Fundraising — Ideas

There are so many different ways to fundraise for your trip. Below are a few ideas but don't let this list hold you back from being creative; use it as a spring–board to launch your ideas. Think about the money you need to raise, and ask God to provide the money through all your fundraising efforts.

As an Individual

Personal sacrifice

Take some time out to consider what you can give out from what you have, and what you can give up to raise money for your trip. For example, this could include:

Give out:

- money from your own personal savings (if you have any);
- weekly amount from your regular income (pocket money or job).

Give up:

- going to the cinema;
- spending money on sweets, or take–aways;
- buying new clothes, or make–up;
- expensive mobile phone contract.

People contact

By far the most effective way of raising support is by speaking "one–to–one" to someone or to a small group of people. Think of a few different groups of people to whom you can share information about your trip and ask for financial support.

For example:

- arrange to meet up with someone one–to–one;
- invite a group round for tea and cake, present your project to them and ask for their support;
- ask your church leader if you can make an appeal during one of your church services;
- give leaflets to your neighbours or teachers to tell them what you will be doing, and ask them to support you.

Write a letter

Prepare a simple newsletter to a list of about fifty people to tell them about your project, and why it is important to you, and ask them to help you in making a difference. Be creative, include pictures if you can, and get someone to read it through with you.

Here are some tips:

- present your newsletter in a professional way, and include pictures if possible;
- tell your readers why you are writing to them in the first paragraph;
- if it is appropriate, enclose a prayer sheet asking for specific prayer needs;
- offer to visit them to talk through the project, if they would like to hear more.

As a Group

Moldovan dinner

Turn a hall into a Moldovan restaurant and serve a Moldovan meal. You could sell tickets or just tell people to bring a donation and give a short presentation on what Build Home Moldova is about. Ask some volunteer cooks to assist with the meal preparation or get the families of the group involved to help.

Servant auction

Auction members of the group to become “servants”, working for a set amount of time at a set amount paid per hour. You could also auction “promises”, whereby members of the group promise to wash a car, walk someone’s dog, and so on. The highest bidder pays to get the services of the group member.

Sponsored activity

This could include litter picking, sleep out, bungee jump, servant auction, cycle ride, walk, fun run, and so on. Use the sponsor form provided to get people to pledge an amount for a specific event, and then collect the money on completion of the event.

Car washing / babysitting / gardening

Get the group to do small jobs (such as gardening or babysitting) for others in the community for a set amount paid per hour. Create a car–washing event with other activities such as a penalty shoot out to make it fun and family orientated. Successful car washes can be FREE, with the group members getting money from a pledge from supporters (so much per car washed) and maybe even a voluntary donation bucket for the people having their car washed, if they wish to support. Get some volunteers to put on coffee and cake, or bacon sandwiches to sell to people while their cars are washed.

Coffee morning / cake sale / donut sale

Put on a coffee morning with home–made cakes, jams, chutneys, at the local church after a service or even put one on at the local school. It is always worth asking! Obtain permission from the schools you attend to go and sell donuts or cakes during lunch or after school.

Concert / talent show / karaoke evening

Encourage all members and families in your group to take part for a fun and memorable evening. Charge for admission, and include a short talk on what Build Home Moldova is all about.

Local news

Get an article in the local newspapers to let members of your local community know what is going on and ask for support during fundraising events. Make sure you also put in an article after the trip, to thank people and let them know what happened

Outside help

Look for help from other organisations. You may be able to get sponsorship from local companies.

More ideas

Here are some more ideas, which have proven successful with team members in the past.

- hold a quiz night, with each person or team paying to participate;
- do a fashion show, or a pamper night;
- run a treasure hunt, with each person or team paying to enter;
- hold an art exhibition, pay to view, and also sell the artworks;
- open house with refreshments, stalls, and games;
- make and give out house–shaped money boxes for people to collect for you.

Ask your Group Leader

Your leader will have lots more creative ideas for ways in which you can get together and fundraise as a group. Get involved and get your friends and family to join in too!