

FUNDRAISING

Yard Sale Tips-

Yard sales tend to produce the most money but is tons of work – TIPS – Put out fliers or social media posts to church, friends, coworkers, neighbors, asking for donations of items that you can sell. Also, advertise your yard sale as “Yard Sale to Benefit Orphans”. Don’t call it a “fundraiser” as people are immediately turned off by that word sometimes. No one likes to “fundraise” but most people will help an orphan! It’s all semantics. At the yard sale, have huge posters with photos of orphans, Ukraine info, statistics on Ukraine orphans, etc You could even set up a hot chocolate/donut stand and sell for a profit during your yard sale! When people know all the money is going to benefit orphans, they tend to give you more money than you’re asking for an item. Advertise your yard sale on Craig’s List, FB Event, and the local paper. Hold the yard sale for at least two days. Ask the church if you can hold the yard sale on their property – that way you get all the church members to come through after services on Sunday! Then, what you don’t sell at the yard sale, sell on Craig’s List.

Car Wash Tips-

Hold a car wash in the same location, same day, for a couple weeks, this way people that drive by got to know they’d be there. Have signs or people with signs that say “Car Wash to Benefit Orphans” and people will drive by and hand them money without even stopping to get their car washed. Families that have held in the past found that those that did get a car wash would hand them anywhere for \$20 to \$100 for the carwash. They did not put a price on the car wash – they said “FREE car wash – donations to benefit orphans appreciated.” They ended up raising over \$4,000 this way over 6 weeks. They also had a table of information set up with posters and pictures of orphans.

Church Grants-

We had one family talk to their church about helping to sponsor their adoption and the church agreed!!! They gave them \$5000! In return, the family came home from their adoption and started an adoption ministry at the church. They also developed a support group for church members who had recently adopted.

Church Dinner-

Do something inexpensive that you can charge \$5 a person and make a profit. Make soups and breads, pasta with breadsticks, bbq burgers etc. Ask local business for donations of items or services to hold a silent auction or raffle also.

E-mail/blog/FB campaigns-

You send out e-mails and letters to friends and family, with photos of orphans and statistics about what happens to these kids once they leave the orphanage, and asked them to help donate to your adoption. Friends and family are asked to make the checks to God's Waiting Children so they get the tax advantage, but to write your name on the check so we know where to credit the money. Or, they can hand you the check made out to us and you can submit them all together – either way is fine. I recommend you start an adoption blog, start an FB adoption page, and then e-mail ALL of your friends, family, coworkers, church members, etc. with the info on these two things (blog and FB page). Ask them to bookmark these and check them regularly. Ask them to pray for you and your adoption every time they check the blog for updates. Publicize your fundraising goals, but in very small increments. I mean....don't say you need to raise \$20,000!!! You can start with....We need to raise \$800 for immigration. Then once you've raise that, come out and say you need to raise \$4000 for your travel expenses. You can at some point say you need to raise \$1000 for the orphanage donation...you get the idea. When you post too much that you need to raise, people feel that their \$30 contribution is meaningless. But, if your goal is not too high, you likely to get more donations. Keep an updated fundraising status on your blog and FB page so readers feel apart of your process and success. You should also regularly post your feelings about the adoption – good, bad, fears, etc. This helps readers get more involved in your process and help you to meet your goal. You can share details about the process as you go. You can also ask families to commit to a weekly, or monthly donation. For example, challenge people to give you their “Starbuck's money” of \$10 a week. The easiest way to do this is with PayPal. I highly recommend you place a PayPal button on your blog and FB page. They can also use their credit card to donate with PayPal.

Snack Bar/Bake sale

You can buy candy bars, pop corn, drinks or other snacks at Costco. Then sell them for a profit at Boy Scout events, work, church, school events, neighbors etc.

AIRLINE MILES CAMPAIGN

Put out an APB that you are in need of free airline miles. Other people can donate or “gift” you miles. The best kind to get are those that can be used on any airline – like Capital One Miles or most bank card miles. Some people have miles on one particular airline. You collect everything you can, then book your flights and return the miles to those that were not able to be used. For instance, someone gives you 50,000 United miles but you end up booking your flights on Delta. You'd return the United miles. You don't know how you're going to book your flights until you see which airline you end up with the most miles from. You can book one-way tickets also to use free miles – book United to Ukraine and then Delta return, or something like that.

RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER

Also, you can select a restaurant that will let you pick a day to invite friends and families to eat there and they'll give 10% -20 %of all sales to your agency or fundraising organization (needs to be non profit) on your behalf. You can do this at Round Table, Carls Jr., Boston Market, Wendy's, Panda Express and many other fast food restaurants. A lot of schools and sports teams do this type of fundraising. This is sort of a win-win as families have to eat anyways and if they know you will benefit by them eating at a certain place, they'll likely come by.

Casino Night

Contact local casino night companies to get pricing. In San Diego we were able to find a company that would set up 4 tables (games our choice) with dealers for a little less than \$800 for four hours. We then asked friends, families, businesses etc if they would like to sponsor a table for \$200, and would put up signs with sponsorship info (business can make donation to organization for tax deduction).

Serve appetizers or light dinner, having a nacho bar tends to be awesome and inexpensive. Have friends make small desserts to put out, see if local breweries will donate a keg or bottles of beer.

Contact as many businesses for donations for a silent auction and raffle as possible. Put it out on facebook that you are looking for donations for this purpose, often times people will have brand new items they can donate or have a connection with someone to get donations. Have larger items as silent auction, with a couple big ticket items for raffle as well.

Sell tickets for admission which include entrance, a certain amount of play money, food and a drink ticket (alcohol drinks \$5-\$7 without ticket)

Example: \$25= entrance for one person, \$1000 play money, dinner and 1 drink ticket. \$35= entrance for one person, \$2000 play money, dinner, and 1 drink ticket. \$50= entrance for one person, \$5000 play money, dinner and 2 drink tickets. People surprisingly almost all got for the \$50 buy in because of the extra play money and the extra drink ticket.

Raffle Tickets sell for 1 for \$3, 5 for \$10, and 20 for \$20

Families usually raise between 5-7 thousand dollars with this fundraiser.

5k or fun run event

Find a park or running trail if possible, see if a permit is required. Measure out how far 5k would be so you know the course.

Contact places like chick-fil-a and see if they will come out and donate sandwiches for the participants, local bands, jamba juice etc. This helps when advertising the event itself to say what will be there and free food etc. Make it into a full event, families will stay after to eat, listen to music, interact and learn more about adoption.

Design and order shirts for the event (based on sign ups and a few extras for day of sign ups). Advertise with flyer and on social media for event. Pre registration \$20 single participant and includes tshirt and bib for event, \$50 for family registration comes with 2 shirts and however many bibs needed for parents and children. Day of registration \$25 per person, shirt size not guaranteed.

Make sure to have large coolers of water available for runners, have vendors or businesses set up around the check in area, make sure bathrooms are available, and easy ups for shade if there isn't any.

Have some sort of prize for first adult to finish and another for first child, starbucks gift cards are usually good.

Have pictures and information up for people to learn about adoption, statistics and the child and reason you are adopting. Set out a place where people can just donate for this.

Have a checkin table clearly visible with 2-3 people to help check in and direct people where to go.

Large Item Raffle

Raffle off an ipad or something similar. For every \$10 donation they are entered to win no limit to number of entries. Post everywhere you can think of, especially social media. We didn't even buy an ipad until we had \$50 tickets sold, to cover the cost of the ipad. Set a clear start and stop time, give at least a couple of weeks, and make sure to post the winner online after 😊

Shoe Drive

Search for companies that do shoe drives for cash in your area. In San Diego shoes with heart is a great organization. Basically you post everywhere you can, schools, work, church, etc that you are collecting old pairs of shoes. Must be in pairs and in "wearable" condition. You collect for about 4-6 weeks or longer, bundle shoes in pairs, bag them up, and set up a pickup time. They will give you usually around 50 cents per pound collected, then they will clean and fix up to redistribute to third world countries in need of shoes. It is a total win win.

ADOPTION GRANT RESOURCES

www.showhope.org (GREAT resource for grants)

www.abbafund.org (GREAT resource)

www.achildwaits.org (GREAT resource)

www.lifesongfororphans.org (GREAT resource – they also do Both Hands fundraising project to help a widow and orphan at the same time.)

www.carolinespromise4u.org

www.katelynsfund.org

www.lydiafund.org

www.micahfund.org

www.nafadopt.org

www.ourcreatorshope.com

www.avashope.org

www.affordingadoption.com

www.giftofadoption.org

www.helpusadopt.org

www.seaoffaces.org

TIPS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Passionately explain your desire to adopt.
- Add a current family photo.
- Tell what you have already done and what you plan to do -to raise money for your adoption.
- Tell how you will continue to be an advocate for orphans after your adoption is completed.
- Proofread, proofread, proofread... or get someone to proofread for you.
- Always add a cover letter.
- Make your application “STAND OUT” from all the