
SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTER

Following is a sample letter sent by CPTer Rich Meyer to a small group of sympathetic friends. Note the fact that he is asking them to "increase" their support.

December, 1998

Dear _____,

In May when I began to work for Christian Peacemaker Teams I told our director, Gene Stoltzfus, that I would undertake some fund-raising efforts. There always seemed to be other tasks more pressing than this, but in the last months we've seen that contributions are not keeping up with expenses and the bank balance is dropping. Still I put it off. Then December 1, Gene sent out a memo noting that, with only two months to go in our fiscal year (ending January 31), contributions have been 2/3 of our \$300,000 budget. We now need to do 1/3 of our fundraising in 1/6 of the year.

So I am asking you to consider increasing your support in one of two ways:

1. To support my full-time position, I am looking for families or individuals who will agree to contribute \$40-\$50 each month to CPT. I would like to give you a stack of remittance envelopes (helpfully marked with the months of the year!) so you can send in regular contributions through the coming year. Twenty of you contributing like this will pay my stipend, and I'll feel that I have followed through on what I told CPT I would do. Please contact me if this is an option for you, so I know how I'm coming along with this project.
2. A hefty one-time contribution now to CPT would make it easier for all of us to focus on the work rather than the budget. We should keep teams working in Hebron and Chiapas, delegations going to CPT locations, training happening for new CPTers, etc. So give us a boost, send a donation and help us all get back to work. One remittance envelope enclosed for this purpose.

Thanks,

Rich H. Meyer
13416 CR 44
Millersburg IN 46543

FUNDRAISING TIPS

from CPT Reservist, Paul Neufeld Weaver

When I ask for money, I always remind myself that many people find themselves in life circumstances in which they are unable or choose not to do CPT-type peace action, even though they are strongly sympathetic. Inviting them to contribute is a way of sharing the privilege of being a CPTer with them. Many people tithe and give generously, but sometimes worry about whether their gifts are going to the right place. Meeting you and having the chance to give, they can have a personal connection which they don't usually have to other mission work.

I once asked my uncle, who fundraised for many church causes for 60 years, what was the key to fundraising. He said, "Ask. You have to ask." Here is a sample appeal for support.

"I would like to invite each of you to accompany me on my next peacemaking mission to Iraq (Colombia, Hebron, Grassy Narrows, etc.). For some of you that may mean signing up for a delegation (give date). For others that may mean traveling with me in prayer. For others it may mean responding to action alerts. *For others it may mean giving money.* I appreciate your warm reception to my message today, and I look forward to traveling soon with each of you, in one way or another, in our joint mission for peace."

It is also good to mention that while the military spends \$150,000 to maintain a soldier in the field for one year, it only costs CPT \$15,000 to maintain a peacemaker in the field for a year. Give for peace and you can be ten times as effective!

CPT - 12/98