

Party with a Purpose



Host a Hopeful Holiday Party

GOOD CHEER AND SPIRIT ARE IN THE AIR as we gather for festive celebrations, and it's easy to lose ourselves in the hustle and bustle of the season's shopping and festivities. So how can we make sure our gatherings are meaningful and memorable?

A party that focuses on fun and philanthropy instead of excess gifts just might be the answer. Our favorite? A Hopeful Holiday Party that raises funds for breast cancer research. We've gathered some ideas and tips to help you plan your fundraising fête. So, dim the lights and raise your glasses ... and some funds for your favorite charity this holiday season.

Hope Tree Instead of hanging ornaments on the tree, leave it bare and set out beautiful paper cut outs of pink ribbons for your guests to write a hopeful wish or thoughtful sentiment and hang on the tree.

Pink Elephant Put a twist on the regular pink elephant gift exchange and have guests bid on the wrapped holiday gift of their choice with funds going to the Vera Bradley Foundation.

Gift of Hope Rather than exchange gifts, give the gift of hope by making a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one to breast cancer research. Place the acknowledgement in pretty *Vera Bradley packaging* under the tree.

Cookies for a Cause Hold a holiday cookie bake sale to raise funds for the Foundation. Decorate with your favorite sweet pink confections for an added touch.

Deck the Halls Make pink-themed ornaments, wreaths or decorations to sell at a holiday bazaar to raise funds for the cause.

Fun and Games Set up small scale games – 50/50 or guess the number of ornaments, etc. – at your party with a small sign and a message about your holiday fundraising goal to invite your guests to give, and win!

OTHER WAYS TO SPREAD HOLIDAY HOPE

Create Care Baskets Gather your friends to make “care bags or baskets” for people undergoing cancer treatment. Check out a few thoughtful *care basket ideas from our Vera Bradley Foundation team* on what to place inside. Drop these off at your local cancer services agency or oncology department at a nearby hospital.

Cards from Kids Get the kids involved in making hopeful holiday cards for local cancer center patients.

Gift of Time One of the most valuable things you can give is your time. Call your local cancer services agency to volunteer or your hospital's oncology department to learn what you could do to brighten a patient's day.

Be Santa Know someone undergoing treatment who has children at home? Step in as Santa and make a list of toys, games and gifts for each child, and divide it among friends to make sure the kids have an extra special Christmas this year. Making her children happy is the best present you can give her.

