



## RAISING SUPPORT FOR OPERATION BARNABAS

### Information and Suggestions

The following information is posted on the website, [OperationBarnabas.net](http://OperationBarnabas.net) under Resources:

**OB Support Money and Finance Policy**  
**Sample Support Letter**

Please review the above information carefully. Below are some further suggestions/ideas for how to raise support.

#### 1. **Consider your own savings and resources which are available.**

- A. This opportunity is as valuable as school or other things for which you might set aside finances.
- B. You may be able to earn a portion of it by getting a part-time job, babysitting, or doing odd jobs for neighbors.
- C. OB team members and families should expect that they will need to raise at least part of their OB support themselves. Parents, think of the money you will save this summer not feeding your hungry teen out of your weekly food budget!

#### 2. **Ask for support from friends, relatives, neighbors, and your church family.**

- A. This is a missions experience—we have found that people are often glad to give a donation to someone asking for funding for a missions trip.
- B. You could send a general support letter (see sample posted on website), call them, or write personal letters. A general number to strive for in sending out support letters is 40.
- C. Some students have even gotten donations from local businesses or matching fund contributions. Don't be afraid to ask! Remember to emphasize that donations to your Operation Barnabas support are tax deductible.

#### 3. **Talk to your Pastor/Youth Pastor about:**

- A. General church support. How much can they help? Can people give to you thru the Sunday offering? Perhaps you could give your testimony in church, put an announcement in the bulletin or church newsletter, have your name presented as a prayer request at a prayer meeting.
- B. Perhaps a youth group, adult Sunday school class, church women's group, small group or other organization could take on your support as a special project.
- C. Other means of support in your district or community. Some civic organizations may help and this could be an opportunity to share your faith.
- D. Fundraisers—is your church willing to help you sponsor some type of fundraising activity/event?

#### 4. **Raise money thru personal fundraisers**

Don't be afraid to think thru some ideas to raise money on your own. Students have done everything from selling baked goods to mulch, washing cars, church dinners, and holding auctions or garage sales in order to raise their OB support. One student in 2014 raised all her funds in one day by getting permission from her local WalMart and setting up a table at the entrance! Sometimes local restaurants are willing to give you a portion of their profit for one day. Don't fear expressing financial needs, but make sure you enlist the wisdom of your parents and/or youth leaders to help guide the process.

5. **Keep track of your individual OB support account.**

CE National keeps records of those who contribute to your support and you can find this information by signing in to the OB portal (*once the confirmation deposit is made, OB accepted students are sent a user name and password to access the portal*). When our office receives funds for your OB support, these amounts are all entered manually into your individual OB support account and accounts are updated at least once each week (please note-online credit card donations need to be entered manually – do not expect online transactions to be immediately reflected on your account.) When your total support level is raised, you are responsible to inform your church and donors.

6. **Communicate thanks and report on your ministry.**

The more people who contribute to your support, the greater responsibility you have to communicate thanks and to report on your ministries. Make sure you contact each of your individual donors with a note or other expression of your appreciation—we would recommend that you send a thank you before you go on OB and then another note of thanks after the summer.

7. **Leave it in the Lord's hands.**

Thank the Lord for His goodness and trust Him that He is doing what's best for you - whether you struggle at gaining support or not. Take initiative in seeking ways to get your support needs met. One of the neatest times at OB orientation is when we hear testimonies of how God has supplied thru various circumstances and people for the OB students to participate! Note that there may be scholarship help available; an application is required and an expectation of student and family contributions (see #1). Scholarship applications are available in May by emailing [obmail@cenational.org](mailto:obmail@cenational.org).

8. **Begin to raise support now.**

**One mistake students make is waiting too long to start seeking support. Now is the time to work on a support letter and get it sent out!**

- The confirmation money deposit (\$200) deadline is given to applicants upon acceptance.
- The next installment (\$1000) is due by **March 22, 2019** for all accepted students unless prior arrangements have been made. (If the deadline becomes near and you do not have your support in, please email [obmail@cenational.org](mailto:obmail@cenational.org) to discuss options.)

*If you plan to drop out of Operation Barnabas 2019, you must do so by this date or be responsible for cancellation costs. See OB Support Money and Financial Policy for information on this*

- The deadline for your total OB support to be in the office is **May 22, 2019**. Your support must be here in full for you to go on Operation Barnabas. (If the deadline becomes near and you do not have your support in, please email [obmail@cenational.org](mailto:obmail@cenational.org) to discuss options).

**Our experience here at CE National has been that the Lord does supply our needs and we have never seen an OBer who knew that he/she was supposed to go on Operation Barnabas not be able to go because of finances. Our God is great and there are all kinds of ways that He uses to surprise and delight us with His blessings!**