



HOW TO RAISE SUPPORT

One of the first steps of your mission effort is trusting God through steps of faith to provide the funds. Raising support is an act of faith that God will get you where He wants you to go. It can be a time-consuming process, so get started as soon as you are accepted to the trip. Don't procrastinate. There are several ways to raise support and we believe that there are multiple steps involved in the process.

PRAYER

We believe that prayer is the fuel for any missions' trip and that it is always the starting point when raising support. Be prayerful about your trip, the needs of your team, and who to send your letters to. Additionally, we highly encourage you to have a personal support of people who can be intentionally praying for you while preparing to go and while on the field. Remember, the goal is to raise supporters, not just the support. You need to be completely covered in prayer as you go on your mission and the support raising process is ideal for that.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT:

We ask that anyone who is going on a mission trip with CVC does not rely on other people to financially support them. It is important for you to personally invest in the trip that the Lord has called you to go on and invest your personal resources into it. We encourage you to prayerfully ask the Lord how much you should invest. Our hope is that you would personally sacrifice to be obedient to the Great Commission.

SUPPORT LETTERS:

We advise you to send out support letters regardless of how much you can pay with your own funds. To help you when writing your support letters, we have provided some answers to frequently asked questions we receive.

How Many Letters Should I Write? We recommend that you send personalized support letters to at least 30 people for most trips.

Who Should I Send Them To? Ask the Lord's help in coming up with your support list. Don't be shy sending letters to friends, family, extended family, coworkers, non-believers, and anyone who might want to know what you are up to and might be able to help. Your letter may provide you with an opportunity to share the Gospel.

How Should I Write Them? As soon as your application is approved, and you've paid your deposit, write your letters, and put them in the mail. You should write the letter yourself and have someone check it for spelling and grammar. Avoid a standard "form" letter if possible. The body of the letter can be the same for all recipients but personalize at least the name at the top and, if possible, an opening remark or closing comment for each letter you send. Limit your entire letter to no more than two pages. Below is a template to help guide you when writing your letter. Be sure to customize these to accurately reflect the details of your trip. Use a type font that is easy to read (12 or 14 point) and be sure to cover the following:

- a. Your call and motivation to go
- b. When and where you are going (Southeast Asia)
- c. What you will be doing and to whom you will be ministering
- d. What you want from those who get your letter
 - i. Prayer - give specific ways to pray for you and those you are going to serve.
 - ii. Financial Help - mention your financial deadlines
- e. Details regarding financial gifts
 - i. The amount needed
 - ii. How to give online or by check (participant names should not be on any checks given). Contribution details are attached to this document below.
 - iii. Tax deductible nature of contributors
- f. Thank them for praying and supporting you
 - i. Phone Calls - around ten days after your letters are mailed, make follow-up phone calls to most of those to whom you sent letters. This will give you a chance to tell them a bit more about your trip and ensure they do not forget about your letter. If you aren't making phone calls, you aren't raising support!

***WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE ADD THE CVC MISSIONS CONTRIBUTION CARD TO YOUR SUPPORT LETTERS (See last page). THEY CAN BE FOUND AT THE CVC RECEPTION DESK OR WE HAVE PROVIDED YOU WITH FRONT AND BACK FILES BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PRINT THEM YOURSELF.**

CVC MISSIONS SCHOLARSHIP:

We believe that God has called all of us to go into the world and make disciples. We also believe that, just as God supplied both the power and the means for the disciples to take the gospel to the world, God continues to be the one who provides everything that we need to engage in missions. The CVC Missions scholarship is meant to be one of the ways that God provides through the generosity of others.

While our desire is to do everything possible to equip the people of CVC to participate in CVC sponsored missions trips, it should be noted that scholarships are reserved for those with genuine financial need. The intention of this fund is to be a blessing to those who have fulfilled their responsibility to raise prayer and financial support for their trip.

The receipt of a scholarship is never guaranteed. Below are the factors that aid in determining the decision to award missions scholarship monies.

- Available money in the CVC Missions Budget
- The applicant is a member of CVC or attends CVC as their home church on a regular basis.
- The individual has made the effort to write support letters to their friends, family, and other contacts.
- The individual has saved or planned to personally invest in their trip from their own financial resources.
- The timeliness of the scholarship application is appropriate.

Application process:

1. CVC Missions scholarship requests should be submitted no later than 1 month prior to the departure date of your trip.
2. If approved, the Missions Coordinator will send you an email concerning your scholarship request no later than 1 month prior to your trip.
3. The scholarship application is available upon request. Email missions@cvconline.org to find out more information.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHURCH Mission Contribution Card

OCTOBER 2017

Thank you for your prayerful support.

All contributions to Cuyahoga Valley Church (CVC) are income tax deductible and are made with the understanding that CVC has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Questions regarding donations may be directed to 440.746.0404, x. 275.

- **No goods or services were provided by the ministry for this contribution.**
- **All contributions are non-refundable.**

PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD WITH YOUR GIFT. Thank you.

Name (Missionary): _____ Trip Destination: _____
Date: _____ Total: \$ _____

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHURCH. . . . Inviting people to new life in Christ.
5055 East Wallings Road | Broadview Heights, OH 44147 | 440.746.0404

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1. **Make checks and money orders payable to Cuyahoga Valley Church.** Do not write an individual's name on the envelope or the check (including the memo line).
IRS regulations prohibit our finance office from giving you tax credit for donations designated for individuals. Contributions received which designate an individual on your check will be returned to you.
2. **Enclose Mission Contribution Card (on reverse)** which states which project and / or individual you would like to support. DO NOT attach the card to the check. Just include it in the envelope.
3. **Contributors will receive acknowledgements** from Cuyahoga Valley Church as follows:
 - CVC contributors may view their contributions at **myCVOnline.org**. You will receive a contribution statement at the end of the year.
 - Contributors who do not attend CVC will receive a statement for their contribution at the end of the year.
4. **Checks or money orders only.** Please mail them to: Cuyahoga Valley Church; 5055 E. Wallings Road; Broadview Hts., OH 44147, Attention: Missions Coordinator. Please no cash. If you have any questions, call 440.746.0404, x275.

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