

Tips for maximizing your participation in FPMC's Cardboard Box City 2017 event

For Youth Organizers

1. Promote this to your youth group/students as a way to directly help children secure homes.
2. Remind prospective participants that this is a great opportunity to meet community service requirements and impress college officials.
3. Have students and their parents sign commitment form to ensure they'll stay on board.
4. Consider setting up a Facebook page to promote the event and the participants among the wider school/congregation/community.
5. Appoint student coordinators to foster peer-to-peer mobilization.
6. Make this the senior project.
7. Send reminder emails during the summer, requesting feedback. For example, email students who signed up and ask them if they'd like to coordinate clothing colors or make signs for the event.
8. Call a group meeting early in September to remind and update participants about the event.
9. In the weeks before the event, put participant photos and names on a bulletin board and in the school/congregation newsletters to promote the event and their participation.
10. Have group leaders record the event on photos and videos and post these on the school/congregation website. You can use these to promote future community service and mission projects.

For Participants

1. Send an email to all of your friends and families and tell them that you're going to be homeless on September 15th. Let them know that you'll sleep in a cardboard box and stand in a soup line. Then ask them if they'll make a donation pledge to join you in helping to get another young person out of homelessness.
2. Tell your Facebook friends what you're doing and ask them to come cheer you on and make a donation.
3. Set up an information stand in the neighborhood to let people know that every night, hundreds of children in Monmouth County don't have a home to go to bed in. Let them know what you are doing to make sure these children have a bed to sleep in.
4. Take photos and film yourself and others as you tell people what you're doing and during the event. In the video, talk about what you're so concerned about homelessness and what you think people can do about it. Post a copy of the video on YouTube and include the link in the materials you attach to your college applications.
5. List your volunteer efforts related to this event on your resume.