

Front Room Fundraising

Child-headed households are an entirely new phenomena: it wasn't until the 1980s that Ugandan observers noticed households run entirely by children without any adult support.

Since then the numbers have grown, even though it is hard to put a precise figure on it. UNAIDS estimates that there are 15 million children orphaned by AIDS in the world today. In Rwanda there are 100,000 child-headed households, while in Uganda there are almost a million.

Other factors leave children to bring up the family: malaria, poor health care and conflict all claim adults' lives. But nothing quite leaves the same stigma as being orphaned by AIDS – a disease shrouded by mystery and covered in suspicion.

So you want to do something to help those whose lives have been shattered by HIV? You want to help some of the estimated 15 million children orphaned by AIDS around the world? Great. Got a front room that you don't mind using to raise some cash? Nice one. Got a wide circle of generous friends who willingly support you in everything you do? Don't worry, we'll even help you find some new ones.

The idea of the Front Room Fundraiser couldn't be simpler: get some mates in, put on some form of entertainment that costs as little as possible, get everyone to pay through the nose to be there and tell them all about child-headed households while you're at it.

We've got a whole list of ideas for you down here. Feel free to choose one or to come up with your own. If you'd like a little more expert advice, drop an email to Suzie Green – Tearfund's Student Co-ordinator (suzie.green@tearfund.org) - and she'll be happy to help.



Whatever you choose, start off by showing the DVD at the start. You can also use the session plan to pack things out a bit.

1. Front Room Cinema

Show our film about HIV as a trailer and then get stuck in with something like *The Constant Gardener* or *Blood Diamond*. Get anyone attending to pay the amount they would usually expect to spend on a regular trip to the flicks: ticket, parking, drinks and snacks etc.

2. Front Room Feasting

Cook a meal and invite payment from your guests in keeping with what they'd usually spend in a restaurant. To keep the HIV focus front and centre why not make it a red-only meal (tomatoes, red meat, jelly, red wine, beetroot...)

3. Front Room Gig

Got a mate with some musical talent? Get him to play in your house and crowd the room with mates paying the usual ticket price (plus drinks and all the rest that you'd expect to spend) for a gig down the SU.

4. Front Room Talent

Got mates without any musical talent? Nice. Rent some of those karaoke/guitar hero/singstar video games and get the participants to donate the amount they'd usually spend on a night out.

5. Front Room Boutique

Set an entrance fee – like a tenner – and have people come with a selection of clothes that they're happy to get rid of. Then get everyone swapping. You raise some cash and people leave with a brand new wardrobe for a knock down price.

6. Front Room Sports

A big fixture coming up? Don't go out to watch it, stay in. Get people to pay the usual ticket prices they'd expect to but have them round yours instead. As with all these ideas showing our little HIV film at the start will help get it clear in people's minds how they're helping.

7. Front Room Dust

You know you've got too many books kicking about, so why not get as many others to donate their unwanted ones too and hold a massive sale in your front room? Give us the money and we'll transform lives of those living in child-headed households.

8. Front Room Reds

Hold a party with a red theme – the lights, the clothes, the drinks, even the tunes if you can manage it. Charge the local club entry price and get your moves on.

9. Front Room Retro

Remember the games you used to play? Track them down – along with some classic tunes from your childhood and vintage kids TV off YouTube – and hold a night that gets back to the future. Charge what you think you can get away with.