

Fundraising Ideas

We recognize that groups come from different areas and different backgrounds. With this, it is not always easy for groups to be able to attend Agape due to costs. Therefore, we encourage all groups who come to Agape to do some type of fundraiser with their parish, friends, and families. This way, we are able to fulfill our mission as Disciples of Christ *and* personally invite our communities to participate in this mission as well! Whatever way you choose to fundraise, we hope it helps you build personal relationships and gets your community involved. Here are some fundraising ideas that we have seen be successful.

Buy Stock in Our Service Week:

**See example flyer in the tool kit.*

How it Works: In general, you invite people to financially support your trip. These donors are called "stockholders" because they are buying "stock" in the mission trip. They are also "included" in the mission through:

- Prayer: asking them to pray for the mission team while the mission team prays in gratitude for them.
- Email Updates: They receive updates via email or blog throughout the trip with pictures of the youth. (You could link to the Agape social for daily updates.)
- Stockholder Gratitude Event: At the end of the trip you can host an event, such as a thank you dinner or brunch, where the youth can share their experiences with the stockholders about the ways in which they have done God's work by impacting the community.

What to Do: You can hand out, either to your parish in general or via one-on-one meetings, informational flyers about Agape and how your youth will be involved. Things to include on the flyer:

- The mission and work of Agape
- A brief introduction to the mission team and the youth attending
- A breakdown of costs and needs
- A space for the donor to fill out: name(s), email, phone numbers, the amount they wish to donate and in what manner they wish to donate
- An explanation of how the stockholder will be involved in the program and *included* in the mission with you (prayer, email updates, a postcard, etc.)

Super Bowl Salsa & Bean Dip:

**This idea comes from Sacred Heart, Enumclaw. See example flyer in the toolkit folder.*

How it Works: Working with the Parish Hispanic Minister, two members from the Hispanic community volunteered their time to lead the mission team in the making and packing of homemade salsa (pico de gallo) and cheesy bean dip. On the Saturday before the Super Bowl, the mission team gathered for a few hours in the parish hall kitchen to prepare, make, and package the salsa and bean dip. Then the mission team members sold the salsa and bean dip after all Masses on Saturday and Sunday of the Super Bowl.

What to Do:

- Announcements and bulletin inserts for promotion
- Pre-Order forms/sign-up sheets were available after Masses the weekends leading up to the Super Bowl.

- All supplies (food, containers, etc.) purchased from US Chef's Store (aka Cash & Carry)
- Created labels with ingredients to put on lids
- Sold for \$5 each

Car Washes during Mass:

**This idea comes from Sacred Heart, Enumclaw.*

How it Works: Groups of mission team members wash cars during the Masses on a weekend. Parishioners park their cars near the washing station and leave their keys before heading into Mass.

What to Do:

- Announcements and bulletin inserts for promotion
- Have mission team members sign up for the Mass(es) they will work. Make sure they arrive early and in appropriate car washing clothing.
- Have all supplies necessary for car wash (buckets, hoses, soap, towels, etc.)
- Cash box with starter cash
- By donation (no set price)

Hire-A-Mission Team Member

**Many parishes use this model of fundraising.*

How it Works: Groups of mission team members do yard work for parish/community members for a donation.

What to Do:

- Announcements and bulletin inserts for promotion with contact information to request a work team
- Schedule days that the mission team members need to be available to do yard work
- Parish/community members contact you to schedule a work team (decide if you will provide tools or if the homeowner must provide)
- Assign small groups of mission team members to work the different projects
- Either set an hourly/person amount or by donation

One-on-One Meetings or Donation Request Letters:

How it Works: Have your youth personally meet with and ask their families, friends, and community members for support. This way people are met where they are at and being invited into God's work—the work that your youth are doing with Agape. Youth could also send letters explaining their mission trip and asking for support.

What to Do: You can have them write up a script, or you as their leader can write an idea for them, about what Agape is about, how they will be involved, the amount of money they need to be able to attend, and an amount they are asking the potential donor for. The youth can use this script as a guideline for a conversation they can have with their community members when asking for support in a one-on-one meeting. In addition, regardless of whether the potential donor is able to financially support them, the youth should maintain contact with them. The contact would be similar to that of the stockholder idea where updates are sent from the youth, or you as their group leader, during Agape via email. The youth can share parts of their journal writings, pictures from the week, and a thank you card to the people on their support team once Agape is over. This idea can also be

combined with that of the stockholder idea and have a thank you dinner for the youth and all of their donors.

Speaking to Your Parish:

Having the youth speak in front of the parish about what Agape is, how they will be involved, and what they are asking of the parish in support is a great way to get your team supported and involve your community. You can ask for monetary donations to fulfill the program fees, or for support for the food bank, food/toys/clothing donations, etc.