

Having a yard sale fundraiser...

The folks in San Diego have raised \$15,000.00 dollars over the past 5 years with their annual Living Compassion yard sale. We asked them to send us some practical tips for others who might want have a yard sale fundraiser. Here's what they wrote to us.

"There are some practical tips that we've figured out over the past 5 years:

First, start early and get as many people involved as you can. Everyone who gets involved whether donating stuff, hauling it, storing it, selling it, cooperating with friends to get it done, gets to feel good.

Our strategy is to stress that this is a donation event. Every penny goes to the kids. We have a board with pictures and we tell about the project in Kantolomba to everyone and anyone who will listen. Often people pay extra and thank us for doing this work. It is gratifying all the way around.

Key to our success is that we do not price ANYTHING!

The object is to get something for everythingand all the dollars add up. The way we see it, someone is paying us to take away something that we would have to get rid ofeverybody wins!

At the end, we pile everything along the sidewalk in front of our house and put up a FREE/GRATIS sign and let the fun continue ...for hours folks are hauling away their "trashures."

This year we partnered with another organization that provides services to homeless veterans in San Diego and they gave us a truckload (!) of furniture and stuff that they hadn't sold.

An important part is having a workable "exit" plan. Ours is to have an overnight take-what-you-want-for-free time and then to give the remains (there's not much) to another local charity thrift shop and then clean up the mess.

Be sure to have some friends stay to help count the money and share the stories of the day. Part of the event has become providing food and drink and respite at our house to all who help, and friends volunteer and donate that, too.

In the 3 years we've done this, everything has TRIPLED ... the fun, the funds, the stuff donated, the volunteers and the folks who shop 'til they drop!

*** Remember, one person's trash is another person's treasure. Put aside your ideas about which is which."*