be Homeless October 9th. Let them know that you'll sleep in a cardboard box and stand in a soup line to bring awareness of the plight of the homeless and raise funds to help them. Then ask them if they will sponsor you by making a donation pledge.
2. Tell your Facebook friends what you are doing and ask them to come by and cheer you on, make a donation (or both) and/or ask them to join the event.
3. Set up an information stand in your neighborhood, church, or club house. Let people know that every night in Kootenai County there are over 600 children who don't have a home or bed to sleep in.
 - In 2013, School District #271 alone reported 299 homeless students (2014 numbers not available at time of print).
4. Take photos and videos of yourself and others as you tell them what you are doing and during the event. In the video, talk about your concerns about homelessness and what people can do about it. Post a copy of the video on YouTube and Facebook (you can use the link for college applications for community service).
5. List your volunteer efforts related to this event on your resume.
6. Solicit businesses, teachers, churches, everyone for sponsorship. Our goal for you is \$125.00, but you can challenge yourself for any amount! Remember, there are prizes for the most monies raised!