

SUGGESTIONS & INFORMATION ON RAISING SUPPORT FOR CITY LIFE

1. **Consider your own savings and resources which are available.**

- This opportunity is as valuable as school or other things for which you might set aside finances.
- You may be able to earn a portion of it by getting a part-time job, babysitting, or doing odd jobs for friends and neighbors.
- City Life team members and families should expect that they will need to raise at least part of their City Life support themselves. Mom & Dad, think of the money you will save that week not feeding your hungry teen out of your weekly food budget!

2. **Ask for support from friends, relatives, neighbors, and your church family.**

- This is a mission experience—we have found that people are often glad to give a donation to someone asking for funding for a missions trip.
- You could send a general support letter (see sample letter), call them, or write personal letters. A general number to strive for in sending out City Life support letters is 20.
- Some students have even gotten donations from local businesses or matching fund contributions. Don't be afraid to ask! Remember to emphasize that donations to your City Life support are tax deductible.

3. **Talk to your Pastor/Youth Pastor about:**

- General church support. How much can they help? Perhaps you could give your testimony in church, put an announcement in the bulletin or church newsletter, have your name presented as a prayer request at prayer meeting.
- Perhaps a youth group, small group, church women's group, or other organization could take on your support as a special project.
- Other means of support in your district or community. Some civic organizations may help and this could be an opportunity to share your faith.
- Fundraisers—is your church willing to help you sponsor some type of fundraising activity/event?

4. **Raise money thru personal fundraisers**

Don't be afraid to think thru some ideas to raise money on your own. Selling baked goods, washing cars, and garage sales are all ways you can raise some extra funds! Don't fear expressing financial needs, but make sure you enlist the wisdom of your parents and/or youth leaders to help guide the process.

5. **Keep track of your individual City Life support account.**

CE National keeps records of those who contribute to your support. Contact Sherilyn at obmail@cenational.org for account updates as needed. When your total support level is raised, you are responsible to inform your church and donors.

6. **Communicate thanks and to report on your ministries.**

The more people who contribute to your support, the greater responsibility you have to communicate thanks and to report on your ministries. Make sure you contact each of your individual donors with a note or other expression of your appreciation—we would recommend that you send a thank you before you go on City Life and then another note of thanks after the tour.

7. **Leave it in the Lord's hands.**

Thank the Lord for His goodness and trust Him that He is doing what's best for you - whether you struggle at gaining support or not. Take initiative in seeking ways to get your support needs met.

8. **Begin to raise support now.**

Our experience here at CE National has been that the Lord does supply our needs and we have never seen students who knew that he/she was supposed to go on one of our ministry trips not be able to go because of finances. Our God is great and there are all kinds of ways that He uses to surprise and delight us with His blessings!