



Table Host Success Packet

Goodnight Gala 2026

benefiting the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Event Details	Your Role as a Table Host
Date: Friday, October 2, 2026 Time: doors open at 6:00 PM Venue: Royalston Square Address: 501 Royalston Square, Minneapolis, MN 55405	• Fill a table of up to 10 (you + 9 guests) • Help guests feel welcomed, informed, and ready to participate • Encourage bidding, paddle raises, and post-event connection • Thank guests afterwards
Registration & Bidding Platform: ClickBid	Guest list due: <u>9/24/2026</u> Guest Info Needed: Name, email address, cell phone number (for auction access), and any dietary restrictions and/or accessibility needs

Why your table matters

Goodnight Gala brings together a community of champions for an unforgettable evening to help transform nights of crisis into nights of comfort for children and families. Your invitation is often the reason a guest shows up (and gives).

When you **host a table**, you're doing more than reserving seats — you're inviting others to experience the mission of the Nursery and helping spark new connections to our work.

Goodnight Gala at a Glance

Goodnight Gala (formerly Harvesting Hope) is an unforgettable evening of connection, mission, and generosity. Guests will enjoy curated **wine, beer, and spirits tastings**, passed appetizers, chef-attended gourmet food stations, **silent and live auctions**, the ever-popular cake frenzy, and finally a powerful opportunity to **fund the Nursery's mission** during the program.

- **Date and Venue:** Friday, October 2, 2026 at Royalston Square in Minneapolis.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities:** Presenting \$25,000, Gold \$10,000, Silver \$5,000, and Flexible/In-Kind \$1,000-\$5,000.
- **Ticket Price(s):** Hosted table \$2,250 for up to 10 guests, individual tickets \$250.

Mission language to use: For more than 40 years, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery has been a trusted partner for families with young children, providing free, voluntary, and compassionate overnight childcare during their most challenging moments. The Nursery offers a comprehensive support system through the Crisis Helpline, overnight childcare, and Home Visiting Program.

Helpful Links and Resources

- Event Webpage: crisisnursery.org/events/goodnight-gala/
- ClickBid Homepage: 2026gg.cbo.io
- Event Tickets: cbo.io/2026gg/tix
- Donation page: crisisnursery.org/donate/gg/

Your 3 Steps to Success

1) Invite	Build a list of 15-20 people and personally invite enough guests to fill your table of 10 . A personal invitation is the most effective way to bring new supporters into the room.
2) Prepare	Enter guests into ClickBid as they confirm. Make sure each guest knows the date, location, arrival time, and that the evening includes auction and giving opportunities. <i>Gold Star for bringing guests in for a Nursery tour or Cook for Kids meal before the event!</i>
3) Follow up	Thank each guest within 48 hours . Share one highlight from the evening and let Megan know who may be interested in a tour, Cook for Kids, sponsorship, monthly giving, or a deeper conversation.

Suggested Timeline

Use this as your roadmap. We'll also keep you on track with brief weekly emails.

When	You do	Helpful notes
8-12 weeks before	Make your guest list and send first personal invitations	Prioritize people who enjoy community events, philanthropy, auctions, wine/spirits experiences, or family-focused causes.
6 weeks before	Enter confirmed guests into ClickBid	Collect email and cell phone numbers early so check-in, bidding, and post-event follow-up run smoothly.
4 weeks before	Send a warm reminder and invite guests to visit the Nursery before the Gala.	Offer a tour or Cook for Kids as a meaningful way to connect guests to the mission.
2 weeks before	Confirm attendance, dietary restrictions, accessibility needs, and payment/bidding readiness.	This helps reduce check-in delays and improve guest experience.
Guest List deadline: September 24	Finalize guest list and table seating.	Printed nametags, seating, and bidder information should be complete by this date.
Event Day: October 2	Arrive early, check in, and prepare to greet your guests.	Encourage guests to explore food and beverage tastings, bid early, and be ready for the Fund-A-Need.
Within 48 hours after the event	Thank each of your guests for joining you!	We will provide some sample language to help.

Before the Gala: Connect Guests to the Mission

The strongest Gala tables are built before guests ever walk into the room. Help guests understand why this evening matters and how their generosity helps children feel safe and parents find stability.

- Invite guests to **tour the Nursery** before the event. Tours are usually 30-45 minutes and help guests see the impact firsthand. **Let Megan know if you or any of your guests would like a tour.**
- Invite a small group to **Cook for Kids** before or after the Gala. It is a simple, meaningful way to support children with a warm meal.
- Ask guests whether their employer matches charitable gifts. **Employer matches** can double the impact of a gift.

Inviting Your Guests

The best invitations are personal, brief, and clear about why you care. Use the scripts below as-is or make them your own.

If you have previously hosted a table and would like a list of your attendees from past years, please contact us and we would be happy to provide you with a list of your previous attendees.

Text Message Invitation

Hi [Name] — I'm hosting a table at Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery's Goodnight Gala on Friday, October 2 at Royalston Square. It's a meaningful evening supporting free, voluntary care for families with young children during crisis. I'd be honored to have you as my guest. Can I save you a seat?

Email Invitation

Subject: Join me at Goodnight Gala (Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery)

Hi [Name],

I'm hosting a table at Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery's **Goodnight Gala** (formerly Harvesting Hope) on **Friday, October 2, 2026**, at Royalston Square in Minneapolis, and I would love for you to be my guest.

The Nursery is a trusted partner for families with young children, providing free, voluntary, compassionate care when parents are facing crisis. Goodnight Gala is a beautiful evening that brings people together to help transform nights of crisis into nights of comfort for children and families.

The evening will include food and beverage experiences, auction items, a live program, and an opportunity to make a gift in support of the Nursery's mission. There is no minimum gift required, but guests will be invited to participate as they are able and inspired.

Can I reserve a seat for you?

Warmly,
[Your Name]

Corporate or Sponsor Invitation

Hi [Name] - I'm helping introduce new friends and partners to Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery through their **Goodnight Gala on Friday, October 2, 2026**. The event offers meaningful visibility for companies and a powerful way to engage employees around a local mission. Sponsorship levels include **Gold** (\$10,000), **Silver** (\$5,000), and **flexible/in-kind** and include benefits such as table seating at the event, recognition, personal tours, and small group volunteer opportunities. Would you be open to learning more?

If Someone Cannot Attend

No worries — thank you for considering! If you'd still like to support families in crisis, you can make a gift here: crisisnursery.org/donate/gg/

Registering Your Guests

Please enter guests in ClickBid as they confirm. Complete guest data helps check-in, mobile bidding, paddle raise recording, meal counts, and post-event stewardship go smoothly. Final date for printed name tags and seating charts is no later than **Thursday, September 24th**.

As you confirm your guests, please enter their names into your electronic guest list. A link to your electronic guest list will be emailed to you after signing up as a table host. If you need the link resent, please email Megan at MWerner@crisisnursery.org.

Required Guest Information	First and last name, email, cell phone number, relevant dietary restrictions, accessibility needs, and any seating notes.
Payment & Bidding Readiness	Encourage guests who plan to bid or raise a paddle to have a payment method on file or ready at check-in.
Seating	If your table is not full by the deadline, contact Megan early so staff can help fill open seats or troubleshoot.
Adding Guests after the Deadline	Send updates to Megan as soon as possible. Late additions may affect nametags, seating, etc.
Privacy Note	Guest contact information is used for event logistics, receipts, and appropriate post-event follow-up.

Event Day: What to Do

You set the tone for your table. The goal is simple: welcome guests, help them enjoy the evening, and make giving feel easy and joyful.

When guests arrive	During the program
• Arrive early (by 6:00 PM). • Check in and confirm your table number. • Greet your guests and help them check in. • Encourage them to explore food and beverage tastings and silent auction items. • Make introductions at the table.	• Model engaged listening during the program. • Encourage guests to raise their paddle or give by QR code as they are able. • Celebrate every gift level. • Help staff/spotters if someone at your table needs assistance.

Troubleshooting:

Questions about seating, meal needs, bidding, or payment should go to the registration/help desk.

Additional points of contact listed below.

If a guest asks:

"Do I have to give?" -> No. Everyone is invited to give as they are able.

"How do I give?" -> Raise your paddle, use the QR code, or ask for help.

Talking Points for Table Hosts

- **Goodnight Gala** helps transform nights of crisis into nights of comfort for children and families.
- The Nursery provides **free, voluntary services for families with young children** - including a crisis helpline, overnight childcare, family advocacy, and home visiting.
- The Nursery's mission is to end child abuse and neglect and create strong, healthy families.
- Guests can **deepen their involvement** through a gift, employer match, monthly giving, volunteering, Cook for Kids, a Nursery tour, sponsorship, or introducing a new donor.

After the Gala

Within 48 hours

- Call or email each guest to thank them.
- Share one quick highlight from the program.
- Ask if they'd like a tour or more info about the Nursery or how to get more involved.

Within 1 week

- Complete the Table Host survey.
- Send warm leads to Megan, especially guests who asked about volunteering, monthly giving, employer matching, sponsorship, major gifts, or tours.

Sample Thank-You Text

Thank you for joining me at Goodnight Gala! I loved sharing the Nursery's work with you and I'm grateful you were part of such a meaningful evening for children and families. Let me know if you'd ever like to tour the Nursery or learn more about getting involved.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a cost to attend? Table hosts generally purchase or secure a hosted table. **Hosted tables** of up to 10 guests are available at \$2,250. As a host, you may invite guests to join you at your table.

Individual tickets are available for \$250 per person.

Will my guests be asked to give? Yes. Goodnight Gala is a fundraising event. Guests will be invited to give through the Fund-A-Need paddle raise, silent and live auctions, and other giving opportunities. There is no minimum gift required.

Why did the name of the event change?

Last year, we introduced the Goodnight Gala theme as the next chapter of our fall fundraising event, Harvesting Hope; this year, we're bringing the Goodnight theme fully to life. While wine tasting remains part of the evening, we wanted the event's name and identity to center more fully on the Nursery's mission and the safe Goodnights you help make possible for children and families in crisis.

Why the change in venue?

After filling the Westin Edina Galleria to capacity last year (a great problem to have!), we began searching for a larger venue that could accommodate the Gala's continued growth. Royalston Square gives us the space to welcome more guests and the resources to create a more engaging and meaningful event experience. We're so excited to welcome guests there this year!

What should guests wear? Cocktail or festive evening attire is appropriate, "Goodnight" theme is encouraged! Think twilight colors, metallic shimmers, and sparkly accents or accessories.

What if I can't fill my full table? Reach out early! We'll help with ideas, outreach tools, or filling open seats.

Can my company sponsor the event? Yes! 2026 available sponsorship levels include Gold (\$10,000), Silver (\$5,000), and flexible or in-kind. [Click here for more information about sponsorships.](#)

Your Contacts

Nursery Contact	Event logistics
Megan Werner , Development Officer Phone: (612) 767-8462 Email: MWerner@crisisnursery.org	Erika LaDousa , Event Coordinator Phone: (612) 412-8894 Email: Erika@ldseventsmn.com
Laura Wagner , Development Director Phone: (612) 767-8461 Email: LWagner@crisisnursery.org	Emily Nolan , Event Committee Chair Email: Emilynolan714@gmail.com

