
SHARING THE COST: FUNDRAISING FOR PEACEMAKING

Christian Peacemaker Teams depends on the contributions of many grassroots supporters to carry out our common peacemaking ministry. Each person who joins a CPT team is part of extending that circle of support.

Although raising funds for your participation may seem a daunting task, remember that you are giving people who may not be able to join a team the opportunity to support something they believe in. People are pleased to be invited to participate. The process of fundraising also opens doors to other levels of connection such as reporting back on the various CPT ministries you have joined.

EXPECTATIONS

CPT expects Corps members, Reservists, delegation participants and volunteers traveling to project sites to raise a certain amount of money. The exact amount may vary depending on the project site and the length of stay. CPT works with each person to keep track of the support they raise. All donors may receive a receipt for tax purposes under the following guidelines:

In the US: Invite supporters to send contributions payable to CPT (P.O. Box 6508; Chicago, IL 60680); include a note similar to the following:

“Please accept this donation to Christian Peacemaker Teams. I am aware that [your name] will be volunteering and I wish to support this ministry.”

In Canada: Currently Mennonite Church Canada administers money designated by Canadians for CPT, and issues tax receipts for money contributed. Invite supporters to make checks out to “Christian Peacemaker Teams”, and send the checks to CPT Canada (25 Cecil St., Unit 307; Toronto, ON M5T 1N1); in the memo space or in a note, write “inspired by the work of [CPT’ers name].”

IDEAS

Following are some ways that others have invited supporters to contribute to the cost of peacemaking.

Home Congregations

Individuals often receive significant financial aid, as well as vital spiritual and emotional support, from their home congregations when they are significantly involved in the life of that congregation. Prior to their participation with CPT, they keep churches informed about CPT’s work and the field situation they plan to enter. They also serve as resource people and help interpret their experiences upon return to their home congregations. Team members might:

- have their CPT ministry added to the church budget;
- receive financial help from individual members;
- take up a special offering that goes towards their participation in this peacemaking work;
- benefit from the support of Sunday School classes, committees, or groups within the church.

Fundraising Letters

Nearly everyone who works with CPT writes fund-raising letters to family and friends requesting prayer and financial assistance. This also strengthens the CPTer’s emotional and spiritual support network. Letter recipients often donate \$25, \$50, \$100, or other amounts. One CPTer brought in nearly \$100 a week for a couple of months after sending out a letter. (See *Writing a Fundraising Letter*).

Fundraising Concerts and Special Events

Benefit concerts, coffee houses, special dinners or other such "Fun-Raising" events can clear as much as \$6000. Again the circle of support is extended through contributions of time and talent from local musicians, food and refreshments from churches or peace groups, energy and hard work from a planning committee, and money from those who enjoy the event. (See ***Organizing Fun-Raising Events***).

One CPTer discovered that a couple local musicians were interested in donating their musical abilities and time to help raise funds. She planned a coffeehouse with them, providing donated drinks, coffee, and cookies. After the musicians sang, she presented a slide show and told about her work in Hebron. She raised around \$750 in this event.

Another two CPTers got in touch with a singing group that was willing to donate their time. Again, after the group sang, the CPTers talked about their work in Haiti. They raised about \$1000. These events can be publicized through contacting local churches and asking them to put information in their bulletins, as well as through distributing fliers, contacting local media, etc.

Matching Funds

Families might offer "family matching funds" where they agree to match every dollar that comes in for their relative's support. One CPTer's family owns a small business which sent out fund-raising letters with their business catalogs. For every dollar that comes in, the business matches it up to \$10,000.

Fundraising Sales

Bake sales can work for CPTers as well. One CPTer earned \$100 each in a series of bread-baking events. Another CPT member used his pottery skills to raise money. He produced "peace pottery" and included a slip of paper that said what the "peace bowl" or "peace cup" symbolized. "My pitch was 'Support my trip to Hebron with a \$50.00 contribution and you will receive a Peace Bowl,'" he wrote. "People from my church, family, and friends, were delighted to get a bowl in return for a contribution. I raised \$1000.00."

Fundraising Walks

One participant organized a peace walk. He mapped out a three-mile course at a local park, made a sponsor sheet on his computer, then asked people to either walk with him or sponsor him. He made over \$1000 and suspects that more could be made with further promotion.

Fundraising Dinners

Put on a fundraising meal featuring ethnic food. You may include a short presentation about the area to which you will be traveling. Invite a CPTer or former delegation participant to speak at your event.

Pledges of Support

Some people wish to support a CPTer's work but they don't have the funds immediately available. Some people commit to pay a certain amount upon the CPTer's return.

Denominational Funds

Certain denominations, district or conference-level committees, or special programs offer funds for volunteers doing peace work. Participants will need to check with their local congregations for these possibilities. The CPT office may also be able to provide suggestions.