



## Fundraising through Omprakash

Have you built a relationship with one of the projects in our network, either by volunteering directly or by corresponding from afar? One of our core goals is to help you fundraise more effectively in your home community. You can use our website to help teach people about the causes that you support, and you can use our registered non-profit, tax-deductible status as extra incentive and reassurance for potential donors.

- All donations can be earmarked for the project of your choice, and all donations from citizens of the United States are fully tax-deductible. When a donation is earmarked for one of our partners, the partner receives the full donation minus possible bank transfer fees. We do not charge any administrative fee for processing donations.
- You can encourage donors to give directly to Omprakash by donating through Paypal or by sending a check to our address in the United States (see [omprakash.org/donate](http://omprakash.org/donate)).
- Alternatively, you can collect money yourself (i.e., cash), and then you can personally give it to us through either of the above options.
- Past fundraising strategies have included:
  - sending letters to people you know (see some examples of our letters at [omprakash.org/about/letters](http://omprakash.org/about/letters), and feel free to include or personalize any of them).
  - organizing benefit concerts or other events such as dinner parties. Get someone to perform for free or donate food, then charge people to attend.
  - organizing info sessions/movie showings relevant to what you will be doing, and charge people to attend or ask for donations—i.e., organize an event or series of events where you show a short movie or talk about women's education in India, or just about your proposed trip.
  - car wash, bake sale, etc.-- every dollar counts! Consider the profit margin in this approach. Buying donuts at \$.50 each and selling them for \$1 each yields 100 percent profit. You do not have to go big on the product or service to generate significant income.
  - seek local corporate sponsorship if your volunteering or service-learning project involves a product. For example, if your group is building a solar-power charger, you should consider contacting the regional offices of Radio Shack, Home Depot, and solar tech companies. Instead of asking for a one-time large sum, you might want to request a monthly, smaller donation; this way, you will be able to demonstrate over time your product's effectiveness and maintain contact with the sponsor.
  - many states have service-learning coordinators, and their web sites offer listings of available grants and awards. Contact your local area's coordinator for information. Start by searching for "learn and serve in (state name)."



Vance Walstra (white shirt) and crew prepare the site of a new school building in Cusco, Peru. He partnered with friends and family in Oregon, and Pacific Ridge School and Calavera Middle School, in Carlsbad, CA, to raise \$5000 for the school's first building.

**"The changes I was able to make in Peru are memories that I will carry with me forever. The Omprakash Foundation also helped me learn how to sustain my efforts after volunteering, give advice and guidance to future volunteers and make lifelong friends all around the globe!"**

*Vance Walstra—Cusco, Peru, February-May 2009*

Please use the "Fundraising" forum of our **Message Board** to share your ideas and strategies with others, and contact us to let us know how we can amplify your efforts.