Support Raising 101

Belmont on Mission

The ultimate guide to raising support for missions...

Who to ask.

How to ask.

What to ask.
Preliminary Steps
- Pray
- Plan
- Present

Taking Action
- Who, how, and what to ask
- Support Letters
- More ways to fundraise

More than money
- Spiritual Practice
- Christian Resources
Preliminary Steps

Before we can jump into the fundraising, we need to think through a few things. It's more than just "fund" raising... It's support-raising! The process of gaining support for any cause requires a large amount of planning. The preliminary steps for missions fundraising can be broken down into three parts: pray, plan, and present.

**pray**
A mission is bigger than the cost. Pray about how God will use you on the mission trip, and have faith in His ability to get you there. Trusting Him in fundraising is a spiritual practice.

**plan**
Develop a personal strategy for preparation and prepayment. Everyone's network is different, so everyone will need to use different methods to raise support.

**present**
Be able to identify who you are and the purpose of your mission. It is important to articulate what you are doing in order to bring others on board to do it with you.
Taking Action

When asking for support, you need to be strategic. Be clear about what you need, and purposeful in how you ask for it. You’re asking people not just to support you financially, but to join with you as you prepare, go, and return to share your experience with God and others with them.

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<th>who to ask</th>
<th>how to ask</th>
<th>what to ask</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Ask your parents for their Christmas Card List</td>
<td>Writing letters is a great first step in raising support. In your letters, it is important to be as specific as possible when talking about your mission. You also want to be as personal as possible. Following up with a phone call or meeting for coffee is a very effective way to secure support.</td>
<td>Understand that there are ways to support your mission other than financial giving. By outlining all the opportunities for support, you are broadening the group of individuals backing your mission. Ask possible supporters to pray to determine if they feel called to support your mission, in any way.</td>
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<td>2. Consider asking people to whom you sent Graduation Announcements</td>
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<td>3. Ask local businesses and organizations that may support your mission</td>
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<td>4. Many businesses have a gift matching program. Check with your parent’s place of employment</td>
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# who to ask

Brainstorm some people who you may ask to support you:

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<th>Coaches, Teachers, Mentors</th>
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<th>Businesses</th>
<th>Church Community</th>
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how and what to ask.

Put together a list of information you want to present to possible supporters...

- When and where are you going on mission?
- Who are you going with?
- Who is Sponsoring the trip?
- Who are you partnering with at the location?
- What are you going to do there?
- How will the support help you and your team?
- What are other needs besides financial?
- How and where can they send support?
SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER
Belmont on Mission

Dear Mrs. Smith,

I am writing you this letter to share with you about an opportunity I have coming up. I have the chance to go on mission to El Paso, TX with Belmont on Mission. My team and I leave for El Paso in March, and I would love for you to partner with me on this mission.

I will be participating in one of Belmont’s Immersion Trips, which will allow me to be immersed in local culture and to grow in understanding the care and concerns of communities here in the United States. This trip will help me to see what God is doing already through local churches and ministries; we will join them in their mission. This trip is a little bit different from a standard “mission trip.” Our goal is to honor God in our mission by focussing on the long term effects of our service.

While in El Paso we will partner with Border Servant Corps to learn about immigration and border issues. We will speak with first generation immigrants, visit local organizations working with immigrant populations, meet with government officials to hear about immigration law, and build an understanding of economic policies and realities affecting people on the border.

If you would like to partner with me on this trip there are a few ways to connect!

Prayer: If you feel called to pray with me, here are a few ways:
- The health and safety of the team before, during, and after the mission.
- That the impact of our work is lasting and beneficial to the community.
- The community sees God through our desire to serve them.
- That I release expectations for the trip, and I allow God to work through me.

Financial: If you feel led to financially support my mission
- The cost of the trip is $800
- The cost needs to be paid in full by February 7
- Donations can be made
- Online [link to portal]
- Mailed to:_______

If you have any questions please reach out to talk further about Belmont on Mission! Thank you for considering supporting me in my mission to El Paso.

Blessings,

Student Name

Student Name
Student address

Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX
Email: first.last@pop.belmont.edu
SUPPORT LETTER TEMPLATE
Belmont On Mission

Dear [Mr./ Mrs./ Miss Name]

I am writing you this letter to share with you about an opportunity I have coming up. I have the chance to go on mission to [Location] with Belmont on Mission. My team and I leave for [Location] in [Time], and I would love for you to partner with me on this mission.

I will be participating in one of Belmont’s [Immersion Trips/ International Trips/ Plunge Trips], which will allow me to be [pull from trip description]. This trip will help me to [pull from trip description]. Our goal is to [pull from trip description].

While in [Location] we will partner with [Partner organization if applicable] to [pull from trip description]. We will [pull from trip description].

If you would like to partner with me on this trip there are a few ways to connect!

Prayer: If you feel called to pray with me, here are a few ways:
• [Health and Safety]
• [Long term impact]
• [Request specific to community]
• [Personal prayer request]

Financial: If you feel led to financially support my mission...
• The cost of the trip is [Cost]
• The cost needs to be paid in full by [Date]
• Donations can be made
• Online [link to portal]
• Mailed to: [Address]

If you have any questions please reach out to talk further about Belmont on Mission! Thank you for considering supporting me in my mission to [Location].

Blessings,
[Student Name]
More Ways to Fundraise

**Individual**
- Individual website (I.e. GoFundMe)
- “Adopt-a-Box”
- Sell Your Talent

**Group**
- “Rent a Youth"
- Group babysitting
- Sell t-shirts
- Bake sale on campus
- Restaurant Fasting
- Discipline-specific Fundraising:
  - Host a concert or other kind of show
  - Partner with business or organization (Chipotle in particular)
  - Teams can host clinics
  - Musicians can give lessons
  - Artists can sell work
  - Academics can tutor

**Note:**
Most group fundraisers can also be used as individual fundraisers
More Ways to Fundraise explained...

Individual Website
- Set up a GoFundMe page with information about your mission
- You can also have people donate through your Venmo or Paypal accounts

Adopt-a-Box
- Whichever box number a donor picks is how much money he or she is going to donate.
  Ex: box 4 = $4, box 32 = $32 \( (40/2) \times (1+40) = 820 \)
- This could be an individual fundraiser, or team wide.
- Spend time making a clear chart [as pictured]
- Send the picture and instructions via email

Sell Your Talent
- Maybe you are a great photographer, or soccer player, or math student; use your talents as a means of raising money!
Rent a Youth
- Members of the Community can hire youth to do odd jobs

Group Babysitting
- You and members of your team can advertise your group babysitting. Make sure you have a safe location, toys, and enough capable people to take care of the children. Provide parents with information on when you will hold this event, who will be babysitting, and how much you will charge.
- This would be a great event to do around the holidays. Advertise it as a way for parents to be able to handle holiday errands without bringing their kids along.

Selling T-Shirts
- Design a t-shirt with your team
- Promote your shirts a lot; the more shirts you sell, the higher profit margin you will make.

Host a Bake Sale on Campus
- Reserve a table/ spot on campus
- Get together with your friends and make a lot of goodies
- Be sure to tell people about why you are selling the food...the mission!

Restaurant Fasting
- Get a group of people to pledge to not go to restaurants for a week, and instead donate that money to your mission.
Going on a mission experience is an exciting journey, but it can be full of uncertainty - especially when it comes to finances. Raising support for a mission goes far beyond raising funds. Part of fundraising is relying on God's faithfulness to provide for your mission. While you may look at fundraising as a tool to gather money, it is also an opportunity to grow in your understanding of who God is and what He has for you. Stepping out in faith is both an act of bravery and trust as you rely on God to move in your life.

“DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERY SITUATION, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD.” PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Christian Resources for Spiritual Development and Fundraising

A Spirituality of Fundraising, Henri Nouwen
The Giver and the Gift, Peter Greer and David Weekly