

guide for **RAISING SUPPORT**

"God has created me to do some special service;
God has committed some work to me which has not
been committed to another. I have a mission."

- John Henry Newman

Perhaps the most important thing to remember about fundraising is that it is an opportunity, not a problem. Fundraising creates the perfect opportunity for you to accomplish something that you may never have done before. It's a chance for you to grow your faith and expand your perception of what is possible. It is an opportunity for your community (your friends and family members whose investment in you extends beyond simple financial gifts) to support and encourage you. Fundraising is not something standing between you and your journey; it's a critical part of it! We've been there before and here's a few things that we've learned along the way.

pōétique
[INTERNATIONAL]

mindset & heartcheck

The key to fundraising (or just about anything) is a positive mindset that is born out of a faithful heart. If you're struggling at even the thought of asking others to help you out financially, look within yourself by asking why and then look to God for guidance. Often our hesitancy comes from either a lack of belief in ourselves or a lack of belief in what our God is capable of. Most often it's a little of both since they are tied together. Once we have come to an internal peace about what God has called us to, we can go to our friends and family with both confidence and humility.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU THINK ABOUT RAISING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

THIS IS AN INVITATION.

This is your chance to invite others to be a part of what God is doing in and through you on the other side of the world. As you ask for support, remember that you are inviting others to be a part of the work and life transformation that they would not otherwise get to be a part of. This is a beautiful invitation and great privilege; don't deny anyone the opportunity to be blessed!

LET THE CHURCH BE THE CHURCH.

As one is called to be sent, others are being called to send, to pray and to support. You have felt the call to be sent, now let the Church send you. Not all of us will be called to go, but all of us are called to engage in this work together. Everyone is called; let this be an opportunity for others to be faithful to their call as well!

PRAYER IS POWERFUL.

Prayer cannot be an afterthought. In every stage of this process, it is important to commit your whole trip to the Lord. Ask God to provide the finances, to give you the words for your support letters and the names of those you should ask for funds. Ask Him to stir their hearts to give if that is His will for them. Ask Him to show you the power of prayer. This is His trip and He will not miss an opportunity to grow you and your community in faith. Prayer is an act of devotion that will keep you in that posture of humility, giving full control back to God and tuning your heart and mind more closely to His will.

LEARN TO RECEIVE.

Once funds start coming in, it is common to feel that we are not worthy of the money that people send our way. This state of humility is a beautiful place to be as you prepare for your trip. It brings to mind the greatest gift of all that has been given to us in Jesus Christ, one that cannot be received without humility. This posture of grateful humility is one you will want to take with you as you prepare to encounter others who are also in need of God's love.

PEOPLE ACTUALLY WANT TO GIVE.

You'll be shocked by how many people want to support you. The joy of generosity is a universal experience and its practice is essential in following Jesus Christ. People want to give for your sake, as well as, their own walk with God. It's amazing when we get to see our friends and families come around us and show us love through their gifts!

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU.

All too often we focus on ourselves and wonder what others will think of us when we share this need. The truth is that God has something for you and for those you are going to serve. He is using this trip, including the fundraising portion, to show you who He is and bring glory to His name.

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

MATTHEW 21:22

HINT

If funds aren't coming in, talk to someone! If you are discouraged, call your pastor, a missionary you know or someone who has raised funds before. It's always helpful to be reminded that you are not alone; talk to someone who understands what you are going through. You can always reach out to one of our staff members for further guidance.

steps & timeline

1

START NOW (RIGHT AWAY) The greatest piece of advice we can give you as you begin fundraising is to start now. The sooner, the better. 5 months out is not too soon! We promise! This will take the pressure off of you and allow you to be faithful to what God called you to give out of your own pocket.

2

ASK GOD (RIGHT AWAY) Raising money is a beautiful opportunity to be dependent on the Lord and increase our faith in Him. Ask Him how He wants to raise this money with you. Learn His heart for this process!

3

BRAINSTORM FUNDRAISING IDEAS (RIGHT AWAY) Be proactive with fundraising. This isn't going to happen without hard work. Brainstorm different ideas to raise funds. Here's a couple to get your started: support letters, game nights, craft sales, a dinner party, chili cook-off, etc. Make this a party—get people involved and excited!

4

CREATE A PLAN (RIGHT AWAY) Set goals and give yourself deadlines to reach these benchmarks. Be aware of payment deadlines listed on your statement and figure out a way to meet them!

5

IDENTIFY CONTACTS (RIGHT AWAY) Try to create a list of 100 people to engage with your story & send them a support letter. It's a great idea to send a support letter to everyone on your list. Then, if you are holding any fundraising events, **ALSO** invite them to those fundraiser(s). It's helpful to engage people more than once!

6 WRITE YOUR LETTER (5 MONTHS OUT) Everyone should send a support letter. Letters not only raise money but are also great ways to let people know what you are doing. They also help create a support system for you and will help you establish a team of prayer warriors.

7 EXECUTE YOUR PLAN (3-5 MONTHS OUT) Put those fundraising ideas into action! After you've made plans, **FOLLOW THROUGH!** Get your friends and family involved to help you. Let them know your goals for your event and invite people into your story in more ways than just giving money. Get your aunt who loves planning parties and your neighbor who loves baking involved. Have fun!

8 FOLLOW UP (3-4 MONTHS OUT) It's always good to follow up with anyone you contacted. If you've sent them a letter and haven't heard back, send a quick email, text messages or phone call reminding them you are raising support. There is serious power in a phone call! People often want to give but sometimes they forget to follow through. Don't worry, you aren't being a pest; you're reminding someone that you need them.

9 RESPOND TO YOUR SUPPORTERS (2 MONTHS OUT) When someone gives, thank them! It is crucial that people know you appreciate their support and don't take their prayers or financial gifts for granted. When someone indicates a willingness to support you financially or by prayer, you **MUST** thank them! A hand-written card goes a long way. At the very least, consider sending them a thank you message, text or phone call. This will allow them to know you've received their support and that you appreciate their sacrifice and willingness to support you!

10 REPORT THE IMPACT (AFTER THE TRIP) After your trip, give a full report to everyone that supported you. Thank them again! Explain how your life was impacted and how you saw God move on your trip. Invite them to celebrate with you all of the things that God has done. Remind them that they were a huge part of allowing God to act through you and in you on this trip.

sample support letter

Here are a few tips and an example of a well written letter.

How you say it is just as important as what you say. Texts, emails, and social media messages are fine for follow up or reminders but asking for support from your community, both spiritually and financially, requires a more personal touch. Receiving a physical letter in the mail stands out to your recipient far more than a message in their inbox.

Dear **PERSON IM SENDING THIS TO**,

A lot has happened over the last few months. Over and over again, God's hand on my life has been evident daily as He has provided opportunities that I did not even know I was looking for. It all started when a family friend told me about a grant opportunity she thought I might be eligible for. I went on to receive that grant for my first semester of college this year which relieved a heavy financial burden. Before the grant, I was working upwards of fifty hours per week to pay for school. Overwhelmed by God's goodness, I immediately knew I wanted to give myself over to God regarding my plans for this upcoming summer. Throughout the semester, God placed me in many unexpected leadership opportunities in community action settings. Social justice and service have always been things I have pursued in my spare time but I was terrified by the thought of making a life out of them. God used the financial aid I received this year, along with a few other opportunities, to push me towards what I have always known is my greatest passion. Consequently, I have decided to focus on Sociology and Community Action during my time at the University of Michigan. This summer, I believe God has called me to give my time and energy over to Him. He wants me to continue to trust Him with my future.

In order to do this, I will be traveling to Choma, Zambia for three months to intern with Poetice International. This will be an incredible growing experience for me as I will participate in a three-month internship program alongside my African brothers and sisters as we learn how to live passionately for Jesus Christ. A good amount of my time in Africa will be spent training for long-term missions work. Poetice International is dedicated to raising up disciples of Jesus Christ who are willing to go and do whatever it is God asks of them.

MAKE IT PERSONAL.

Explain why you want to take this trip or why you believe God has called you.

DIG DEEP!

Resist the temptation to stay at surface level; don't just describe where you will go and what you will do, talk about your hopes and aspirations for the trip, what you would like to see God do in and through you. It doesn't have to be as long as this, but tell them some of your story and how you got here.

Introduce who you are, where you're coming from and what you are doing, a quick summary of the trip.

Give background to the place that you will be going, the organization you will be going with, and what they are involved with in-country.

We will spend time loving and serving people in the local community. However, as we go out into the community, it is vital that we are first connected to the Father; then and only then, will we be able to share His love. I am thrilled to be apart of this journey with the Poetice team. I believe this will be a huge growing experience for me as I learn to really seek God's will over my own. My personality is naturally to do good by those around me and to serve others but it is important that I remember that God is not focused on my actions, but rather, my heart. Throughout this summer I hope to learn how to discern His voice amongst the world's many distractions and to truly lay down my own life and agenda in order to follow Him.

God has asked me to take another huge step of faith financially by embarking on this journey. The trip will cost around **\$COST GOES HERE** to spend my summer in Zambia. I would ask that you pray for me as I begin this journey and that you would also consider supporting me financially if God leads you to do so. As I try to raise this money, I would love for you to keep me in mind for any extra projects you may need such as babysitting, house cleaning, lawn mowing, etc. between now and May. If you feel called to invest in my trip you may do so at **LINK TO YOUR POETICE FUNDRAISING PAGE** or via mail to the return address on this envelope. Should you choose to donate, please submit any gifts no later than **DATE GOES HERE** as that's my deadline to raise support.

Most importantly, please keep me in your prayers as I embark on this journey. Please pray that God would prepare my heart for what I will experience in Zambia, that He would use me to shine His light while I am there and that He would continue to make His plan for my life evident. I believe God has blessed me for striving to make Him a priority during this time in my life and that He will allow our relationship to continue to grow wherever I go. I hope you also are able to experience a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ in both your brightest and darkest moments. Thank you for taking the time to read my story and I hope you will join me on my journey.

Sincerely,

Intern

ENGAGE THEM!

Tell them that you cannot do this without them. Let them know how they can be a part of this either through prayer or by giving.

MAKE IT SIMPLE.

Communicate clearly how they can give either online or by mail. Know your stuff so that you are able to explain it clearly.

Include a timeline stating clearly when funds are due.

Brainstorm: Potential Supporters

RELATIVES & FAMILY FRIENDS

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE, OTHER CITIES

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

FRIENDS FROM BACK HOME / HIGH SCHOOL

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

FRIENDS FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS IN YOUR AREA

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

CO-WORKERS / BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

NEIGHBORS

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

FRIENDS FROM FORMER RESIDENCES, CONGREGATIONS, JOBS

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

FRIENDS FROM ATHLETIC/SOCIAL/SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

PEOPLE YOU HAVE MINISTERED WITH/BIBLE STUDY GROUP/LIFE GROUP

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

FRIENDS FROM YOUR CONGREGATION

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ | 15. _____ |

CONSIDER PEOPLE IN THESE CAREER FIELDS

ACCOUNTANTS, ATHLETES, AUTO INDUSTRY, BANKING, CHIROPRACTORS, RETAILERS,
 CONTRACTORS, DENTISTS, DOCTORS, ELECTRICIANS, ENGINEERS, SERVICE INDUSTRIES,
 ENTREPRENEURS, EXECUTIVES, FARMING, GOVERNMENT, INSURANCE, SMALL BUSINESS,
 LANDSCAPING, LARGE COMPANIES, LAYWERS, NURSES, OPTOMETRISTS, TEACHERS, PASTORS,
 PHARMACISTS, PILOTS, PRINTERS, REAL ESTATE



WWW.POETICE.ORG