



Get Involved and Change the World!: Fundraising and Awareness Ideas for Students

There are a number of ways that your school and fellow students can get involved in helping Ubuntu Africa Child Healthcare (UBA) continue to save lives. Currently, the organization's greatest need is funding for the programs that help HIV-positive children ages 4-18 in Khayelitsha, South Africa live long, happy, and healthy lives.

It is important that UBA continue providing its services as the large majority of children that it helps live in extreme poverty, have lost one or both parents, and are in general extremely vulnerable. UBA is the only organization of its kind serving kids with HIV/AIDS in Khayelitsha, a township outside of Cape Town with 1.5 million people in it. Specifically, Ubuntu Africa's approach is comprehensive: it provides after school care, social counseling, healthcare, nutritious meals, and fun and confidence-boosting activities for over 50 kids. With your help though, UBA will be able to reach even more HIV-positive children.

Below are some creative ideas of how to raise funds and awareness about Ubuntu Africa Child Healthcare's services, target population, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa:

Host a talent show at your school as a fundraiser. Anyone who wants can perform. Rehearse and then invite all students and parents. Charge an admission fee of \$10 for kids and \$25 for parents (depending on the school) and make clear in your advertisements that all funds will go to UBA. You can augment the proceeds from the admission fee by selling raffle tickets and auctioning off a prize (ideally donated by one of the school's families).

A good goal is to raise enough money to sponsor one child for one year at Ubuntu Africa, which is \$2500. If you get 100 kids to come at \$10 and 50 parents at \$25 you will raise \$2250 and if you supplement that with a bake sale, a silent auction or a raffle you'll easily raise over the \$2500 needed to fund one child for a year. As a thank you, we can organize a Skype or email exchange so your school can talk to the Ubuntu Africa kids that it is supporting. Pictures and letters can be exchanged to keep the school updated so the kids who participated can feel the effect they've had on our Ubuntu kids.



Organize a **Dance-a-thon** for children with HIV/AIDS. Instead of a regular school dance, host an event in which students can enter with a partner for a small fee of say \$25 or less. Each pair can ask for sponsorship from parents, grandparents and other friends and family. The dance event can take place at the school with donated prizes going to the winners, i.e. the pair that dances the longest.

If you have around 50 pairs raising approximately \$100 each, including the fee they have paid to enter, the school will be able to raise enough to sponsor 2 kids for the year at Ubuntu Africa. Pictures and letters will be exchanged just as above to keep the school updated on progress with the sponsored children.

T-shirt Week for Teens with AIDS. Hold a contest in your school to design a T-shirt for UBA. The student body can vote and decide which design it likes best. Get the t-shirts made by a local printer as cheaply as possible and then sell them for a profit at around \$30 each. Ask students to sell as many as they can to friends and family. (This is a good thing to do around Thanksgiving or Christmas/Hanukah). The student who sells the most t-shirts will win a GET OUT OF HOMEWORK night pass, or something similar. If each t-shirt nets UBA \$15, the school would need to sell only about 165 t-shirts in order to make \$2500, which would sponsor 1 child for one year.

Sweet Sixteen for Africa Many people have elaborate sweet sixteen parties or expensive bar and bat-mitzvahs. A new trend is to ask those attending to donate to a worthy cause instead of buying a gift. The generous child who decides to donate to UBA instead of accepting birthday presents will have a very special thank you in store from the children at Ubuntu Africa.

Get Creative Create your own fundraiser. All of the ideas above can be changed or adapted to suit the school and the organizer's creative streak or a completely different idea will also work. Try to keep the monetary goal at \$2500 and those students who get involved will feel very rewarded when they see the faces of the people whom they are directly helping in South Africa.

Participation in all of the fundraising ideas above should fulfill some of the community service time that most of our area schools require.