

# FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Fundraising is more than raising money to send students to camp. It can be used as a tool to continue to foster unity between your youth ministry and the rest of your church body!

## HELPFUL HINTS:

- **Recruit volunteers.** Recruit people who will be excited and work hard for a good cause.
- **Allow preparation time.** You will need to plan and prepare while thinking through your action plan.
- **Spend a little money.** It often takes money to make money, so the 3:1 ratio usually works well: three parts income to one part expense.
- **Get some free stuff!** Do not hesitate to ask for sponsorship and donations for things that can help your fundraising efforts.
- **Spread the word.** Plan for publicizing events and efforts. Social media is great for this!
- **Set a goal.** This is important because it gives your volunteers something to work toward.



## POSSIBLE IDEAS:

### 1. Little-To-No-Preparation

#### Donation Containers:

- Place fun, eye-catching containers for people to drop money into around your church with an explanation of why the money is being collected.
- Don't forget to publicize the purpose of the containers as often as you can!

#### Money Tree:

- Set up a small, artificial tree in a well-traveled spot in your church.



- Provide envelopes and a way to fasten them to the branches by the tree.
- People should be informed and encouraged to place money in the envelopes as they are led and attach their envelope to a tree branch.

#### Restaurant Partnerships:

- Look for restaurants willing to donate a percentage of the proceeds of a certain day and time.
- Some may require student participation while others may not.



## 2. Humorous

Tacky Yard: This has potential for many laughs and hopefully lots of dollars!

- Gather tacky yard décor (random objects: flamingos, political signs, toilets, etc.) that would be appalling to find in one's yard.
- Ask volunteers to dress up in tacky costumes and plan to give church members a front yard makeover (make sure you know they will be home, but don't tell them you're coming).
- Tell them you will clean it up and leave once they give a donation!

Karaoke Talent Night:

- Invite students to commit to lip sync to one song and raise pledges for their performance.
- Let everyone know the night of the performances and sell tickets.

## 3. Service-Related

Parent's Night Out: This is a great way to serve the families of your church and community!

- Plan a night (before Christmas and around Valentine's Day are good choices) where parents can bring their children for several hours while they have the night off.
- Plan age-appropriate activities to give both the kids and their parents a great evening.
- Decide on a price to charge for the services and make sure everyone knows to what their dollars are contributing. Parents will be asking when the next PNO will be!

Mail Box: Set up a system within your church where members can send Christmas cards to others in the church.

- Lead your youth to fulfill the requests for the cards by delivering the cards.
- Set a price for each card or ask for donations.

Gift Wrapping: Set up a gift wrapping station around Christmas and encourage youth (or anyone else who has mad gift wrapping skills) to wrap gifts.

- Those who partake of your services will be inclined to leave a donation.

Banquet: Plan a banquet for church members to buy and sell tickets.

- Involve your youth in the planning, preparation and entertainment for the evening.
- During the entertainment portion, inform church members about camp and why it is so important
- The entertainment can be anything you can imagine: skits, songs, videos (made by you and your students), testimonials, a game show, etc. The sky is the limit!

Handy Work: Students provide cleaning, yard work, painting, and light construction for members of your church or community for a donation.

## 4. Other Ideas

### Car Wash:

- Let's face it...along with a clean car comes a good feeling, and good feelings lead to generous people! Be creative...publicize incentives!
- Decide that the "nth" number car washed will receive a car wash once a month for the next 6 months.
- Be sure to bring your donation bucket and your water bucket each month!

### Silent Auction:

- Invite your church family to participate by bringing items they have made or want to pass on.
- The more stuff or services to auction, the more money you will make!

### Rummage Sale:

- Host a huge sale sponsored by your youth group.
- Enlist youth to encourage church members to donate items, organize, and publicize the sale.
- This event will hopefully draw people from the community and introduce them to your church body.
- Make sure everyone knows where their money is going!

### Bake Sale:

- Invite any and everyone to be involved in a bake sale.
- Ask volunteers to bring baked goods to sell on one particular day, once a week, or once a month.

### Church Recipe Book:

- Ask members of the church to submit their best-made or favorite recipes and turn it into a church recipe book.
- Design a book cover, have the books printed, and sell them back to members and neighbors.
- If you don't know how many to have printed, then take up an order form first.

### 5K race:

- A 5K race is a unique fundraising event the whole family can enjoy.
- Set up a 5K race in your community.
- 5K races are an easy and unique way to fundraise right in your neighborhood.
- Require a registration fee for runners. Other than that, all runners need to participate is a good pair of shoes!

### Battle of the Bands:

- Host a contest for the talented musicians in your church/community.
- Offer a prize for the winner of the contest
- Provide judges, or ask the audience to determine who has the best sound in town.
- Ask for a small cover fee from the attendees and let the competition begin.

### Chili Cook Off:

- Invite members in your church to showcase their best chili recipe!
- Challenge them to a cook off to find out who has the best chili.
- To determine the winners, you'll need to assign staff members or volunteers as a panel of judges.
- Require a registration fee for those who wish to enter into the competition.
- Don't forget to provide a prize to the winner.

### Board Game or Video Game Tournament:

- Collect/gather old board games, your favorite video game consoles, and some classic video games and hold a unique tournament fundraising competition.
- Allow church members to play against one another throughout the night so the overall champion may be determined to receive a prize.
- Require a small fee to register for the game night.

### Penny Wars:

- Set up various jars with the names of competing teams or groups on them.
- If a donor places pennies or other coins in a jar, that team gets the point for each cent collected. However, if someone puts a dollar in a jar, it counts against 100 cents.
- Encourage donors to put coins in their team's jars while placing dollars in their competitor's jars!
- Provide a prize for the winning team.

**GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!**