

## **Fundraising Packet: Raising Support for Your Go Trip**

We are excited that the Lord has called you to join us on a Go Trip. Many people find mission trip fundraising intimidating, but it does not have to be! In fact, gathering financial support provides a way for others to join and participate in God's work around the world. If we view fundraising as an opportunity to invite people to become a part of what God is doing and will do through the trip, then it becomes much less awkward and intimidating.

This packet contains helpful information and strategies for raising support for our Go Trip, ensuring that we can make a lasting impact together. As you prepare for your trip, we want to equip you with the tools and guidance you need to raise support effectively. Fundraising can seem like a daunting task, but with the right approach, it becomes an opportunity to invite others into God's work and bless them with the chance to participate.

### **Trusting in God's Provision**

Remember, raising support is an act of faith. Trust that God will provide for your needs as you step out in obedience. Start fundraising as soon as possible to allow ample time for support to come in.

### **Sacrificial Giving**

Before asking others for support, consider what you can sacrificially give toward your own trip funding. This demonstrates your commitment and integrity. Explore ways to increase personal support through part-time jobs or using savings.

### **Partners in Missions**

Create a sending team—what we like to call “Partners in Missions”—comprised of individuals who pledge financial and prayer support. This team serves as a source of encouragement and accountability throughout your journey. Reach out to family, friends, and church members to join your support team.

### **Engaging Your Family**

Involve your family in your fundraising efforts. Not only can they provide financial support, but they can also offer encouragement and prayers. Do not hesitate to reach out to both immediate and extended family members. You may even suggest the trip as a meaningful gift for special occasions like Christmas or your birthday.

### **Corporate Gifts**

Explore opportunities for corporate sponsorship. Many companies allocate funds for philanthropic activities. Take advantage of this opportunity to share God's work with the community by reaching out to local businesses and organizations. These businesses may be eager to support your mission trip as part of their community outreach efforts.

## **Fundraising Events**

Host fundraising events such as car washes, garage sales, or dinners to engage your community. Even those unable to give financially can contribute their time and effort to make these events successful.

## **Prayer Teams**

Recruit prayer teams to intercede on your behalf. Each team can consist of five individuals committed to meeting once a week for prayer, bringing a small contribution of \$2 each time. This collective effort can make a significant impact over time. Designate a team leader to organize meetings and collect contributions from the group.

## **Personal Contact**

Reach out to potential supporters through personalized support letters, phone calls, or face-to-face meetings. Use the provided "Partners in Missions" worksheet to brainstorm names of individuals to contact. Do not limit yourself to only asking Christians; God can use anyone to fulfill His purposes.

## **Support Letters**

Send personalized support letters to your network, sharing your mission trip details and inviting others to partner with you. Include specific prayer requests, financial needs, and instructions for giving. Follow up with recipients to express gratitude and provide updates on your trip. A sample letter is included in this packet.

## **Social Media**

Social media can also be an effective way of communicating your vision and passion for the Go Trip you are taking. Share your heart and ask your followers to join you through prayer and financial support. Provide a link to where you are serving and how one may give. Keep your followers updated with photos, meaningful Scripture passages, and details of your trip preparation and fundraising progress. During your trip, share live updates when appropriate, inviting your sending team to pray along with you.

## **Special Note: Online Fundraising Platforms**

Avoid using online fundraising platforms like GoFundMe, as they may not align with organizational guidelines. Additionally, refrain from using the Stonebriar Community Church name or logo on these sites without proper permission. Remember that gifts through these platforms may not be tax-deductible, and the sites often charge a percentage of the donation as a fee.

## **When You Return**

Send a letter to your “Partners in Missions” after you return from your Go Trip. In your letter, be specific. Tell the person how your life was impacted and talk about the people you met, special experiences you had, and the long-term benefits you expect this trip to have on your work and on your life personally. Do not be vague; be real, honest, and specific. Include pictures. If you have many people to write, you might want to adopt a newsletter-type way of sharing with everyone about your mission experience. Enclose a personal note in the newsletter. Again, thank your support team for their gifts and prayers. Such follow-up will make your support team feel they were and are important to your mission experience.

## **Final Thoughts**

As you embark on this Go Trip journey, remember that fundraising is about building relationships and inviting others to join you in God’s work. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of others and glorify God through our actions. Stay focused on your mission, and trust in God’s provision every step of the way. Thank you for your commitment to show and share the love of Christ beyond the walls of our campus into our city and to the ends of the earth.

## **Missional Living Team**

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## Sample Go Trip Support Letter

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Giver,

This summer, I have an exciting opportunity to serve the Lord on a mission trip to Kenya sponsored by our church, Stonebriar Community Church. Twenty-four people from my church plan to participate in a 13-day trip, and we'll fly into Nairobi, Kenya on July 1. While there, we plan to care for the children at a non-profit called Naomi's Village, lead a Vacation Bible School program at a nearby Safe House for at-risk children, serve at the local school called Cornerstone Preparatory Academy, and participate in service projects in the community of Mai Mahiu.

I'm reaching out to ask if you will pray for me, as well as my mission trip teammates, as we get ready for this trip. The prayers of friends like you will make such a difference as we seek to bless the children of Mai Mahiu. If you'd like to join my support team through prayer, please let me know, and I'll be sure to send you updates as we prepare, embark, and return from the trip.

There are also financial needs for the trip, and I am in the process of fundraising toward my goal. The cost of the trip is \$3,000 per person, which each team member is responsible to raise in gifts to our church. Please pray with me that the funds to cover my trip expenses will be provided. Gifts to the church, with an expression of a preference for my trip expenses, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Should you wish to join my support team and are able to make a gift to the church to assist with my expenses, please [follow this link](#) to help fund my portion of the trip expenses. If I were to become unable to participate in the trip, your gifts would still be used to support the missions ministry of the church.

Thank you for considering joining my support team for this mission trip! If you have any questions, please let me know, and I'd be happy to talk with you. May God bless you with His grace and peace in all things.

Sincerely,

Jen Whitson

### **Sample Go Trip Social Media Post**

Hey everyone! This summer, I have an exciting opportunity to serve the Lord on a mission trip to Kenya that's sponsored by my church, and I'd love for you to consider joining my support team. This July, I'll be spending 13 days in Kenya to help care for orphans at Naomi's Village, lead a Vacation Bible School program for at-risk kids in a local safe house, and work on service projects in the community of Mai Mahiu.

If you're interested in receiving prayer requests and updates, or if you'd like to donate to Stonebriar Community Church to help fund mission trip expenses, send me a message or give me a call. I'm eager to see what the Lord will do through this trip, and I can't wait to share the experience with you.

## **Creative Fundraising**

Be creative and have fun with it! There are numerous ways to raise money, along with sending support letters. Here are just a few:

**BAKE SALES:** Find the best recipe in the world for cookies (and not just chocolate chip, but cookies like snickerdoodles and oatmeal raisin clusters) and have some bake sales.

**CAR WASHES:** Places like Wal-Mart will let you host a car wash on their property, but you must plan it about a month in advance. And the best part is that they even match what you raise!

**GARAGE SALES:** Get some of your friends to help gather items and have a sale.

**DONATE YOUR SERVICES:** Start babysitting, do lawn service, offer cleaning services, etc. to raise funds toward your trip. Your service will be blessed.

**SELL T-SHIRTS:** Design your own T-shirt through a site like [Custom Ink](#) to encourage donations and raise awareness about your trip.

Looking for more ideas? Search the web for creative fundraising ideas, and you'll find something that works for you!