Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) depends on contributions from many grassroots supporters to carry out our common ministry of peacemaking. Each person who joins a CPT team is part of extending that circle of support. Although raising funds for your participation may seem a daunting task, remember that you are giving people who may not be able to join a team the opportunity to support something they believe in.

Nearly everyone who works with CPT writes fundraising letters to family and friends requesting prayer and financial assistance. This also strengthens the team member’s emotional and spiritual support network. Recipients of these letters often donate $25, $50, $100, or more towards the person’s support. Contributions for one CPTer averaged $100 a week for several months after he sent out a fundraising letter.

Following are some suggestions that others have found helpful to keep in mind when writing a fundraising letter:

♦ **Develop a catchy opening.**

♦ **Connect to the heart strings before the purse strings.**
  - tell a story.
  - share your personal passion for the work.
  - use humor.
  - draw on the mission statement of CPT.

♦ **Connect to supporters personally.**
  - their contribution directly involves them in this work.
  - they are "co-workers," "fellow peacemakers," etc. in this common peacemaking ministry.
  - express why this is important to them.

♦ **Ask for support.**
  - **important:** the most fundamental way to get money is to ask for money.
  - include requests for spiritual and prayer support.
  - be clear where and how to send contributions.

**U.S.:** Christian Peacemaker Teams  **Canada:** CPT - Canada  
P.O. Box 6508  
25 Cecil St., Unit 307  
Chicago, IL 60680  
Toronto, ON M5T 1N1

**Note:** ask them to include a note similar to the following:

"Please accept this donation to support the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams. I am aware that [your name] will be volunteering and I wish to support this ministry."

CPT - 6/98
SAMPLE FUNDRAISING LETTER

Following is a sample letter sent by CPTer Rich Meyer to a small group of sympathetic friends. Note the fact that he is asking them to “increase” their support.

December, 1998

Dear _______________________,

In May when I began to work for Christian Peacemaker Teams I told our director, Gene Stoltzfus, that I would undertake some fund-raising efforts. There always seemed to be other tasks more pressing than this, but in the last months we’ve seen that contributions are not keeping up with expenses and the bank balance is dropping. Still I put it off. Then December 1, Gene sent out a memo noting that, with only two months to go in our fiscal year (ending January 31), contributions have been 2/3 of our $300,000 budget. We now need to do 1/3 of our fundraising in 1/6 of the year.

So I am asking you to consider increasing your support in one of two ways:

1. To support my full-time position, I am looking for families or individuals who will agree to contribute $40-$50 each month to CPT. I would like to give you a stack of remittance envelopes (helpfully marked with the months of the year!) so you can send in regular contributions through the coming year. Twenty of you contributing like this will pay my stipend, and I’ll feel that I have followed through on what I told CPT I would do. Please contact me if this is an option for you, so I know how I’m coming along with this project.

2. A hefty one-time contribution now to CPT would make it easier for all of us to focus on the work rather than the budget. We should keep teams working in Hebron and Chiapas, delegations going to CPT locations, training happening for new CPTers, etc. So give us a boost, send a donation and help us all get back to work. One remittance envelope enclosed for this purpose.

Thanks,

Rich H. Meyer
13416 CR 44
Millersburg IN 46543

FUNDRAISING TIPS

from CPT Reservist, Paul Neufeld Weaver

When I ask for money, I always remind myself that many people find themselves in life circumstances in which they are unable or choose not to do CPT-type peace action, even though they are strongly sympathetic. Inviting them to contribute is a way of sharing the privilege of being a CPTer with them. Many people tithe and give generously, but sometimes worry about whether their gifts are going to the right place. Meeting you and having the chance to give, they can have a personal connection which they don't usually have to other mission work.

I once asked my uncle, who fundraised for many church causes for 60 years, what was the key to fundraising. He said, “Ask. You have to ask.” Here is a sample appeal for support.

“I would like to invite each of you to accompany me on my next peacemaking mission to Iraq (Colombia, Hebron, Grassy Narrows, etc.). For some of you that may mean signing up for a delegation (give date). For others that may mean traveling with me in prayer. For others it may mean responding to action alerts. For others it may mean giving money. I appreciate your warm reception to my message today, and I look forward to traveling soon with each of you, in one way or another, in our joint mission for peace.”

It is also good to mention that while the military spends $150,000 to maintain a soldier in the field for one year, it only costs CPT $15,000 to maintain a peacemaker in the field for a year. Give for peace and you can be ten times as effective!

CPT - 12/98