

TED ALLEN'S

FRIENDSGIVING HOSTING TIPS

***Pro Tip: Do as much cooking as you can a day or two before people arrive.**



Host of Food Network's Chopped

DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW. If you're stressed-out around your guests, they'll be stressed-out too! Make sure you are planning an event that you can pull off with ease. And remember: there is no shame in potluck!

HAVE DRINKS READY. It's important to get a drink into your guests' hands the minute they walk through the door. Whether it's your signature cocktail, a glass of sparkling water or a cold beer...a "welcome" drink sets the tone; It's party time!

FOOD DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FANCY, BUT MAKE SURE YOU DON'T RUN OUT. There's nothing worse when you're at a party and the food runs out—especially if people are drinking. But you don't have to spend a fortune on the food. You can't go wrong with cheese. Or antipasti. Just don't fill up your guests too much if you're then going to serve them dinner.

PEOPLE LIKE THEMES! Friendsgiving doesn't have to mean the same old traditional Thanksgiving. This can be especially fun (and helpful) if you're doing a potluck. Since the event is to support kids, you could set the menu based on your favorite childhood foods.

MIX UP YOUR GUEST LIST. Pairing your artist friends with your lawyer friends can lead to interesting conversations. Just make sure you're moving your way through the crowd to connect people. And don't forget to remind people why you're hosting! The more they know about the No Kid Hungry campaign the more they're likely to support it.