



Before you get onto the fun bit of fundraising - the events - make sure you've got all the basics sorted to make sure everything goes as smoothly as possible...

Fundraising is an amazing buzz – a lot of people even say that it's almost as fun as the actual trip they're raising money for. We've all got to start somewhere, however, so before you get too caught up with planning lots of fun events, it's best to have a plan in place as to how much money you've got to raise, when you've got to raise it by and roughly how you're going to raise it.

How much?

Before you start your fundraising you'll need to sit down and work out how much money you're going to need to raise. This will include the cost of your volunteer project, flights, vaccinations, visa costs and any living expenses or spending money once you're out there. A lot of i-to-i projects include accommodation and food in the cost, but some don't, so check carefully! If your project doesn't include these things, or if you're going to be doing some more travelling after your project finishes, you'll need to budget for how much this'll cost. Once you've worked out the cost of your entire adventure, decide how much of it you'll pay for yourself (out of your wages, money from family etc) and how much you're going to fundraise.

Set yourself goals

Once you've decided how much you're going to fundraise, work out when you'll need to have it by –Don't pack all your events into the last few days before your fundraising deadline though – it's best to set yourself some realistic goals: for example, by xxx I'll have xxx – it'll make it much more fun (not to mention less stressful!) if you're not desperately rushing to scrape together the money at the last minute.

Get your pennies organized

To keep track of the money you raise and to make sure it doesn't get swallowed up to pay for other things, think about opening a separate savings account for the cash. Whenever you raise some money put it into this account and then you'll always know exactly how much you've raised and how far you've got to go. Plus, if you shop around for high interest rates the bank will be contributing to your fundraising as well! It's worth getting a [PayPal](#) account set up too to make it easy for people to donate money online

Publicize your fundraising

Make sure you start a blog to let people know about what events you're planning, how they went and how much money you've raised. Then, once you set out on your trip, you'll be able to let people know how the volunteering they helped make happen is going on your blog.

Ask people to help

Have a think about any special talents any of your friends or family members have – are they good cooks, musicians, artists, comedians, clothes makers, stylists, seamstresses or even just wildly attractive? Make a list and ask them if they'd like to help you with your fundraising – you'll find lots of people willing to get involved! It's also worth getting people to help you just with advice and ideas – the more help and support you get, the more likely you'll be to succeed.

Finally, keep in mind why you're doing it

Fundraising, especially if you're doing it on your own, can feel quite exhausting sometimes. But stick with it and keep in mind why you're doing it. You chose to volunteer because you wanted to make a real difference to underprivileged communities or fragile ecosystems, because you want to make the world a better place. Keep this passion in mind whenever you're running an event or asking people for cash – it'll make people more willing to help and support you.

College students

- Dog grooming or even just nail trims at the school. Earnings can be divided equally with the animal health department. Post signs in the neighborhood, malls, clinics, pet stores to advertise.
- Baking cookies, cakes etc; for both pets and people
- Dog walking and pet sitting services
- Contact all the pharmaceutical and food reps that your school deals with and see if they can help.
- Car wash day at the school. Wash cars for students
- Homemade cat toys with catnip inside can be sold around the school.
- If someone is brave enough to shave their head, this can raise quite a bit of money!!

Technicians working in clinics

- with the permission from your boss, you can provide nail trims or grooming for a cat or dog. Earnings can be divided equally with the clinic.
- Contact all the pharmaceutical and food reps that your clinic deals with and see if they can help.
- Homemade knit cat toys with catnip inside can be sold for \$1.00 at the front desk.
- Dog walking and pet sitting services for clients.

Always, always say thank you

Make sure you keep track of all those lovely people who have helped you, either by sponsoring you, helping organize events, donating money and so on. Then make sure you say thank-you to them and keep in touch with them while you're on your trip (don't worry, just mailing them a link to your blog is enough!). It's always worth sending people letters/emails after you get back to let them know how your trip went and what you achieved with your volunteering. All this will mean that if you ever want to do some more fundraising these people that you've been nice and polite to should be willing to help you again.

1. **Think, "who do I know?"**
Successful fundraising costs little and reaches a wide audience. Think: "who can help me?" Does a member of the family work in a large company that could sponsor you? Is there a friend who could provide a venue for a fundraising event? Build your ideas around what you already have.
2. **Keep your reasons for volunteering in mind**
A passionate desire to help people less fortunate than ourselves will bring in donations - particularly when 'face-to face' fundraising.
3. **Produce a leaflet**
Explaining your reasons for volunteering abroad and giving some background on the project you hope to join. Include this leaflet in every fundraising activity.
4. **Have a goal**
Know how much you need to raise and for every fundraising activity, assess how much you expected to raise against what you actually do. Some ideas work, others might not, but you won't repeat mistakes.
5. **Ask for specific donations**
But don't stand by them. Asking for a specific amount will give your donors a benchmark and allow you to calculate how much you need to raise from each person/organization to achieve your target. If you're asking for sponsorship, it may be an idea to go to your biggest benefactor first - people often follow the leader.
6. **Write well-targeted letters**
To individuals, and individuals within companies, asking for support.
7. **Hold an (inexpensive!) event**
And make it wacky - like the lion conservation volunteer who sat in a tub of cat-food! Draw attention to your goals, get sponsorship and give publicity to any companies who have already donated to your cause. Local press coverage can also be useful.
8. **Always offer something in return**
To every sponsor who makes a donation. This could be as simple as sending them a copy of your diary via email when you are abroad, or giving a talk when you return.
9. **Plan ahead**
To avoid missing your targets.
10. **Use your time wisely**
Fundraisers generally use as much time as they have to achieve their goals. If you are on a tight deadline, you will just be working that bit harder!

There are so many ways to find all the cash you need to take you on your travels. So don't let money get in the way - simply put your fundraising hat on and you'll be on your way in no time!