



THRIVE YOUR WAY! Tips and Suggestions for Hosting a *Thrive* Party

What will Mary Free Bed provide to help me host a party?

Beginning at the Excel sponsorship level, the Foundation will provide you with a “party box” containing party favors for guests, heavy appetizers and a Meijer gift card to purchase beverages and/or additional items. Both the party box and appetizers will be hand delivered to your location prior to your party and come with complete instructions.

Isn't gathering together risky right now?

Mary Free Bed recommends you follow all CDC guidelines and Michigan regulations/executive orders. Masks and hand sanitizer will be included in each party box. The party packages are built for ten guests, which is the current limit for indoor gatherings by the state of Michigan. The appetizers are single-serve portions. The dates of Sept. 25 to Oct. 11 allow hosts the option to host their party outside.

Where should I host my party?

Keeping in mind CDC guidelines and Michigan regulations/executive orders on gatherings, you can host your party wherever you like--in your home (inside or outside), at your office, tailgating in a parking lot, or in a park! All we request is that you have some way to share the video with your guests (laptop, tablet, smartphone, or TV/DVD).

How big is the party box?

Each party box and appetizer package will accommodate ten guests. If your sponsorship level includes a party for 30 guests, three party boxes and three appetizer packages will be delivered.

The appetizers are nice, but my guests are going to want something more to eat.

The appetizers have been carefully selected to be either the only food offered, or part of a larger meal. If you would like to add more appetizers, or a full meal, that is completely up to you, but you are responsible for purchasing the additional menu items and any preparation.

Can I order more food from the caterer?

We have only arranged for these specific items and amount to be delivered as a part of **THRIVE**. However, we would encourage you to support your local restaurants should you want to order additional food to be brought to your party

This is a “cocktail party.” Why didn't I receive any cocktails?

We are not able to deliver alcohol to our hosts, so we are providing a gift card so that you can purchase beverages of your choice to serve. We are providing a special drink recipe (“Mary Sunrise”) that you can choose to include in your party; or serve whatever you like!

Do I have to hold my party in the evening?

No! The beauty of **THRIVING** your way is that you can have it in the evening, the afternoon, at the end of the workday, or even breakfast/brunch. The appetizer package remains the same no matter when your party takes place.

When will I get my party box and appetizers?

Both boxes will be hand delivered to your door (within the Grand Rapids area). Your party box of favors (and Meijer gift card) will arrive in September before your party date. The appetizers will be delivered either the day before, or day of, your party and can be stored in the refrigerator. All our delivery volunteers will wear masks and gloves when making deliveries, and practice proper hand hygiene.

What's on the menu for the appetizers? Some of my guests have dietary restrictions.

We took great care in selecting items that would provide something for every type of dietary need. There will be vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free items included. You will get a menu ahead of time so you can properly plan and purchase additional food if you like.

What is the attire for the party?

Your call! Some may want to dress up and put on the gown/tux, others may go casual. Make it a sports theme, or even a costume party. The possibilities are endless.

Can I host a party for more or less than ten people?

Mary Free Bed is recommending hosts follow the most up-to-date CDC guidelines and Michigan regulations/executive orders on gathering limitations. If you have fewer than ten guests, you will still receive a party box and appetizer package for ten. Parties for more than ten people should be held outside to comply with Michigan regulations for gatherings.

What if I'm not home when my party box or appetizer package arrives?

Our delivery volunteers will place the box in a secure spot at your home or office. You can also send us special delivery instructions ahead of time. The appetizers will come chilled in an insulated tote bag.

Do I have to sign in online to attend THRIVE?

No. There is no set date/time for the **THRIVE** program. You choose the date and time, and all we ask is that you show your guests a short video at some point during the party. The video will be available online via YouTube and you will be provided a DVD. Instructions will be included in your party box.

Gathering people around my phone to watch the THRIVE video will be within a 6-foot distance.

If you have the ability to "cast" videos from your phone to your TV (via Chrome, Roku, or Apple TV), or have internet access through your cable or satellite provider, you can watch the YouTube video on your TV, which makes viewing much easier, properly spaced, and more comfortable for your guests. We will also include a DVD in your party box.

Isn't stopping a party to have everyone sit and watch a video going to be a little awkward?

Anyone attending will know the purpose of the party is to support Mary Free Bed's mission, so they will be expecting some time dedicated to Mary Free Bed. The video is entertaining, moving, and inspiring! You and your guests won't want to miss it. Trust us! 😊

Wow! That video was amazing, just like Mary Free Bed! How can my guests make a donation?

There are a couple ways they can make a gift:

1. Take an envelope (included in your party box) and send it in with their donation.
2. Donate securely from their phone by texting **MARY** to **50155**.
3. Visit www.maryfreebed.com/gala and donate securely online.

What is THRIVE supporting this year?

Proceeds from this year's **THRIVE** will support Mary Free Bed's Wheelchair & Adaptive Sports program, one of the largest of its kind in the United States. This incredible program empowers children and adults to explore the possibilities competitive and recreational sports provide.

I received my party box but have to cancel my party, what should I do?

Please keep the party box and its contents as our thanks for your sponsorship. Feel free to distribute the items as you see fit; or hold onto them and have a party some other time (parties that are cancelled will not be able to reschedule food delivery).

I can't host my party between Sept. 25 and Oct. 11. What can I do?

Please contact the foundation and we can work with you on other possible dates.

If you still have questions, or need additional information, please contact, Jocelyn Dettloff at 616-840-8204 or Jocelyn.dettloff@maryfreebed.com