

FIRST DAY, MOMS PRAY

Gathering Together/Events

FOCUS	☒ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☒ External volunteers ☐ Youth ☐ Music sections ☒ Women's ministries ☐ Seniors' ministries ☐ Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	☒ Seniors ☐ Youth ☐ People with disabilities ☒ Caregivers ☐ New Canadians ☐ Social mission ☒ Other: Community members

Event description:

First Day, Moms Pray is a community prayer and fellowship event held on the first day of school. It brings together parents, grandparents, caregivers and community members of all backgrounds to lift up students, teachers, schools and families in prayer.

This event is intentionally simple yet deeply meaningful—creating space for people to find peace, unity and spiritual strength as they entrust the new school year to God. It also opens doors to ongoing community outreach and spiritual support through shared prayer.

What are the intended event outcomes?

Spiritual impact:

- Foster a sense of peace, unity and encouragement among parents, caregivers and community members.
- Cover students, teachers and schools in prayer at a pivotal moment: the start of the school year.

Community building:

- Strengthen relationships across church denominations and with local schools.
- Position the corps as a caring, prayerful presence in the community.

Ongoing engagement:

- Inspire future prayer gatherings or partnerships.
- Open the door for continued outreach opportunities (e.g., school support, community events, volunteerism).



How will these outcomes be evaluated?

Attendance count:

- Have a volunteer track the number of participants using a simple sign-in sheet or headcount. Optionally note which churches or communities they represent for future networking.

“We Prayed for You” card delivery:

- Keep a tally of how many cards were delivered to local school staff. Follow up with a friendly email or phone call to gather informal feedback (e.g., “Thanks for receiving our cards—how did it go over with your staff?”).

What procedures are required to set up this event?

Confirm event date and time:

- Co-ordinate with local school calendars to confirm the first day of school.
- Schedule the event for 9:00–10:00 a.m. on that day.

Secure a venue:

- Book a church fellowship hall, prayer room, or community space that is easily accessible.
- Consider an outdoor location near a school or public park, weather permitting.

Assemble a small planning team:

- Assign key roles: prayer facilitator, hospitality lead, school liaison and promotion support.

Create and print event materials:

- Prepare prayer guides, scripture reflections, and “We Prayed for You” cards for school staff.
- Optional: devotional booklets or resource handouts.

Promote the event:

- Share through personal invitations, church announcements, social media and posters in local community spaces.
- Invite other churches and encourage broad participation.

Prepare the venue:

- Set up chairs, tables, signage, refreshments (if offering), and a welcoming prayer space.
- Have all printed materials ready and organized.

Co-ordinate with local schools (optional but encouraged):

- Contact a school representative to let them know you’ll be praying and delivering encouragement cards.
- Build a positive relationship for future engagement.

What procedure is required to operate this event?

Time and setting:

- Held on the first day of school from 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- Ideally hosted in a church, fellowship hall or community space that is welcoming and easily accessible.
- Could be held outdoors (e.g., near a school or public park) if weather permits.
- Could explore hybrid in-person/online options to encourage accessibility.

Event format:**Welcome and opening devotional (5-10 minutes):**

- A short reflection on the power of prayer and God’s protection (e.g., Philippians 4:6-7).
- An encouraging message for parents and caregivers.

Corporate and small group prayer (30 minutes):**Guided prayer topics:**

- Students – Protection, friendships, learning, confidence, faith.
- Teachers and School Staff – Strength, wisdom, patience, influence.
- Parents and Families – Peace, trust in God, support systems.
- The Community – Safety, leadership, collaboration, outreach opportunities.

Participants may pray in small groups or as a whole gathering.

Encouragement and next steps (15 minutes):

- Discuss ways to continue praying throughout the year (e.g., weekly prayer groups).
- Provide “We Prayed for You” cards to be delivered to local school staff.
- Encourage involvement in community outreach (e.g., food drives, volunteer opportunities).
- Share resources from Moms In Prayer or other prayer-focused ministries.

Follow-up and outreach ideas:

- Deliver “We Prayed for You” cards to school staff as a tangible reminder of community support.
- Co-ordinate a food drive at Thanksgiving, encouraging local schools to participate.
- Stay connected with participants and encourage ongoing prayer gatherings (weekly/monthly).
- Share prayer resources (e.g., from Moms In Prayer) with those interested in leading a group.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this event?

This event is low-cost and highly flexible. Expenses may include:

- Printing prayer cards and guides.
- Coffee, tea, and light snacks.
- Optional devotional booklets or giveaways.

Estimated budget: \$50–\$150, depending on refreshment needs and materials (many items may be donated).

What physical resources will I require?

Chairs and tables for prayer and refreshments.

Bibles and devotional readings.

Printed prayer guides or templates.

“We Prayed for You” cards for teachers/schools.

Coffee, tea, water and light snacks (optional but inviting).

Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this event?

- No formal training required.
- A short pre-event briefing is recommended to go over roles and event flow.
- Volunteers engaging with youth or vulnerable individuals should be screened according to Salvation Army policy.

For more information:

Moms in Prayer International

This ministry can be enriched by the resources and global community offered through Moms in Prayer International. Their website provides structured prayer guides, printable materials, and tools to help participants grow in confidence and consistency in prayer. Their four-step prayer model, monthly prayer calendars, and encouragement for ongoing group connection align perfectly with the goals of First Day, Moms Pray. By utilizing these supports, your event can become part of a broader movement of mothers and caregivers praying for children and schools worldwide. Visit momsinprayer.org to explore these free resources and ideas.

For additional guidance, resources, or support in planning your event, please contact the community mission department at THQ for sample materials, best practices and consultation on outreach strategy.