

Talking to Guests about Supporting CHEJ

Whether you make a speech in front of all your guests about supporting CHEJ or talk to each one-on-one, it's important to prepare what you say.

- Begin by thanking your guests for coming.
- Describe the local work that your group does (if appropriate) and your reasons for supporting CHEJ. Talk about what inspired you to make your first contribution, and why you keep giving now. (Have you had a personal environmental health experience? Are you outraged that people are exposed to toxic chemicals without their consent or knowledge? Are you inspired by the story of Love Canal, or Lois Gibb's passion to empower others?)
- End by asking guests to make an additional contribution to your group and/or CHEJ.

At a designated time, either before, during or after your speech, invite your guests to watch the DVD about CHEJ included in your House Party Kit, or play the DVD on repeat in the background for guests to watch during the party at their leisure. Also, read aloud a chapter of *Achieving the Impossible*. We're sure the stories will inspire your guests!

Sample Script:

"Thank you for coming to my home this evening and learning about such an important cause. I learned of CHEJ ten years ago when my sister, Mary, discovered that a company was trying to build a landfill in her town. Mary was concerned about the health risks of a local landfill and worried that the landfill would drive property values down.

Mary and her neighbors called and wrote to their government officials and the company building the landfill, but everyone ignored their concerns. Then Mary called CHEJ. Their on-staff toxicologist gave Mary documented scientific evidence about the hazards of landfills. Their organizing staff coached Myrtle and her neighbors on how to unify the town and take a strong message to government and corporate decision-makers. With CHEJ's help, the town stopped the landfill from being built!

I have supported CHEJ since this happened in 1995. CHEJ's mission is close to my heart. Hundreds of thousands of people in this nation live on soil, drink water or breathe air that is contaminated with toxic chemicals. These communities are trapped in a nightmare of frustration when they discover that the industry that contaminated their town and the local and state governments won't help solve – or sometimes even acknowledge – the problem.

I hope you'll join with me in making an additional donation today to help CHEJ's work. Communities look to CHEJ to provide one-on-one scientific consultations and organizing advice and CHEJ charges no fee for these services. For 28 years, CHEJ has empowered communities facing all sorts of environmental injustices to organize and win change – not only for themselves, but for the good of our entire country. By forcing local polluters to clean up contamination or stop polluting, these communities are also making our world safer for us all. Thank you so much for joining me in supporting CHEJ."

If you would like CHEJ to look over your script, please contact us:

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