

2009

Birthday Bash: An initiative of Encouragement for Dallas Orphans

Peter Goldschmidt
Southern Methodist University

Elizabeth Bandera
Southern Methodist University

Eric Park
Southern Methodist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.smu.edu/big_ideas_2009_proposals

Recommended Citation

Goldschmidt, Peter; Bandera, Elizabeth; and Park, Eric, "Birthday Bash: An initiative of Encouragement for Dallas Orphans" (2009). *Big iDeas 2009 Proposals*. 3.
https://scholar.smu.edu/big_ideas_2009_proposals/3

This document is brought to you for free and open access by the Big iDeas 2009 at SMU Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Big iDeas 2009 Proposals by an authorized administrator of SMU Scholar. For more information, please visit <http://digitalrepository.smu.edu>.



**Birthday Bash:
An initiative of
Encouragement for Dallas Orphans**

Project: Birthday Bash

Student name: Peter Goldschmidt

Phone:

Major: Financial Consulting

Year: Junior

Student name: Elizabeth Bandera

Phone:

Major: Biochemistry

Year: Freshman

Student name: Eric Park

Phone:

Major: Spanish

Year: Sophomore

Statement

Dallas currently houses eight orphanages. Children who live in these orphanages receive care, education, and meals. Unfortunately, these children without parents have no one to give them a proper birthday celebration. Many orphaned children go through their birthdays, with out a cake, a party, or even a simple, “Happy Birthday.”

Three students have been tenaciously working on a project called Birthday Bash with which they hope to institute a program that works in collaboration with Dallas community orphanages to acknowledge and celebrate orphaned children’s birthdays.

The goal of Birthday Bash is to give children without parents the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays with everything from cake and presents to noisemakers and balloons. However, the program is not about just giving the children gifts; it is also about spending time with them during their birthdays. With this one on one contact, the children are getting attention that they might not otherwise receive.

At the beginning of every month, we plan to surprise the children whose birthdays fall within that month. We hope to throw a full party with games, singing, and of course, presents.

Goal

The goal of this program is similar to that of adopting a child for the Celebration of Lights. Students integrate with young ones to inspire them to strive for success. A mix of conversation and celebration ensure fun, motivation, and learning on both sides.

As opposed to similar programs, Birthday Bash encourages continuity in the relationships with the students and the children. Because these students would be

returning monthly, the children and the students have the opportunity to bond with one another. The students' role is to offer encouragement and motivation for these children, who otherwise may lose initiative for their own future. College students are in a perfect position to mentor these children, more so than older social workers.

Strategy

If Birthday Bash receives a grant, several organizations have already agreed to work together in order to assure the program's future success. These organizations include SPARC, The Catholic Center, The Chaplain's Office, and those involved in Greeklife.

Before each party, our team will bake cakes and wrap presents to prepare for the festivities. We will pre-select presents according to the children's respective age and gender. The presents will be approximately \$20 per person, and they will combine fun and academically stimulating aspects. During the celebration, children will have the opportunity to participate in games like Madlibs and piñatas.

By encouraging the children through mental and physical stimulation from the activities and the care and appreciation they will feel from the recognition of their birthdays, we hope to brighten the days and lives of orphans who might otherwise lose hope.

Timeline of Events

In order to effectively organize every birthday party, the volunteers for Birthday Bash plan to get a list of all the students' birthdates from two orphanages. The parties will be held the first Saturday of every month. A minimum of five volunteers will attend each event to ensure that the children receive proper attention. The parties will tentatively last from 10 AM until 12 PM for the first orphanage and 2 PM until 4 PM for the second orphanage.

To solve the conflict posed by summer break, we will celebrate June and May birthdays together and July and August Birthdays together.

Budget	
Large Cakes (48 total)	\$700.00
Beverages	\$200.00
Plates, Cups, Utensils	\$250.00
General party favors (i.e. balloons noisemakers)	\$350.00
Presents (One per child)	Approx. \$1500 .00
Travel	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total	\$3,100.00