



## Baby Bottle Boomerang 2021 Guide

*Thank you for supporting **Baby Bottle Boomerang!** The information here will help you make your campaign a successful and meaningful experience for Bridgehaven and for your church.*

### About Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center

***Bridgehaven's mission is to empower choices for life through Christ-centered education and support.***

Baby Bottle Boomerang supports the mission of Bridgehaven through:

- Growing awareness in the community
- Strengthening ministry relationships
- Raising support for Bridgehaven

Bridgehaven walks alongside individuals before, during, and after pregnancy. All services are offered at no cost to the client and include:

- Sexual and Relational Health Education for students and at-risk populations
- Pregnancy Testing and Ultrasound for those facing a pregnancy decision
- Weekly Life Skills Class and Material Assistance to those who are pregnant or parenting
- Abortion Recovery Support for those who have experienced an abortion

*Statistics show that 1 out of 4 women in the church have experienced an abortion. We encourage everyone to be sensitive to this as you have conversations about Bridgehaven's work in the community. We can provide more detailed information about how we work with women and men who have experienced an abortion.*

### Ambassador Role

*"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us." (2 Corinthians 5:20a)*

**Your role as an Ambassador is very important!** You are the liaison between your church and Bridgehaven. If you anticipate having a team to help, please see the *Team Job Descriptions* in addition to the information below.

### Prepare

#### 1. Schedule Your BBB Campaign

Meet with your pastor or church/ministry planning team to determine your kick-off date, collection date (most campaigns run 3-4 weeks), discuss logistical needs and plans, and determine the number of bottles needed.

#### 2. Make a Plan

Decide the best way to distribute the bottles to your congregation. If you are at a large church, you may want to invite others to help you (see *Team Job Descriptions* for a breakdown of roles). Many churches choose to introduce the project during church service on Kick-Off Sunday and then have an area designated where members can pick-up bottles to take home following the service. Other churches distribute bottles through smalls groups, the church office, VBS, or Sunday school classes. Make a plan that works for *your* church.

#### 3. Understand & Share the New Ways to Participate

As many churches continue to gather virtually and make digital engagement possible, we also have available virtual BBB options. This includes video greetings for your church/participants and ways to give online. We suggest making these options known to your church body as it is a fast, easy, and secure way to give a gift:

- Online at [bridgehavencr.org](https://bridgehavencr.org) (click "Donate Now" in the upper right corner and be sure to select "Baby Bottle Boomerang" from the drop down menu, and write a note to indicate the church you're with)
- Text 319-600-6391 to give a donation

- Via Venmo\*: @BridgehavenCR

*\*Please make your congregation/participants aware that donations given through Venmo do not generate receipts for tax-reporting purposes. Donors are asked to please contact Bridgehaven directly if they would like a tax receipt for any donations given through Venmo.*

#### 4. Coordinate with Bridgehaven

To ensure a smooth BBB campaign, you'll want to communicate the following information with us *at least one week prior* to your desired kick-off date:

- Desired kick-off date for your church
- Number of bottles needed for your congregation
- Desired date for delivery or pick up of your bottles and BBB materials (if a Bridgehaven staff person will be attending your Kick-Off, they can bring everything along)
- *If desired:* request a Bridgehaven staff member to speak to your congregation on Kick-Off Sunday. This can be a brief presentation or visit where we celebrate your church's partnership and share your impact through BBB. Also available is a brief video greeting option.

#### 5. Get to Know Bridgehaven

If you are new to working with Bridgehaven or BBB, it's important for you to understand who Bridgehaven is, what we do, and why we do it. We recommend contacting us to learn more about the ministry, hear stories of the work God is doing here, and ask questions.

### **Kick-Off**

#### 1. Share about the Bridgehaven ministry and the impact of BBB

Here are a few ways to do this:

- A Bridgehaven staff member speaks to your congregation about your church's partnership and the importance of BBB. This can be 1-20 minutes, depending on your preference, and can be presented in a number of ways. This includes a video option, particularly useful as churches gather virtually and distribute information via email and on social media platforms.
- Show the informational Bridgehaven video. Your congregation will get a glimpse into the work God is doing through Bridgehaven. Video options are available on our BBB webpage ([bridgehavencr.org/baby-bottle-boomerang/](http://bridgehavencr.org/baby-bottle-boomerang/)).
- If you have a personal connection with the ministry, it's great for your congregation to hear from one of its own members. We find this to be a particularly successful way to engage your church body!
- Distribute Bridgehaven brochures and/or BBB information to congregation members along with bottles.

#### 2. Introduce the BBB video

Here are two script ideas (*we invite you to edit to your preferences*):

- *Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am an Ambassador for Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center's Baby Bottle Boomerang, along with \_\_\_\_\_(if you are part of a team). Bridgehaven has been serving women and families in our community for over 30 years to empower choices for life. This short video will give you a glimpse into the work God is doing through Bridgehaven.*
- *Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. According to current US trends, 43% of women will have experienced an abortion by the age of 45, and within the evangelical community, 1 out of 4 women have had an abortion experience. It's also a fact that our teens within the church are more vulnerable to abortion than those who are unchurched. Any idea why that might be? Shame, guilt, fear of judgment, and protection of a family reputation are all factors which influence their decision to choose abortion. These sobering facts mean that the support and services of Bridgehaven are VERY relevant for families right here within our own congregation, as well as those outside the church. As a church in service to our Lord, we want to be the first place of refuge and help for anyone finding themselves in such circumstances.*

#### 3. Explain how BBB works

Here are two sample scripts you may choose to use (*or adapt to make it your own!*):

- *We are so thankful you have chosen to be a part of our BBB campaign! After the service, please pick-up a bottle from \_\_\_\_\_ (location/method of Baby Bottle distribution/pick-up). You'll want to put it in a prominent place in your home to remind you to pray for Bridgehaven, consider how God may be leading you to be a part of this ministry, and to fill up the bottle with coins, bills, or a check made payable to*

“Bridgehaven”. Please mark your calendars to return your bottles to \_\_\_\_\_ (location of collection) by \_\_\_\_\_ (end date).

- Families/individuals wishing to participate should plan to pick-up a bottle from \_\_\_\_\_ (location of distribution table) and take it home. Use the bottle as a reminder to pray for the ministry during the month. Then, fill up the bottle as you feel led with coins, bills, or checks made payable to “Bridgehaven”. Please be sure to complete and return the participation slip inside each bottle. If your gift is over \$25, you will receive a receipt and may request more information on other ways to get involved with Bridgehaven. Please be sure to return your bottles to \_\_\_\_\_ (location of collection) by \_\_\_\_\_ (end date).
- **Additional virtual information:** We also want to be sure you are aware of the option to participate virtually in BBB. You may “fill the bottle” by making a gift online at [bridgehavencr.org](http://bridgehavencr.org) (being sure to designate your gift for Baby Bottle Boomerang from the drop-down menu). We are also able to accept gifts electronically via Venmo\* (@BridgehavenCR) or via text message at 319-600-6391.

*\*Please be sure to make your congregation/participants aware that donations given through Venmo do not generate receipts for tax reporting purposes. Donors are asked to please contact Bridgehaven directly if they would like a tax receipt for any donations given through Venmo.*

#### 4. Distribute Baby Bottles

Make sure you keep a record of the names and contact information of everyone who takes a bottle on the check-out sheet. This will make it much easier for your team to ensure the return of all bottles when the project wraps up. It also allows Bridgehaven to provide receipts as appropriate and issue thank yous.

*Please keep in mind that each bottle lost costs Bridgehaven over \$1.00 to be replaced. This reduces the impact of fundraising efforts, as we must cover these replacement bottle costs. Some churches prefer to offer Bridgehaven funds to cover “lost” bottles rather than asking members to sign-out the bottles.*

#### During the Month

- It’s best to keep Bridgehaven and your BBB campaign in front of your church family throughout your campaign month when bottles are out for filling. Brief reminders at the beginning of weekly services work well. These reminders may highlight a different area of the ministry each week (Prevention, Client Advocacy, Client Support, Abortion Recovery) and/or may introduce a new prayer focus each week. Some churches use bulletin announcements (a copy is provided with your Participation Pack materials).
- Remind participants throughout the month about the final date of the project so they remember to bring their bottle that last Sunday. Be prepared for bottles to come back every week. We suggest having a drop-off/collection table available where bottles were originally distributed. Also, we recommend to be prepared with extra bottles on hand, as some people will pick up bottles each week throughout your campaign.

#### Wrapping up BBB

- On the final Sunday, participants should return their bottles to the church. These bottles will need to be kept in a secure area and picked up immediately after each service. The filled bottles can be quite heavy, so you may need additional help moving them. The bottles should be returned to Bridgehaven as soon as possible after the final collection to ensure the money collected is kept safe and secure.
- If possible, it’s encouraging (and exciting!) for the congregation to hear the total amount raised. Once counted and confirmed, Bridgehaven will communicate this total to you so you can relay it to your church.

#### BBB Participation Pack Materials

One copy of each will be included in your packet. Please make copies of these materials as needed. We can also provide PDFs via email if you prefer.

1. Team Member Job Descriptions
2. Sample Bottle Sign-out Sheet
3. Sample Bulletin Insert
4. Sample Church Announcements
5. Promotional video (available on our website)

#### Questions?

We are here to help!

Contact Caitlin at [caitlin@bridgehavencr.org](mailto:caitlin@bridgehavencr.org) or (319) 364-8967