

# uganda fundraising details, tips & sample letters.

In a daily devotional we read... “True faith is not by sight. Sight is reasoning. A step of faith often leads us through darkness, where we end up developing our gifts. Yet God always makes a way.” We wanted to share this with you, as we know each of us will have to step out in faith during this fundraising process. We all may face a few challenges along the way, develop a few new gifts of fundraising and sharing our story, so please be encouraged... when God calls you, He will make a way. As we often say, you just have to have faith & a plan. That said, here are a few tools to help with the process.

## Important Fundraising Details

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Provide clear information for folks on how to donate.
  - There are 2 ways to donate:
    1. Via Check or Money Order payable to “Oasis Church”
      - The donor **MUST** include “Uganda 2010 for YOUR NAME” in the memo section of the check in order for you to get credit
      - Donor should mail check/money order to YOUR ADDRESS (*Please do not have donors mail checks directly to the Oasis Administrative Offices, but instead be sent directly to you. Thanks!*)
      - You should then turn in your checks/money orders to Karla Daniels on a weekly basis by Saturday of each week
    2. Online Via Credit Card at OasisLA.org – **BUT THE DONOR MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:**
      - Go to “Life @ Oasis” & click on “Donate Now”
      - Enter donation amount
      - Select “Social Justice Projects” in the category pull down menu
      - Type “Uganda Trip for [YOUR NAME]” in the “Notes” section
      - *Please note: All credit card transactions must include a 4% processing fee*
      - *FYI – If a donor makes a contribution on your behalf via oasisla.org and follows the above instructions you will receive a notification via email within a few business days in order to keep track of your total donations*
2. Donations are tax deductible, but only if payments are made out to “Oasis Church”, not if they make out checks to you; receipts will be mailed to donors by Oasis for tax purposes by January 31, 2011
3. Oasis will not accept cash donations, all donations must be made via check, money order or credit card to “Oasis Church” – **AND ALL DONATIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**
4. Remember the total cost of the trip is due no later than Thursday, September 2, 2010 and it is ultimately your responsibility, so have faith and a plan and don’t forget to...
  - Stay on top of fundraising – email, post on facebook, twitter, call – just reach out daily to folks
  - Reach out to teammates to join in a fundraising effort or to brainstorm ideas
  - Connect with your leaders early in the process & throughout the time for guidance & encouragement, especially if you are having any challenges – avoid last minute surprises for you & them
  - Most importantly, **PRAY** & spend time with God. Here are 2 scriptures to help you:
    1. “Delight yourself in the Lord & he will give you the desires of your heart.” –Psalm 37:4
    2. “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you have received it, & it will be yours.” –Mark 11:24

## Helpful resources to use:

- ◆ Watoto’s website: [www.watoto.com](http://www.watoto.com)
- ◆ Last year’s team website: [www.oasisugandateam.cfsites.org](http://www.oasisugandateam.cfsites.org)
- ◆ Sample fundraising websites: [www.uganda2009.cfsites.org](http://www.uganda2009.cfsites.org) and [www.uganda2008.cfsites.org](http://www.uganda2008.cfsites.org)
- ◆ Photos from past trips: [www.flickr.com/photos/richarla/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/richarla/sets/)
- ◆ Slideshow from 2009 Uganda trip: <http://www.youtube.com/jetplanepilot#p/u/8/N5wFKCqYvSo>
- ◆ Slideshow from 2009 Uganda trip: <http://www.youtube.com/jetplanepilot#p/u/10/gUQj74C1AQI>
- ◆ History fact sheets in team packet: History of Uganda, History of Africa’s Longest Running War
- ◆ Book about a former girl child soldier: *Girl Soldier* by Faith J. H. McDonnell and Grace Akallo
- ◆ Fundraising samples letters: Attached in this packet

## Individual Fundraising Ideas

1. Raise awareness & funds by sending a letter via mail &/or email
  - Address the letter &/or email personally; mass emails & letters often get lost or left unread – you can use a template letter, but adjust it slightly to fit the person you are sending it to
  - Make it visually appealing
  - Keep it short & simple, but be informative, including the following key info:
    - What you are doing
    - When you are doing it
    - Why you want to do it
    - What they can do to help & how they can do it
  - Have someone proofread the letter or email for you to avoid typos
2. Reach out to everyone you meet, everywhere you go – friends, family, colleagues, landlord, doctors, dentist, waiters, neighbors, people at the gym, people at the Starbucks or Coffee Bean, etc; basically just bring it up in conversations with folks everywhere you go - you never know who you will run into and who will come forward to help (if nothing else you will be raising awareness); maybe make a small card or flier to handout to folks with info on what you are doing & how to donate
3. Set up a fundraising website to share info, post photos, provide links to resources & to donate
  - Free website hosting for fundraising at [www.cfsites.org](http://www.cfsites.org); they have easy to use templates so you don't have to be a web designer, just have very basic computer skills or have a friend help
  - Example of fundraising site used for last year's Uganda Trip [www.uganda2009.cfsites.org](http://www.uganda2009.cfsites.org) (note: this has some customization but something similar can be done using their templates and you could create something with links to Oasis, Watoto, etc. and a direct link for folks to donate at [oasisla.org](http://oasisla.org) with instructions on how to donate)
  - We have photos of past trips you can use, simply go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/richarla/sets/> and look for photos from Uganda
  - You can also use the slideshows from our past Uganda trips, simply go to <http://www.youtube.com/jetplanepilot#p/u/8/N5wFKCqYvSo> - 2009 Uganda Trip  
<http://www.youtube.com/jetplanepilot#p/u/10/gUQj74C1AQI> - 2008 Uganda Trip
4. Use social networking sites to spread the word – post it on facebook, twitter, etc and include a link or info on how folks can donate; also break it down for folks & show them how any amount can help (i.e. “If 100 folks donate \$35 each, I will reach my goal” or something to that effect)
5. Ask friends, family and/or colleagues to help host a fundraising event to broaden your reach (i.e. a party with Ugandan focus & donations required at the door, a raffle, a friendly competition, etc.)
6. Don't be afraid to follow up with folks – most people want to be involved in some way, but they put it off; remind them of the need, provide updates of your fundraising status & don't let them miss out on this opportunity to be part of making a difference
7. Connect with your teammates on group fundraising & to brainstorm creative ideas
8. And of course, as mentioned above, take time to pray and spend time with God daily

## Group Fundraising Ideas

Over the coming weeks & months we will all be fundraising individually and while each of us is responsible for the cost of our own participation on the team, we want to think of this as a group effort. We are a team with players who each have amazing talents and gifts. Let's use those talents and creativity to come up with one or many group fundraising projects for this trip. Here are some possible ideas...

### Group events:

- Comedy show
- Concert
- Service Auction (e.g. I'll clean your pool, give you dance lessons, wash your car) for the highest bid
- Competition - Amazing Race LA, basketball game, soccer game
- Auction - Ask businesses and our contacts to donate items for auction
- Restaurant events (e.g. they give a portion of proceeds of the night's sales to Oasis)
- Raffle - Get local businesses to donate raffle prizes in exchange for advertising at the event
- Carnival – Fun festival with a “Dunk Alex” tank

These are just a few ideas. Now... let's brainstorm together!

Please see samples of 4 fundraising letters below (2 for new folks, 2 for returning folks). Feel free to use any part of the letters below, mix & match info to fit your style & needs, or simply use them as is only personalizing the letter slightly for you & this trip.

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### **Sample Letter #1: (A First Time Sample)**

Dear [Name],

I am writing to send you a long overdue update on my life here in Los Angeles! I have been overwhelmingly blessed by God's provision and blessing this past year and would love to extend the opportunity for you to be a part of a new venture I will be undertaking in November.

This fall, my church in Los Angeles, Oasis Church, will go beyond its local community and will be sending a team to Uganda to work alongside Watoto. Watoto is an amazing organization that focuses on rescuing children who have been orphaned due to AIDS and civil war with the hope of raising them as future leaders of Uganda. Watoto provides holistic, residential care for orphaned and vulnerable children with the core vision to... Rescue a Child, Raise a Leader and Rebuild a Nation.

Oasis sends a team annually to partner with Watoto and help them in their efforts. This year our team will be participating in a building project and, most importantly, sharing God's love with the people of Uganda.

I would love to extend the opportunity for you to partner with me in any of the following ways:

1. Support in prayer – for me, my teammates, Watoto, and the people of Uganda
2. Help raise awareness – pass this email [or letter] along to your friends & family
3. Financial support – make a donation on my behalf. I need to raise \$3,500 by [date] to participate, and your kind donation would be humbly appreciated. No amount is too small or too big.

If you would like to make a donation you may make it via:

1. Check payable to "Oasis Church" and mail it to me at [insert your address]. Please write in the memo section "Uganda Trip for [YOUR NAME]"
2. Donate online at [www.OasisLA.org](http://www.OasisLA.org). If you decide to donate online here are a few instructions to help you along the process:
  - Go to "Life @ Oasis" & click on "Donate Now"
  - Enter donation amount
  - Select "Social Justice Projects" in the category pull down menu
  - Type "Uganda Trip for YOUR NAME" in the "Notes" section
  - Please note: All credit card transactions will be charged a 4% processing fee

You may also feel free to contact me anytime at [telephone #]. It would be lovely to not only talk to you about my upcoming trip, but to catch up with you as well! Thanks for your ongoing support, prayers and love.

Thank you & God Bless,

[Your Name]

P.S. Please note all donations are tax deductible. Thanks!

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## Sample Letter #2: (A First Time Sample)

Dear [Name],

As many of you know, I am so excited about my upcoming Social Justice trip to Uganda this November with my church, Oasis Church. It will truly be a life changing experience and I feel so blessed for this opportunity.

Below is a link to a website that I created to help with my fundraising efforts. This website provides information about the organizations I will be partnering with for this mission, why I want to participate, and information on how to donate.

**[Sample website: [www.uganda2008.cfsites.org](http://www.uganda2008.cfsites.org)] Please check it out!**

In order to participate I need to raise \$3,500 by September 2, 2010, and cannot do it without your help! No amount is too small or too BIG!

I hope through my efforts I will not only raise money for this trip and all it entails, but that I will help raise visibility and awareness for the need in Uganda and the great work being done by ministries like Watoto and Oasis Church. If you have family or friends that you would like to share this with, please feel free to pass along this email and the link to my website.

I saw a quote recently that truly sums up why I want to embark on this journey... "My hope is to leave the world a bit better than when I got here." - Jim Henson

That is my hope too, and my mission.

In Christ,

**[Your Name]**

P.S. Please note all donations are tax deductible. Thanks!

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### Sample Letter #3: (A Returning Trip Sample)

Dear [Name],

I want to thank you for your support for my trip to **Uganda** last year - financially, with prayers, helping me spread the word, etc. It was truly a life changing experience. I want to share a slideshow so you can see what you helped us accomplish.

**[Sample link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUQj74C1AQI>]**

Well, I have **GOOD NEWS** - I have decided to go back to Uganda with our church this November. That said, I have to raise \$3,500 again this year and need **YOUR HELP**. No amount is too small or too **BIG**!

I know times are tight for many right now, for me as well, but I also know that if God has called me to do something, then His provision will come to see me through. It's pretty amazing how He works.

I created a website again this year to provide you with more info about Uganda, my story, photos and how to donate. You may also donate online through our church's website at [www.oasisla.org](http://www.oasisla.org) - **HOWEVER**, you **MUST** enter "Uganda Trip Donation for **[Your Name]**" in the special instructions section for it to count towards my trip.

Check out my website for more details:

**[Sample Link: <http://uganda2009.cfsites.org/>]**

Also, please help me spread the word by sharing this website link with other family, friends, co-workers, church members, etc.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**P.S. Please note all donations are tax deductible. Thanks!**

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## Sample Letter #4: (A Returning Trip Sample)

Dear [Name],

I am writing to tell you about a social justice trip that I will be participating in this November! My church in Los Angeles, Oasis Church ([www.oasisla.org](http://www.oasisla.org)), has partnered with the amazing organization, Watoto ([www.watoto.org](http://www.watoto.org)) in Uganda. Watoto provides holistic, residential care for orphaned and vulnerable children with the core vision to...

Rescue a Child, Raise a Leader and Rebuild a Nation.

Oasis sends a team annually to partner with Watoto and help them in their efforts. This year our team will be participating in a building project and, most importantly, sharing God's love with the people of Uganda.

[Last year], I had the privilege of going on my [first] social justice trip. I had the intention of going to change lives in Uganda, and unexpectedly my life was changed forever! It has changed my outlook, my relationships with others, my purpose, my prayer life and most importantly my relationship with Jesus. I saw the huge impact our church and Watoto are making in the lives of the orphans and widows and it was absolutely incredible! The people were so joyful and thankful! After the trip I felt a calling for social justice, and can't imagine not going back!

I share this news with you hoping that you will be encouraged by news from the Body of Christ and to ask you to prayerfully consider supporting me. I am seeking prayer and financial support for my short-term social justice experience.

In order to make this vision a reality, I need to raise a total of \$3,500. If you sense God is leading you to support this ministry effort financially, you may donate one of the following ways:

- Return the enclosed pre-addressed envelope and response slip by [insert date here] and make your check payable to Oasis Church with "Uganda Trip for [YOUR NAME] in the memo section
- Make a donation online at [www.OasisLA.org](http://www.OasisLA.org) following these simple instructions:
  - Go to "Life @ Oasis" & click on "Donate Now"
  - Enter donation amount
  - Select "Tithes/Offerings" in the category pull down menu
  - Enter "Uganda 2010 trip for YOUR NAME" in the Notes section
  - Please note: All credit card transactions will be charged a 4% processing fee

I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting opportunity and to be able to share it with you. I know that your time and resources are limited, so I thank you for reading this letter and considering this request. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at [insert your phone number]!

In His Service,

[Your Name]

P.S. Please note all donations are tax deductible. Thanks!

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