

Fundraising and Service Project Ideas

COLLECTION/GENERAL SOLICITATION

Summary:

This type of fundraising involves collecting or soliciting donations from members of your community. Funds can be collected at community or school functions, outside of popular department or grocery stores, or door-to-door. *Be aware that children should only do door-to-door fundraising while being accompanied by an adult.* Caroling for donations is a great example of this type of event.

Variations: Hold a Penny Drive or a Penny War: To hold the competition, each class or team competes against all others. Each team has a jar in a central location labeled with the team name and the charity they are raising money for. The idea is to earn the most money for your class or grade. In a penny war, teams try to collect the most pennies, and silver coins count against their total. This creates a competition where other teams try to sabotage the other teams by adding silver coins or dollar bills to the competitors' jars. The value of the coins count against the total, so a quarter subtracts 25 points from a jar of pennies. You can have two winners: one winner is the team that has the most points and another winner collects the highest monetary value.

Possible Timeline:

This event can be planned far in advance or it can be planned in the span of a few days. Solicitations and collections can also be executed multiple times. For example, solicitors can stand outside of a particular store every Saturday morning for a month.

Common Pitfalls:

Beware of signs prohibiting solicitation.

SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Summary:

This type of fundraising involves the sale of a good or service in exchange for a donation. Participants purchase items and their payment is treated as a donation to USA for UNHCR, as opposed to being treated as a profit for the organizer. This type of activity could prove successful for any type of host including individuals and groups.

Variations:

Garage sale, car wash, selling a cookbook of favorite recipes, etc.



Expected Investment:

This depends entirely on the scope of the activity. With volunteers, this sort of activity requires minimal investment. However, you must account for funds devoted to advertising and signage for the event. If you plan to hold a car wash, you must consider how you will pay for the space or how you will approach a business owner and **ask for the space to be donated. If you're selling a cookbook, you must factor in the cost of having the cookbook printed.** It is possible to get things like space or signage donated by businesses.

Possible Timeline:

Planning should occur not less than 3 weeks in advance of the event.

Common Pitfalls:

Don't underestimate the cost of advertising and promotion. For some service-related activities, advertising might be the only cost, but it will make or break the success of the event.

Make sure that you pay your expenses first, then donate the remainder to USA for UNHCR.

Adapted from the Community Fundraising Handbook published by USA for UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, found at <http://www.unrefugees.org/atf/cf/%7BD2F991C5-A4FB-4767-921F-9452B12D742%7D/Final%20Community%20Fundraising%20Handbook.pdf>

SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

- Hold a collection drive for food or other materials like baby formula, diapers, or baby clothes, and donate the items to a local food pantry or to an organization that helps children globally.
- Make fleece baby blankets and deliver to a local shelter or donate to an international **children's relief organization.**
- Identify a group of children in need in your local community (e.g., children may be in a shelter, hospital, or another difficult situation). Identify their needs, then collect and/or make necessary items for the children. Put the collected items in bags or backpacks and deliver to the children or organization.
- Collect used books to donate to a shelter or domestic abuse center.
- Draw a picture and/or write a story about what you have learned about refugees. Share your work with your families and the community. Ask them to support organizations that help children in need like USA for UNHCR, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages.

