

Ideas for Engaging Your Community

ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE is an excellent opportunity to engage your community in the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. Here are some fun and creative ways to help communities nurture children to their full potential!

1. **Bake Sale:** Brush up your cooking skills for a bake sale during coffee hour. Hand out information on Episcopal Relief & Development's work with children for each purchase to give your customers both knowledge and nourishment.
2. **Stories:** Read one of our stories about our work with children. Pass onto your friends.
3. **Coffee House and Open Mic Night:** Hot chocolate, lattes, and cappuccinos... This fundraiser works great for a school or church group and is appropriate for all ages. Have a microphone and invite people to share a favorite poem or sing a song.
4. **Pancake Breakfast:** This is one of the most common fundraisers because it's fun, easy and inexpensive to plan.
5. **Sunday School Activity:** Memorize our mandate verse – Matthew 25:37-40. Use it to discuss the relevance to our work.
6. **Youth Activity:** Ask your church's young people to come up with 1,000 Acts of Love. Post them and share them with the congregation.
7. **Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday:** Plan a special event in your community. Resources are available to help you to make this a moving experience.
8. **Just-for-Fun Game:** Sports like football, basketball and hockey are exciting, and also a great way to raise funds. Organize fun games like parents vs. kids, etc., and charge a small fee to join a team, or allow people to join in with a donation amount of their choice.
9. **Silent Auction:** Seek donations from church members and local businesses. Donate in honor of ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE to celebrate your congregation's partnership with us.
10. **Pray:** Pray for our important work and local partners.
11. **Popcorn and Movie Night:** Invite friends and family for a popcorn and movie night. Find a movie that relates to the work we do around the world, and donate the proceeds to support the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign.
12. **Find us on Facebook:** Like our Episcopal Relief & Development Facebook page.
13. **Car Wash:** This tried-and-true fundraiser is a natural choice for summer since groups of any size can run a profitable car wash.
14. **Children's Christian Education:** Participate in an Abundant Life Garden Project for children to learn about the work of Episcopal Relief & Development.

15. **Service Board:** Have church members post odd jobs on the bulletin board. Youth members (or anyone for that matter) can sign up to do the task for a donation.
16. **Monthly Giving:** Become a monthly donor and sustainer to ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE and support our work.
17. **Lemonade Stand:** For an activity with young children, host a lemonade stand on a warm summer day. Nobody can refuse a glass of refreshing lemonade.
18. **Talent Show:** Organize a talent night at your church. Invite all members to showcase their skills.
19. **Alternative Giving:** Instead of birthday, anniversary or holiday gifts, ask your friends and family to make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development.
20. **Yard Sale:** Host one with everybody in your community. You'd be surprised with how many things you actually don't need.
21. **Skip Lunch:** Challenge your congregation to skip a lunch, to stand in solidarity with those children struggling with hunger and to learn more about our programs during that lunch hour.
22. **Access Our Blog:** Subscribe to our blog to learn about our work and share it with your friends.
23. **Art Night:** Have an art night for children and ask them to draw or create anything that they think represents the ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE. Hold an auction for the beautiful pieces of art.
24. **Wedding Gifts:** If you are getting married, think about donating to Episcopal Relief & Development in lieu of wedding gifts.
25. **Mother's Day:** Encourage friends and family to give the gift of life to mothers & children through Gifts for Life.
26. **Carnival:** Organize a carnival. This can be simple or grand. Set up games and activities, and ask friends and family to help. Charge a basic entry fee to cover costs and support our work.
27. **1 for 1000 days:** Save a certain amount of money each day, whether it is \$0.10 or \$10.00 for 1,000 days. Donate your savings.
28. **Tweet @Episcopalrelief:** Tweet to us what you appreciate about Episcopal Relief & Development. Be sure to use the campaign hashtag - #1000DaysOfLove. We'd love to hear from you.
29. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies match the fundraising of their employees, be sure to check!
30. **Display Board:** Create a display for your church or community event. Use the resources in the toolkit to create an engaging display and provide information about our programs between services and during coffee hour.
31. **Book Club:** Start a book club that focuses on social justice related issues and download resources from our site.
32. **Invite Friends to Give Monthly:** Becoming a monthly sustainer for Episcopal Relief & Development is a meaningful and important way to support our work.

33. **Share News:** Talk to people about the organization and our life saving work with children.
34. **Service Auction:** Invite the congregation to auction off services. It can be something silly or something useful.
35. **Drink Water:** Drink only water for a week. Often, we take for granted our access to clean water. Donate the money you would have spent for other drinks to the campaign.
36. **Walk-a-Thon or Fun Run:** Host a walk-a-thon or a fun run.
37. **BBQ Showdown:** Use the proceeds to benefit children.
38. **Father's Day:** Encourage everyone to give the gift of life through our Gifts for Life catalogue.
39. **Acts of Kindness:** Do acts of love in honor of the work that we do!
40. Use our hashtag on social media, **#1000DaysOfLove**
41. **Emails:** Sign up to receive our e-ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE mail updates.
42. **House Party:** Consider hosting a small gathering at your home to share about the work of Episcopal Relief & Development and ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE.
43. **Alternative Gift Market at Christmas:** Host a special market inviting your community to buy gifts related to our work with children from our Gifts for Life catalogue. Order catalogues and set up a table for a few weeks before Christmas.
44. **Adult Wine Tasting:** Host a wine tasting for adults. Charge a fee that can be donated to ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE. Do offer non-alcoholic options as well. Discuss the importance of our programs with children.
45. **Hope Chest Sunday:** Order a special ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE hope chest from our materials. Encourage children to bring their coins and allowance as part of learning early stewardship for those in need and to provide hope in the world.
46. **Karaoke Fundraiser:** Who doesn't like to sing? Rent a machine and invite all members of you church to sing inspiring songs. Charge an admittance and share information about our work between performers.
47. **Write an Op-Ed:** Share the good work of Episcopal Relief & Development and why you and your community support our critical work around the world.
48. **Give it up!** Get sponsored to go without something. Give up speaking for a day, computer games for a week, chocolate for a month, or give up magazines for the whole of Lent! Get sponsored or donate to the money you save.
49. **Seminar:** Host a seminar with public health officials, doctors and professors who can help your audience understand the issues our partners and children face daily. This is an excellent way to reach out to your community.
50. **What ideas do you have?** Use your creativity and have fun! Go to our website for materials and resources to engage your congregation and community.