



## going global with youth

### Dance- A- Thon School Wide Event

This event idea was inspired by the “**SUDANCE MERION-THON**” held by Merion-Mercy Academy in Merion Station, PA. The Dance-a-Thon was a component of their yearlong “Stand for Sudan” programming; it was sponsored by the Student Council and the Ministry Team

**Global Topic Addressed:** Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Sudan  
(Determined by School Leadership)

#### **Brief Summary of Goals for the Event:**

The goals of a Dance-a-Thon are to raise awareness of a global justice issue and provide financial support for the work of Catholic Relief Services. The Dance-a-Thon will also cultivate a sense of unity within the school community and beyond as the participants and volunteers come together to rally around a global issue.

#### **Logistics: (Determine Date, Location, Supplies, Food Order, etc.)**

Participants dance for an 8 hour period. There will be 10 minute rest breaks between each hour. During the 10 minute periods, students can be prepared to discuss why this topic/ issue is important to them, and present information about the topic (Ex. show videos they made to explain the issue). This is based on an honor policy

#### **Organize a committee and/or a group of volunteers**

- A. This is an integral part of organizing a large dance-a-thon, thus it is important to have a dedicated and dependable committee established at least 2 months in advance.
- B. Decide which leadership roles are needed and delegate these roles to committee members or volunteers.
- C. Include a team to research the global issue selected and how to integrate CRS resources

#### **Select the global issue that the program will be focusing on**

Research through [CRS.org](http://CRS.org) and [education.crs.org](http://education.crs.org) for information regarding the work CRS is doing in regards to the global issue selected.



### **Set Guidelines for the Event**

- A. Decide on the approximate or ideal number of participants. Know the limit that your facility can hold safely and be vigilant about it.
- B. Decide if people may participate individually or in teams and if they must pre-register.
- C. Recognize individuals and teams who have raised the most money.
- D. Establish the duration of time that the Dance-a-thon will be held (all night? during the day?).
- E. Make sure to have food either by donation or buy snacks and drinks as dancing can be tiring!
- F. Establish rules (ex: you must have at least one member of your team at all times or else your team will be disqualified/ each student must dance for 50 minutes out of each hour and can rest during the 10 min break).
- G. Determine what the entry fee includes (Ex. drinks, snacks, lunch/ pizza party, DJ, games, and free commemorative item. Should each person bring a snack/ baked good? Should there be a bake sale to raise additional money on site? Make sure everything included is indicated on registration information.

### **Set a Date**

Make sure that the chosen date does not conflict with other popular events in the community or events already on the school calendar.

### **Select a Location**

For example, a gym or if the weather permits, an outdoor track/field.  
Obtain the necessary permits if applicable.

### **Fundraising**

- A. Set an event entry price (Ex. \$20 per high school aged person/ \$10 for their family members.
- B. Also announce prizes will be given for people who did the most fundraising/ all people who did additional fundraising will be entered into a drawing.
- C. Reach out to local contacts to support the dance-a-thon by making a contribution (in monetary form or an in-kind donation).

### **DJs, Bands, Supplies and Giveaway Items**

- A. As it is a Dance-a-thon, music is required thus booking a DJ and/or a band is crucial. Be sure to emphasize that this is a fundraiser; it is ideal if they would like to donate their time to this event.
- B. Borrow, rent or ask people to donate the necessary equipment needed for the event (a megaphone, tables, a tent, speakers etc.).
- C. Add extras such as different themes (80s music, 90s music, etc.) or a costume contest.
- D. Order a giveaway items (Water bottles, T-shirts, bandanas), and any awards or prizes you will be giving out (oldest dancer, youngest dancer, wildest dancer, best costume, largest number of pledges)

## Advertising/Publicity

- A. Create a flier that will be sent to other Catholic schools and area parishes (esp. the youth ministry programs)
  - a) Make use of social media: advertise in local newspapers and radio stations, create a Facebook event, use Twitter, and send out the flier via email. Create a FB event that invites friends and family to attend or pledge with the registration date prominently displayed.
- B. Contact [crs.org](http://crs.org) and/or your CRS Regional Relationship Manager
- C. **Stay in touch with the dancers** - Notify the dancers that there will be recognition for who raised the most money. Encourage them to fundraise before they participate.

## Procedure:

### Day-of event

- A. Arrive well in advance with necessary volunteers and officials at the venue before the start of the event.
- B. With the help of the volunteers, set up registration table, food and drink, make sure the DJs/bands are ready.
- C. If you are allowing same-day registration, make sure there is a form for all students that are not part of your school.
- D. Any necessary medical personnel present.

### Post-event

- A. Ask volunteers to help clean up and break-down the event. (Dancers and Committee will be tired)
- B. Gather statistics: how much money was raised, how many participants (Make sure you send to CRS, your (Arch) diocese, and your CRS Regional Office)
- C. Thank-you notes to volunteers, participants and celebrate!
- D. Send CRS Photos and an event summary so we can celebrate!
- E. If donations are received in cash, the organizer should keep the cash and write a single check to CRS for this amount (after deducting any expenses that need to be reimbursed).

**At home...** Families are invited to chaperone the Dance-a-Thon, volunteer for set-up or clean up, or attend the Dance-a-Thon as participants with their student. They are also encouraged to support the fundraising efforts.