

Responding to the Crisis in Haiti



Together,
we can do
what it takes
to live in
a world
without poverty.

The Resolve to Fight Poverty

We can live in a world where everyone has a roof over their head, enough food to eat and access to clean drinking water. Unfortunately, despite some advances we're far from this vision. Students get this and are taking action. We're volunteering, raising funds and getting involved in our communities. Now it's time to take our action to the next level.

To do that, we're launching the Resolve to Fight Poverty, a national movement of students doing what it takes to eliminate poverty. Working from coast to coast, students will be raising funds and necessities to address people's immediate needs to raising awareness and support for long term solutions on the local, national and international level.

Students and organizations that are joining the Resolve to Fight Poverty are taking all sorts of action— holding awareness and education events, holding fundraisers, volunteering with shelters and advocating for new and expanded anti-poverty programs. While we are working at all different levels—from neighborhood issues to global crises, we are united together in a shared commitment to doing what we can to fight poverty.

The National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness is helping by connecting student leaders to national efforts and resources, by keeping everyone up to date on the issues and by making sure national leaders—from members of Congress to the media to foundations—know about the work students are doing across the country.

Responding to the Earthquake in Haiti

Often, the best way to help the response to a natural disaster is to fundraise. The on-the-ground relief agencies have the connections and relationships to stretch their dollars and know in real-time what supplies and resources are most needed.

While holding a fundraiser can seem daunting, students have pulled very successful events together in a matter of days or even hours after a crisis strikes.

Right now, we're recommending that students direct donations to Oxfam, one of our partner groups. Their staff and volunteers are already on the ground helping to identify and rescue survivors and making sure that people have their immediate basic needs for food, shelter and medical attention addressed.

You can send the proceeds from your fundraiser to NSCAHH, and we'll make sure that they get to Oxfam right away. Our address is:

407 S. Dearborn St., Suite 701 Chicago, IL 60605

You can also donate directly at Oxfam America's website at:

https://secure.oxfamamerica.org/site/Donation2?idb=744690334&3600.donation=form1&df_id=3600&JSessionIdr004=056d6grlx2.app20b

Holding your Fundraiser

There are lots of great ways to run a fundraiser. Here are some common ideas:

Running a Great Spare Change Drive:

1. Collect jars and paste labels for the Spare Change drive on them. Contact the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness if you are in need of logos and labels to print off.
2. Put the jars everywhere: dorms, stores, academic departments, dining halls, etc. Ask local and campus cafes and coffee shops to place donation jars by the cash register for people to donate their change. Advertise the drive around campus.
3. Go door-to-door: Some campus groups have raised thousands of dollars by going door to door in campus apartments or dorms and asking people to donate the change they have around the house on coffee tables, jars, and in couches.
4. Make it a competition. American University students organized a dorm penny drive competition. Each residence hall had a huge jar in the lobby, and residents were urged to toss extra change into the jar. In order to increase competition and money raised, the organizers added the rule that paper money was subtracted from the total. So, in order to reduce other hall's points, residents put dollar bills in other dorms' jars.

Sponsor a benefit concert with local musicians. Donate collected money to a local shelter:

1. First, you'll want to setup the event. Contact local bands and see if they'll play a set for your concert. Next, find a venue for your event. We suggest both looking into places on campus (many dorms and student unions have rooms that could hold concerts) and calling local restaurants/bars to find the best event.
2. Second, you need to publicize the event. Use listserves, have members of your organization text their friends, setup a facebook event, and hang posters. Also, ask other organizations to co-sponsor and invite their members to come.

Arrange a walk or a run:

1. Have each participant collect sponsorship money; set a minimum, such as \$20 per participant. Donate collected money to a local shelter.
2. Encourage local businesses to donate food and drinks.
3. Encourage local bands to provide entertainment.

Have students "swipe a meal":

1. Through Swipe Twice for Hunger students donate points/money from their meal card to benefit relief agencies. Most students find that they have funds remaining on their meal plans at the end of the semester. Instead of relinquishing all their points, students and campus dining services have agreed to allow students to donate money (equivalent to a meal value) to relief. This is a great opportunity to work with the campus dining program and other student groups, while educating the campus public about the issues of hunger and homelessness. Swipe organizers ask students to pledge to skip a meal on a designated day and donate the money they saved to help relief efforts.
2. Set up tables with information in front of the campus dining hall to ask students to commit ahead of time to skip that meal. Publicize the program through posters, flyers, and media to recruit additional participants and make the most of the event.
3. Through a strong partnership with the campus dining services, students at University of Connecticut, Storrs raised over \$4,000 for several non-profits. UConn's campus dining services allows students to swipe twice (donate two meals) through this program.