

FINANCING PROJECTS



Financing Dictionary Projects is always a consideration in planning the scope of the activity especially when expanding beyond the means of the average Rotary Club.

There are several methods of securing outside assistance. Three that come to mind are:

- Corporate Contributions
- Charitable Foundations
- Local Fundraisers

Corporate Contributions:

Many vendors offer rebates based on purchases of their products. Without endorsing any retailer we have found that Office Depot, Staples, and Albertsons Food Stores offer up to 2% quarterly rebates to any group signing up and using company supplied identification for their net purchases before tax.

Other firms offer contributions in-kind of products they sell, to complement our activities.

Charitable Foundations:

The growth of Charitable Foundations has resulted in a surprising lack of worthwhile recipients for their funds. Many are actively seeking projects such as ours to invest their money in the future of the nation. Nearly every area of our district has such philanthropies but they are not usually listed in the Yellow Pages. Someone in your club knows of a source of grants in your town.

Local Fundraisers:

Most of us groan when someone suggest the club hold a fundraiser. A successful one usually depends upon its timing, general appeal, or uniqueness. Usually fundraisers cannot expect to be successful year after year unless they offer value such as the Sand Springs Rotary Club of OK, who has been holding their Corn Bread and Beans Dinner for over 20 years. It is their only fundraising activity and keeps their coffers adequate for community service needs. One activity that was good at Southside Rotary in Tulsa was a "No Dinner-Dinner" which was announced by formal invitations being mailed to several hundred prospects which told of a Black Tie event preceded by Harp & Flute music and other dull entertainment. No location was listed because the addressees were offered an alternative of sending us twenty to one hundred bucks. We took in \$20,000 the first year, about \$12,000 the next and decided not to try our luck thereafter.