

Fund-Raising

To be a success, youth ministry needs an adequate supply of funds. Here are some general ideas for fund-raising.

One resource that provides funding for youth projects promoting international exchanges and intercultural learning is the British Council. Information on International Youth Exchange funding can be downloaded from the British Council website: www.britishcouncil.org/learning-ie-youth-exchange.htm

In addition, this site gives the addresses of all the national offices in Europe.



CONVENTIONAL FUND-RAISING

Kids selling sweets/candy to anyone who will buy (starting, of course, with their own parents)

Groups of kids washing cars for money

Bagging groceries at the local supermarket.

Walking people's pets

Mowing lawns, shovelling snow, raking leaves, etc.

Running a lemonade stand on a really hot day; don't keep the money for yourself, but give it to the fund-raiser.



FUN FUND-RAISING

Have a food and fun fair with people donating their profits.

Organise a bingo night with some of the proceeds going towards your fund-raiser.

Organise an arts fair for younger children with face painting, a footprint mural, food animals, spin painting, or simple crafts. Charge admission for the day or by activity.

Organise a karaoke night, charge for admissions and sing all night.

Put some coins in a jar and have a coin-guessing competition; the winner gets all the coins, and charge people for entering the contest.

Get some well-known/famous people in your community to agree to get dunked, and charge people for tossing them into the water.

INTELLECTUAL FUND-RAISING

Organise a spelling bee contest for children, and charge their parents to come see them; the winner is crowned 'Spelling Bee Champion' of the entire area.

Get a debate going for adults; choose a really conflicting topic, maybe one even a bit controversial; charge people to participate as well as to watch others in the heated discussion.

ADVENTUROUS FUND-RAISING

Organise competitions such as fitness contests and sports events, and charge people to come and watch people slugging it out.

Organise a scavenger hunt and charge teams for entering; ask a local merchant to sponsor a major prize to stimulate a lot of entries.

Organise a sponsored bike ride or hike, something challenging but fun, invite participation from other adults as well as the youth.

Organise a 'bench-press-athon'; have people bench-press in the gym, and collect pledges for every kilo (or pound) lifted; get all the macho types involved and watch the money roll in.



Go for adventure – find a challenge that attracts interest for its own sake – then turn it into a fund-raiser.

SENTIMENTAL FUND-RAISING

Hug-a-deal: sell a hug for a fee; people can buy a hug for a friend or a family member and also send them a message; deliver the hug and the message to the recipient, watch their faces light up, and make money out of the whole thing.

I-Love-You Sale; similar to the above but the message is 'I love you'; surprisingly, people find it very difficult to say these three little words to their loved ones; solve their dilemma and raise funds at the same time.