



GTW House Party Guidelines and Suggestions

GTW House Parties are being created to support the 6 GTW Congresses on 6 Continents. The following are suggestions for designing a successful party.

1) Use collaborative, co-creative styles of leadership.

Rather than being anchored by any single person, the most successful events will be anchored by a Leadership Circle of 3-7 women working together to develop and implement a plan. Ideally this Leadership Circle will represent diversity of age, ethnicity, background and affiliations. You can meet in person and use conference calls and e-lists to communicate. Capitalize on the strength of each woman. Some people are good at organizing, while others are better at welcoming people when they arrive, and others are great at community networking. Allow each woman to shine and give from her strengths. Welcome new ideas.

2) Follow the 'yes' -- use the resources and opportunities that show up effortlessly.

Starting with your Leadership Circle, reach out to others for the resources you need. If you follow the yes in your own community, it is possible to create an event where there is no cost for venue, food, beverage, entertainment or supplies so that every dollar you collect goes directly to the international women anchoring the GTW Congress.

3) Gear your event to your community.

You know best what kind of event will capture the hearts and imagination of the people of your community. Would people respond to a lovely evening event with wine and appetizers or would they prefer a Saturday breakfast event in an outdoor setting? Do you want to include men or make it women only? What kind of price points will seem attractive to your audience? These are things that your Leadership Circle will know.

4) Create an inviting and nurturing environment.

Welcome your guest with warm personal contact. Provide simple written materials describing GTW and the issues facing the women of the region you are supporting. Have soft lighting, candles, music and art. Provide each person with a small, personal token to commemorate the evening. Give participants a way to connect with the people they are sponsoring. For example, you can provide a basket with small blank sheets of nice paper for them to write a blessing for the women of the congress they will be sponsoring. This assists in weaving a tapestry between the donors and the women participating in the congress. Allow the creative juices of your committee to flow!

5) Be creative about unique ways to raise money.

Think about fund-raisers that you have attended in the past --- what kinds of strategies worked well to raise money? You can charge a flat fee at the door for each attendee. You can offer for sale art and crafts from the region you are supporting – bought at wholesale and sold for a higher price. You can create raffles, pledge cards, silent or live auctions. You can sell advertising space in a printed program. You might seek corporate or business sponsors to underwrite your costs or to receive publicity in return for a \$500 donation to the cause.

6) Give your attendees the gift of connecting with global issues through local action.

GTW has experienced again and again that people are hungry for deeper meaning in their lives, and they are thrilled to be able to have some global impact through their local actions. Use printed materials and a brief presentation at the event to weave these global linkages – quoting facts about the issues facing women in this region, sharing personal stories, reading the words of the Congress coordinator. You can find this kind of information on the GTW website – or ask GTW for help to pull it together.

7) Relax and HAVE FUN!!! The more fun you have, the more fun the people in attendance will have. Once the event begins, let go of expectations. Be present and ask for help if you need it. Women enjoy helping one another. Know that there is someone there who will be willing to pitch in if needed for a specific task.

For more information, contact Kathe@gatherthewomen.org