



Giving Circle Host Guide

Welcome and Introduction by Host: (5-10 minutes)

This is the time to tell others about why you invited them to this evening, about why you chose to support One By One, and what brought you to this cause. After sharing your personal story, feel free to use the suggested words below to inform your guests specifically about the condition of fistula, and to introduce them to the work of One By One.

Thank you all for coming.

I truly appreciate your time and openness to learning about something that is important to me. Since learning about the problem of obstetric fistula a short time ago, I have felt compelled to do what I can to help eradicate this problem. Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury caused when a woman has an unrelieved obstructed labor. Whereas here in the United States, women who have obstructed labors are taken to hospitals for a c-section, in parts of the developing world today millions of women do not have access to emergency medical care. They often labor for days; in most cases the baby dies. And the women are left leaking urine and/or bowel contents uncontrollably for the rest of their lives. Because of their condition, no one wants to be around someone with fistula, so they are often deserted by their husbands and families, left completely alone and ashamed. Fortunately, there is hope. This condition can be treated and prevented. A fistula repair surgery costs \$420. This covers the cost of the surgery and three weeks of post-operative care in a hospital. In about 90% of cases, this repair is effective, and these women can be reintegrated back into their villages and can also continue to have children.

Guest Introductions: (10-15 minutes)

Go around the room, ask guests to introduce themselves and respond to a question like one of the following to help focus the group and build community:

- 1. Why did you come tonight?*
- 2. What do you hope to learn?*
- 3. How does the condition of obstetric fistula relate to you personally?*

Show one of our recommended DVDs: (10 minutes)

Discussion of film (15-30 minutes)

After watching the DVD, spend some time talking about what you saw. You might start with guests' reactions to what they have seen, and then follow up with a question below to stimulate additional conversation:

1. *Did you learn anything new from this movie?*
2. *Did anything you saw in the movie surprise you?*
3. *What do we have in common with the women we saw tonight?*
4. *Would you be willing and able to tell someone else about what you have learned about tonight? Why or why not?*

Closing (5-10 minutes)

The final part of the evening involves asking your friends to join you in helping to eradicate this condition around the world through their support of the work that One By One does. While some feel more comfortable with this aspect of the evening than others, we have found in our experience with Giving Circles that your guests will be willing to join you in support of One By One, and that they truly want to help in whatever way they are asked.

You might try something like this:

Since learning about this horrible condition, I have begun working with an organization called One By One, which is based in Seattle. One By One seeks to "Inspire people. Empower solutions. End fistula." They do this by educating people here about this condition, and working with partners on the ground in developing parts of the world to eradicate it. Right now, they are working to provide comprehensive support and partnership to programs in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Niger which are addressing both the treatment and prevention of fistula. In order to prevent fistula, several key components must be in place for a community: education for midwives and traditional birth attendants in safe birthing techniques and knowing how to spot an obstructed labor, transportation to a clinic or hospital which can offer emergency medical services, support for these facilities so that they are staffed and have necessary supplies to do their work, and ongoing community education through village and small group meetings to make sure that women and men know how to prevent fistula, and how to access treatment if they need it.

I hope that you will feel inspired to contribute to this cause. Every amount donated makes a difference:

-if you can give \$40 that will pay for skilled nursing care for one fistula patient

-if you can give \$110, that will provide a c-section for a woman experiencing an obstructed labor

-if you can give \$420, that will cover the full cost of repair for one woman's fistula

-if you can give \$3500, that will fund one year of training for a rural midwife, helping to create a long term solution for a community

And finally, another crucial part of this evening is to communicate to your guests that **One By One is actively seeking to create a movement around this issue**, and that this movement can only exist if we continue to spread the word about this condition and what can be done about it. To that end, **we ask you to challenge your guests to consider hosting a circle of their own**, using resources available through One By One. This is often easiest with a co-host; so please encourage your guests to sign up with a friend if they would like.