Thank you for volunteering with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! It is only with the endless volunteer hours by people like you, who dedicate their time and resources to come help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that we are able to get people home and rebuild our community.

We still have families living in temporary housing and countless others struggling to make repairs caused either directly or indirectly by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I the world of 24 hour news, story cycles last for hours or days, not the years that it takes to recover from a large natural disaster. Volunteers are our ongoing connection to communities across the country.

It takes money to purchase supplies, manage logistics, get permits and coordinate volunteers. We want as many of our financial resources to go towards building and fixing peoples homes as we possibly can. As a result, we are suggesting a $10 donation from each volunteer. This covers the costs of coordinating volunteers, allowing more of our resources to go to getting people home.

If you would lie to do more, your group can fundraise in your community for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, spreading the word about the needs that still exist in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and raising money to get more people home. Not only will your fundraiser allow us to complete more projects, but also it will inspire others in your area to donate and volunteer. It will also help us raise awareness to the needs that still exist here.

Fundraising for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is simple. All you need to do is spread the word and donors can be directed to give on our website ([www.websitehere.org](http://www.websitehere.org)). Donors can give in support of your volunteer group and by using our website, we will send a thank you card and be able to track the financial donations. If at any point you are interested in the total amount of donations in support of your group, we can provide that information to you.

To help you reach your fundraising goal, we have attached a list of some fun and successful fundraising activities. The list is split up into different sections to help you choose a fundraiser for your group, but many of the fundraisers could be done by a variety of groups. Use the list as inspiration in your fundraising activities and have FUN!

Thank you again for your support of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Sincerely,

**Volunteer Coordinator Name here**

Volunteer Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Organization name)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(email)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(phone number)

**GENERAL EVENTS**

**CONSTRUCTION POTLUCK:** Instead of having a potluck dinner, have the dinner catered or order food from a local restaurant. The entrance fee can be donated tools and construction equipment to bring and give to our group. A list of needed items will be provided upon request. Additionally, they can donate a gift card to Home Depot and the money can be utilized to purchase equipment.

**USED BOOK SALE:** Have people donate old/used books to use at a book sale. Look into having the book sale at a local farmers market or work with your local library.

**THEMED MUSIC/DANCE PARTY:** Host a themed dance party (Speak easy, 50’s, 60’s etc.). Play all the classics from that era. Invite people to come dressed in era appropriate clothes and ready to dance. Serve donated themed drinks and food or sell concessions at the event. Ask for a suggested donation at the door. Work to find a local site and DJ that will donate the evening for the cause.

**SPECIAL SCREENING:** Contact you local movie theater about donating the screening of a current movie. Invite everyone to come and enjoy a night at the movies for a good cause. Ask for a suggested donation at the door or sell tickets for a set price. See if the theater will donate a portion of the concession sales too.

**CHARITY AUCTION/SILENT AUCTION:** Hold a traditional auction, with an auctioneer, for household items. This could be a silent auction as well, where people simply sign up for multiple items and then they are put up for bid. This could be combined with a dinner or other event and go on simultaneously.

**WINE-TASTING PARTY:** For groups 21 and over, have a wine and cheese-tasting party. If anyone you know owns, works or manages a winery or wine store, request that they host the event. You can also contact a local grocery or liquor store and ask them if they are willing to donate to the event. Request a donation at the door for the cause.

**SPELL-A-THON:** Host a spell-a=thon with each contestant collecting pledges for each of the words they spell correctly. You can then invite the donors to come to the event. You can sell snacks and drinks at the event for additional fundraising. The top winners will then receive donated prizes.

**SIT-A-THON:** Offer babysitting services for a designated evening or two. Have volunteers within your group offer up their evening for baby-sitting services, the parents can donate money to the cause instead of hiring a babysitter.

**HAIR-CUT-A-THON:** See if a local hair stylist would donate a few hours of work for a haircut-a-thon. This could happen in the salon, at a local park or even a garage. If possible get the entire salon to pitch in for a few hours.

**DANCE-A-THON:** Have potential volunteers obtain sponsorships for a dance-a-thon in the church gym or another venue. It could be an activity other than dancing, such as jump rope, push ups, etc. If can also be utilized as a push for fitness and health.

**COOKBOOK**: Group members offer their best family recipes for a cookbook. Once the recipes are together and in a booklet, you can print them off and have them bound at a major office supply (see if you can get them to donate some or all of the materials). Sell the cookbooks to raise money.

**BAKE SALE:** A traditional fundraiser, bake sales area always a fun and tasty way to raise money. People can donate purchased or homemade treats and sell them at an event.

**GARAGE SALE:** Have a group garage sale and ask everyone to donate to it. Advertise the sale in advance so the community is aware of it. You can sell snacks and drinks during the sale to bring in additional funds.

**HANDY HELPERS:** Have the volunteers donate their time to do “Do It Yourself” jobs at others homes. The money they would have paid a company, could go to the cause as a donation. This provides great practice and preparation for their upcoming volunteer duties!

**WALK / RUN:** This could be done different ways. People can have a set distance that they will walk/run; a route will need to be set up and established. The participants would obtain donors and anything they donate would be contributed directly to the charity. Another possible method is to have all of the participants wear a pedometer and obtain a commitment from their donors for a certain amount of money for each step completed (this would be over a set period of time).

**GIVE-UP-A-CUP**: Instead of purchasing a cup of coffee at their favorite coffee shop, have people donate the cost of one cup per day to the cause. People could also give up other daily rituals (daily snacks, activities, cigarettes, etc.) and donate the money that they have saved.

**YOUTH GROUPS**

**PENNY WARS:** Divide the group into teams (age, grade, gender, etc.). Give each team a jar with a slot cut into the top so that money can be put in but not take out. Label each jar and set them up in a common area. Designate an amount of time to collect as many pennies as the teams can. The team with the most money at the end of the contest wins. The catch is any money that is not a penny counts against the team for face value of the money. Encourage participants to put silver coins and paper money into the other teams jars and pennies into their own.

**MAKE YOUR OWN FOUNDATION:** Create a makeshift fountain or water well and leave it set up for the whole fundraising process. Encourage people to throw in their spare change and make a wish.

**VOTE TO PIE:** Charge people $1 to vote and decide which person in your organization will receive a pie in the face. Be sure that all participants are on board for getting a pie in the face before the voting begins.

**CAR WASH:** Hold a car wash in a high traffic location for donations.

**PET WASH:** This can be done either at the same time as the car wash, or as an entirely separate event. Talk with a local pet store to see if they will allow you to wash the animals in their parking lot or to utilize their facilities (i.e. the self pet wash at PetSmart).

**SUPER CHANGE JAR:** Obtain a large number of jars and hand them out to friends, co-workers and family. Create rules around the jar, this could be something to break a habit or just for fun (a quarter for every time they use a word with the letter T in it or some bad habit that you want them to break).

**ONE PAGE CLOSER TO HOME:** Have children or adults pledge to read books. Coordinate with the local library to put up posters or to sponsor the program. People can pledge and donate money to the cause.

**YOUTH CAFÉ:** Youth wanting to volunteer could have informal lunches after services and have people donate money towards the trip.

**RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

**QUILTS:** If the church, synagogue or mosque has a quilting group, they could donate quilts to be auctioned off or donated to the cause.

**GIVING PLUS:** Encourage people to give what they usually give in offering, and then ask them to donate an additional amount each week separately to the charity fund.

**CHARITY CONCERT:** Have the choir or other musical groups put on a performance and have the proceeds go towards the cause. A talent show could also work to get additional people involved.

**BUSINESSES**

**FOUNTAIN OF DONATIONS:** Approach a local mall about donating the money tossed into their fountain in a certain time frame on your company’s behalf.

**VOTE TO PIE:** Charge people $1 to vote and decide which person in your organization will receive a pie in the face. Be sure that all participants are on board for getting a pie in the face before the voting begins.

**CORPORATE MATCHING:** Many corporations do this for donations that their employees make. Employees donate to a central fund within the company; the company then matches the donation on the last day schedule and sends the money to the organization.

**NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN:** Coordinate with a local restaurant to choose a night and donate a percentage of the proceeds to the organization. We can provide any information that you may need to host the event.

**PENNY WARS:** Divide the group into teams (age, grade, gender, etc.). Give each team a jar with a slot cut into the top so that money can be put in but not take out. Label each jar and set them up in a common area. Designate an amount of time to collect as many pennies as the teams can. The team with the most money at the end of the contest wins. The catch is any money that is not a penny counts against the team for face value of the money. Encourage participants to put silver coins and paper money into the other teams jars and pennies into their own.