

We OUR COMMUNITY

Objective: Raise public awareness of your presence in the neighbourhood, and spread the love of God!

Supplies:

- Hundreds of red balloons, copies of the Bible verse to be rolled and inserted into the balloons or whole punched and attached to the string, a lot of hot air (Helium)!
- Everyone from your congregation, perhaps some

popular community representatives

- Hot Chocolate (Cups with Lids, stir sticks, serviettes, extra milk) - Consider asking a local business to provide this as part of your 'community' celebration.
- Volunteers to 1) help make hot chocolate, 2) prepare balloons, 3) serve hot chocolate, 4) get finished balloons to the location, 5) designated drivers/walkers for after launch
- Music - either your supporting music ministries, your children's group, or a boom box with some modern Christian music

Ahead of Time:

- Some communities require a permit for this type of event - don't forget to get it if you need it.
- Three Weeks: Start advertising your event during the month of January. Encourage your whole group to attend the event in a public area close to your Corps, 30 - 40 minutes before the Sunday service.
- Two Weeks: Send out the community bulletin in the area around your Corps, put up community posters, 2 weeks before the event, advertise in your Corps Bulletin, e-blast, Facebook, and otherwise promote the event.
- Day Before: Blow up all your balloons and attach or insert the Bible Verse (see attached master).
- 90 minutes before: get those pots of hot water on the stove!
- 20 minutes before: pack boxes with your other supplies: Milk, Stir Sticks, serviettes, cups. and leave for your location

At the Event:

- Start music and begin serving Hot Chocolate 10 minutes ahead of your 'launch' time
- Announce the Celebration - Celebration of a great community, Celebration of great neighbours, Celebration of God's Love for everyone!
- Instruct people on how the launch will take place, and Invite everyone to participate in the balloon launch
- Have everyone shout together "We Love God, We Love Our Community" and let the balloons fly!
- Don't forget to have someone take pictures for your website or local newspaper!
- Mingle for a few minutes - then invite EVERYONE back to the corps for the Sunday service.
- Have a few 'designated drivers/walkers' in case some new contacts need a ride/directions.

