

# FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS

Finances are one of the biggest challenges for individuals and groups wanting to participate in short-term mission trips. This is especially true for International trips. With that in mind, we have suggestions to help assist you with this undertaking.

**SUGGESTION #1: Start Early** – It is never too early to start planning. Even if you have not solidified which trip you will take, go head and start planning and saving as soon as you know you will participate. Planning a year ahead of time will alleviate much stress in your saving plan and give you plenty of time.

**SUGGESTION #2: Diversify Your Funding** – It can be very overwhelming when beginning a savings plan for your mission trip. Writing out your goals and plans to accomplish will help devise an effective plan for success. I would encourage you to count on funds deriving from three main areas. The following is a good rule of thumb in breaking the total cost into those manageable parts.

*1/3 Your investment:* First, it is best for each missionary to invest in their own trip by planning to pay for at least a third themselves. After all, you will ask others to invest in your trip, so you should not have reservations of doing the same. This gives a sense of ownership and accountability.

*1/3 Fundraising:* Plan on collecting a third of your funds through fundraising. This will give you a specific dollar amount goal to focus on for the fundraising part of your plan.

*1/3 Support Letters:* And finally, plan the remaining third to be raised by sending out personal support letters. You should send these to family and friends who will commit to pray for and partner with you for your trip. The crucial part to good letter is to be crisp, yet sufficiently describe the reason for your trip, the goals of your trip, and the significance of their participation in your trip both prayerfully and

financially. Most people who receive your letters will make a minimum donation(\$10-\$25), but some will give much more. If you work hard, you will find that your out of pocket cost will be less than the 1/3 you planned for.

**SUGGESTION #3: Diversify Your Fundraising Audience** – Audience diversity is an important aspect to fundraising. You do not want to keep asking the same people to help you fund your trip. Your church family may be very supportive of your upcoming trip. However, you do not want to take advantage of their generosity by focusing all of your fundraising efforts on them (i.e. – after church meals, love offerings, etc.). You need to look for fundraising opportunities that target a variety of different people (coworkers, family, the general public, etc.)

**SUGGESTION #4 – Maximize Your Fundraising Potential** – Being involved in many fundraisers in the past have taught me it is best to focus on two or three events very intentionally. This approach keeps you from working yourself into a frenzy trying to manage many smaller fundraiser that have low returns. Here are some examples of successful fundraisers. And feel free to contact AFO for additional fundraising suggestions and overall planning.

#### **Fundraiser/Support Ideas:**

Ask 10 people to support you at \$10, \$15, \$20 or \$25 per month for 4 months... \$25 = \$1000

Reverse Love Offering (Church agrees to invest \$1000 to which members take a portion and invest it by baking and selling cookies, lemonade stand, etc and multiply the money and then give back)

Sell Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Cards

Spaghetti dinners sell

Sell World's Finest Chocolate Candy

Bake Sale