

St. John's Fill the Bowl Hunger Event

Frequently Asked Questions: Fundraising and Lock-in Event

What steps do I take to raise money?

There are tons of tips and tricks in this packet! Youth may raise funds between January 6 and March 6! Youth can create an online giving page through The Lunch Project (instruction included in this packet), write letters/e-mails, stand outside of worship services and ask Parish members, travel through your neighborhood, post on social media, send texts, ask your family, beg your friends, and more! You are encouraged to use your gifts and passions to raise money through events like headband or jewelry sales, putting on a talent show or basketball or bowl-a-thon! The sky is your limit in the next six weeks!

How much money do I need to raise and do I have to come to the lock-in on March 6 - 7?

We ask that youth raise a minimum of \$300-\$400 in order to be a part of the lock-in! NOTE: You DO NOT have to come to the lock-in to be a part of raising money.

What is a practical tip I can offer donors if they are unsure what amount to give?

Instead of spending \$5 at a coffeehouse, a donor could buy lunch for about 40 students in Tanzania! The \$25-\$50 one may spend at a restaurant for a family meal could provide hundreds of hot lunches! A generous donation of \$100 would feed an entire school of 900 students for a day!

How can donors give me money?

Several ways! We prefer that you collect money by setting up an online giving page through The Lunch Project (instructions in packet), but you can also collect checks or cash. Checks can be made to SJE or The Lunch Project. Checks made to The Lunch Project may not clear until late March or early April. Additionally, donors may also give on the St. John's website, selecting the 'Fill the Bowl Hunger Event' section in the giving portion of our website.

What if I don't raise the minimum amount?

If you tried your best and came up short of the \$300-\$400 minimum goal, it is okay to still come to the lock-in. But if you did not try very hard and come with just a few dollars that you found at the last minute, then you might need to skip hunger event lock-in this year! After all, while it is a fun event to be part of, we do it to help people, and that doesn't happen if you do not work to get sponsors. Please have a conversation with Jillianne.

What is the deadline for raising money?

We ask that youth bring their white envelope packet (**filled out**) back to us at the Hunger Event on March 6th during check in. While funds may be turned in post lock-in, only money turned in by 9:00am on Saturday, March 7th will count toward our awards that will be given out Saturday afternoon. Money turned in by 9:00am Saturday will also be added to the total we announce at the closing ceremony!

Can my friends who don't go to SJE participate?

Yes! Absolutely. We just ask that they sign up, get a packet, and raise the \$300-\$400 minimum goal!

What happens during the lock-in event on March 6th and 7th?

Our planning team will be meeting in February to plan our event for 2020. At the lock-in, we play games, worship together, do programs, participate in service projects, fellowship, and share in a break-the-fast meal together! We also sleep on the front lawn in cardboard boxes! It is so much fun!

Participants will fast for about 30 hours: starting after your school lunch on Friday going through our closing worship service (for youth and parents) on Saturday at 5:00pm. We fast 30 hours because it helps us have better empathy for the students in Tanzania who would be hungry without our hard work. This year we will fast 6 hours for each of the 5 schools in which The Lunch Project serves: Lemanyata, Engorika, Olkokola Lengijave, and Olbak. Our work helps The Lunch Project:

- Provide lunch for 4,407 students
- Employee 30 cooks (6 per school)
- Sources supplies from 62 different local farmers and store owners

Can I leave during the event to go to another engagement?

Yes! We just ask that you sign in and out at our check-in table. At check in, please be prepared to let us know your plans.

What if I need to eat for medical reasons, because I just don't feel good, or for other activities like sports?

Not a problem! We will have some food like rice/beans and oatmeal on hand at all times. If you have sporting engagements, we encourage you to eat! Additionally, you may keep food in the youth ministry office so that other participants don't have to see / smell it.

Do I have to sleep outside?

Youth will have the opportunity to set-up their own cardboard box and decorate this "home" using the cardboard we will have at the church. Parents are welcome to help set up boxes. Sleeping an uncomfortable setting is part of growing your empathy! There will be adults patrolling the grounds all night to ensure safety. If you are worried about putting a box together, we will have some pre-designed easy plans to help you ... and there will be some volunteers on the front lawn during building time to help you! However, sleeping outside is optional; rooms are available inside.

Can my parents or other Parish members get involved?

We hope they will! We will need lots of volunteers during the events. Sign ups will be posted soon!

Does this fundraiser and my effort really make a difference?

Absolutely! Even since our event last year, TLP has added a 5th school in Tanzania for whom they provide lunch! Check out these thoughts from youth who went to Tanzania in the summer of 2020! Our next trip will be this summer and you will have a chance to meet that team at our Hunger Event this year!

The coolest way I saw the money we raise making a difference was when the kids would get their food for the day. Their faces lit up with so much joy and happiness. They would even share with the others who didn't have a bowl for food.
-Jenna Chittick, 12th grade

A way I saw our money make a difference was the energy from every single child. Every single kid was running around playing with a ball or sticks and rocks or just playing with each other. I know this is possible because of the food we help to provide. The energy also provided them to put in more work into their schoolwork and their grades showed significant improvement. Thinking about not being able to run and play because I was too hungry is something I couldn't even imagine. I saw it in the joy in all of their faces smiling up at me, dancing with me, and showing me around—proud of what they had to offer. Every student exuded happiness and it's all from access to education and food at school, giving them a place of stability.
—Sallie Reid Pruitt, college freshman

All of the amazing donations the schools in Africa received from us are very graciously distributed. The money goes to the meals and the mothers who are serving the children the food. It helps to feed thousands of students who really need it. However, I think I saw the money being used mostly through their smiles. Despite the situation, these elementary and middle school students had the biggest smiles on their faces. From ear to ear you saw the purest form of happiness. I am extremely grateful to have experienced this and I hope everyone gets this chance one day. At one point in their lives these kids had no lunch, and many didn't eat more than one meal a day. That is not enough to get them through the day, and get them the education they need to be successful. Thanks to the lunch project and all of our donations, these children have a bright future. I do, and we all should take pride in helping them reach this goal of succession. Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution and the past. It is truly life changing!

-Cate Watson, 11th grade