

## Fundraising Ideas

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The overall fundraising for the trip is your responsibility. Short-term mission trips are popular recipients of donations because so many people are supportive of social action, plus many are willing to contribute to the development of young people for altruistic and spiritual goals.

You need to plan on doing several of these fundraisers. Just sending a letter may not cover your entire expense. You'll have to put some time and effort into this. And get creative! Also, think about reaching a variety of people. Don't just ask the same few people over and over. Think about your own friends, your parents' friends, relatives, church family, present and past teachers, organizations you are involved with, your employer, etc. If you have moved over the past few years, remember to include the people who knew you in your old hometown too. They still remember you and care about your involvement in missions. They will probably be happy to see "how much you've grown up"!

**Specific fundraising ideas are limitless. Some that might be considered include:**

### ***Direct appeals***

The most common method of short-term mission fundraising is making a direct appeal either in person, by phone, or by letter.

### ***Send a letter to ask for donations***

Send a letter to family friends and church members asking for their help and prayers to go on the Ultimate Workout. See the sample letter below and personalize it to state your own personal reasons for going before you send it. Some ways you could personalize it include listing other ways you are raising money and giving them an opportunity to participate (i.e. Let me know if you want to order some fresh-baked bread!), or including a picture of yourself with a hard hat on, ready to work!

### ***Call***

Before or after you send a letter, you may want to call certain people and explain why you want to be a part of the Ultimate Workout. Ask if they can help make that a reality.

### ***Ask your church to sponsor you as a missionary***

People in your community can sponsor their own missionary and receive relatively quick feedback through a short-term missionary. You should stand up in church to talk about your upcoming mission trip, then be prepared to show pictures and share stories when you get back.

### ***Pre-sell souvenirs***

Publicize your missionary experience by offering to bring back a Mexican souvenir for every donor of \$50 or \$100, etc. These could be handcrafted keychains you'll buy in that country, or a special vial of dirt or sand from your worksite.

### ***A day of work***

Because your short-term mission experience requires a tremendous amount of work, what better way to raise money than to do some work? Offer your services to do all types of work such as cleaning, yard care, garage clean-outs, window washing, painting, weed clearing, bulk mailings or other special projects. You might also offer babysitting, pet walking, or house-sitting services. A note of explanation can set a minimum hourly rate of \$5-\$10 per hour, with an invitation to contribute liberally for this short-term mission trip fundraiser. Most importantly get the word out that you are available.

### ***Visual Goal***

Sometimes having a visual aid can motivate and remind church members your goal. You might put up a map on your church bulletin board with markers pinned on your hometown and your work site. Beside this you may put pictures from that country, and a copy of your appeal letter, explaining why you want to take part in the mission project.

### ***Recycle***

With the current need and interest in recycling and environmental responsibility, collect cans, bottles and/or newspapers to raise money while you care for the environment and encourage others to do the same. This is especially effective in communities that don't yet have curbside recycling service. Check with local agencies for places to deposit your collection. Place recycling bags at your school, teams/clubs you are involved, at your parent's workplace, church, etc.

### ***Cultural Dinners***

Give your supporters an opportunity to get a taste of the culture you will visit. Have a fundraising dinner with a menu and decorations culturally appropriate for your destination. For example, if your short-term mission trip is to Mexico, have a Mexican dinner. Your missionaries can wear the dress of the Nationals and serve the supporters. A short program might add to the spirit of the event. Proceeds for the tickets go for the costs of the trip.

### ***Make Money at Someone Else's Restaurant***

That's right, you can make money by asking people to eat at a restaurant on a particular day. Do an internet search for "restaurant fundraisers" for an idea of how this works. It is a pretty easy process, and free to you, but you have to really work to make sure lots of people know about it, and they show up for dinner! The more people the better.

### ***Bake sales***

If you and your family like to bake, there is probably someone willing to buy! Try bringing some bread, cakes or cookies to an event and selling them, but also consider taking orders for future deliveries. Maybe you can take orders each week for bread the following week, or have fresh pies for sale once a month.

### ***Car wash***

A traditional fundraiser, the key to a successful car wash is location, publicity and timing. Some have found that accepting donations for a "free" car wash actually yields a greater total than a set rate. Doing a high quality job is expected. If your community has an expectation of professional car wash quality, you may do better to contract with a local car wash to donate to your cause a set percentage of their work during a given period of time. Your group's task is to recruit people to have their cars washed during the agreed upon time period. The company is likely to grant you a slow time to encourage more business rather than peak hours. (This same procedure can be used with restaurants and ice cream parlors). Another option is to sell car wash coupons for the company with a percentage of the proceeds going for your cause.

### ***LOTS of other ideas***

There are lots of fundraising ideas out there, including companies that have fundraising "programs". These often focus on selling something like cookies, flower bulbs, candy, magazines, etc. These may be good options if several people from your area are participating in this trip.

# Example Fundraising Letter

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Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

This July I am planning to attend a Maranatha Volunteers International mission project called The Ultimate Workout in Mexico to help construct a school and churches in needy communities. There are more than 200 volunteers planning to participate on this project and I need your help so I can be one of them.

It's hard for me to imagine not having a church to worship in, or the resources to get a decent education. Sometimes we get used to our comfortable standard of living and forget that the majority of people in the world have such basic needs still unmet. I'm sure that participating on this mission project will have a positive long-term effect on me.

I'm sending you this letter as a request for your support in two areas. First of all, I'm asking for you to pray for me – that my attitude and service will be pleasing to God and sensitive to the people and the culture in Mexico.

Secondly, I am asking for your financial support as a sponsor. I am responsible for raising US \$795 to pay for my food, insurance, housing and in-country ground transportation. I also need to raise funds for my plane ticket to Mexico. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

***(Insert personal information regarding who to make checks out to and where to send them. See note on Donation Information for more details. Donations should NOT be sent to Maranatha. Have them send to you, or make arrangements to have them sent to your church. Be sure to send your letters out early so people have time to respond before the deadline. The final payment is due to Maranatha before June 4, 2010.)***

Please continue to pray for me during this trip and upon my return. Of course I will be eager to share with you the events from the trip and how my life has been affected.

Thanks for being part of my missionary team!

With gratitude,