NFWM House Party FAQ

What is a House Party?
It is a gathering where you (or you along with others involved with National Farm Worker Ministry) invite friends to come together for a couple of hours. The purpose is to educate your friends about NFWM and farm workers, inspire guests to action and ask them to make a contribution to support NFWM’s important work. **While house parties are often hosted at someone’s home, we use the term “House Party” to mean an event hosted for these purposes, regardless of the location.**

What is the best location?
You can host a house party at home in your living room or on your patio. It could be a soup supper at your church, a brunch at a local restaurant, a wine and cheese event at a community center or a coffee and dessert gathering at a private room of a coffee shop. Use your creativity to find what suits you (and your guests) best!

What happens at a house party?
It is where those attending see old friends, meet new people, and eat good food, which creates a pleasant atmosphere for learning and for the host to make a donation request. A house party allows a guest who’s not familiar with NFWM or farm workers to learn more, ask questions, and get detailed information without being obligated to give. Friends can either give a very small gift or not give at all, and they can come to the house party without having to pay to attend.

How do I get started?
Follow the House Party Planning Kit Checklist (page 14-19) throughout the process. It has sections on “Before,” “Day of” and “After” your event. Keep in mind, NFWM staff are here to help. Go to [www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org) or contact: Alexandria Jonas at ajonas@nfwm.org or 919.807.8707 for support.

How far in advance should I start planning my house party?
Depending on how elaborate your event will be, it is generally recommended to begin planning at least 6-8 weeks before the date of your party so you can ensure good attendance.

How should I send the invitation?
This depends on your preference and who you’d like to attend. Mailed invitations are still the most effective, but they’re also the most costly. If you send electronic invitations, be sure those you’re inviting “do” email. The most important part of any invitation process is making personal follow-up reminder calls. These calls can make all the difference in attendance.

Why host a house party?
1. They’re fun! Good people, good food and a good cause is always a great combination!
2. There is a legacy of house party hosting in the farm worker movement! Back in the early days of the farm worker movement in the 1960’s and ’70’s, the United Farm Workers hosted house parties as a way to help spread the word and fund strikes and boycotts.
3. House parties raise much needed funds and new supporters for NFWM’s work in solidarity with farm workers organizing for justice!

Did you eat today? Thank a farm worker!

House Party Kit by National Farm Worker Ministry. Visit [www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org) or call 919.807.8707 for more information.