

HOW TO START YOUR OWN DRIVE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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STEP 1: FIND A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN YOUR AREA

Do your research and find a list of shelters in your area. Find one that you feel you connect with. You can best choose one by talking to the shelters themselves. Some of them do not allow people to just walk in so you may have to make an appointment or just talk over the phone. Explain to them when you intend to hold your drive and why you want to. If you don't feel like that specific shelter is one you want to work with, talk with another. If you want to, you could also hold the drive for several different shelters.

STEP 2: FIND OUT SPECIFICALLY WHAT THEY NEED

Once you have found the shelter or shelters that you are going to be working with, have an in depth conversation about what specifically they are looking for. For example, do they need clothes? If so, used or new? Do they need feminine products? Do they need toiletries? Compile a list of what the shelter needs and make sure to stick to that list. Some shelters get either too little of some things or too much of others so you want to be sure you are compiling donations that they actually need.

STEP 3: HAVE A FORMAL CONVERSATION TO ESTABLISH THE TERMS

During your meeting with the shelter, whether this is over the phone or in person, make sure to establish the specifics of the arrangement. Establish when the donation needs to be in by and when and how you will get the donations to them. Do they accept monetary donations? What is the age range of the people who will be receiving the donations? Make sure you have all the information you need to give them the most support through your donation.

STEP 4: ORGANIZE YOUR DRIVE

Now it's time to sort out the specifics of the drive itself. First off, figure out where this drive is being held. Will it be at your local church? Or your school? Or will you reach out to friends and family? Establish your audience. How will the donations get to you? One really cool way to collect donations is to have pick up spots at small businesses, that way the businesses get more traction and existing customers donate! It's a really nice way to help out small business owners. To get this set up, talk to the owner, explain what it is you are doing and why, and also explain that the arrangement would benefit both parties (you and the owner). Make sure you establish a clear time in which you will be picking up the donations, whether its once a week or every two days, whatever it is make sure you are both clear.

STEP 5: SEND IT OUT!

Come up with a way to let your audience know about the drive, whether that is putting up flyers, sending texts and emails out, creating a social media account and etc. For example, if you choose to hold your drive at a school or several, have it announced over the intercom or sent out via email to every student. All you need to do is get in touch with the faculty member that has access to schoolwide email. Another super easy way to reach people is to just tell your family! They can spread the word too! If you are holding your drive at a church, have it announced after mass. There is so much you can do!

STEP 6: COLLECT THE DONATIONS AND DELIVER!

After the time you have designated for your drive, gather all your donations, count them up, and plan out when you will be delivering them. Make sure every single donation you received is in good condition and usable! Contact the shelter and set up a time to come in. And always remember to be discrete with the address. You do not want to draw attention to a domestic violence shelter!

SUCCESS! YOU HAVE
CREATED YOUR VERY
OWN DRIVE FOR
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!