

ANNUAL EVENTS

EVENT	DESCRIPTION	MONTH
Ring in Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer to host spring related activities for our residents ○ Donate plastic eggs, candy, and supplies to decorate eggs and do other crafts ○ Volunteer to help coordinate our Egg Hunt in our Healing Garden and Playground 	March/ April
Sexual Assault Awareness Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donate food, beverages, and other supplies for the event ○ Volunteer to help set-up and tear down for the event ○ Volunteer to nurture and play with the children who attend the event ○ Attend the event (free) 	April
Back-to-School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does your group offer a resource or service that could support families getting prepared to send their children back-to-school? Host a table at our event! ○ Volunteer to help set-up, tear-down, run the welcome table and other tasks! 	August
You are the Light Gala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Join the decorating committee and help decorate the day of the event ○ Collect auction items for the event's silent auction ○ Buy a sponsorship and attend the event 	September
Domestic Violence Awareness Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donate food, beverages, and other supplies for the event ○ Volunteer to help set-up and tear down for the event ○ Volunteer to nurture and play with the children who attend the event ○ Attend the event (free) 	October
Trunk-or-Treat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decorate your car's trunks, dress-up, and pass-out candy to our young clients! ○ Volunteer in the children's activity room making crafts with the clients ○ Donate food, beverages, and other supplies for the event 	October
Holiday Gift Giveaway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collect gifts for all ages and interests to donate to our Holiday Gift Giveaway for our clients to self-select gifts to give to their children ○ Volunteer to sign-up for shifts (2-3 volunteers at a time; minimum 2-hour shifts) to help organize and restock gift tables and/or help clients pick-out and wrap gifts 	December

To see if we have any other events coming up, check out our **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/firststepmi/> or our **Website's Event Page** at <https://www.firststep-mi.org/events/>

ART THEMED EVENTS

Cookie Decorating: Organize a fun cookie decorating event.

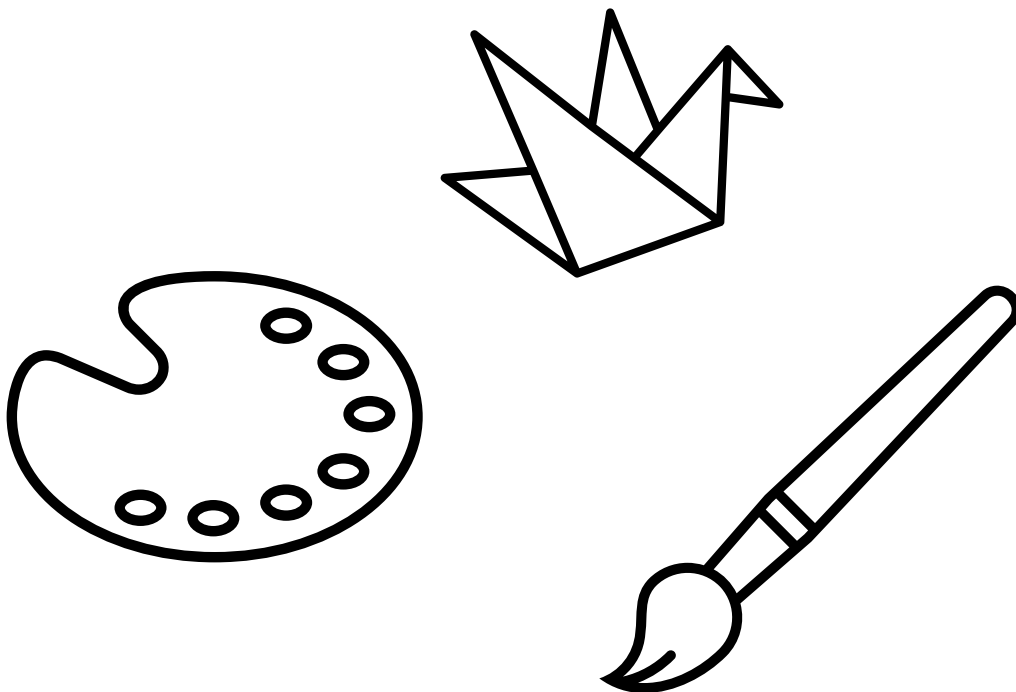
- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. frosting, pre-cooked cookies, sprinkles)

Guided Crafts: Guide a craft of your choice for participants.

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies for chosen craft/s. Please plan to support children with craft-making, especially with supplies that may not be fit for all ages (i.e. scissors, hot glue)

Paint Party: Guide a step-by-step painting session to help participants create their own masterpiece!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. paint, canvases, paint brushes, cups for water, paper towels)



ATHLETIC/MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Field Day: Plan an event devoted to outdoor sports, athletic contests, and games. Participants will break up into teams and compete at different stations for prizes or just for fun!

- **Best for Groups of:** Larger groups (minimum of 8; preferably 2 volunteers per station)
- **Schedule:** Summer weekdays and weekends
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. water balloons, bubbles, prizes)

Host a Dance Party: Bring all participants together for an event full of music, dancing, and community building!

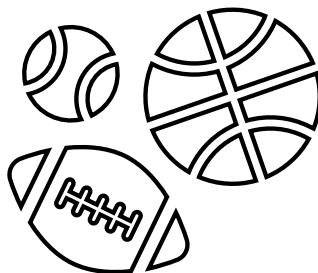
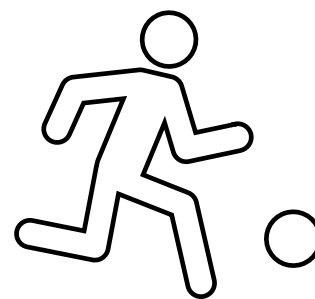
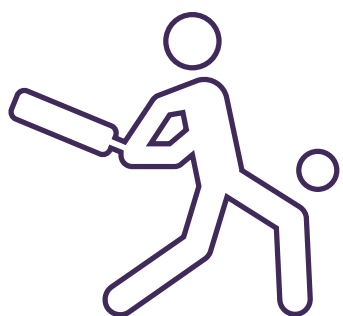
- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** It is required that music be kid friendly and non-religious. Fun decorations, props or visuals are a plus!

Sports Event: Organize a sporting event such as a: basketball, baseball, soccer, or football game.

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 15 people
- **Schedule:** Summer weekdays and weekends
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. sports (ask what equipment we can provide!), prizes/trophies optional, water/beverages required)

Water Fun: Come utilize our on-site splash pad, sandbox, and playground and bring some additional water fun activities to play with and enjoy the sun!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 15 people
- **Schedule:** Summer weekdays and weekends
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. water balloons); back-up plan or date for poor weather; NO water guns allowed; water/beverages required



BEAUTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

ARK Cleaning: Help clean the ARK (Animals Receiving Kindness – AKA our on-site animal shelter) building! We house dogs, cats, and other animals!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 15 people
- **Schedule:** As needed; during normal business hours (some weekends available upon request)
- **Additional Notes:** First Step can provide cleaning supplies, but if your group would like to bring your own and/or donate, we are always appreciative of that

Deep Clean Crew: Help to keep First Step clean and organized by assisting in deep cleaning tasks throughout First Step's buildings.

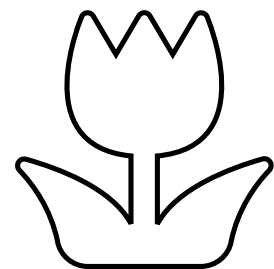
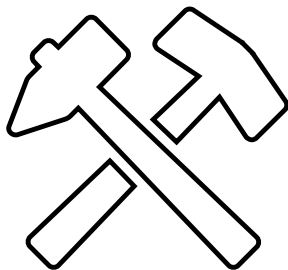
- **Best for Groups of:** Any size
- **Schedule:** As needed; during normal business hours (some weekends available upon request)
- **Additional Notes:** First Step can provide cleaning supplies, but if your group would like to bring your own and/or donate, we are always appreciative of that

Maintenance Projects: Help keep our facility functioning and safe!

- **Best for Groups of:** Dependent on project
- **Schedule:** As needed; during normal business hours (some weekends available upon request)
- **Additional Notes:** Age restrictions may be set on certain projects dependent on level of difficulty and/or use of particular tools; supplies and/or tools may be required

Seasonal Grounds Work: Help to maintain First Step's grounds and facility by performing seasonal upkeep, landscaping, and other yard work (can include gardening, power washing, window cleaning, garbage pick-up, mulch laying, etc.)!

- **Best for Groups of:** Any size
- **Schedule:** May-October, as needed (weekends available upon request)
- **Additional Notes:** First Step has limited gardening supplies and tools; donations for flowers/seeds, mulch, rocks for our musical well and/or water fountain, are always welcome



COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Community Awareness Crew: Help spread the word! Assemble educational packets containing information on First Step and domestic and sexual violence. Then, go out into the community and deliver the packets to schools, doctors' offices, and other community sites to help raise awareness and connect survivors to services.

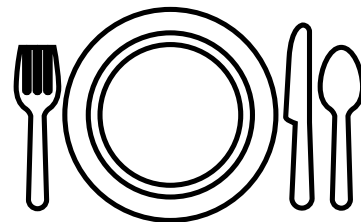
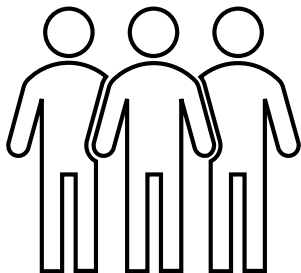
- **Items Needed:** Personal transportation, First Step provided handouts and supplies
- **Best for Groups of:** Any size
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if during typical business hours
- **Additional Notes:** Groups can pick-up flyers and resources and assemble at First Step or a location of their choice; Due to our funding, we would need to receive copies of the group's drivers' proof of auto insurance, valid driver's license, and run a quick driving record clearance (Paid by First Step)

Donation Drive and/or Fundraiser: Help collect items and funds for First Step through a donation drive or fundraiser!

- **Best for Groups of:** Any size
- **Schedule:** Flexible – No need to complete Group Volunteering Request Form, but if you'd like for us to share your event on social media, email the information to marketing@firststep-mi.org
- **Additional Notes:** Check out our [wish-list](#) (updated annually) for our most-needed items throughout the year OR find us on social media – every Wednesday we post our top needed items! Our [Amazon Wishlist](#) has the exact brands and types of items our clients commonly ask for, too. Once you have completed your fundraiser or donation drive, call First Step to set up a time to deliver it. We would love to set-up a photo-op and tour if your group is interested

Meals that Heal: Provide a meal (and activities if you'd like!) and promote giving-back and teambuilding within your group!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; 12pm-2pm, 5pm-7pm preferred
- **Additional Notes:** Meals can either be pre-prepared or bought from an establishment of your choice. Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. water/beverages, napkins, utensils, and plates are required). Please read through the first page of this catalog where we breakdown our guidelines for providing meals to our diverse group of clients



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Science Fair: Guide our future scientists in your choice of (safe) science experiments!

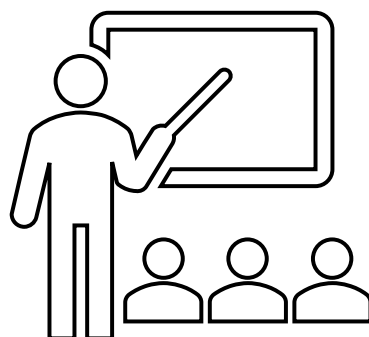
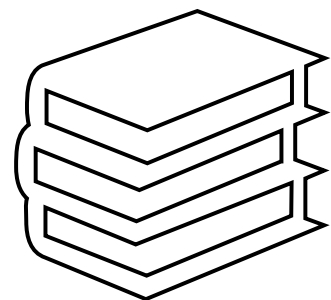
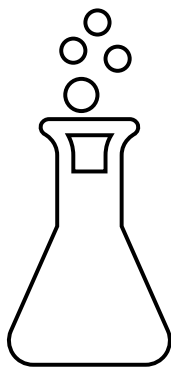
- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies for chosen experiment

Skill Share: Share your knowledge or skill with an audience of your choice (hand sewing, cooking, knitting, crocheting, or other life skills)

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people (dependent on skill, room, and audience)
- **Schedule:** Flexible
- **Additional Notes:** Skill share can be scheduled for our adult support groups, as a parent-child interaction activity, or a kids-only group! Will need to bring own supplies

Story Time: Share your favorite story with us!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 5 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year if the story is geared for school-aged groups. Otherwise, inquire how many under 5-year-old children we have and select a book fit for their age group and host during the day!
- **Additional Notes:** Feel free to ask what books we have on hand, but if you have a favorite story, check if your local library has it and prepare discussion topics and a relatable activity, craft, and/or snack to pair with it. Will need to bring own supplies



ENTERTAINMENT THEMED EVENTS

Carnival/Fun Fair: Host an event full of fun with games and prizes, carnival snacks, and more!

- **Best for Groups of:** Any size (dependent on indoor versus outdoor and room/s used)
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. games, prizes, carnival themed snacks, petting farm, etc.)

Game Room/Night: Facilitate a board game night for all participants to enjoy!

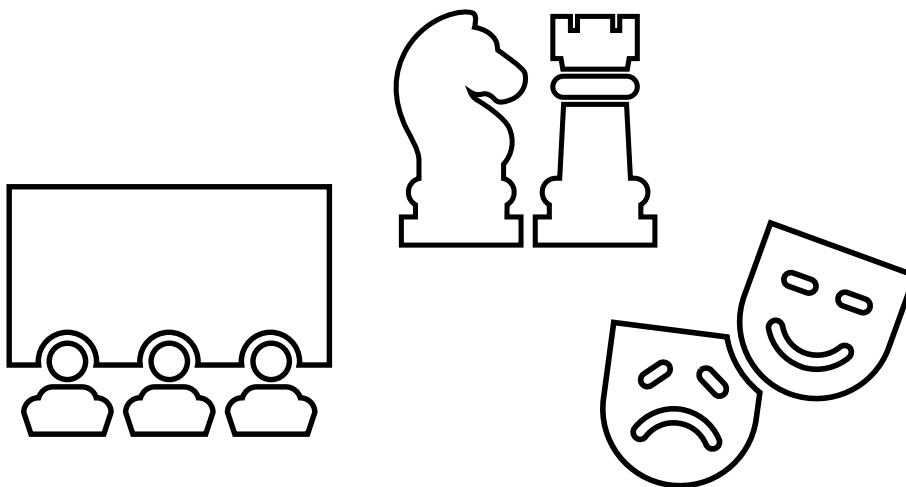
- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. games, snacks, beverages); don't forget to ask what games we have available! No violence-related games allowed (i.e. Clue)

Movie Premiere: Host a fun movie viewing for participants complete with popcorn and relatable activities!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Best during weekend nights, or summer nights (5pm-8pm)
- **Additional Notes:** Inquire about the use of our movie style popcorn machine; First Step can also provide a projector, sound system, DVD player, internet access; otherwise, group will need to bring own supplies (i.e. popcorn seeds, popcorn flavorings, spray butter, popping corn oil, movie choice (PG rated or lower required), candy, beverages)

Performance: Show off your talents to our clients and staff (i.e. magic, instrument, acapella)!

- **Best for Groups of:** Any size
- **Schedule:** Flexible; dependent on audience type
- **Additional Notes:** Performances can be scheduled for our events, adult support groups, as a parent-child interaction activity, or a kids-only group! No violence allowed



SEASONAL EVENTS

Check out the “Special Events” section at the beginning of this catalog for a list of our annual events that your group can join!

Shamrock Party: Host a fun, green themed shamrock party in March!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** March
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. green food, décor, games, activities)

Summer BBQ: Host a fun outdoor event with games and food to celebrate the summer!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 15 people
- **Schedule:** June-August
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. BBQ items, activities, games); First Step can provide an outdoor grill and indoor stove

Parents Celebration: Host an event to celebrate all of our wonderful parents!

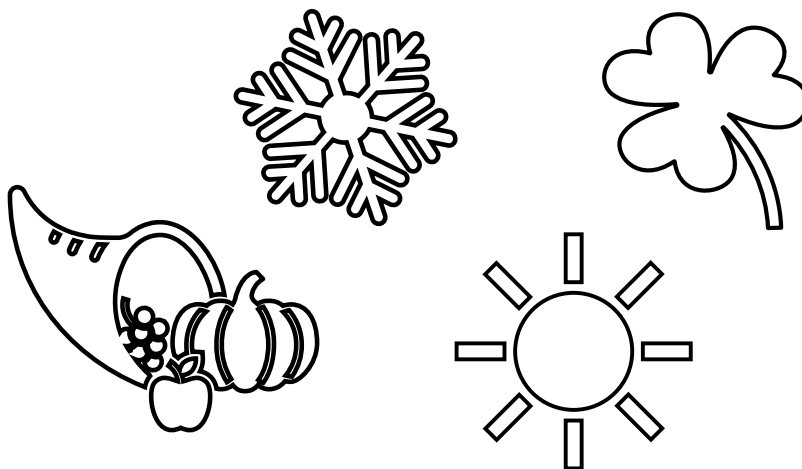
- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** May-June
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. food, games, crafts)

Fall or Thankful Feast: Host an event centered on family, friends, and gratefulness.

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** September-November
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. food, games, crafts)

Holiday Party or Winter Fest: Host an event to bring everyone together for the holidays and/or celebrate winter!

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** December-February
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. winter themed activities, videos, music (reminder: to maintain inclusivity, we ask that the party is not related to a particular holiday and/or religion))



SELF-CARE ACTIVITIES

Care Packages: Bring your group together to collect, organize, and prepare care packages for our clients.

- **Best for Groups of:** Any size
- **Schedule:** Flexible
- **Additional Notes:** Please inquire for more information on ideas and supplies for various types of kits (i.e. self-care, assault response, move-out, first-night in shelter, family bonding, etc.)

Sensory Time: Guide the creation and use of different sensory items for participants.

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 10 people
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. supplies for DIY calm-down jars, stress balls, slime, microwave neck pillows). Don't forget to ask what self-care supplies and activities we might have on hand!

Spa Retreat: Help participants practice self-care by hosting a relaxing spa event.

- **Best for Groups of:** Varying sizes (size dependent on amount of stations)
- **Schedule:** Flexible; best if outside of typical school hours during the school year
- **Additional Notes:** Will need to bring own supplies (i.e. face masks/DIY face masks, nail polish, bath bomb making, professional massages, professional hair stylists for **all** hair types)

Yoga Class: Guide a relaxing yoga session to help participants focus on their mind and wellness.

- **Best for Groups of:** Up to 3 people
- **Schedule:** For adult audiences, anytime; for all ages or just children, consider outside of typical school hours
- **Additional Notes:** First Step can provide a limited number of yoga mats for clients; cleaning the yoga mats after the event would be expected of the volunteers; providing calming music and/or water/beverages is encouraged

PLAN YOUR OWN EVENT!

We are always open to new events, activities, projects, partnerships, and more.
Please, do not hesitate to come to us with your own ideas and suggestions!

