

HAITI 180

Important Financial Information for Fundraising

- According to IRS regulations, checks that include the missionaries' name on them *cannot be tax deductible*. If sponsors would like their gift to be tax deductible, they should make their check payable to Haiti180, Inc.. Please ask sponsors to fill out the Mission Trip Sponsor Form (below) and leave your name off their check, even the memo field. They will receive an acknowledgement letter for tax purposes in the mail. **All forms and checks should be given directly to your team leader.**
- Also according to IRS regulations, tax deductible gifts cannot be refundable. If you cancel your trip, your sponsor's donation cannot be refunded. It can be used for a future trip for you, or else it will be used to support another missionary.

Haiti 180 Mission Trip Sponsor Donation Form

Donor Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address _____

Donation Amount: _____ Check No. _____

Donation for:

- Sponsor a team member - Name of team member: _____ Trip date: _____
- Mission trip general fund *Note: Please make all checks payable to Haiti 180*

Thank you for your donation. Haiti 180 will make every effort to honor your donation intentions. All contributions are solicited with the understanding that Haiti 180, Inc. has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. In the event a chosen team member cannot go on the trip, your donation will be used for the Mission Trip general fund.

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Principles and Ideas for Fundraising

- Own the mission

It is important to understand and believe in the scope of the mission. If you are not invested in the vision and purpose for which you are raising funds, you will not be effective. As a missionary, you are called to reach out to people, to be God's hands and feet in the world. Every single person is called to be a missionary in one way or another, however not everybody has the freedom in their specific state in life to actually go on mission. Whether you are cloistered behind a wall, or live behind a "wall" of responsibility to a job or family, it might not be prudent to get on a plane and go to Haiti for a week. Still, everyone is called to be a missionary. Those behind the cloister enter into the spiritual provision of the mission, and those in the world who have responsibility to work and family can enter into the material provision for the mission. Those who go physically into the mission field provide the opportunity for everyone else to take part in the mission. You are the hands and feet that bring God's love to His people who are abandoned and forgotten. You have to be able to see the bigger picture, and accept with humility your role in God's work. You are in no way raising money for yourself; you are acting on behalf of God to bring provision to His people.

- Use what you know

There is not one way to raise money. Some people have an outgoing personality and find it easy to get into conversations with strangers. Some people are more quiet and shy and aren't as comfortable in these types of situations. You have to know yourself and what you are good at. If you are good at working with your hands, you can make something to sell after Church. If you are good at speaking, you can ask your priest to tell your parish about the mission after Mass one Sunday. If you are good at writing, you can tell the story of Haiti and its people, and send letters to who you know.

- See where you are

Everyone is somehow plugged into a community. There are many different types of communities that each present their own potential for fundraising. Church, school, neighborhood, family, old classmates, work, and sports teams are just a few ideas of community that will be open to hearing about the mission. Think about what communities you are plugged into and be ready to use all of these connections to reach as many people as possible.

- Don't sell anyone short

God invites people to share their excess with those who are less fortunate in the world. You are simply providing the means of communication between God and these benefactors. Even if you think someone won't want to provide, it is not up to you to answer for them before God. Give everyone you know the chance to answer for themselves before God whether or not they might be in a position to help. Even though it might seem like the Church is the best bet to find benefactors, this is not true. You never know who wants to or is able to help give money for the mission. God puts it on peoples' hearts and you will be surprised at who He chooses.

- Don't be embarrassed

It will be awkward and difficult at first to ask for money. There are many fears that are operating in this embarrassment. Mostly it is the fear of rejection that makes people uneasy about asking for money. This is when it's important to remind yourself that you are not asking for money for yourself. Imagine that out of a group of 10 people, God has given one person the means to have \$10,000 to donate to the mission. The rest of the group has already given to the church and cannot afford to give anymore. You will have to face rejection 9 times in order to connect that one person to God's plan. When someone says, "no," simply think, "ok God, you aren't getting money from that person for this mission; maybe the next one." All the money is His anyway. He provides the means for people to make money, He provides the grace that inspires generosity, and He will get help to His people in Haiti. You play a small but very important role in His operation, so don't be afraid.

- Never forget gratitude

This should be obvious, but don't forget that you are also a witness of God in the gratitude that you show. People want to know they are of use to God, that they can somehow do something good for Him who has provided so much. When you show gratitude, they will feel appreciated, which ultimately means that they filled some need. People need to feel needed, and are fulfilled when they can give of themselves to a worthy cause. Send letters, send thank you's, send pictures after the mission. Then of course, pray pray pray in gratitude for God's work, for the workers in the harvest, and for including you in His work.

Specific Ideas to Start With

- The best thing if possible is to get your church support and try to do a fundraiser as a parish such as: Church garage sales, bake sales, dinners etc.
- Write a letter describing the mission in detail that you can give to anyone that might be interested. This doesn't take the place of real conversations, but it can spark conversations with people you won't otherwise get to talk to, and you can use it to follow up with conversations that you might have.
- Speak after Mass at church. Make it short and sweet, invite further conversations and stick around after Mass to talk with anyone who wants to know more. Have information available.
- Make something to sell. This won't necessarily raise a lot of revenue, but it will raise interest and open doors for more communication. Home made rosaries are a good start.
- Go door to door. This one depends on your personality, but it is a relatively easy thing to do. If someone's not interested, it takes only 5 seconds to figure it out and move on. Otherwise they might invite a very interesting conversation.
- Talk to people who know people. There is no shame in using someone else's connections. If you can get one person interested who happens to know a lot of other people, you have potentially got a whole lot of people interested.

Important Reminder:

All forms and checks are to be given directly to your team leader who is responsible for mailing them at one time to their Haiti 180 contact person.