$ DIY: Local Support

When there is an event that traveling to could HELP YOUR COMMUNITY, giving people the OPPORTUNITY to support you (or someone) is a gift. Here is a brainstorm on local fundraising—please send more ideas!

1. Put a short statement of intent on jars—ask to locate those jars in local (trustworthy) retail stores.

2. Make a RAZOO or GO FUND ME and then make a ¼ sheet of card-stock (or smaller) with the LINK and a short statement of intent. On the electronic page spell out the budget—and also where the funds will go if you exceed the goal. Work that on Social media as well as your hard-copy hand-out.

3. Cookies. People will pay $2.00 for a good cookie that costs less than 50 cents to make...

4. Community dinners—even a potluck—once a month, or once a week: invite people to donate what they would pay to eat out...come together in a church basement or a home. Update folks on the campaign (could be your fundraising, or the broader issue). Event-sized lasagna and other casseroles are available in the frozen food that are healthy, tasty and cheap...BUT don’t low-ball the “ask!”

5. Movie night: it works better to ASK FOR A DONATION without saying how much (you get more, and you dodge legal problems about charging a ticket-price)... even Netflix on a good-sized TV or use of a projector and DVD can create a themed event. When was the last time you saw the legendary Jack Lemmon play the reactor operator in China Syndrome? Or Meryl Streep and Cher in Silkwood? Challenge people to bring the younger generation—make popcorn and lemonade. Pitch support!

6. Clothing exchange: comfortable place; beverages; invite / RSVP your friend to each bring a friend and a selection of nice cloths that they would like to trade for other nice clothes. Tell everyone up-front that in addition to trading clothes, this is a FUNDRAISER so bring their change jars / check books.

7. Art Auction: collect collectables (best to ask your neighbors, family, close friends or arts organization to donate objects / art). Ask another organization you are part of, that is already planning a community event if they would mind ADDING a silent auction to support your Travel Fund...that way you don’t have to organize an auction event (usually low turnout)...could be a nice add-on for another event. Silent auctions are done on paper with a starting bid specified by the art donor.

8. Pie / Date Auction: all-time best fundraiser in communities that have a high percentage of single adults...but can be set up as “Expertise date” instead of social date. DO make sure Gender is balanced and preferences of all kinds respected! Each pie is linked to a person...and then auctioned. A good auctioneer who can make it fun is key—the “date” or “expert appointment” comes with the pie, to the highest bidder. Lots of fun in the right time and place!

ALSO: plan a report-back in your community—set the time and place NOW so you can promote that NOW.