



Supporting Educational Experiences through Fundraising

Schools making their dreams come true—making fundraising simple, successful and meaningful!

Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving.

—Hank Rosso

A large yellow envelope sits on the teacher's desk. Afternoon announcements have reminded students about the special packets of catalogs and order forms going home with them that afternoon. In a few weeks, hallways will be filled with students toting giant boxes and brown cardboard will be seen through each school bus window. These are common sights in many of our schools and are the signs of fundraising! They take time, planning and commitment on the part of the parents and teachers who orchestrate these events. These labors of love enable funds to flow into our schools from parents, grandparents, neighbors and co-workers and help support technology, books, celebrations and educational experiences for our children.

I have heard several accounts from teachers on the "joy of giving" they have experienced through successful fundraising events in their own schools. Teachers have raised funds to defray the cost of buses, purchase Tremont T-shirts for their class, fund special projects that tie into their Tremont trip, pay for special presenters or help reduce the cost of the programming. Ideas are abundant and many are relatively simple.

Here are a few ideas from teachers who have recently visited Tremont.

- "We have used the same fundraiser for many years. We sell wreaths at Christmas time. We get them from Mingo's Evergreen Products, Inc., based in Calais, Maine. Their fresh balsam wreaths are high quality. When the wreaths arrive, we have an assembly line of kids who unpack, fluff the balsam, assemble the wreaths and put them into individual big, clear garbage bags. The product is excellent and the Mingo family company is extremely helpful and dependable. Last year we sold 400 wreaths and made about \$2,700. It is a clean, healthy project that makes our mid-

dle school smell great for at least two weeks every year!"

<http://www.thinkchristmas.com>

- "We sell suckers from Ozark Delight. You can choose the flavors you want to sell. One case has 8 bags of 60 suckers. We sell the suckers for \$0.75 each. We make \$222.34 per case!" 1-800-334-8991 or <http://www.ozarkdelight.com>

- "We have done a pancake breakfast (sponsored by Applebee's) and a doughnut fundraiser. The pancake breakfast is 100% profit as the restaurant provides the food, the facility, and cooks. The school provided manpower to serve the food, bus tables, and wash dishes. We used students to serve and adults to supervise and wash dishes."

- "The doughnut fundraiser is the easiest to conduct. Krispy Kreme has the forms on their Web site. All I had to do was call them, fax an agreement form with tax exemption number, and then call them with the final order and delivery date. We gave students the order forms, set a 2-week window for taking orders and money (pre-pay fundraiser), and collected orders and money. We basically cleared \$2.75 for every \$5 box of doughnuts sold." www.krispykreme.com

- "We sell doughnuts from Krispy Kreme but what we do different is give "prizes" of Tremont stuff depending on how many you sell. For example, if a student sells ten boxes, they get a water bottle, 15 boxes is a short sleeve T-shirt, 20 a long sleeve T-shirt, and 25 is a hooded sweatshirt. We order the stuff on the bulk order form and then they get the stuff when we get to Tremont. Works like a charm! We usually raise enough - that it is the only fundraiser we do!"

- Worried about your house getting rolled by toilet paper during the Halloween season? Buy Ghost Insurance! If the homeowner bought the Ghost Insurance and their house gets "rolled," the students clean it up.

Other fundraising ideas:

- Imagine an adult spelling bee where

parent teams pay a registration fee plus an admission fee is charged for the audience. Another great idea along the spelling theme is a Spell-A-Thon. Students are sponsored for each word they can spell correctly. I am sure many parents would appreciate the idea of Fundraising Insurance. Parents pay a \$25 fee and are given a card that exempts them from contributing to any school fundraising events for six months! Check out more ideas at www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/

- Looking for Earth friendly fundraisers? You can sell backpacks made out of recycled plastic bottles from www.earthpack.com or sell reusable shopping bags (I have some and I love them!) from www.environmentbags.com. Encourage folks to plant a tree by ordering from www.touchofnature.com. All of these Web sites have information about how to get started with a fundraiser of your own.

- One of my favorites is from www.lightbulbsamerica.com/administrators.asp. Schools can sell compact fluorescent light bulbs as a fundraiser and help the environment. The Web site is great and has loads of information about the importance of using these light bulbs. It even has a calculator that calculates the amount of money you will save, the amount of coal you won't use and the amount of carbon you won't be putting into the atmosphere by replacing your incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent. All order forms and fundraising information can be found on their Web site.

I hope that some of these ideas will be helpful in funding your school's adventure to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Have other great ideas? I know you do! Please send them to me at Jennifer@gsmiit.org! We will share them with teachers attending our Teacher Escape Weekend (September 28-30, 2007) and put them on our Web site. Happy Fundraising!

—Jennifer Love,
School Program Director