

## Educational Activities Idea Starters and Best Practices

Educational activities provide instruction/training to improve capabilities or knowledge about useful topics that benefit, are of interest to and will attract Thrivent Financial members and others. This document lists ideas and examples of possible educational activities that Thrivent chapters may conduct. Remember, service teams of at least six Thrivent Financial members from different households need to actively plan, conduct and promote educational activities.

See the [Chapter Activity Types comparison chart](#) and the [Educational Activity Planning Checklist](#) for more details about educational activities. The checklist also includes questions to consider as you choose an activity that will help you attract and involve more members.

*Reminders:* Chapter operating funds and Care Abounds in Communities® program funds can be used to support educational activities **except** for those that have a substantial purpose of promoting sales of products and services, including Thrivent Financial products and services. Invitees cannot be chosen based on their past or desired future Thrivent Financial product purchases.

**Important note:** The predominant use of Care Abounds in Communities program funds must be for charitable activities (fundraisers and service projects). Chapters are encouraged to use operating funds first for educational activities.

Activity Idea / Description	Tips / Examples								
<p><b>Marty's Party</b> Marty's Party can consist of holding an activity to learn more about our Lutheran heritage and/or Martin Luther.</p>	<p><b>Tips:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider holding your activity on or near a significant date related to Martin Luther (e.g., birthday or Reformation Day).</li> <li>○ Consider asking your local congregation or Lutheran school if you can use their facilities. A pastor may help you frame this event and briefly speak about our Lutheran heritage and Martin Luther.</li> <li>○ You can incorporate an interactive activity such as a trivia contest and serve refreshments.</li> <li>○ Provide a list of books or other resources people can access for more information about Martin Luther.</li> </ul>								
<p><b>Thrivent Chapter Tuesdays</b> Host designated evenings where chapter members and others can come together to learn about various educational topics. Light refreshments may be served.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> Cass Otoe County Chapter in Nebraska asks Thrivent Financial members from each congregation in the chapter to form a service team and host a Tuesday educational activity(ies). Chapter members, congregational members and others are invited to each of these Tuesday activities.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b> Possible topics include:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Homelessness</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Hunger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Literacy</td> <td>Children in need</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental issues</td> <td>Disaster preparedness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patriotism</td> <td>Animal care</td> </tr> </table> <p>Find an expert resource in the community to speak about the topic.</p>	Homelessness	Hunger	Literacy	Children in need	Environmental issues	Disaster preparedness	Patriotism	Animal care
Homelessness	Hunger								
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<p><b>Thrivent Chapter – Pick Your Focus activity</b> Pick an idea, community cause, etc., the chapter can offer to its members and others.</p>	<p><b>Examples of topics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environment Day – Learn about the environment by inviting a local expert.</li> <li>○ Senior Citizen Day– Learn about the issues the elderly face, consider helping at a local nursing home.</li> <li>○ Hunger – Learn about the agencies in your community that help feed the hungry.</li> <li>○ Recycle Day – Visit a local recycling center and learn how the recycling efforts help the community.</li> <li>○ Disaster Response Preparedness – Contact your local disaster response agency for offerings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips:</b> After your chapter conducts an educational “Pick Your Focus” activity, consider hosting a fundraising or service activity later in the year that supports the needs identified during the educational activity.</p> <p>For example, if a nonprofit organization asks your chapter for funding, consider asking the organization to provide an educational component to chapter members so they can learn about the organizations they help with the fundraiser.</p>
<p><b>Educational Field Trips</b> Remember the field trips you took as a child? Rekindle those memories by learning about a point of interest in your local community.</p> <p>A chapter service team can plan and host an educational activity for chapter members and others in a setting that is fun and a bit unconventional.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> If your chapter is providing transportation, please see the <a href="#">Renting a bus for chapter member outings – guidelines</a> page in CHIP, your online chapter resource guide (<a href="http://www.thrivent.com/chip">www.thrivent.com/chip</a>). Also review the <a href="#">Liability insurance coverage</a> page in CHIP.</p>	<p><b>Possible trip locations:</b> Wildlife park/zoo Nature center Public museums State parks Historical sites in your community Local fire, police, community service agencies Schools: colleges, seminaries, etc. Local community events</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Invite members and others to a day at the zoo to learn about the animals featured at the zoo and about how the zoo works. Have a 30- to 60-minute wildlife/zoo animal program planned to share with the group, followed by lunch. After lunch, have a guided tour of the zoo. Some zoos offer educational games to play, such as scavenger hunts.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b> Consider offering these types of activities on the weekend so the whole family can participate.</p>

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<p><b>Dream Dinners</b>            Nutrition and good health is important to everyone. Enjoy a blend of nutritional education while sampling nutritious foods. Learning about nutrition can be fun.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b>            Plan a “Dream Dinners Evening” to promote nutritional well-being and offer dinner that includes samples of nutritious meals.</p> <p>Contact a local hospital or technical school to see if a dietician or nutritionist is available to present the benefits of healthy eating.</p> <p>Have participants sample and/or make various nutritious meals. Check your local community for such offerings or check with a local nutritional expert.</p> <p><b>Tips:</b>            Consider Thrivent Financial aprons, jar openers or any kitchen item as a giveaway or door prize.</p>
<p><b>Thrivent Financial Educational Workshops</b>            Chapter operating funds and Care Abounds in Communities® program funds can be used to support specific workshops, led by Thrivent Financial representatives (FRs) and other trained facilitators.</p> <p>These workshops cover topics important to Thrivent Financial members and help meet their needs.</p> <p>If you want to <b>find out more</b> about these workshops or the opportunity for your chapter to support an FR-led workshop, contact a member of your regional <a href="#">Lutheran Engagement Team</a>.</p> <p>He or she can connect you with an FR who can partner with you to offer one of these educational workshops to chapter members.</p> <p>See the <a href="#">Thrivent Financial educational workshops</a> page in CHIP for details.</p>	<p><b>Thrivent Financial educational workshops that can be supported with chapter operating funds and Care Abounds in Communities® program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charitable Giving: How to Make a Difference by Giving Back</li> <li>• Economy and Investment Outlook Update®</li> <li>• Economy and Markets Update®</li> <li>• Financial Independence: It <i>is</i> women’s work.</li> <li>• FocusOn® series, including workshops about:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Asset Allocation</li> <li>○ College Funding</li> <li>○ Estate Conservation</li> <li>○ Financial Management</li> <li>○ Investment Fundamentals</li> <li>○ Retirement</li> <li>○ Retirement Plan Distribution</li> </ul> </li> <li>• From Me to We: Working Together to Create Your Financial Future</li> <li>• How to Thrive in Retirement<sup>SM</sup></li> <li>• Intermission: Embracing Life Transitions and Planning for the Future</li> <li>• Keeping the Farm in the Family</li> <li>• My Legacy Matters: Living and Planning a Meaningful Legacy</li> <li>• My Life, My Plan: Creating a Life Plan Based on Your Values</li> <li>• More Than Money Matters®</li> <li>• Parents, Kids and Money Matters®</li> <li>• Parents, Teens and Money Matters®</li> </ul>