



Tips For A Great Event

FROM FUNDRAISING TO MUSIC

Besides location, a power source, funds and volunteers, there isn't much you need for a successful event! But even that short list can be daunting, with fundraising being one of the greatest challenges. Here are some tips we have gathered over the years for you to have the best and easiest event possible!

FUNDRAISING (OUR FAVORITE 3 TIPS)

- **TIP 1: SECOND COLLECTION**

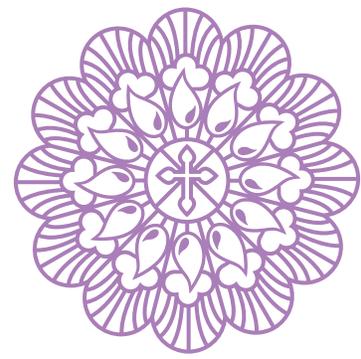
If your pastor has a percentage of funds set aside for projects that include helping the community at large, Helping Hands is a great fit. These funds are often procured through designated second collections. We have worked with a number of pastors who donate a percentage of their yearly collection total to poverty-focused programs.

- **TIP 2: DONATIONS/GRANTS**

There are countless organizations that love to give to nonprofits for poverty, feeding and sustainability programs. While getting donations and grants can take time, it's incredibly worthwhile and often pays for your entire event. There are many creative ways to make this work. Businesses both want and need to give donations during the year so beyond philanthropy being important, tax deductions are great incentives for financial donations.

Donation/Grant Ideas From Previous Helping Hands Events

- A pastor in the northeast gets a grant from local businesses and invites a select amount of people to package each year.
- Donations from parish Council of Catholic Women or Knights of Columbus.
- A community in the midwest calls local restaurants and asks for donations of specific food items (spaghetti for 200, salad for 200, dessert etc). Once they get enough for a church dinner they invite parishioners to dine for a fee. Funds are used for the event.
- A hot chocolate bar a few weekends during the month. Cost for the cocoa is nominal and funds make up a good portion of fundraising needs.
- Silent auctions can be a lot of work but are also extremely lucrative.



FUNDRAISING AND MUSIC CONT.

- **TIP 3: PARISH SUPPORT**

Without a doubt, the easiest way to raise event funds is to have your parish take part in each aspect of the event: from the planning and donations, to the event itself. While there isn't usually room for every parishioner to pack meals, there is certainly room for everyone to give of their time, treasure and talents. When you decide to do a Helping Hands event, your volunteers can both sign up and donate online; this takes the work out of it for you! Not to mention, by using our *online donor system every parishioner's donation is tax deductible. (*You are not required to raise funds through the online system, but it is available to you should you choose to use it.)

DURING YOUR EVENT, LET THE MUSIC LEAD YOU!

Music is a huge part of every Helping Hands event. For those of you who like to pre-plan all the details of your event, here are three simple tips to get you started.

- **TIP 1**

Mainstream music tips: together with RAH, we have created a music playlist especially for your event. While most Rise Against Hunger staff should have access to it you can also find it on Spotify here: [Helping Hands Music Playlist](#). This playlist has been vetted by our staff and should be suitable for all audiences.

- **TIP 2**

Get your youth or young adult groups involved! Praise and Worship is a huge part of these groups meetings and they probably already have a list of songs they know and would love to have at your event.

- **TIP 3**

Bring your parish's music minister into the planning. Does your church have a thriving music ministry? Ask your music minister to put together a playlist that your congregation responds to.

Whatever you choose and however you put together your meal packaging play list, know this, the only way you can go wrong is if you leave it out! So get ready to turn up the volume and hear the chorus of voices sing away as they pack meals and spread love and life into every package.