



how to have fun raising funds!

Here you will find a simple five-step guide to having fun raising funds for IMC (or any other charity, for that matter).

This pack also contains a great bucketful of ideas to choose from, just in case you need some help with creative inspiration.

Let us know of any event you are planning, and don't hesitate to ask us if you need any help.

Tell your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues about the work with children and young people in Colombia.

And most importantly, have fun.

Enjoy!

the five–step guide

step 1 choose an event

Look at the list and decide what kind of event might work for you. Are you aiming at your local community, your school, your church, or business colleagues?

step 2 decide place and time

Where and when would be the best for most people? Would it help to do this alongside another activity, to which people are coming?

step 3 involve some helpers

Who could help you out with some of the details of planning and preparation? Share out any tasks that need to be done. Even if it is a solo sponsored event, you need some people to cheer you on!

step 4 order promotional material

Phone the IMC office to order some of our leaflets so you can give them to people who express a real interest in the charity. And if you need it, order the dvd documentary to show some extracts. We can also supply you with forms for sponsored events.

step 5 publicise it!

Let people know it is happening! Put a notice in the local paper, or church magazine, or posters in your school, or workplace, or local shops and community centre.

and finally...

On the day, make sure you have all you need and are ready in advance. Make sure everyone has fun. Collect any money raised and write out a cheque payable to “Links International (IMC)”, and send it with a covering note to:

In Ministry to Children, Life Church, 62 Station Road, Petersfield, GU32 3ES

It really is that simple!

event ideas!

Something for everyone! There are many different ideas here to use for fun days, sponsored events, everyday activities, and exclusive occasions.

mayhem and marketstalls

fun day

Good in a local community where you know people and they live reasonably close together. Arrange a day full of fun activities (fairground stalls, games with prizes, tombola, face painting, bouncy castle, etc.). Either charge for entrance, or a charge for each activity. Takings to charity. You could try to include the following...

half a mile of tuppence!

...on the pavement or playground or wherever you are holding your fun event, mark out half a mile on the ground with white masking tape. It doesn't have to be a straight line, it can turn back on itself, or even make a design! Then start the line by placing two pence pieces down next to each other to cover the line. Encourage every passer by to add to the line throughout the day and watch it grow! At the end you will be surprised when you add up the takings!

handmade gift cards

Some arty people are just gifted in this way. Cards for every occasion... birthdays, thank-yous, get well soon, etc. Make a batch and price them up. People will usually pay well for quality handmade cards. They look so much nicer than the overpriced printed ones you buy in the shops! Don't forget to keep track of your outlays, but instead of buying lots of raw materials, you can usually recycle used gift cards and papers. Profit to charity.

homemade foodstuffs

People always like a pot of jam or marmalade, homemade cakes etc. Have a cooking blitz (encourage others to do likewise). Put a label on the jar with the charity logo. Sell to your friends. Either setup your market stall at the fun day, or why not put the cakes and preserves out for sale when people have coffee after church? After the cost of ingredients, all the profit goes to charity.

short and sweet

balloon breezer

Great event for a fun day! Offer a prize for the balloon to travel furthest in 2 weeks. You need to buy in 500 quality balloons and a cylinder of helium. Each balloon needs a postcard sized tag, on one side print: "If found, please write your name and location and post it". On the other side put your own address. Each tag has a unique number which corresponds with the purchaser (keep a list!). Sell each for £2 (half to charity), and fill them (but not too full) and keep them under a net. Once all are sold, make an announcement and release them!

penny pot

Try keeping a penny pot (or £1 pot!) for all that loose change. When it's full, tot it up, and send it off, knowing it will go much further as pesos.

pancake race

Not just for pancake day! Someone suggested this, but I'm not sure how to do it, so I'll leave it to your imagination. I'm sure you can work something out!.

simply sponsored

sleepout

Great to do with young people, in a safe outdoor environment, such as churchyard or school grounds. Make sure a couple of adults are also on hand all night. Provide some clean cardboard boxes, old newspaper, plastic sheeting etc. Now try bedding down, and get a taste of what it might be like to be a child on the streets.

marathon

Find five runners to enter into the national or regional marathon run. Get them to train and to raise sponsors throughout the year. Provide them each with a bright coloured shirt with the logo printed large to run in on the day. Sponsorship raised (minus any entry fee) goes to charity.

abseil

Set a date for a supervised abseil off a high building, and invite participants. Each participant has to raise sponsors for their abseil. Have outdoor sports instructors (or army instructors) to run the event on the day. All takings to charity.

shave

Cut that coiff! Goatee or bushy, think it's time to shave off that facial hair? Don't stop there! How about a clean scalp? Aim for 200 sponsors at £5 a time, and beat the current record of £800!

walk

So you like the countryside and fresh air? Take a solo hike, or get a group along. Pick your route well, with stop off points or a vehicle on hand to provide support (especially if you have young walkers). Longest UK route so far has been Hadrian's Wall. Highest world route so far has been the Machu Picchu trail in Peru!

...and

Choose any sport or pasttime! Perhaps you're a good swimmer, or kayaker, or cyclist, or chess player, or sudoku solver etc. What could you set as a challenge? Could you go head-to-head with another person?

...or

How about a sponsored bus ride on local or shire services? Now that's not too taxing! Or tube ride round London? See how many stations you can do in a day. (For doing all of them, you have to start about four in the morning!)

bigtime

How about persuading a local vehicle repair shop to sponsor our minivan on location? We already have a farm sponsoring horticultural and agricultural vocation projects. Any business may be willing to invest. Can you find enough inspiration?

chic and classy

choir or concert

Find professional musicians (pianist / guitarist / violinist / vocalist), or even some top notch music students from a local academy, to put on a charitable concert charging no personal expense. Persuade the venue owners to let you have it at a charitable rate. Publicise and charge for each ticket. All takings (minus any outlay for the venue) to charity.

evening dinner

Book out a local restaurant venue for a private function, and choose a good menu. Get the tables subtly dressed with colours of the Colombian flag, and

choose some appropriate music. Invite a speaker to introduce the work of the charity, in a short presentation before the meal begins. You can charge a premium for tickets to take a profit. Otherwise, just charge restaurant rates, and use the event for promoting the charity, and encouraging people to sponsor a child or worker.

valentine's special

Once a year, really, but the evening dinner idea can be done with a romantic mood! (Colombians are very romantic people!)

wedding festival

Another romantic idea, a celebration of true love! Needs careful coordinator. Book the church. Invite married couples to put on display their wedding outfits (you may need some tailor's manequins), along with a short hint of their love story as a couple. Dress the venue with flowers and tokens, and play love songs. Sell tickets for people to view the exhibition, proceeds to charity. Perhaps even persuade someone to sell off their outfit, once it is all over.

skills auction

Invite all the neighbours around for an evening hog roast, but prepare them in advance for an auction! Encourage each of them to offer a skill or service to be auctioned. Almost everyone has something they can offer. Here are some ideas to get started...

- someone who enjoys baking could offer to make and decorate a child's birthday cake
- a person who works in the local beauty salon or hairdressers could offer to do one session
- a gardener could offer four hours (or more) of their time
- one evening child-minding so the parents can go out
- automobile full wash, shine and valet (if you have the skill to do it!)
- offer to host a children's party for, say, 10 children aged 7 to 9
- use of a holiday home for a week or two
- putting up shelves, or repairing cupboards (say two hours of time, or one item of furniture fixed)
- accredited electricians or plumbers could offer their skills
- to mount and frame a picture
- a photographer could offer one studio session
- etc.

Make a list of what each person is offering at no charge. However, no-one gets the service for free! On the day you auction off each of the skills or services offered. For example, the offer of a child-minder for one evening goes to the highest bidder! A good auctioneer sets a minimum price and can encourage animated bidding. All proceeds to charity.

art gallery

We may not all have the style of Botero (famous Colombian painter), but there are many people with artistic flair. Why not encourage them to offer just one painting or sculpture for charity? Find an appropriate secure venue to show the art pieces, and publicise the dates on a printed postcard well in advance. You may need to borrow table lamps and extension leads. Take two days before to set up. Also make sure you have people on hand to curate throughout the dates of the viewing (make a schedule with the artists and volunteers). You can have a side bar lounge for coffee and chill-out. Sold items may be collected once the gallery is closed.

everyday event

wash and valet

Now, everyone likes their pride and joy vehicle to be sparkling clean. There are two good ways to get a line of customers. One is to set up in an easy venue (private car park at church, school, or business) on a day it is well attended. The other is to take bookings, and turn up. For example at church on Sunday, find out who will be at home the following Saturday morning. Book them in with an approximate time. Now you just need a small team of eager workers with bucket, sponge, chamois, vacuum etc. to drop round or drive by and do the all the customers in the neighbourhood. Make sure you charge a fair fee, and set a rate for wash only or for wash and valet. And make sure your workers know how to make it gleam!

garage sale

Clear out the loft and garage. Get all those unused items out of the place! Sell them to the neighbours! And if you find anything of particular value...

antiques auction

...get it valued and take it down to the local auction rooms. Decide the percentage of amount raised to go to charity.

social evening

Informative talks can be given at social gatherings in churches, schools, rotary clubs etc. People like to hear stories and see lives being transformed. Use happy photos and tell about personal accounts of some of the children. However, do this in sensitive way that respects the child concerned. After all it is their story, not yours. Provide enough information and context for people to grasp the big picture, but you don't have to tell the whole story first time around! Leave them wanting more for your next visit to talk. As you leave...

info packs

...make available some information packs giving summary of the key information, a few ideas as to how they can support in prayer or by making one-off donations or regular sponsorships. And of course, how they can get in touch for you if they want another presentation done in their locality.

once in a lifetime

legacy gifts

Get to know the local undertakers or funeral service. Ask to put a sensitively worded leaflet in their parlour about celebrating the life of a loved one and giving life to others. Perhaps some information in the window too. Many people will respond positively.

These ideas are just a start!

Don't forget to ring the IMC office on 01730 231400 if you need any items:

We have promotional brochures with response forms, which are for giving to people who express a sincere interest in becoming a supporter of the charity. (Note: we don't do "read and discard" type leaflets.)

In addition, we can provide sponsor forms and gift aid forms, or send you a copy of the dvd documentary to use.

Also, if you need a speaker, we have a few trustees and volunteer representatives who might be available to come to your locality, and are free and willing.

Now go! Be creative and have fun!

Paul Stockley, April 2009.