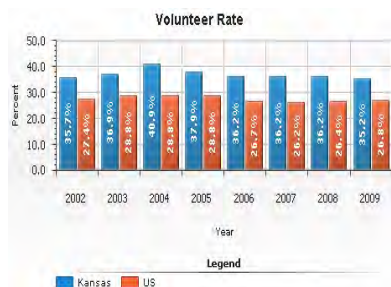
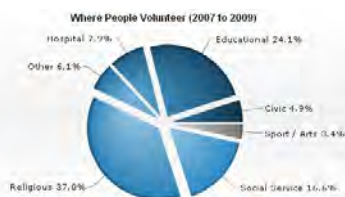




TOPEKA CIVITAN CLUB

Any One Wanting to Volunteer Please Raise your Hand



Where are all my volunteers? Where have they gone? What will we do? These are questions plaguing Service Clubs in America today, especially those service clubs whose volunteer hours make up for short falls in the budgets of the organizations for which they serve. What would you say is the most valuable commodity, that families since 2000 have had less and less of? You might say cash in the bank accounts. Though cash flow has dwindled over the years and the economy has taken a turn, it is not cash. The one commodity that is most valuable and that several seem to have less of is TIME. You might be saying to yourself FREE TIME? No, we must first understand that no time is free. That any time one may have extra in their day was paid for with whatever work had been done previous. In a time when mothers and fathers both must work to make ends meet and even retired citizens have duties to home and family. No time is free. And more often than not, free time is very rare.

The Bureau of labor Statistics released on January 26th 2011 a report **VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES—2010**. This report stated that the volunteer rate declined by 0.5 percentage point to 26.3 percent for the year ending September 2010. The U.S. Bureau of labor Statistics reported that about 62.8 million people volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2009 and September 2010. The rate of 2010 was similar to those observed in 2007 and 2008. The volunteer rate of women decreased from 30.1 % to 29.3% year ending September 2010. The volunteer rate for men at 23.2% was essentially unchanged. However, women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than did men across all age groups.

The age of volunteers ranged from 35-to-44 year olds who were most likely to volunteer 32.2% of the time. Where persons in their 20's were least likely to volunteer. Only volunteering 18.4% of the time. Volunteers of both sexes spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities during the period of September 09 to September of 2010. Median annual hours spent on volunteer activities ranged from a high of 96 hours for volunteers age 65 and over to a low of 40 hours for those 16 to 34 years old. The organizations for which the volunteers worked the most hours during the year—were most frequently religious at 33.8%. Followed by Education or Youth Services at 26.5%. Concluding with 13.6% of volunteers who performed activities mainly for social or community service organizations.

With these numbers, how do service clubs draw 20 to 34 year olds into the organization? Outside the box thinking and events. Focus on those events based on the thing most important to that age group. Build, hold, conduct, and create those events which the entire family can attend and or help. Focus on speakers who will help build the club by drawing non members to hear them speak. Or those speakers who may be able to guide or direct career moves. What do service clubs do? Think outside the box.

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Today’s families are much different from twenty years ago. Parents are involved with events closer to home Scouting, school activities and school organizations, spring, summer, fall, and winter Sports programs. Not to mention work related activities and fund-raisers.



Service clubs should not wait for the volunteers to come to them. They must go to the where the volunteers are. Should Service clubs continue to do those things they have come to be most comfortable with? Or do they step outside their box get out of the comfort zone and try new things. Do they wait on the guest of a member? Or do they go out and sell themselves to those organizations and business that still want their employees to help out in the community. Do they contact the HR directors of business? Do they go and speak to graduating High School students or college students. Do they go and speak at other clubs or organizations like the Red Cross, American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, TARC, and Sheltered Living.

Yes, service clubs can do as they always have done, sit and wait.



Or clubs can grab the bull by the horns and take charge starting a recruiting campaign. And with new members come new ideas new opportunities.

In the Kevin Costner movie “Field of Dreams” a voice whispers to the main character “If you build it they will come.” He totally destroys his corn field and builds a ball diamond. Going bankrupt in the process and almost losing the farm to the bank. His friends thought he was crazy and his family though supportive had their doubts. But in the end he was rewarded with a visit from the spirit of his father who had passed years before. He didn’t give up and he gave all and in the end the cars lined up for miles to see what this man had done.

Don’t give up, live your dreams

And when the question is asked “Anyone wanting to volunteer please raise your hand” There will be a sea of hands like that of the fields of corn.



Message from International President Elect Buscher

The New Club Building Committee is working hard to build a NEW evening Civitan club. We need the support of our current club members to make this happen. We would like to ask each Topeka Civitan member to bring a prospective member to our first meeting. Date of meeting to be announced in the near future. Your support is greatly appreciated.

2 Fundraisers Instead of 10

- How many fundraisers does it take to give a club the financial stability to cover expenses and obligations to those who are served?
- How many times can members volunteer for every event without getting burned out?
- How many would volunteer knowing that one event could make or break a budget?
- How many would toss ideas into a hat and be willing to chair a new idea?
- How many would gladly work two fundraising events a year knowing it would be the only ones needed to make the budget work?

Topeka Civitan board has reviewed the options and benefits to doing only two fundraisers a year. The possibilities of setting aside some of the smaller fundraisers we do and hold only two major fundraisers a year.
Topeka Civitans annual

Golf tournament in the spring and one other fundraising event in the fall. The board has considered the many different aspects of a change of this magnitude. And over the next few weeks will be asking for input from our members as to what new events we can do and how we can make it all work. The hope of the board is that ideas would be brought before the club for consideration. And that they could be studied to determine hours and number of members needed to successfully hold the specific event.

The Nonprofit Fundraising Survey Assoc. reported on the fundraising results of more than 2,500 nonprofit organizations in 2010. In this ninth annual survey of nonprofit organizations (charities and foundations), respondents answered questions comparing their organizations' total contributions in the organizations 2010 compared with the same period in 2009. Nearly the same percentage of first nine months of reported that giving was up as those that reported giving was down. Of the about 2,500 responses, 36 percent said giving rose and 37 percent said giving fell, while the other 26 percent reported that total giving remained the same.

However, there are some differences across organizations according to charity type and budget size.

- Organizations in four of the analyzed subsectors reported an equal percentage of both increases and decreases in contributions. These subsectors include: Arts, Education, Environment/Animals, and Human Services.
- International organizations were the most likely to report an increase in contributions, reflecting donations made for disaster relief.
- In the Health, Public□society Benefit, and Religion subsectors, a larger percentage of organizations reported a decrease in charitable contributions than reported an increase. In these three subsectors, there is at least a five□point gap between the percentage with a drop and the percentage with an increase in gifts received.
- The larger the organization's size based on total annual expenditures, the more likely the organization was to report an increase in charitable receipts in the first nine months of 2010, compared with the same period in 2009.
- Approximately 22 percent of charities used volunteers in positions that were formerly paid positions during the first nine months of 2010. This is up from 15 percent a year ago.
- Most organizations were hopeful about 2011. About 47 percent planned budget increases, 33 percent expected to maintain their current level of expenditures, and only 20 percent anticipated a lower budget for 2011.

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Topeka Civitan will hold its 6th annual golf tournament this May. And the call has gone out to members to help find sponsors and teams. The Civitan Golf Tournament has become our flagship fundraiser over the past 5 years. Bringing in several thousand dollars to the club for special projects and events.

Let's all get behind Russ and his team and make this year's golf tournament the best ever.

MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Business meeting	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM Noon Meeting (Guest Speaker Jodi Termine, "The Pork Industry,	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 8:00 AM - 09:00 AM Breakfast Meeting Coyote Canyon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM Board Meeting	29	30 No Noon Meeting Today 5th Wednesday	31		

Social Media can make a Difference

“Ladies and Gentlemen we have the technology we have the knowledge we can rebuild him. He will be stronger, faster. We have the opportunity to build the world’s first Bionic Man. “

Many of us will remember the opening lines to the Six Million Dollar Man. Which today would more than likely be the 6 billion Dollar Man. But even back when that TV show was a hit they were looking at or dreaming of the technology we have today. Over the past few years the popularity of social media has grown by leaps and bounds. And with it many opportunities for those nonprofits to raise money online. Some still doubt the fundraising ability Face book, Twitter and YouTube can give a club or organization seeking new ways to raise dollars for projects.

People today spend a great deal of time on social networks. There are actually spending more time on social networks than email. And using the new ways of mass communication is becoming more popular for organizations to market their fund raising events.

In many instances the data shows those organizations that used these social media tools set higher fund raising

goals, reached more donors and raised ten times more than those clubs not using the micro blogging service. The research also showed those event participants using Facebook tended to set higher goals and commit to stronger support for the organization. And we see an even stronger impact when a more robust application such as [Boundless Fundraising](#), which automates and integrates participants' ability to access their Facebook friends, is used. Overall, event participants who utilized Facebook increased their fundraising by as much as 40 percent compared to individuals who did not use the platform.

The use of Twitter and Facebook are derived largely from their ability to easily connect event participants to a larger number of donors, YouTube becomes a platform to allow individuals the opportunity to deliver more powerful message and fundraising appeals. By using video you allow your club to.

- Make a more visceral ask;
- Actually show the impact of the organization they are supporting;
- Clearly convey why a cause is important to them; and
- Do something "catchy" to increase the viral effect of their appeal.

And research shows the users of YouTube are even more likely to balance their use of online and offline channels when working fund raising activities.

- Participants who take the most advantage of social media tools are consistently among the top fundraisers.
- Individuals who are most involved with an organization are most likely to use social media tools for fundraising.
- When more preparation is required for an event, participants are more likely to use social media tools.
- On average, 75 percent of donors attracted through social media are new to an organization, versus about 50 percent of all donors.

The research for this article comes from the studies done by Charity Dynamics and Blackbaud who provides the latest evidence is indeed, making a difference in overall success of nonprofits special events fundraising. Thanks to the growing popularity of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, more people are learning about special events, new donors are participating in those events, and a larger number of organizations' supporters are getting involved in online fundraising. In short, nonprofits that continue to evaluate how to best incorporate social media into their event strategies stand to benefit the most and realize new levels of success in support of their causes.



Most successful Fundraising Ideas in America Today

1. No-Show Christmas Gala

- This involves sending out Christmas greeting cards with enclosed donation cards. It is written as an invitation to an event, but there is no event.

Raises \$9,000

2. No-Show Fundraiser -

This is a solicitation letter that encourages donors to make a contribution rather than attend a special event.

Raises \$9,000

3. Mother's/Father's Day

Appeal - This includes both a solicitation letter and a newspaper add asking people to honor their mothers and/or fathers with a donation.

Raises \$2,500

Medium Complexity Event

4. Comedy Show -

This is a show that is held at a local comedy club which includes a comedy show and a variety show by the club.

Raises \$5,000

5. Showcase of Desserts -

This includes getting local restaurants to give the proceeds of the sales of their desserts to the club.

Raises \$10,000

6. Board Breakfast with Donors - This is a breakfast hosted by the chapter in which the club explains how their donations help AMBUCS and the attendees are encouraged to make donations. **Raises \$20,000**

7. I Remember Mama - This is a special Mother's Day brunch held for elderly women who might otherwise be alone on Mother's Day. It includes donations for the brunch, and a booklet full of messages from donors to honor their mothers.

Raises \$19,000

8. Green Nose Day - The club buys and resells green clown noses around St. Patrick's Day. This event is perfect for towns with St. Patrick's Day parades, and also helps build awareness of the club and its purpose.

Raises \$2,300

9. Celebrity Waiter/Waitress Event - The club would have celebrities (local or otherwise) serve as the waiters and waitresses at a specific restaurant. Revenue is raised through the waiters and waitresses tips.

Raises \$16,650

10. Rose Riot - Funds are raised through the sale of roses around the community. Great event around Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.

Raises \$5,000

11. Stick It Campaign - This involves teaming up with a local grocery store and handing out smiley face stickers to put on patrons' coupons. Instead of the companies reimbursing the store, they reimburse your club.

Raises \$8,000

12. Bowl-a-Thon - This event asks for both donations and pledges for every pin their sponsored bowler knocks down.

Raises \$7,300

13. Western Jamboree - A good 'ol western hoedown that includes a dinner and dance. A perfect AMBUC event.

Raises \$9,000

14. Penny Shower - This event can involve the entire community. It involves having a large container for pennies in a public place (ideally a mall). People are encouraged to put all their pennies in the container.

Public schools do wonders with this event. **Raises \$24,000**

15. Miniature Golf Event - An event where participants pay one low fee which includes a round of miniature golf, a small lunch, and a souvenir photo.

Raises \$4,450

16. Mile of Dollars - This event challenges the community to make a mile of dollars by purchasing a piece of ribbon. The ribbon is displayed at the mall. Another great event to involve school children.

Raises \$3,800

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17. Steak 'n Burger for Kids - This event is also directed more toward corporate sponsors. It involves the sale of tickets for a dinner event with a disadvantaged child. The kick is that the child gets to eat steak while the adults eat hamburgers. **Raises \$33,300**

18. Huge Garage Sale of Children's Items - Club members obtain donated children's items, and then have a large garage sale in which the proceeds go to the club. **Raises \$3,000**

High Complexity Events

19. Mud Volleyball Tournament - This is a great event for raising awareness for your club. Teams are recruited from the community, businesses, schools, and even families. **Raises \$11,000**

20. High Heels, High Hats, and High Times - A ticketed Halloween Party with special decorations and a costume party (with a \$500 prize). The great thing about Halloween party is you can let your imagination run wild. **Raises \$15,000**

21. Secret Gala - This can become an annual event so that you can hold it in a different place each year. It includes a \$50 dinner and silent and live auctions. **Raises \$46,000**

22. Antique Show for All Ages - Antiques from various time periods all the way up through the 1960s is displayed in this show. There is also a preview party the night before. **Raises \$140,000**

23. A Truly Novel Affair - Authors from the area are invited to an exclusive signing of their book, tickets are sold to the event. The local library is an ideal location to hold this event. **Raises \$11,000**

24. '70s Night Fever - A dinner/dance event with a '70s theme. Fussball and pool are added to enhance the theme. **Raises \$15,000**

25. Summer Social - A luncheon held on the grounds of a Victorian mansion. **Raises \$2,650**

26. Night Flight - A sit-down ticketed dinner in an unusual setting. **Raises \$56,250**

27. Evening as a Child - Adults go back in time pay an admission fee to participate in tricycle riding, human bowling, the Velcro wall, finger painting, and other activities that are normally "kids stuff". **Raises \$53,000**

28. Comedy Auction - A local comedian is provided as the auctioneer. Unique items are auctioned off. **Raises \$70,000**

29. Fashion Show - The club organizes a fashion show in the mall or with a popular store. Tickets are sold to the event. **Raises \$23,900**

30. Festival of Trees - A weeklong event that involves a decorated Christmas tree sale. **Raises \$79,000**

Source Material "Aspen's Guide to 60 Successful Special Events"



Yeah Chris?..... Joe here, Got any more of that Fruitcake?



Topeka Civitans Volunteer for Special Olympics Basketball Tournament

[Submitted by Patty Bottorff](#)



The Civitan Club of Topeka sponsored its annual Basketball Tournament on Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Hillcrest Community Center in Topeka, Kansas from 9:20 AM to 2 PM. A tournament held for local athletes with mental and physical disabilities and their families.

Approximately 100 athletes participated in this year's event and were awarded Rally Towels. Event Chair Patricia Bottorff was first involved with this Special Olympic event when she was with the Capital Civitan Club. Patty's first tournament was in 1987. In those days Patty says they would begin at 8 AM and would play until 5 PM. There were more athletes that participated back then not only from Topeka but from Manhattan, Ottawa, Lawrence and Leavenworth.

The tournament is coordinated with the assistance of Rita Kennedy. Ms. Kennedy is involved in coaching our local athletes in all sports. Rita organizes the location and game schedules. Volunteers help mainly with the officiating, timekeeping and as scorekeepers.

We have been fortunate to have had past members from both clubs participate. They are Tim Murray and Tom Palace. In the past if not for both of them others with less officiating knowledge would have had to try their hand.

If you have not been to this event Patty says it is something you should check out even if just as a spectator. Just ask Brian, Jannett, Carolyn, Joe, Sharon and Steve if they had a good time.

This year's tournament was again a success. And we thank all those volunteers who helped make it so. See you all in 2012



April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					District meeting Oklahoma	District meeting Oklahoma
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
District meeting Oklahoma			12:00 PM - 01:00 PM Business Meeting			08:00 AM - 09:00 AM Breakfast Meeting Coyote Canyon
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			12:00 PM - 01:00 PM Clergy Day (Speaker will be Pr. Eunice Brubaker, Chaplain of the Kansas House of Representatives)			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	06:00 PM - 07:00 PM Board Meeting					Special Olympics Track and Field (tentatively)

Golf Tournament Update

Submitted by Russ Cole

How can I help?

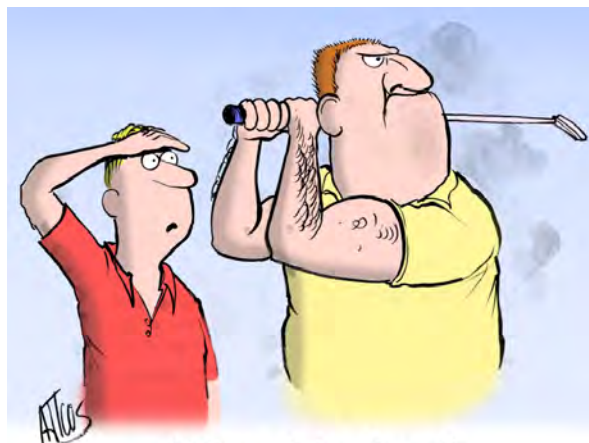
Don't golf or know anyone that does? Don't know anyone that would sponsor a hole?

Before you answer these questions, I urge you to do these things. Look at your check book register or your last few bank statements. Are any of the businesses that you have dealt with a possible sponsor? Even if they may not want to sponsor a hole they may still be willing to donate a smaller amount or some merchandise we can use as prizes.

Nothing yet? - Scan through the Capital Journal and see who has ads. Do you know any of them? Maybe they would be willing to help us. On your way to work or somewhere else, make note of who is advertising on billboards, bus stop benches or other signage. If you know anyone associated with that company, a letter from me and a phone call from you might reward us with a new sponsor or donor.

If these ideas or any of your own enables you to think of a new potential sponsor or donor, get me their name & address.

With the local economy struggling a little we need to work harder than ever to make our biggest fund raiser successful. May 7th @ Cypress Ridge is right around the corner!



"Nice chip shot."

Topeka Civitans Attend Operation Soup Line for Door Step Inc.

For the second year in a row Topeka Civitans moved their Wednesday meeting to the Ag hall of the Kansas Expo Center. Where they attended Operation Soup Line a fund raising event for Door Step Inc. Door Step is an organization that works in the Topeka communities providing emergency services to people based on need. Door Step provides clothing, transportation and financial assistance with rent, prescriptions and utilities.

Topeka Civitans President Elect and afternoon radio personality for Country legends 106.9 Chris Fisher was a celebrity server at this year's event. Civitans were proud to support Door Step and Chris at this year's event. As well as enjoy a great bowl of soup with all our friends.



TEASER:

CIVITAN MARCH MADNESS COMING YOUR WAY!!!!

Do you know the Collage stats better than the Civitan next to you

Civitan March madness where you're sure to have a ball!

