



LIVING WATER PROJECT: FUNDRAISING IDEAS

The following are several simple ideas to jump-start your thinking about ways you can raise money to save lives by helping to build a well in Kenya, Africa.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Something as simple as our pocket change can help to change the world.

We gave everyone in our congregation a bottle of water. We asked them to drink the water. Then they could keep the empty bottle and use it like a piggy bank. Anytime they had pocket change at the end of the day, drop it in their bottle. We set a day for everyone to bring their bottles of change to a worship service and had a time to bring them to the front as an offering.

A WATER FAST

By making the sacrifice to only drink water, others may have the privilege of having water to drink.

People often drink sweet tea or Cokes ("soda pop" if you're from the North) when they go out to eat at restaurants. People also usually have something like this in their refrigerators at home. We suggested that people give up, or 'fast', from these drinks for a set period of time. During that time, they would drink only water. Each could judge for themselves whatever amount of money may have been saved –money they normally would have spent anyway- and then give that toward the Living Water Project.

PHOTO CARDS

Give people a tool to help them talk about the problem and the solution.

We took a few of the pictures given to us by Bobby Gale, Unto the Least of His, and had several hundred 4x6 copies printed at a local photo processing center (That's fancy talk for, "We went to WalMart."). We also printed message and information about The Living Water Project on labels (Avery 48264) that we stuck on the back of the pictures. These were available for anyone in our church to pick up on a Sunday morning and then use as a tool during the week to talk about and let other know about The Living Water Project. *(Photos and label template are included on this resource CD.)*

WATER BUCKETS

People will help if they feel the weight of the problem.

We bought a few yellow, 5-gallon diesel gas cans that we filled with water. We setup a station at our Sunday worship services where people could pick up and carry the water containers back-and-forth between a start and finish line marked on the floor with black duct tape. Five gallons of water weigh about forty pounds. We carried the water fifteen or twenty feet. People in many parts of Africa carry that same amount of water for miles. We also had pictures and information available at a table nearby. (A copy of the poster we used with this is included on this resource CD.)

WEAR A PICTURE

Breaking the ice is half the battle.

Pin a photo on your shirt and wear it for a few days. This will often spark questions from others and serve as a conversation starter for you to share about The Living Water Project. It's amazing how supportive people will be if we just tell them about it and this can be a good ice-breaker.

YARD SALE

Pretty simple: Have a yard sale.

Get together with your church, your Sunday school class, your youth group, or your family and have a yard sale. Clean out your old stuff that you seldom use or could get by without and sell that stuff so others can have water to survive.

EMAIL YOUR FRIENDS

Sometimes the best solution is simple and straightforward.

You've got friends. You've got that aunt that lives across the state. You're connected with hundreds of people by email, Facebook, and other technology. Write a short, simple note explaining the situation and ask them to help with the solution. Let them hear your heart for this project and give them an opportunity to be a part of what God is doing through The Living Water Project.

DIRTY WATER BOTTLES

Seeing is believing.

We put a little dirt into clear plastic water bottles. It's amazing how little it takes to make the water undrinkable. These were on display during our Sunday worship services. Some people carried them to work or school during the week as a way to help others see the problem. "Would you like a drink of dirty water? You wouldn't? They shouldn't have to drink water like this, either."

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

Give a prize for helping

This is a classic fundraising option: sell raffle tickets. Collect items to put in a gift basket. Many businesses are even willing to donate a few small items for something like this. Put them together and sell raffle tickets. Have a clear date for the drawing and be sure to have a way to let people know who won. See, saving lives can even be a little fun.

COMMUNION OFFERING

As we celebrate the sacrifice that was made on our behalf, we can make a sacrifice for others.

The next time your church celebrates Holy Communion, allow people to give a special offering that will go toward The Living Water Project. They could leave it at the kneeling rail or you could place a basket near the front to receive people's gifts.

A FINAL NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

There are a TON of great fundraising ideas out there. I'm sure you've even got a few of your own. These are just a few to get you thinking...

Now get out there and make a difference!