



Fun & Fundraising with Episcopal Relief & Development

“Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.”

— Henri Nouwen, Dutch priest and theologian

Thank you for serving as a Ministry Partner with Episcopal Relief & Development!

Your willingness to learn about our programs and raise awareness in the faith community where you serve helps expand the faithful family of people supporting our work. You remind them to do this through their prayers, actions, and by raising funds for our work.

We’ve gathered everything you need to plan and carry out meaningful fundraising experiences: ideas for events and outreach, tips for engaging individuals, your congregation, or your community, and ways to share powerful stories of hope and transformation. Using these materials, you will:

LEARN

Learn about how the work and methodology of Episcopal Relief & Development helps to strengthen communities around the world.

SHARE

Share about the work of Episcopal Relief & Development with congregations and communities.

GIVE

Give a gift of your time, talent, or treasure to help nurture communities to their full potential.

Your generosity expands the reach of our collective impact and brings us one step closer to a more just and resilient world.

Let’s get started — working together for lasting change!

In this document you will find:

- » *Get Creative with Gifts for Life*
- » *How to Plan a Churchwide or Diocesan Campaign*
- » *Helpful Tips for a Successful Campaign*
- » *Coming Soon: Individual or Team Fundraising Online Campaign*
- » *Fundraising with Fellowship & Worship Activities*
- » *How to Observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday*
- » *Opportunities for Local & Diocesan Grants and Individual Support*
- » *Individual Giving Opportunities*

Our Pledge to Donors

Episcopal Relief & Development is committed to using all donations appropriately and effectively to serve and support people in need worldwide. In addition to maintaining the highest standards for internal accountability, we are involved in multi-agency efforts to improve practices and reporting within the relief and development community. We are committed to accountability and making sure your gifts are used effectively.

Episcopal Relief & Development is grateful to receive support from many congregations and individuals across The Episcopal Church and other faith groups. We can only carry out our transformative programs thanks to everyone's compassionate and sustained giving.

Get Creative with *Gifts for Life*

Here are some fun ideas for fellowship, and other ways the communities you serve as a Ministry Partner can support our [Gifts for Life](#) program:

- Organize a **read-a-thon**, **dance-a-thon** or **walk-a-thon**. Collect pledges from family and friends for each mile or hour of your activity.
- Organize a weekend **car wash** and use the proceeds to purchase *Gifts for Life*.
- Arrange a **silent auction** for your church and community members. Ask members of your congregation to donate items for the auction.
- Have your adult or children's Sunday school class host and make an inexpensive **dinner** with an admission charge. Decide together what *Gifts for Life* selections to purchase with the proceeds.
- Encourage your children to **write letters** to family members, friends, classmates and club or team members to raise money to purchase a special gift. Have them mention that the gift will make a difference for children in need.
- Sponsor a church or neighborhood **garage sale**. Gather gently used books, crafts, clothes and household goods to sell, and use the money you raise to purchase items from the *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- Hold a **wine-tasting** event and use the proceeds to purchase clean water or other basic needs for a family or community.
- Instead of going out to dinner with friends, hold a **potluck** and put the money saved into a basket. Then, go through the *Gifts for Life* catalog as a group and choose items based on the amount collected.
- Hold a **game night** and ask people to donate to participate. The group can then decide together what gifts to purchase with the collected funds.
- **"Get the Warden's Goat"**: Raise enough money to buy a goat in honor of your church's warden. In the same way, you can "get the priest's goat," the treasurer's, the auditor's or whomever you choose.
- **Another fun idea**: The next time you visit with your partners in the communities you serve, spend a little time telling them about additional and varied ways they can engage our *Gifts for Life* opportunity for gift giving. Instead of holding a regular family, office or group gift exchange, ask them to consider pooling funds that would have been spent and choose [Gifts for Life](#) as a group, or give gifts to everyone based on their various interests. For example:

- * For your child's teacher: [Nurture & Nourish the Earliest Learners](#) or [Educate Children Orphaned by AIDS](#)
- * For new parents or grandparents: [Care for Moms & Newborns](#)
- * For an avid gardener: [Seeds, Tools & Training](#), [Fruit Trees](#) or a [Family Garden](#)
- * For a farmer: a [Cow](#), [Pig](#) or a [Flock of Chickens](#)
- * For someone in health care: [Emergency Food Relief](#) or [Disaster Relief Kit](#)
- * In honor of a baptism: [Clean Water](#)
- * For campers: [Mosquito Nets!](#)
- * For a banker, accountant or church treasurer: [Micro-credit Loans for Women](#)

Adapted from a resource created by Barb Hagan, former Ministry Partner of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana.



Daniela, a dairy farmer in Yuscarán, Honduras, is part of a saving group in her community. Daniela shares that she can get two liters of milk from her cows, which is essential to feeding her baby and caring for her family.

"This savings group has been very supportive of me. When I needed it the most, they approved a loan to buy food for my animals, and with that, I feel more confident that they are well-fed and will continue to give me the milk we need."

How to Plan a Churchwide or Diocesan Campaign

Here are some simple steps to get you started on a successful fundraising campaign for Episcopal Relief & Development.

STEP 1: Assess Interest and Capacity in a Campaign

- Begin conversations about a fundraising campaign.
- Discover if there is energy and excitement for one of Episcopal Relief & Development's priority areas: Early Childhood Development, Women & Girls, Climate Resilience and Disaster Response.
- Talk to members of your congregation, your rector and your deacons.

STEP 2: Develop and Discuss a Plan

- Goal: Will there be a total fundraising goal?
- Timing: Set the duration for one day, one month or a timeline that works for your team.
- Launch: Discuss when to launch and announce the campaign to your community.

STEP 3: Pre-Launch Preparation or Campaign Planning

- Prepare for the launch.
- Ensure the rector will share announcements about the campaign.
- Determine who will speak for the group.
- Develop a presentation on your effort.
- Utilize the resources and toolkits on our [website](#) to generate ideas for your campaign.

STEP 4: Announce the Campaign

- Present an overview of Episcopal Relief & Development
- Share your local campaign fundraising goal (if you have one), proposed timeline and ways people can get involved.
- Ask the church leadership to reinforce this message as well.
- Organize a campaign booth to provide resources to members and collect donations.

Step 5: Send Updates on Campaign

- Keep members informed on campaign progress to maintain momentum.
- Use weekly announcement times to share your progress.
- Schedule emails or website updates for your community.
- Share stories and photos of your efforts on the website or weekly e-newsletters.

Step 6: Celebrate Success!

- Announce the completion of the campaign, recognize leadership and thank everyone!
- Publish an article in your church bulletin and/or newsletter and the community newspaper.
- Inform us of your activities so we can share and celebrate your success!

Helpful Tips for a Successful Campaign

Your Role

- Re-introduce yourself to leadership where you serve as a Ministry Partner, including any updated contact information, especially if you are new to this role.
Email us at engagement@episcopalrelief.org with any questions.
- Spread the word with your local bishop, clergy and church leadership to raise awareness about the Episcopal Relief & Development fundraising campaign.
- Share stories about the benefits of the campaign for your communities.
- Be a resource for information and material; see the website for toolkits and additional resources.
- Your successes, large and small, can build awareness and encourage creative and exciting fundraisers that engage and inspire your diocese, parish and community.

Examples of Awareness-Building

- Share stories about how Episcopal Relief & Development's programs nurture early childhood development, reduce violence against women and girls, strengthen communities' climate resilience and provide support in the wake of disasters.
- Offer prayers in support of the work of Episcopal Relief & Development.
- Invite a speaker from Episcopal Relief & Development to join an adult forum or other meeting and speak about our work. Reach out to engagement@episcopalrelief.org.

Examples of Fundraising

- Organize bake sales, movie nights, Super Bowl parties or other activities to support the campaign — your imagination is the limit!
- Share the donation link via email and social media to suggest donations for birthdays and other occasions "in lieu of gifts."

For More Information

- Explore our [Faith Formation and Educational Resources](#).
- Print resources, including Hope Chest, pew envelopes and brochures, can be ordered through Forward Movement. The resources are free at forwardmovement.org/episcopalrelief.org.

Be sure to share your stories with Episcopal Relief & Development. We will be highlighting the work of communities across the country. You can send updates to engagement@episcopalrelief.org.

Questions? Send an email to: engagement@episcopalrelief.org

Coming Soon: Individual or Team Fundraising Online Campaign

Online fundraising is an easy and effective way to raise money. Soon you will be able to raise money as an individual or create a team and ask others to join you. Our online fundraising platform is GoFundMe Pro (formerly called Classy). GoFundMe is the leader in online fundraising and has been in the business for many years. Their platform is easy to use, secure, and will launch on our website soon! Check back for updates.

It will include a step-by-step instruction guide to create your fundraising page on GoFundMe Pro.

You will also be able to create an online fundraiser specifically for one of our priority areas.

- Early Childhood Development
- Women and Girls
- Climate Resilience
- Disaster Response

Suggestions for successful online fundraising:

Personalize your page. Make your page as personal as possible. Add pictures, customize your bio and talk about your experience with Episcopal Relief & Development. Tell your family and friends why they should help us work together for lasting change!

Target goal. Give yourself a target goal to hit that is realistic but also aggressive! There are impact donation levels for each campaign so your supporters can see the impact of their donations.

Activate your network. Use the tools available on your fundraising page to contact your network and ask for donations. Social media, email and phone calls are great ways to engage people you know. Let them know what you're doing and ask them for support. Make it clear that you need their help!

Draft potential donor list. Think of people that you can count on for their support – friends, family, neighbors and co-workers.

Sharing. Share your link on Facebook and Instagram or your other social media accounts. You can even create a video to summarize what you're doing.

Ask, then follow up. People want to support you, but everyone is busy and forgets. Follow up with your supporters and send updates to help remind them of your efforts. Personalize your requests.

Thank them. Be sure to personally thank your supporters, either by email, phone, eCards or in person. Your supporters want to know you appreciate them.

Share your success! Reach out to your family and friends when you reach campaign milestones. Halfway to your goal is a great time to share your campaign again.

Birthdays and more. Instead of asking for birthday and holiday gifts, ask for donations! Ask your family and friends to share your page with their networks. You will need help so the more people you connect with, the better.



Caregiver training in Okatana, Namibia using FAMA cards (Fact-Association-Meaning-Action). Episcopal Relief & Development created the FAMA cards as a tool used to help communities discuss and understand issues related to Early Childhood Development and other development topics.

Fundraising With Fellowship & Worship Activities

Fundraising within a faith community goes beyond simply raising money; it is an opportunity to embody our values, come together with a shared purpose and create a meaningful impact in the world.

When we give, we put our faith into action, demonstrating compassion, generosity and love for our neighbors.

Supporting Episcopal Relief & Development through a special event such as an Alternative Gift Market, Dedicated Offering or Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is a great way to bring your faith community together and provide people with an opportunity to connect more deeply with our mission.

All ages can participate in praying, “shopping” and giving for friends near and far. The more creative your team can be with these opportunities, the more engaging the learning and fellowship can be.

Alternative Gift Market

An [Alternative Gift Market](#) is a meaningful way to give a gift that inspires transformation.

It’s a festive event where members of your community can “shop” for goats, bees and all kinds of gifts that help people in need around the world. Purchasing gifts in honor of friends, family, colleagues and community helpers becomes a welcome alternative for gift exchanges.

Consider hosting the Market on its own or combined with a church picnic, outreach fair, holiday bazaar, at the end of a Vacation Bible School celebration or even at your annual meeting.

What better way to celebrate loved ones than with gifts that reflect our faith, compassion and hope for a better world?

Here are a few creative ideas and resources to get you started:

- [How to Hold an Alternative Gift Market](#)
- [Materials and Resources for the Alternative Gift Market](#)

How to Observe Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

Praying together as a community of faith amplifies the power of our prayers, reinforces our desire to be healing agents of God's world and reminds us to give thanks for opportunities to do so.

The Episcopal Church [designated](#) the first Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday. Every year, faith communities are encouraged to celebrate and partner with our lifesaving work on this or another convenient Sunday.

If you or your faith community has made the theme of this toolkit a part of your expressed priorities for a season, feel free to adapt the prayers and readings herein for this observance. Doing so will raise awareness of your partnership with Episcopal Relief & Development and invite others to participate in your team's ongoing work.

Consider setting up a display or informational table during fellowship, scheduling a presentation at a forum or study group, or holding a special event to heighten this ministry.

Resources to help you with this observation, including prayers, petitions, proper prefaces and more can be found on our website under Church Resources and at [this link](#). Sample sermons are available on Vimeo [here](#).

You can also visit [Forward Movement](#) where you can order complimentary resources for your observance, including beautiful informational bulletin inserts and fliers, pew envelopes, *Gifts for Life* catalogs, bookmarks and brochures and Lasting Change boxes.

"When we are privileged to experience the genuine love of God, we are compelled to enthusiastically and freely give it to others. And when we do, we can overcome every manner of evil. We experience God's love through daily choosing to see Christ in the other, loving our neighbor as ourselves. It is an intentional practice. It is not easy... but it is my hope for each of us that we can pass God's love on to all."

— An Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday sermon by
Chad Brinkman, Director, Faith Fundraising,
Episcopal Relief & Development

If your communities would like to promote our work and raise funds at observances in addition to Episcopal Relief & Development Sundays, here are a few more ideas to share with them. They include dedicated offerings, honorariums and memorial gifts, information about securing local and diocesan grants, and different ways you can invite individuals to support our work financially.

Dedicated Offering

Ask them to consider dedicating special community offerings to support the mission and ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development.

When disaster strikes, make certain your congregation knows about our prayers for inclusion in their worship leaflets, our bulletin prayer [inserts](#), and encourage them to use these resources. You might also suggest they host a special outreach service, or designate Pentecost Sunday as a way to celebrate the church's Birthday with a gift to Episcopal Relief & Development. Other ideas include a special collection honoring a member of your community, thanking their teachers or staff or identifying parishioners who may choose to observe milestones like baptism, anniversaries or memorials with gifts to Episcopal Relief & Development.

Share with them the beautiful bulletin inserts, informational pamphlets and donation envelopes we provide, which help them share the good work of Episcopal Relief & Development, and the opportunity to give. They are available for free from Forward Movement on their [website](#).

These simple resources offer another easy way for them to educate and inspire generosity by highlighting the powerful, life-changing work their gifts make possible.

Honor and Memorial Gifts – Gifts That Save Lives and Transform Communities

Looking for ways to celebrate or remember loved ones? Our Honor and Memorial Gift Program is another wonderful and easy way for individuals to commemorate significant milestones such as birthdays, holidays and anniversaries.

At your request, Episcopal Relief & Development will send a printed card to your honoree or the family of the memorial gift recipient indicating that a gift has been made in the individual's honor or memory. Attractive e-cards are offered on our website as another option when you make your donation. More information can be found on our website [here](#).

Opportunities for Local & Diocesan Grants and Individual Support

Whether you're interested in a seasonal focus, a year-long effort or a special initiative, our team is here to support you every step of the way.

Episcopal Relief & Development staff can provide planning guidance, promotional resources and fundraising tools to help you build a campaign that fits your community and inspires meaningful engagement. Email us with your questions at engagement@episcopalrelief.org.

Does Your Faith Community Offer Grants?

If your faith community has a grant program or mission-giving fund, we invite you to consider Episcopal Relief & Development as a potential recipient.

Our programs can align with your mission as we work with local partners to nurture early childhood development, reduce violence against women and girls, strengthen communities' climate resilience, and provide support in the wake of disasters.

Simply email engagement@episcopalrelief.org to let us know how to access and submit an application and supporting materials. We would be honored to be part of your community's outreach and impact.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you.

Plan a Diocesan Campaign with Us

Looking to make a broader impact?

Invite your diocese to partner with Episcopal Relief & Development by contributing from their funds and grants, or by launching a diocesan-wide campaign that brings people together in faith, generosity, and service.

As an Episcopal Relief & Development Ministry Partner, you have the tools you need to share our work's success stories and invite an entire diocesan community to join us. Together, we can strengthen connections across congregations and create lasting change in communities worldwide.

Ready to get started? Reach out to us at engagement@episcopalrelief.org to learn more.

Individual Giving Opportunities

Your generosity enables us to unlock community transformation and support people affected by poverty, hunger, disaster injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change. We invite you to consider our giving opportunities and find out how you can play a part in our work worldwide.

All of the links below, with information about electronically contributing, can be found on our website [here](#).

Our donation process is easy to use, quick and secure:

- **Donate Now:** [Give](#) a gift that will help transform a community.
- **Sustainers Circle:** Become a sustainer of Episcopal Relief & Development's work and learn how you can [give monthly](#) to support our programs.
- **Planned Giving:** Your planned gifts can leave a lasting impact on people and communities around the world. [Learn more.](#)
- **Other Giving Opportunities:** Episcopal Relief & Development has several giving opportunities so supporters can contribute in a way that suits their individual needs. [Find the best option for you.](#)
- **Coming Soon: Individual Online Fundraising Campaigns:** Share the opportunity to make an act of love. Start an individual fundraising campaign and inspire others to LEARN, SHARE and GIVE to support the work of Episcopal Relief & Development.

Donations can also be made by mail.

Please mail checks and money order donations to our updated mailing address below. You may also indicate preferences for designated *Gifts for Life* or honorariums simply by printing out the forms and including them with your gift.

Episcopal Relief & Development
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