



Episcopal
Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Abundant Life Garden Project:

An interactive Scripture-based instructional program offered to parishes, teachers, families and others who seek to share the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development

Appendix D Fundraising Tool Kit

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Introduction

The Fundraising tool kit was developed to help churches, families and other groups find ways to share of their abundance through the *Gifts for Life* catalog www.episcopalrelief.org/GiftsforLife. The catalog provides an opportunity for people to learn more about the needs in the world and to address challenges in a tangible way.

Gifts for Life is easy—from a mosquito net to a flock of chicken to a community garden—a single gift from the *Gifts for Life* catalog has the ability to impact many lives. These gifts will help teach your group that by sharing our abundance, we can create change, build hope and ensure a better future for communities around the world. Turn an ordinary day into a gift-giving event. Hold special events and have fun in the process! The more members you get involved, the bigger the impact you can make.

This tool kit includes the following information and downloadable resources to help you plan your fundraising event:

- **Idea Bank**—Check out these ideas to inspire your fundraising plans. See what other parishes have done and feel free to come up with your own ideas! We would love to hear about them. Share your ideas at engagement@episcopalrelief.org
- **Talking Points**—Brief notes that may be used in publicity materials, sermons, talks or other presentations associated with your fundraiser
- **Service Learning Basics**—To help your volunteers guide children and youth in selecting, planning, and carrying out fundraisers
- **Website Links**—Online resources available on our website for your use
- **Flyer/Bulletin Insert**—This [half-page flyer](#) can be customized to publicize your fundraiser.
- **Order Form**—A special *Abundant Life Garden Project* order form to facilitate your fundraising efforts

Idea Bank

- **Organize a read-a-thon, dance-a-thon or walk-a-thon.** Collect pledges from family friends for each mile or hour of your activity.
- **Organize a weekend car wash** and use the proceeds to purchase *Gifts for Life*.
- **Sponsor a church or neighborhood garage sale.** Gather books, crafts, clothes and household goods to sell, and use the money you raise to purchase gifts from the *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- **Arrange a silent auction.** Ask members of your congregation to donate items that can put up for bidding. Select a day, time and location for the auction and inform everyone or your congregation. Display the items and have pieces of paper where people can write their bids and names.
- **Have your adult or children's Sunday school class host and make an inexpensive dinner** with admission available for a charge. Use the proceeds to purchase a selection from the *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- **Encourage your children to write letters** to all their friends, classmates, club and sport-team members, and family to raise money to purchase a special gift to make a difference for children in need.
- **Hold a wine-tasting event** and use the proceeds to purchase clean water or other basic needs for a family or community
- **Sponsor a church-wide coffee hour and serve and sell Bishops Blend coffee and tea.** To order Bishops Blend coffee and tea, please go to www.episcopalrelief.org/Bishops-Blend.

The possibilities are endless. Plan a fundraiser that fits your church, school, or other organization and that is “do-able” by your group. Send your good ideas that work to engagement@episcopalrelief.org.

Talking Points

Here is the key scriptural basis of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development, and why we invite you to partner with us in our work:

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison, and you visited me.” — Matthew 25:34-36

Questions for Reflection

As we invite those new to our ministry to partner with us in seeking and serving Christ in others, we might ask questions such as these:

- When were we ourselves were hungry and were fed by someone?
- When did someone give us clothing, welcome us, or visit us?
- When can we give these gifts to others?

Sermon/Presentation Notes

Harvest is a time of celebration, marking the end of a growing season and a time of feasting on the fruits of our labors. We celebrate the end of our *Abundant Life Garden Project* as the end of a “growing season” among our children. We celebrate this time together with a feast showing both the fruits of our work together and the fruits of spiritual growth that has taken place within our community.

Though a time of celebration, Harvest is also the point that the hard work begins. Harvest is the most labor-intensive time on the farm. Produce must be picked at just the right time, crops must be stored and preserved properly and then taken to market or otherwise distributed. Many factors affect this process, particularly the weather.

In our spiritual lives, we might see harvest as the “hard work” of our own spiritual growth and maturity. We may have become new in Christ or may have grown in spirit and in our lives in Christ.

But this is not just a time of kicking back and enjoying the feast. As part of our Baptismal Covenant, we are called to serve Christ in all persons and to strive for justice and peace among all people – no small tasks. Like the harvest of literal fruits and vegetables, this spiritual harvest of our own growth takes time, effort and will certainly be affected by the wind and the water of the Holy Spirit. And like the life cycle of plants, we will have cycles of sowing new seeds of growth in our lives, waiting – perhaps not so patiently – for new growth to appear, then gearing up for yet a new round of harvesting and serving others.

As we conclude our *Abundant Life Garden Project*, we will continue to do the hard work of our Baptismal vows/promises and, remembering those who hunger, those who thirst, children who are orphaned and those in need of medical care.

Talking Points – cont.

Prayers You May Use

We thank you, Lord, for this time together to learn and pray and give gifts together. We ask you to bless the harvest of the fruits of our work together and help us always to give to the hungry, the thirsty and the strangers among us.

In Christ's name, *Amen*.

We thank you, Lord, for the many, many gifts you have given us. We thank you for water, for seeds of all kinds, for the many varieties of soil, for all the animals that enrich our lives, and for times of harvest. We pray to always seek and serve Christ in others by sharing and making wise use of our harvests. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in serving the hungry, the thirsty, the lonely and the lost.

In Christ's name, *Amen*.

Service Learning Basics

The Importance of Being Empowered

The whole point of Christian formation is to assist children, youth and adults in growing towards the full stature of Christ. We hope to help those we lead in formation programs, such as Episcopal Relief & Development's *Abundant Life Garden Project* curriculum, to step-by-step become Disciples of Christ themselves, with ministries of their own.

Here are some tips for successfully doing this:

Empower Children and Youth

We urge adult leaders of our *Abundant Life Garden Project* program to merely assist and guide children and youth in planning, budgeting, publicizing and carrying out fundraising projects associated with this program. Obviously, younger children will need more assistance than older elementary age children and youth! However, please allow even young children some "say" in the nature of their fundraising, even if this is allowing them to "vote" on whether to donate a cow, pig, goat or water system to those in need.

For older children and youth, we urge adult leaders to give participants a fairly free hand in planning fundraisers. You may find that if the ideas are "theirs," they will become more invested in the project, work harder and grow by leaps and bounds in their ministry skills.

Service Learning Basics—cont.

Intervene When Necessary

We recommend that an adult listen in on planning sessions, chime in if a safety issue or other important issue is at stake. Adult leaders might frame their concerns as questions to think about instead of instructions, if possible. We also urge adult leaders to assist, if necessary, in making sure each member of your group “gets heard” and that each member shows respect to all other members of your group.

Children and younger youth will need assistance in rounding up materials, particularly if materials need to be purchased. Adult leaders might help by making a trip to a store to purchase needed materials or by asking other adults to help with donations of materials.

Respecting Individual Gifts

Not everyone has the same gifts! Older children and youth might begin their planning by naming tasks they enjoy. Some may enjoy painting and drawing. Some may feel comfortable making presentations. Others may enjoy “behind the scenes” work of setting up chairs or setting tables for dinners. We urge adult leaders to make sure everyone in the group has a part in their fundraiser and that no one is forced to do something in which they do not excel. In most groups, you will likely find that once needed tasks are named, someone in the group will have an interest or experience in almost all these tasks.

Not Just Busy Work

An important component of service learning is to guide children and youth in meaningful tasks. Please emphasize the “why” of your fundraiser or service project, linking your project to the scripture verses highlighted in our *Abundant Life Garden Project* lessons and the Baptismal Covenant of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

We also urge adult leaders to make time for children and youth to reflect on their experiences as they undertake their project and after the project is complete, if possible. You might ask questions such as these, either informally or in a formal discussion setting:

- How did the participants feel as they worked on this project?
- What was frustrating?
- What was fulfilling?
- What happened to make a difference in someone’s life as a result of this project?
- What difference do the participants see in themselves as a result of this project?

We hope that by participating in our *Abundant Life Garden Project* program, children and youth will truly grow in faith and ministry as they seek to serve Christ in others.

Suggested Website Links

- Episcopal Relief & Development's website: www.episcopalrelief.org
- Online *Gifts for Life* catalog: www.episcopalrelief.org/GiftsforLife
- Bishops Blend Coffee and Tea: www.episcopalrelief.org/Bishops-Blend
- Photo Gallery: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/photo-gallery/>

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