

How to Host a Mardi Bras Party

Before your party:

Sign up—To be a party host online:
www.voaspokane.org/mardibrasfaq

Complete Our 3rd Party Fundraising Form to be “official”

Invite your friends—Via email, text, Facebook, or Twitter, it’s easy to share your Mardi Bras party! If they can’t make it they can still donate online.

Send a reminder—Remind your friends about your event 72 hours in advance.

At your party:

Set up—Make it festive! Don’t forget a bin for donations.

Share our missions—Use the information in this handout to share with your guests who and what their donations are benefiting. Want a staff member to do this part? Let us know!

Take a picture—And then post it on social media or email it to us! Use the hashtags #spokanemardibras or #throwapartytomakeadifference.

After your party:

Drop off—Your donations at 525 W 2nd Avenue every **Friday** starting **February 14** till **March 13** between the hours of 9 AM—6 PM (please call 509.688.1117 to reschedule if these times do not work). Donation deadline Friday, March 13.

Thank you—And thank your guests. We can’t end poverty and homelessness for women alone and you can’t have a fabulous party without your friends. If you submit your guests’ information they will receive an official Mardi Bras thank you from Volunteers of America and Transitions.

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Can’t party? Donate online!



There are more than 1,800 homeless women living in Spokane each day. Meeting their basic needs can be a struggle for **Hope House** and the **Women’s Hearth**. Imagine not having access to bras, underwear and personal hygiene items due to poverty and homelessness. Physiology and biology are facts of life – women shouldn’t be punished because of it.

You can help!

Host a Mardi Bras Party and collect monetary donations, bras, underwear, pads, tampons and bus passes.

All monetary donations will be split equally between Hope House and Women’s Hearth; all in-kind donations will be used to help these and other programs of Volunteers of America and Transitions.

If we have enough and there is a need, we will also share items with other community organizations helping women in poverty, including social service agencies and schools.

The Day Shift: Women's Hearth



Originally called the Women's Drop-In Center, the Women's Hearth was founded by a Holy Names Sister living in recovery who walked the streets of downtown Spokane and asked women what they needed to live safely. From these interviews, the Hearth's unique services were designed in 1991. **The 2019 operating deficit for the Women's Hearth is \$132,000; the cost to provide support services for a woman for a year is \$500—less than \$2 per day.**

Basic Needs Service Center

The Women's Hearth creates a safe space for women who have experienced trauma and homelessness by offering a "hearth" of welcome, respect and community. Participants do not need to "qualify" for our services, which are provided with a focus on building community and connecting women to mainstream resources. We offer access to showers, phones, hygiene items, and a weekly food bank. Staff meet each woman where she is at on her path to stability by providing crisis intervention and access to legal services, housing, health care and mental health services.

Community Center

In addition to meeting basic needs, the Women's Hearth also provides access to community-building activities. Art classes, independent living skills, Coffee House Karaoke, Knit and Crochet Circles and more resources help women connect with each other and build peer support networks. There is also a focus on health topics including living with chronic health conditions, nutrition, and chemical dependency recovery groups. This unique continuum of services provides women with the tangible skills they need to stabilize and succeed.

Greatest needs: bras, underwear, and bus passes.

Mardi Bras Contact:

Sarah Lickfold: slickfold@help4women.org or (509)795-8415

The Night Shift: Hope House



Originally known as the Downtown Women's Shelter, Hope House was founded in response to the 1997 serial murders of women on the streets of Spokane. Designed to offer women protection from violence, Hope House is dedicated to making a significant difference in the lives of women experiencing homelessness. Operated by Volunteers of America since 2001, it has a **2019 operating deficit of \$80,000. The cost to provide a night of shelter for a woman is \$39.**

Emergency Shelter

There are more than 1,800 homeless single women in Spokane, many with mental health or chemical dependency issues—all with nowhere to go. Named for the refuge it provides, Hope House offers safety from the dangerous streets to any woman regardless of her mental health status, chemical dependency issue or lifestyle. Hope House offers an environment of dignity, respect and compassion that honors the intrinsic value and unique experience of every woman. Thirty-six shelter beds are available each night. Each woman receives personal care including: nutritious food, a hot shower, clean dry clothing, hygiene items, a warm bed, onsite case management, resource information and referrals to community resources.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Hope House also offers 25 apartments for low-income women who are ready to leave the streets. These safe, affordable apartments offer women committed to working on the causes of their homelessness a supportive transition to living on their own. This residential program also includes individualized case management and opportunities for permanent housing.

Greatest needs: bras, underwear, and bus passes.

Mardi Bras Contact:

Jon Carollo: jcarollo@voaspokane.org or (509)624-2378