

## Youth Fundraiser Ideas

### Easy, Cheap Fundraisers

- ❖ Firewood:
  - Ask a church member or neighbor (or several people) who has recently withdrawn trees from their land if your church youth group can have it to sell as a fundraiser. People are especially eager to give it away if it is taking up space in the yard but has not been split. They donate the wood, they you split the wood and haul it to the church to sell it.
  
- ❖ Lawn Donkey or Flamingo Flock:
  - Create a Donkey from various materials or purchase lawn flamingoes. Advertise at church. The church members pay a predetermined price to have the donkey or flamingoes placed on another church member's lawn. The member who received the donkey or flamingoes must pay to have them removed. They can then pay an additional fee to have them sent to another member's home. If the member chooses not to send the flock on, the group chooses the next person on the list. Commonly, the items are removed and placed on a Sunday afternoon or morning. This fundraiser requires a bit more time of the youth leader or youth who drive.
  
- ❖ Rent-a-Youth:
  - Advertise at church for members to "rent" a youth member to do specific tasks for them. On a predetermined date have the youth arrive at the church member's homes or at the church and the youth does the task set to them and the church member makes a donation for the work done. This can be done several times. The tasks can range from mowing the lawn and yard work to cleaning the house, helping out with special projects, painting, or preparing for a church event.
  
- ❖ Car Wash during Church services:
  - This is a great money maker. Advertise a few weeks before the date of event. Before church begins have a table set up where the church members turn in their keys to the youth advisor and where they can make their donation. During the service have the adult advisors pull the cars around to the washing stations and the youth wash the cars for the church members. The church members will have a clean car when they come out of the church and usually don't have to spend any additional time that they would normally have to wait to have their car washed at a local carwash.
  
- ❖ Recycle:
  - Recycle all year long! Put out special bins to collect cans and bottles from various church events. Also advertise that church members can bring their cans and bottles to the church and the youth members can take them to the recycling center periodically.

- ❖ Mother's Day Flowers:
  - Order carnations or roses in a large quantity and make arrangements with cello wrapping and water vials and greens. Some can be made with vases with additional cost. Set up a booth near the street where the church sits and sell them to the public and to church members. Check Costco for roses and carnations. Contact a local florist to see if can purchase greens at a discounted price.
  
- ❖ Christmas Wrap (3 fundraisers)
  - Set up a table at church for the weeks before Christmas and the youth can wrap the members' presents for a donation.
  - Contact the local Barnes and Noble to schedule a time for your youth group to come and wrap presents. Barnes and Noble will provide your youth group with wrapping paper for free. The Barnes and Noble customers have to opportunity to visit your wrapping station and will make a donation for having their items wrapped.
  - Contact any local store such as Circuit City, Wal\*mart, Target, Best Buy, etc. and obtain permission to set up a booth for gift wrapping. Create a price list for various size packages or ask for a donation. Most stores will allow your group to come and wrap gifts.
  
- ❖ Baby Sitting Night:
  - Baby sit the church members' children around the holiday season so that the members can have time to Christmas shop or have an evening out. Arrange for either the mature youth to arrive at the church members' homes or have the children arrive at church where the youth have gathered and have a large babysitting party in your church's nursery or Sunday school rooms. Offer snacks and movies and games for the children. Have them bring their favorite game or toy to share and pillow in case they get tired. A predetermined price can be charged or a donation can be taken. The parents of the children will love this fundraiser and will be extremely grateful.
  
- ❖ Donation Certificates:
  - When you receive a donation from a church member or community member give them a certificate expressing your thanks. Include their name, amount given, youth group and name of church, and signatures from your pastor and youth advisors. Use a certificate template on a computer and use a cardstock with background.
  
- ❖ Rummage Sale:
  - Coordinate with your rummage sale supervisor or committee. Offer to have the youth work during the rummage sale for a monetary donation decided by the committee. This could include setting up, tearing down, and working during the rummage sale hours.

## Medium Work and Organization Fundraisers

- ❖ Apple Pie Fundraiser:
  - The youth come together on a Saturday or Sunday morning and make apple pies with crumble topping and apple crisps. It is also a good idea to ask a few church members if they would like to help out that day. Advertise a few weeks ahead of time in the church newsletter and bulletin, also by telling family and friends. Spend the day making the pies and crisps; deliver them uncooked so they can be frozen for later use. A recommended price is \$5.00 per pie/crisp. Contact the local grocery stores and ask them to donate or offer a discount for apples and other ingredients used to make the pies and crisps. If you have a local orchard, ask if they would donate apples to your church. Use throw away pie tins or pre-made pie crusts. This fundraiser tends to yield excellent results and is a fun time to work together.
  
- ❖ Cut-a-thon:
  - Contact church members who cut hair professionally or are skilled at cutting hair. Ask them if they would participate in a Sunday afternoon fundraiser cutting hair. Contacting the local community college cosmetology school is also a good way to acquire beauticians. Set up stations in the social hall or out doors on the patio and set up a check in table where patrons check in and can make a donation. You can also have a recommended donation such as \$5 a hair cut and it is up to the patron to decide how much they will donate. Advertising in the local paper is also a great way to attract community members as well as your church members.
  
- ❖ Caramel Corn and/or Caramel Apples:
  - Gather your youth group on a Sunday morning and make caramel apples and/or caramel corn and package in cello bags to sell to church members. Including peanuts in your caramel corn is a great touch. Great times to sell caramel corn are before Super Bowl, Halloween, and during the Fall Season.
  
- ❖ Spoken Word Night:
  - Host a Spoken Word Night where church members can read poetry, perform skits, and comedy sketches. This could be a free event and the youth could sell home made desserts to the audience and offer complimentary coffee.
  
- ❖ Super Bowl Subs:
  - Have your youth make individual submarine sandwiches for your church members to purchase and take home for their Super Bowl Sunday lunch. Collect orders ahead of time by having members fill out an order form selecting from the various meats, cheeses, and vegetables (lettuce, tomatoes, onion) the youth will offer. Also, make extras for purchase for those who didn't order and would like to still purchase.

## More Extensive Fundraisers

- ❖ All Around the World Dinner:
  - The All Around the World Dinner is a great fundraiser that includes meals from all around the world. Everyone in the youth group (works well in pairs) picks a country e.g. China. They then decorate a room to represent that country and make foods honoring it (stir fry, wonton soup, etc.). Pre-tickets can be sold and participants travel from room to room sampling the various food, creating a meal. Some locations are: Hawaii, Italy, China, Thailand, Holland and Mexico.
  
- ❖ Dinner and Silent Dessert Auction:
  - Create a simple meal, such as spaghetti and garlic bread with salad. Pre-sell tickets on the Sundays before the dinner date and sell them at the door. Pre-selling tickets will help get a good idea of how many to cook for. Have each youth make a dessert or two and ask for a few volunteers to make a dessert to donate (you can offer the dinner for free for those you select to make a dessert). Auction off the desserts in a silent auction. The desserts can be sold to an entire table or to an individual and can also be taken home.
  
- ❖ Chili Cook Off:
  - This fundraiser can be set of in various ways. One way is to have church members sign up to make their “signature” chili recipe and present it at the “Great Chili Cook Off.” Other church members pay to attend the event. They will taste test the various chili recipes and their admittance fee includes a bowl of their favorite chili, cornbread, and a dessert the youth group decides to provide (generally, ice cream). The attendees then vote on their favorite and certificates or ribbons are presented to the top 3 or 4 participants. This event also builds your church community and can get more people involved in activities.
  
- ❖ Pancake Breakfast:
  - Have a fundraiser pancake breakfast on a Saturday or Sunday and advertise to the community. Include juice and coffee and a breakfast meat. It is a great idea to hold this on a day when there is a high school sporting event, festival, or parade near your church to attract the community. Costco will donate the pancake mix for free and may give you a discount on sausage or bacon.
  
- ❖ Quilt Raffle:
  - Have your youth group choose a simple pattern and make a quilt to raffle off. A church member or two might be quilters and can be asked to assist in the process. Sell the raffle tickets for a month or so ahead of time to church members and family and friends. Have the drawing at a church event such as a picnic or Rally Sunday or Youth Sunday. Post in the bulletin and church newsletter the winner of the quilt. Remnant fabric stores are a great place to find cheaper fabric of good quality.

List compiled by Julianne Wood and other members of the Youth Roundtable.