TOGETHER we THRIVE

OCTOBER 15, 2021

6:30 - 7:15 PM

A home-hosted and virtual fundraising event benefiting kids and families experiencing foster care

EVENT HOST TOOLKIT

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Friday, October 15, 2021

Time: 6:30 - 7:15 PM

Registration: Online at amarafamily.org/togetherwethrive

Cost: There is no cost to register/attend

Questions? Get in touch with Melinda at amaragiving@amarafamily.org or by calling 206.260.1714.

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TOGETHER we THRIVE

EVENT FAQ

What is Together We Thrive?

Together We Thrive is Amara's second-ever virtual fundraising event and our only major fundraising event for the year (replacing the King and Pierce County in-person luncheons). This year's event will have a twist with a hybrid experience! This year, we are inviting YOU and our community of supporters to host small gatherings in their homes to view Together We Thrive and support Amara's programs. The event is meant for all members of our community and will have programmatic content that highlights Amara's work in King and Pierce Counties, and the greater Puget Sound region. There will be an ask to make a financial contribution at the end of the event as well as opportunities to support our work before, during, or after the event.

What does it mean to be a Together We Thrive Event Host?

As an Event Host, you will be critical to the success of this year's event! As an Event Host, you are an ambassador for Amara that helps share our mission and story across the region and raise the funding we need to operate. There are two main ways to be an Event Host!

Option 1 "House Party Event Host"—Host a party to benefit Amara in your home and view Together We Thrive on your T.V. with your guests. House Party Event Hosts will:

- Host a small gathering of your friends, family, neighbors, and/or colleagues at your home to watch and support the virtual fundraising event on October 15th
- Help with reminders to your network as we draw closer to the event
- Share what inspires you in Amara's mission and work
- Encourage giving anytime (before, during, or after the event)
- Share the link to view the event with any of your friends and family who cannot attend your home party
- *Optional:* Create a challenge match for your home party and/or add to the overall event challenge match pool (which matches all gifts of $250+)
- *Optional:* Order a dessert or appetizers from Black-owned, women-owned, and/or regionally-owned restaurants to take your home gathering to the next level. Amara will provide suggestions for the Seattle and Tacoma areas.
- *Optional:* Set a fundraising goal and make your own fundraising page

Option 2 "Virtual Party Event Host"—Encourage your friends and family to watch Together We Thrive in the comfort of their own homes. Virtual Party Event Hosts will:

- Invite friends, family, and/or colleagues to attend the virtual event and encourage event registration
- Host a Zoom watch party with your friends and family
- Help with reminders to your network as we draw closer to the event
- Share what inspires you in Amara's mission and work
- Encourage giving anytime (before, during, or after the event)
- *Optional:* Create a challenge match for your home party and/or add to the overall event challenge match pool (which matches all gifts of $250+)

EVENT FAQ CONTINUED

Who do I invite?

Take a moment to think about your friends, family, and colleagues who might be passionate about supporting kids and families experiencing foster care and adoption. With a virtual element, you can invite people across the country and world, so be creative! We've included a worksheet on page 6 to help get you started.

Is there a cost to register for Together We Thrive?

The event is free to attend and attendees will be invited to make a gift during the program. Guests will be invited to make a financial contribution to support Amara's programs.

How do I register and get my guests registered?

- Register online at amarafamily.org/togetherwethrive and click the registration button (preferred)
- Email us at amaragiving@amarafamily.org with your name, email, and cell phone number and the names and emails of each of your guests

How do I know I'm registered for the event?

You will receive a confirmation email when you register online. You will also receive emails from the Amara staff leading up to the event.

On October 15th, how do I join/view the event?

An email with the link to attend the event will be emailed to the email address you used to register. We will also send you a calendar invitation that will include the link to attend. If you lose the link, just visit **amarafamily.org/togetherwethrive** on October 15th.

What are the different ways to make a gift to Amara?

Securely online:

- Visit amarafamily.org/donate
- Visit the Together We Thrive site at amarafamily.org/togetherwethrive
- Through your optional dedicated fundraising page

Securely by mail

- Mail your check or credit card information to Amara's Seattle Office at 5907 MLK Jr Way S, Seattle, WA 98118

Securely by phone:

- Call Melinda at (206) 206-1714

Someone wants to support Amara but can't attend the event. Can they still send in a gift?

Yes! Gifts are welcome from anyone at any time—before, during, or after the event!

Is there a challenge match this year?

Yes! We are working hard to raise a challenge match from long-time supporters of Amara. We will be matching gifts of $250 or more, and from gifts made before, during, or after the event.

Will the program be recorded so that I can watch it later?

Yes! The recorded program will be on Amara's YouTube channel and a link will be available at amarafamily.org/togetherwethrive.

HOME HOST CHECK LIST

Right Now

- ☐ **Join us for a Home Host kick-off event.** Two 30-minute sessions are being held: Wednesday, September 8th at 4:00 pm and Thursday, September 9th at 9:00 am. We will cover all hosting duties. Register at amarafamily.org/events or email amaragiving@amarafamily.org to be sent a link for the kick-off meeting of your choice.
- ☐ **Decide if you are hosting guests in your home,** or if you will invite them to attend from the comfort of their own home (or some combination).
- ☐ **Create your guest list and invite your guests!** Use our handy worksheet on page 6! For guests attending completely virtually, please invite them to register themselves for the event at amarafamily.org/togetherwethrive.

One Week Before the Event (October 4th–8th)

- ☐ **Check in with your guests.** Remind them that the event is coming up!
- ☐ **Make sure all your guests attending virtually have registered** by using amaragiving@amarafamily.org.

Two Days Before the Event (October 13th)

- ☐ **Send a reminder to your guests and review your event package.** We'll be sending along ways to make your home gathering fun and engaging for you and your guests. For folks not attending at your home, check to make sure they know how to access the event.

Day of the Event (October 15th)

- ☐ **Find time to share with your guests why you support Amara** and encourage them to join you in doing so during the event.
- ☐ **Remind any out-of-home invitees or guests to log onto the event at 6:20 PM** for pre-event activities and to troubleshoot any technology issues.
- ☐ **Technology set-up.** See page 7 for helpful instructions to create a great viewing experience for you and your guests.
- ☐ **Make a gift at any time during the program.** You and other donors' names will appear on the donor scroll (but will not include the amount that you donated).
- ☐ **Consider creating your own challenge!** Here are a couple examples:
  - "I'll match all gifts made by my guests up to $XXX."
  - "I'll donate $10 extra for every one of my guests who makes a gift."

After the Event (October 16th–20th)

- ☐ **Say thank you!** Take a few minutes to thank your guests for their support. We will be sending along our own thanks, but it always means so much coming from you!
- ☐ **Share your feedback with the Amara team.** Please take a moment to complete the survey we send out after the event. You can also reach us at amaragiving@amarafamily.org.

TOGETHER we THRIVE

Overview and Why Support Amara

When you are talking to family and friends about Amara, here are a few important things to know:

- **Our reach in 2020 (thanks to incredible community support):**
  - We supported 250 children and 302 families in our programs
  - Kids in foster care had 40,000+ supportive bed-nights in Amara foster homes
  - 1,061 engaging family visits took place between children in foster care and their parents
  - 78 children were newly placed in an Amara foster home
  - 40 new families were prepared to be foster families
  - 62% of children were in contact with their siblings if they were placed separately
  - 82% of foster placements were successful with no disruptions
  - 58 children achieved permanency and exited foster care (26 reunifications and 32 adoptions)

- **It's our 100th anniversary!** In 2021, Amara is celebrating 100 years of supporting children and families. We're excited to celebrate this special milestone with you during Together We Thrive.

- **Our new mission statement:** Amara is committed to positive long-term outcomes for children and families. We drive systemic change, promote healing, racial and LGBTQIA+ equity, by offering programs and services to families engaged in foster care, and to adoptees and families, post-adoption.

- **All people deserve the opportunity to thrive.** Amara has a bold vision to change the world when it comes to how we support and care for children, adults, and families experiencing foster care and adoption. We partner with people and communities most impacted by our child welfare system, to address trauma, build connections, and ultimately ensure all children, adults and families feel safe and supported, with a commitment to equity every step of the way.

- **Leadership transition.** Since April of 2020, Amara has been under the leadership of Chief Program Officer and Interim CEO, Jason Gortney. We are excited to share that we have a new CEO, Scarlett Aldebot-Green who comes to us with a wealth of experience in the social welfare landscape, as well as being a parent and foster parent, along with her partner. We are so excited for you to hear from Scarlett at the event!

- **Compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.** Amara's work to support kids in foster care and adoptees and their families has forged ahead, despite the impacts of COVID-19 over the past year and a half. We closely monitor and follow state guidelines for keeping our community safe. Since July 2020, the primary work in our Foster Care Services and Family Time Program transitioned back to in-person support. For foster care, this means we started making home visits in-person again and have resumed licensing families. For Family Time, this means our visitation program between parents and their children in foster care resumed in-person visits.

- **Amara receives funding from the State of Washington.** For the 2021-2023 Capitol Budget Bill, Amara has been earmarked to receive $246,000 to initiate a master planning process for our 29-acre property in Pierce County.

- **Amara launches a kinship care program.** In partnership with the UW Alliance for Excellence in Child Welfare CaRES program, Amara's CaRES Kinship program will provide supports to formal kinship families across the state. This program will have two staff providing services which includes basic support services, assistance with licensing, and support groups.

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INVITATION BRAINSTORMING WORKSHEET

Use this worksheet to keep track of your guest invites for October 15th!

FAMILY

FRIENDS

COLLEAGUES/PROFESSIONAL/ OTHER BOARD OR SERVICES

COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORS

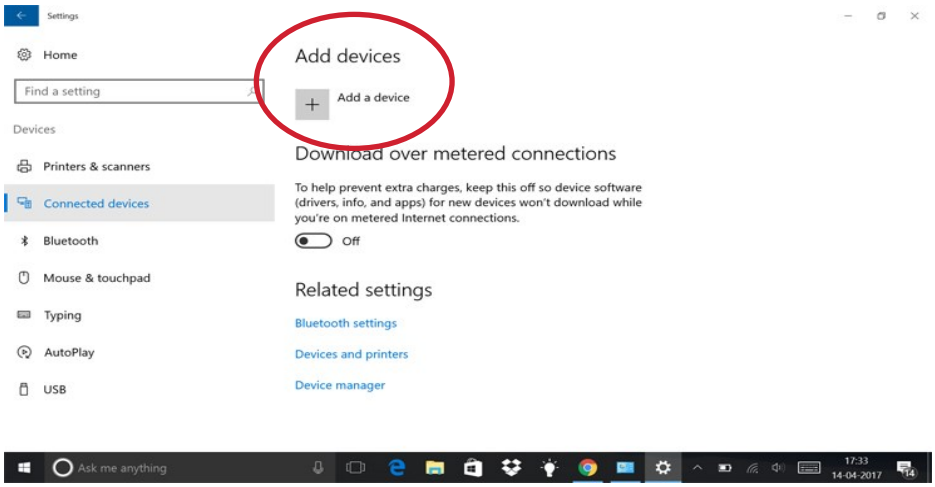
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT & INFORMATION

Are you having trouble? We are here to help!

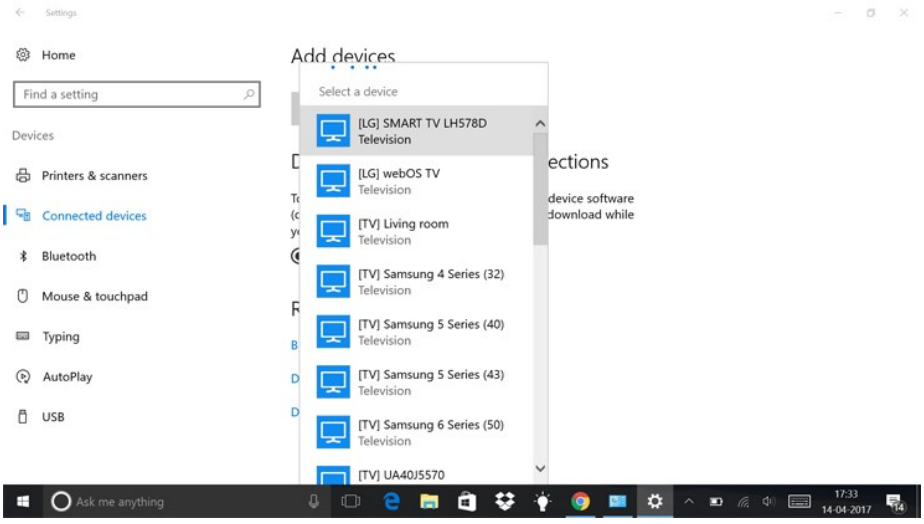
You will have access to tech support the day of the event to help ensure the best possible viewing experience for you and your guests! If you need help troubleshooting technology, please email us at melinda@amarafamily.org or call us at (206) 206-1714. We will do our best to provide you with the help you need!

Connecting your laptop to your T.V.—Wirelessly

Here, the laptop connects to the TV using a feature called Wi-Fi Direct, or Miracast. This means that you need to have a smart TV that supports screen mirroring using Wi-Fi Direct. Your laptop also needs to supports wireless screen mirroring. Most recent laptops should support this feature. You can look this up online by checking the features of the processor your laptop uses. With the help of Wi-Fi Direct, both devices can connect directly to each other.



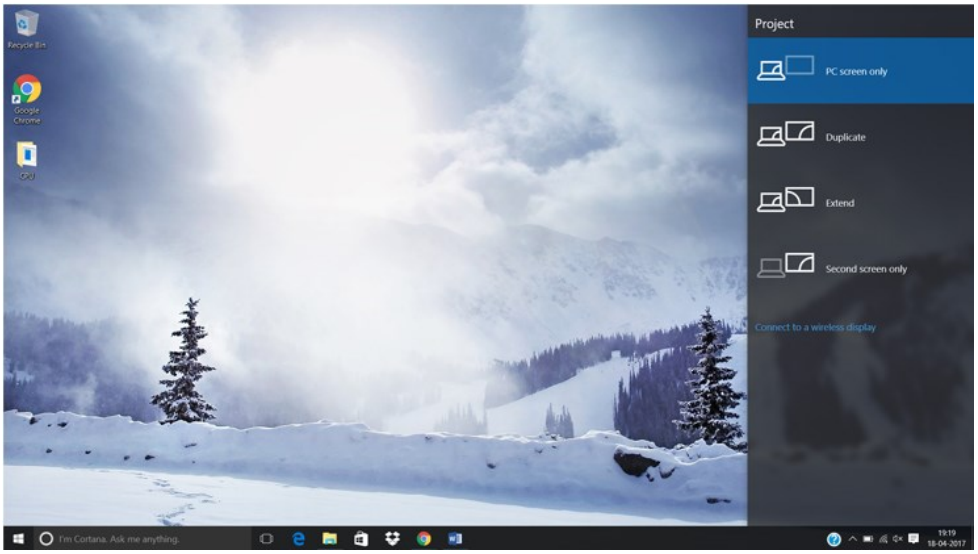
Use the TV remote and select the source to Screen mirroring. It will show a screen with the TV name. On the laptop, press the Windows button and type in 'Settings'. Then go to 'Connected devices' and click on the 'Add device' option at the top. The drop down menu will list all the devices you can mirror to. Select your TV and the laptop screen will start mirroring to the TV.



Apple MacBooks use AirPlay to mirror the screen. Your TV needs to support AirPlay though. AirPlay also requires you to connect both the devices to the same wireless network. On the Apple Macbook, you can find the AirPlay option under 'Settings' and then 'Display'. Besides that, the process is similar to a Windows laptop.

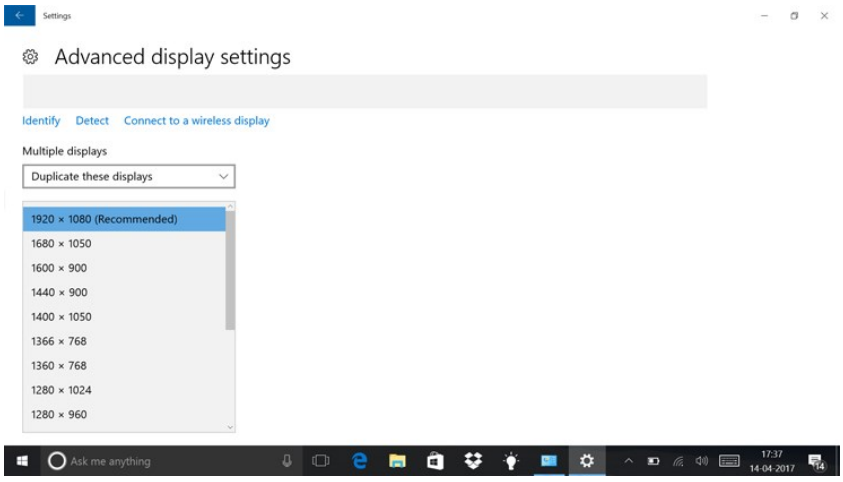
Connecting your laptop to your T.V.—With Cables

To connect the laptop to the TV, use an HDMI cable. Almost all laptops sold today have an HDMI port. HDMI cables can carry full HD and 4K video and surround audio to the TV. If you don't have an HDMI port, then you can use a VGA (D-Sub) cable. VGA only carries video so you'll need to use a 3.5mm audio port to send audio from your laptop to the TV, or external speakers. In the case of the TV not supporting VGA, you'll have to make use of an adaptor. First connect the TV to the laptop using the HDMI (or VGA) cable. Change the source of the TV to the HDMI port (or VGA) using the remote control.



On a Windows PC, you can press 'Windows key + P' to open display settings immediately. This will offer different screen configurations—you'll want to choose "Duplicate" or "Second Screen Only".

Choose the configuration that you want and the laptop will start mirroring on the TV. Not just that, you can further tweak the display settings to take full advantage of the screen size and resolution of the TV. Ideally, the laptop will run its default resolution (1366 x 768, in most cases) on the external screen. However, if your laptop supports it, you can change it to the native resolution of the TV. If your laptop can handle 4K resolutions, and your TV supports it too, you can bump the resolution to 4K.



The process of connecting a MacBook to the TV is pretty much the same as it is on a Windows laptop. Some MacBooks don't have an HDMI port, in which case you'll either be working with a mini DisplayPort or a USB-C port. Regardless of what you have on the MacBook, you'll need an adapter to connect the laptop to the TV. On the MacBook, you also get the option to use the TV as an extended monitor and then change the resolution. These settings are available under 'System Preference' > 'Display'.