



Other Ideas

The key to fund-raising is to not let yourself feel overwhelmed with the responsibility of making your students want to give to missions. Do everything in your power to raise their awareness of the need, but leave the rest up to God.

And don't be afraid to let your students think big and think crazy! Encourage them to use their time, energy, and resources to raise money for STL. Here are a few additional ideas:

Telephone Book Distribution

How it works:

- Sign up with Product Development Corporation to deliver phone books or Yellow Pages. They have operations in 43 states and three Canadian provinces.
- No selling is involved. There is no cash to account for. This is a short-term commitment, and you are paid for each book delivered.
- Contact PDC through their Web site at www.pdcdelivers.com to obtain a free, informative brochure.

Crock-Pot Cookoff

Get your whole church involved! Crock-Pot categories can include chili, stew, chowder, soup, etc. Charge \$5 admission for adults and \$2.50 for kids. Everyone can judge whose dish was their favorite. (This can be a fun event for your church to open to the general public.)

We had a Crock-Pot cook off at our church to raise money for our Speed the Light goal. We had 20 people make dishes in four categories (chili, stew, chowder, and soup). All food was brought to a central location in Crock-Pots. The general public paid admission to the cook-off and became the judges. The cost was \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for kids. They were then able to go around the room and sample everyone's creations and judge.

Attendees received voting tickets for each category and were able to vote for one dish in each category. We also offered free bottled water, bread, and corn bread to cleanse the pallet and give relief from the heat of some of the chilis. We gave out prizes for first place in each category (we gave a new Crock-Pot cookbook.) We also had a bake sale. It was a big hit. We will be doing it again this year but will be adding more categories such as desserts and a miscellaneous category. You can't beat a \$5 lunch and all the samples you can eat!

Community Service

The youth group gets people to sponsor them for each hour of community service. Then, they schedule 20 hours of service over an eight-week period. There are many organizations to choose from. On a national level, you can choose from many organizations such as Red Cross, The Salvation Army, or even needy people in your own church. In most communities, there are several local organizations also. The positive side of this fund-raising idea is raising money by serving others.



Don't Come Event

A “Don't Come” fund-raising event is a clever way of asking for donations in a novel and humorous manner. First things first! This event will never actually happen—other than on paper. You send invitations to supporters (and potential supporters) for a spectacular event with scrumptious food, exciting entertainment, and a glamorous guest of honor. The sky's the limit since the event won't actually occur. Let your imagination run wild!

Why in the world would you do this? Because it's a good way to raise funds and have some fun at the same time—something that's oftentimes hard to do when trying to raise money. Your only costs are the printing of the invitations, thank-you notes, and postage. If you can get some of this donated, that's even better.

Send the invitations to as many people as you want—overcrowding will not be a problem. In addition to your regular supporters, be sure to include local political leaders, businessmen, and media personnel. You can also send press releases to the media outlets in your area. They are always looking for humorous current event items. Make sure you include information on how someone can purchase a ticket.

Okay, so why would anyone buy a ticket to a nonexistent fund-raising event? Because there are a lot of very busy people who are willing to support a good cause but don't have the time, energy, and/or interest to go to one more rubber-chicken dinner. Purchasing a ticket to a “Don't Come” event lets them support a worthy cause while relaxing at home. Plus, they will appreciate your ingenuity.

You should make your invitations classy—printed on good quality paper. After all, the invitation is all they will get for their ticket purchase. Make it just like an invitation to any formal affair. You can use a standard good quality thank-you card. Make sure that the invitations and thank-you cards are hand-addressed to make them more personal. Oh, and since the recipient gets nothing for their ticket purchase, make sure you include a notice with their thank-you card that their donation is fully tax deductible.

Variation #1: Have a “Don't Come” fund-raising sporting event where members of your youth group “don't play” the Harlem Globetrotters, Green Bay Packers, etc.; a debate between someone in your organization and the President of the United States, Arnold Schwarzenegger, or some other famous person on a ‘nutty’ topic; or—? Be creative. Be humorous. Have fun.

Variation #2: Make-Believe Tea Party—No finger sandwiches, crumpets, or fine china necessary! All you need are tea bags, invitations, envelopes, and stamps.

The concept: Send an invitation for a “Make-Believe Tea Party” to your friends, neighbors co-workers, etc. Send a tea bag (inexpensive per tea bag if you buy them in bulk—or you can try to get the tea bags donated) in an envelope along with a classy, yet catchy, invitation explaining that they are invited to a “make-believe tea party” on a certain day (Mother's Day, for example) at a certain time (high noon, for example).



Explain that on that date and time, you will all enjoy a cup of tea (using the tea bag provided) in support of Speed the Light and missionaries around the world. Remind them that they can take part in this tea party while still enjoying the comforts of their own home!

Ask each “guest” for a donation in return for “attending” this tea party. Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their convenience. The tea bag is theirs to keep whether they make a donation or not, but the hope is that your efforts will encourage them to send you a donation. You can either ask for a donation of a specified amount as the “cost” for “attending” this tea party, or leave the donation amount open-ended and up to the individual. Be sure to send a “thank-you” to those who make a donation.

The Pastor Pays

The pastor pays a quarter (or more) for every time he or she says “God,” “Jesus,” and “Amen” during a service. The whole congregation can play along by keeping track.

Rent-a-Puppy

This works great for students on their school or college campuses.

Basically, the fund-raiser in a nutshell is that we rented out puppies on campus for playtime at \$5 per 30 minutes. The behind-the-scenes work started with contacting the Humane Society and explaining to them what we planned to do and asked them if they could come out and bring a bunch of puppies that we could “borrow” for five hours. Campus rules required that all animals be on a leash, so that needed to be planned. We then chose a location on campus with lots of space.

And then there was the advertising. We put up flyers around campus 1 week in advance and made Facebook Event group and invited all our friends to the event about 2-3 weeks in advance. Advertisement included mention of “Can’t have pets in the dorm? Don’t have one at home? Do you love puppies? Come Rent-A-Puppy to play with for 30 minutes! Bring your student ID or driver’s license.”

This event was so wildly popular that even passersby got on their cell phones to tell people about it. Puppies rented quick, and people started asking to make reservations. A good system will be needed to keep track of who rents a puppy, reservation time, return time, which puppy, and we also took their student ID or driver’s license as a guarantee that they return the puppy. We made \$305 in 4 1/2 hours with seven puppies. The event was from 10:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m., and we had to start turning people away around 1:00 p.m. because all of the time slots were reserved. Should have done this event two days in a row.

Kidnap the Pastor

Our church pre-arranged with the senior pastor (when he was about to go on vacation) to kidnap him on a Wednesday night during service—with the youth group finishing the service. The youth group walked in at the end of the midweek service and made their announcement with a ransom note and the demands to get the pastor back.



The following Sunday, the pastor did not show up to service because the ransom was not paid. This afforded the youth pastor to have a youth Sunday where they brought the vision of Speed the Light and gave the church exposure as to what the youth was doing on campuses, in their communities, etc. We then took up a churchwide Speed the Light offering at the end of service.

Our goal “ransom” was \$500—we raised \$1,500.

