+ Finding Support for Your Mission Experience +

+ Mine your personal support network +

Make a list of who could support you:
People are supportive of missions! You probably have more people who might support you than you think! ☺ It can't hurt to ask. List who you can **ask personally for encouragement, ideas, help, prayers, donations …**

Family members: _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

Friends and classmates: _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

Social media friends: _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

Any one you supported on mission trips: _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

Friends from church: _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

Professors / Employers: _____ _____
_____ _____ _____
_____ _____ _____

Tell your story in a support request:
Write up a support request – put together in letter form and also put on social media. Add pictures and a location map.

- Explain where you will be going and what you will be doing and why you want to be part of this experience.
- Tie your story to your current passions and/or future vocational goals and desires.
- Share how funds will be used and why support will make a difference. Include a request for prayer support.
- Let people know your deadline to receive funds and the best ways to get funds to you.

+ Think of groups to approach +

Reach out to ask potentially interested groups – be willing to share your mission experience before and after you go.

- LWML groups at church / Bible study groups at church / mission groups at church
- Sunday School offerings or door offering at your home church / chapel offerings at Christian grade school
- Local mission or heritage societies

+ Dig around for other support +

Consider online crowdfunding:

Set up a site to share your desire to serve and share God's love abroad.

- Go to www.CrowdsUnite.com to compare programs – find one that lets you keep funds raised if you don't reach goal
- Go Fund Me www.GoFundMe.com (7.9% fee)
- You Caring www.YouCaring.com (0% fee for mission trips)
- Fund My Travel www.fundmytravel.com (5% fee)

Keep in mind that funds raised through crowdfunding are likely to be considered taxable income.

Consider creative fundraising projects:

Do fundraiser projects on your own that fit your time and your passions – get friends to help you!
If a Thrivent member, apply for Thrivent Action Team seed money to fund materials for a fundraiser.

Potential projects -

- Organize a sale: T-shirt sale - Fun sticker sale - Rummage sale
- Offer services: Yardwork or housework - High end baked goods - Chocolate chip cookie baking & delivery
- Host a group craft or painting event: Canvas – Rocks – Pallets
- Make a meal (for donations) at your church: Advent - Lenten – Easter – Pancake – Spaghetti
- Host a fundraising party: Pizza night – Dessert night – Game night – Sports event – Trivia night
- Check out businesses for percentage of profits (Krispy Kreme, Pizza Ranch, Nothing Bundt Cake, etc.)

Seek out grant applications on campus:

- **Luke Scholar Grant**: If you are a Luke Scholar, there is a grant available to you that can be used for an experience abroad.
- **Acts 1:8 Students in Mission Grant**: Contact Jen Janousek (mission resource person for campus) for grant guidelines and application form.

+ Keep in mind these fundraising best practices +

- ✓ Any fundraising asking for CUNE student/campus community support should be cleared with SLO and checked with Student Senate first. This is to avoid overlap or conflict with other groups/activities/events.
- ✓ Campus mission team fundraising projects that would reach out into the community need to be cleared with the Institutional Advancement office. Again, to avoid any overlapping asks to businesses by campus.
- ✓ Try to reach out to your home community outside of Seward to spread out your support since Concordia tends to ask for a lot within the Seward community.
- ✓ Consider tithing some of the funds raised to help the mission organization you will be serving!
- ✓ Follow up on any letters or social media asks with personal calls and conversations.
- ✓ Always thank your supporters – personal notes, presentations before and after experiences, personal face-to-face sharing, summary letters, etc.