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 and 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 Facebook 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.