



# How to Fundraise for Your Mission Trip

# Fundraising Guide

## Getting the Funds...

Often, this feels like the biggest obstacle to people as they prepare for their mission trip, but it is also the greatest opportunity to experience God's provision and miraculous intervention! Here are some practical tools and biblical encouragement as you work to raise your funds:

- **God will supply all of your needs.** Read Philippians 4:19. It's a promise! Cling to this... If God has truly called you to go on this trip, He will provide all of your needs.
- **Missions is God's heart.** He is the One who told us to "Go into all the world." God would not instruct us to do this if He didn't intend to help us complete the task.
- **Pray.** At RIM, prayer is the foundation that we build our mission experiences on. Pray for God to multiply your efforts, increase your finances and bring you prayer partners.
- **Make a list of prospective partners.** Fundraising is less about money and more about relationships. God has given us relationships for a variety of purposes. He uses them to reach the world! Good stewardship of your relationships means including people in what you are doing overseas. Think of all the people you know that can join with your trip either financially or in prayer. Write down names of friends, relatives, church members, local businesses, business owners, etc. that you can send a support letter to. In addition, begin to think of ways to use social media to tell even more people.
- **Prayer Partners.** Choose 5 people and ask them to commit to pray for your trip. Provide them with the schedule, country information, your personal needs (like finances) and have them pray especially for ministry effectiveness.
- **Write a letter for support.** This is a great way to let people know what you are doing and what God is doing in your life. Send letters to at least 30 people.
- **Follow your letter with a phone call.** We know this sounds scary, but it is actually really fun! 2 weeks after you send your letters, make a personal phone call to each person. Ask if they received this letter. Take this opportunity to explain more about your desire to go. Ask them for prayer/financial commitment.
- **Create a Public Profile and plan social media campaigns.** See page 6. These days, social media allows us to connect with hundreds and thousands of people who want to be a part of what God is doing around the world!!
- **Be creative.** Try some unexpected ways to raise funds... Check the next page for ideas!
- **Trust God.** Once you have done all that you know to do, look to God to do the rest. He'll do "exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

## Creative Fundraising Ideas

If you find yourself at a loss for ideas, try these:

- **Sponsor a Day** – Divide your trip cost by the number of days you'll be gone. (ex. \$2,095 trip divided by 15 days = \$140 per day) Ask people to choose a date (ex. August 2<sup>nd</sup>) and sponsor the entire day. Keep track of who sponsors which day. After the trip, show them your pictures and journal entries of what happened that day.
- **Per Mile Traveled** – Have people pledge to sponsor you for a certain number of miles (that you will travel from your home city to your ministry). Example, if your trip is \$2,095 and your journey is 4802 miles, people can sponsor you for \$0.44/mile.
- **Youth Sunday/Special Offering** – Ask your pastor if your team can share during one of the services and then take up a special missions offering.
- **Sell Stuff** – Bake sale, garage sale, jewelry sale, t-shirt sale, candy sale, flower sale...
- **Serve People** – Car wash, babysit, yardwork, walking pets, cleaning houses, painting...
- **\_\_\_-a-thon** – Host a walk-a-thon, dance-a-thon, rock-a-thon. Get sponsors for a 5K, etc.
- **Media Fast/Sugar Fast/Caffeine Fast** – Choose one of these to give up between now and your next deadline. Have people sponsor the number of days you go without TV or chocolate or soda or coffee. Show them you are committed to this trip!
- **Local TV/Radio/Newspaper** – See if they will support you, interview you or write an article about what you are doing and how others can get involved.
- **Tournament** – Host a golf tournament and invite local businessmen to participate for a \$100 donation as their entrance fee. Consider other spots and hosting a 5K as well!
- **Concessions** – Sell candy and soda pop at special events.
- **Stadiums & Theme Parks** – Find out about opportunities for your whole group to clean up after a game or run a concession stand for a whole day in exchange for a donation.
- **Design** – Create custom hats, t-shirts or wrist bands and sell them.
- **Sponsors** – Ask a local business to match other donations you receive dollar-for-dollar.
- **Auction** – Live or silent. This could be a good one to do as a group!
- **Music** – Ask a local band or drama team to do a benefit performance.
- **Coffee** – Host a coffeehouse or sell lattes after church. Why not dessert too?
- **Collect Change** – Label mason jars for your trip and have people collect spare change.
- **Recycle** – If you live in a state that encourages it, there may be money to earn from this.
- **Arts & Crafts** – Have people donate handmade items and sell the donated items.
- **Get a Job!** – Babysit, mow lawns, pickup a seasonal job, drive for Uber or DoorDash, etc.

The opportunities are endless... Be creative. You can do this! Trust God and work hard!!

## How to Write a Support Letter

The most important thing to remember in writing your support letter is that you are not just asking a bunch of people for money. Rather, you are giving people an opportunity to go on your trip with you... to share in the experience of proclaiming God's love to people who may never have heard the Gospel before. You are giving people who can't go on a mission trip themselves a chance to be an active participant in the Great Commission!

### **Basic guidelines for writing your letter:**

- **Share your heart.** Explain what God has done in your life to bring you to the point of going on a mission trip. In a few sentences, describe why you picked this specific trip.
- **Tell about the place.** Write several facts about the country you will serve, the ministry you will do, and how long you will be gone.
- **Relate the need.** Explain the cost of the trip and your financial need. Communicate what you will do on your own to help with the cost (odd jobs, babysitting, carwash, etc.).
- **Invite people to participate.** Ask potential supporters to join your team by giving or praying or both. Be sure to let them know that all donations should be made out to Real Impact Missions. They're tax-deductible as long as your name is not on the check.
- **Explain how to give funds.** Provide them with details about giving online through your personal profile or the [realimpact.com/donate](http://realimpact.com/donate) website or by sending a check to RIM.
- **Close with thanks.** Let them know how much you appreciate them and thank them for their involvement. Encourage them to pray about how God would have them give.
- **Include a self-addressed envelope (stamped if possible) and commitment card for your supporters to send back.** Make it easy for people. Do most of the work for them!

If you need any additional help, feel free to call Real Impact Missions at 1-800-774-6746 or to email us at [mytrip@realimpact.com](mailto:mytrip@realimpact.com). We're here to help!!

### **VERY IMPORTANT:**

**Be sure to tell your supporters that your name cannot appear anywhere on the check they send or else their gift will not be tax-deductible. They should fill out the commitment card you provide or just put a note with their check explaining who it's for and what trip.**

## Sample Support Letter

*Dear Uncle Bob & Aunt Janet,*

*In the past few weeks, our school has been studying missions, and God has showed me His heart to reach the lost. My youth group is going on a mission trip to Panama (your country) with Real Impact Missions (RIM) this summer, and I have decided to join the team.*

*Because of the US legacy in Panama, citizens who live in big cities or near the Canal have access to many things that Americans have...safe running water, cars, TVs and good jobs. Many of them also speak English, even though the official language is Spanish. But at the same time, Panama is also home to several tribes of Amerindians who live in abject poverty and don't have access to adequate educational opportunities. The distance between these two groups is mere miles. They're next door neighbors.*

*The one thing they have in common is their need for Jesus. Throughout Panama, most people are religious and place cultural importance on rituals and traditions, but very few know a personal God who wants to have an intimate relationship with them as Savior and Lord. My team and I will be learning an evangelistic drama that opens doors for us to perform in public schools. Following our presentation, we will use one-on-one conversations with students to share our faith. A recent team saw 1100 students give their lives to Jesus in just 3 days! Local pastors in Panama have asked for more teams to come immediately.*

*My youth group will be responding to this need. Our trip is August 1-15, 2021 and costs \$1,995. I am babysitting and doing odd jobs to earn part of this money, but I need help reaching my goal. Please consider sponsoring me with your tax-deductible financial gift and, most importantly, prayer. The deadline for my initial deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>; so, if you can help me, please consider dropping a check in the mail today or giving online at {insert personal profile URL here or [realimpact.com/donate](http://realimpact.com/donate)}. Your gift would be an investment into someone's eternal life. Please pray and do whatever God leads you to do. To receive a tax deduction, it is very important that you do not put my name on the check. Make your check payable to Real Impact Missions and mail it to: {insert your address or RIM's address}.*

*More than anything, I ask for your prayers concerning this trip. You can see updates while we are gone by clicking "LIKE" on RIM's Facebook page [facebook.com/realimpactmissions](https://facebook.com/realimpactmissions). I sincerely appreciate your concern for the cause of Christ. May God bless you as you pursue Him and the establishment of His Kingdom. Together we can make a difference around the world!*

*Pursuing Christ,*

*{Your Name}*

# How to Create a RIM Fundraising Page (Public Profile)

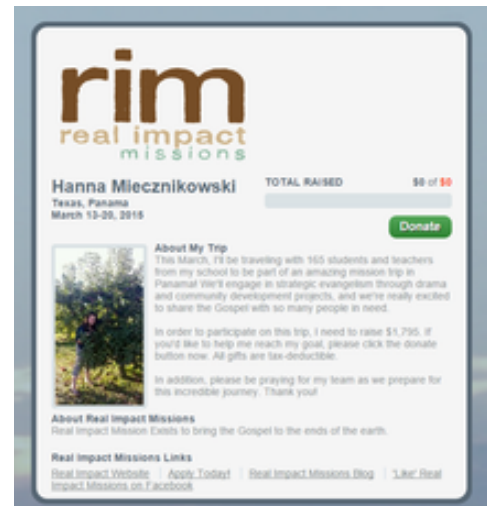


It's called SOCIAL GIVING... Real Impact Mission's public profiles are one of the most effective tools we provide to help you raise money for your trip, and you receive 100% of the funds donated through a public profile page (unlike

other fundraising sites that charge a fee). The power of peer-to-peer fundraising when combined with modern technology is incredible! For example, we saw one student raise \$1,314 in 9 days and another raise \$2,400 in two weeks!

## How to Create a Public Profile

- Login to **"My Account"** at realimpact.com
- Click your group's name
- Click **Edit my public profile** (top right)
- Write a note to supporters
- Add a picture (clear, just you, not goofy)
- Click **Submit for Approval**
- Notice your personal Public Profile URL link
- Run several campaigns (ex. once a month)



## How to Run a Campaign

- Choose a specific financial goal (ex. \$630, your first fundraising deadline)
- Choose a specific set of dates (ex. 3 days the weekend after you're accepted)
- Post updates several times a day each day about your trip that includes your link
- The first few updates should tell people that you're going on a trip and need their help
- Subsequent posts should give updates about how much \$ is raised between posts
- At the end of the time, post thank you messages and final results
- Encourage your close friends and family to SHARE your posts throughout the days
- Repeat this once a month between now and your trip
- Consider using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, etc.

*\*Note: It's important to post multiple times per day because of social media algorithms.*

## Sample Public Profile Post

Hey friends! 🍀 This spring break I get to do something really exciting — My school is partnering with Real Impact Missions for a trip to Puerto Rico! ✈️

Puerto Rico is such a beautiful place, but it's also a place where a lot of people see Christianity more as a culture than as a personal faith. We'll be helping with community projects, sharing the Gospel, and spending time with high school + college students there.

My mom put it perfectly: "Georgianna is excited to use the gifts God has given her to help lead others to the Lord." That's exactly how I feel. I can't wait to step out and serve in this way! 🙏

I need to raise support to make this happen, and I'd love for you to be part of my team. If you'd like to donate toward my trip, it would mean so much. Every prayer + every dollar helps bring the hope of Jesus to Puerto Rico! 💕