



2018 THE GATHERING STRATEGIC PLAN

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Prepared for: The Strategic Planning Committee

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Strategic Objective

To further the work of One United RI (OU) through *the Gathering* youth event to mobilize students to reach their friends for Christ.

Overview

- *The Gathering* is a monthly event bringing together teens and youth groups from around Newport County, RI and the surrounding region. The purpose is to strengthen faith in young believers, and help inspire a boldness in their witness. Each month involves group activities, a Christian performer/s, and a gospel presentation. The intention is to adhere to Jesus' prayer for oneness, and discover untapped strength towards soul winning through the Divine Oneness that young people share.
- f2fmi has come alongside OU with a desire to assist in the community impact of *the Gathering*. In this spring evangelistic outreach, we aim to capitalize on the momentum that has been growing with the regular churches/attendees of *the Gathering*.

Summary of Goals

- Target attendance: 150-200, 20-30 decisions, 5-10 attending Alpha through follow-up
- Mobilize *the Gathering* 60-65 Christian student base to invite friends
- Participation of 5 new youth groups:
- Break into a public school
- Participation from students from the public school: 10-15 students
- Participation from Skating Community: 10-15 students
- Launch 2 new Alpha Courses in Newport County in June

- EFC Newport
- Graceway Community
- Recruit at least two teens to take Alpha into their schools/home/coffee shops in the fall, after completing the course with their youth group.

Goal Achieved:

- Total Attendance at the Gathering: 147 (117 students, 30 leaders)
- 68 students and 9 leaders were mobilized to share the gospel at the April 5 *Friend Challenge* event
- 20 students were also mobilized at *Hi Providence* youth group in Seekonk, MA
- 3 of 5 of our goal of 5 new youth groups attended:
 - Groton Heights Baptist Church (CT)
 - Grace Fellowship Evangelical Free Church (CT)
 - LIFEHouse Church (CT)
- 6 students (and 2 adults) took the Tim Byrne skate challenge
- New staff member for RI, Michelle Rogers trained in Alpha
- Both planned Alphas launched the week of June 17th
- 14 registered decisions; 2 first time, 5 rededication, 7 would like more info (these students are targeted for the Alpha courses)

Additional Goals Achieved:

- Added One United RI Executive Director, Ed Pichette to NGA
- Total Attendance at Calvary Chapel: 350 (2 services), 5 decisions
- Total Attendance at Rock & Worship Part (Daulton, MA): 381, 7 decisions for Christ, 2 first-time
- Total Weekend Attendance: 878
- Total Decisions: 27 decisions, 4 first time

Key Learnings:

- Although we obtained key contacts, we were unable to break into the public schools on such a short timeline
- No students attended from the public schools directly
- Several people wandered in from seeing posters in the community (i.e. one family came in from seeing a poster at Wendy's)

Summary of Ministry Season

April 5 Friend Challenge Event:

In order to prepare for the event season, f2fmi shared its resources in order to produce the event. Thanks to longtime partner DSJ Printing, f2fmi was able to provide promotional materials for the Gathering for free. This included push cards, posters and 5 Friend Challenge decision cards.

OU identified a local liaison to interface with f2fmi so that a follow up strategy could be rolled out following the season of evangelism. This staff member was on-boarded and trained before the evangelism occurred. This step was key so that the follow up opportunity would not be missed. Mirroring the strategy of OU, f2fmi appropriated staffing and prepared to launch Alphas in June to follow up with any student decision-makers from CT.

At the April 5 *Friend Challenge* event, students were mobilized to reach 5 of their friends for Christ at the May event. f2fmi took first steps in partnership by bringing 4 students and 7 leaders from 2 CT youth groups. Tim Byrne made a video greeting and encouraged students to bring their friends. There were group games, students led worship and a message. Then OU staff Chris McCabe issued the *5 Friend Challenge*. Students broke up into groups to identify, pray for their friends and sign commitment cards to invite them to the next event. A total of 68 students attended this event.

Training & Mobilizing One United RI in Evangelism:

Possibly one of the most valuable pieces of ministry that took place was the training and mobilization of One United RI in evangelistic strategic planning and execution. First, our team invited OU Executive Director, Ed Pichette to be a member of Luis Palau's *Next Generation Alliance*. Pichette was accepted as a member during this event season and will be able to build strategic partnerships throughout the alliance in coming years. Additionally, f2fmi CEO Tom Miyashiro poured hours of coaching and mentoring into Pichette in affirming and cultivating his call as an Evangelist.

Second, our team hired a hybrid staff from OU, Michelle Rogers to assimilate her in mission directing and Alpha liaison training. Rogers was given a time-tested evangelistic system complete with chain of command, event plan-o-gram, safety and response team trainings to mobilize volunteers. 30 adults volunteered at the Gathering. She was also given thorough Alpha training and templates in order to roll out Alpha courses at both target locations.

Third, f2fmi shared its organizational playbook and templates to give OU a burst of administrative growth by way of fundraising and constituency building, event management and strategic planning.

May 26th Gathering Event with Tim Byrne

The May 26th event with Tim Byrne was exciting to students and leaders from CT and RI. With a super packed event line up, attendees enjoyed a time of games, food and then a breakdancing competition from two professional dancers while DJ Debo played music. Then, Psalms of Men performed to get the crowd warmed up. Afterward, Tim Byrne hosted his skate competition before doing his own skate demo. Tim Byrne preached the gospel powerfully and 14 students responded to his message. 2 of the first time decision-makers were from CT and the third was a walk on who saw a poster in a Wendy's with his family and walked over to the event!

May 27th Tim Byrne at Calvary Chapel

On Sunday morning, Tim had the opportunity to share the gospel at 2 services at Calvary Chapel. Since the staging was very tight, Tim decided to show a video of him skateboarding and then went straight in to preaching the gospel. Between both services, there were 5 decisions for Christ. The congregation was greatly moved by Tim's testimony as well.

May 27th Tim Byrne at the Rock & Worship Party in Dalton, MA

The 9th Annual Rock & Worship Party is a backyard evangelistic event featuring music, food and games. It is sponsored by Fuse Christian Concerts and is well attended. This year, rain was a factor in attendance. However, despite the weather, 381 people came out anyway. Tim Byrne performed and preached the gospel and there were several children that responded and two very clear conversions. One decision was made by a young adult who lived in the neighborhood and was invited to attend the event. The other decision-maker was a student that had been attending the Alpha course at a home nearby for the twelve weeks leading up to the event. Tim's message was a tipping point for that young person after considering the gospel for weeks.

Alpha Follow Up Strategy:

1. f2fmi will partner with One United, EFC Newport and Graceway Community Church to follow up with students that attend and make decisions at the Gathering, and provide assistance to help them launch their courses.
 - a. Alpha launch: week of June 18
 - b. Identify students leaders
2. We will not stop with mobilizing youth groups to run an Alpha, but encourage their students to start an Alpha on their own as soon as the youth group finishes the course... in coffee shops, homes and even at their schools!
 - a. One United will provide a list of potential Liaisons that would be willing to come to CT to train on Alpha before the event.
 - b. f2fmi will provide training and support to the Liaison to successfully launch Alpha in potentially two churches in June.
 - c. f2fmi & OU will look to identify student leaders from the first two Alphas and train them to launch new Alphas at new locations in the fall.
3. One United will develop a strategy to retain attendees from the May Gathering into the June event.
 - o Ongoing Gatherings in June, July, August (Michelle Rogers to follow up with church leaders with the purpose of strengthening the youth leader network in RI)
 - o Alpha training for students: week of August 6

Budgetary Considerations & Other Highlights

- f2fmi and One United RI both brought resources to the table to make this event happen
- Groton Heights, Grace Fellowship and LIFEHouse (from CT) partnered together to fill a bus to attend the event and brought 48 students and leaders
- We enjoyed strategic partnerships from The Cecil B. Day Foundation, DSJ Printing, Luis Palau Association
- We also were encouraged by gifts-in-kind valued at \$2,660 given to make this event possible

P&L Statement *(See Attached...)*

THE GATHERING EVENT P&L

	Projected	Actual	Notes
Income			
One United Funding	\$220.00	\$1,067.00	\$847 staff + \$220 event
EFC Newport	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Graceway Community Church	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Redemption Fellowship	\$25.00	\$0.00	
The Day Foundation	\$2,000.00	\$2,281.00	
Next Generation Alliance	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	
f2fmi	\$716.00	\$2,085.51	
Groton Heights/LIFEHouse/Grace Fellowship	\$0.00	\$742.50	
	\$4,161.00	\$6,566.51	
Expense			
f2fmi Admin & Event Staff	\$350.00	\$350.00	training and event support paid by Day Foundation
One United RI Admin	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350 event admin paid by Day Foundation
One United RI Event Staff	\$220.00	\$847.00	
Travel/Tolls	\$0.00	\$157.07	
Venue - Newport Athletic Club	\$150.00	\$150.00	
Bus for CT students	\$0.00	\$742.50	
DJ	\$75.00	\$75.00	
Psalms of Men	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Prizes for students	\$100.00	\$10.48	
Print Media	\$250.00	\$0.00	push cards, posters
Tim Byrne - flight	\$500.00	\$486.50	
Meals	\$135.00	\$371.32	(Thurs-Sun)
Tim Byrne - honorarium	\$700.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,500 Tim Byrne
Oriented Strand Board (OSB)	\$50.00	\$95.64	2 boards
Follow Up - Alpha Liaison	\$1,281.00	\$1,281.00	exact amount funded through Day Foundation
Total:	\$4,161.00	\$6,566.51	
goal: 200 / actual: 149 attendees \$44.07pp	\$4,161.00	\$6,566.51	Income
goal: 30 decisions / actual: 27 decisions	\$4,161.00	\$6,566.51	Expense
goal: 15 connections for Alpha	\$0.00	\$0.00	