

Local Service Club Funding Opportunities

Men and women in your community have joined local service organizations to make a difference. Each of these clubs or organizations have their own unique area of interest but most also support local projects, even if they fall outside their primary mission.

In your efforts to raise operational costs and to fund Amtrykes,[®] these service organizations may be a source of financial assistance for your chapter. The Amtryke is a great project, but before another organization can assist your chapter they have to know about you. You will have to ask for their assistance. The AMBUCS Resource Center has developed two letters that can be used to assist your chapter in these efforts.

If you are a new chapter it is important that you increase your visibility in your community. One of the best ways to do this is to go on the “speaking circuit.” In the customizable letters we have included an offer for someone in your chapter to present a program on the Amtryke to the organization from whom you are seeking funding.

Who should you send the letters to? You will have to identify the service clubs and organizations in your community. Check with your local Chamber of Commerce or library and see if they have a directory of service organizations. We have included web addresses for various national service organizations. If you go to these web sites you will be able to complete a search to see if these organizations are represented in your community. There will also be local clubs and organizations that have no national affiliation. These may be a little more difficult to identify. As you become aware of them, be ready to send a letter.

Sometimes it is not enough just to send a letter. You need to try to identify the person who is the local president or chairperson of the organization. Once you send the letter you should follow-up with either a telephone call or a personal visit. Why? People get asked every day for donations. Letters are easy to throw away. Some organizations hold letters in a file and if they don't get a follow-up call or visit the request gets no further consideration. A variation to this is to call first and let someone know the letter will be sent. This way the organization knows it coming and you have associated a real person with the letter. It is much harder for people to tell you “no” if they know you. Following are groups for you to research as potential funding sources:

Rotary www.rotary.org
Lions Club www.lionsclubs.org
Kiwanis www.kiwanis.org
Knights of Columbus www.kofc.org
Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks www.elks.org
Zonta www.zonta.org
Fraternal Order of Eagles www.foe.com
Sertoma www.sertoma.org
Association of Junior Leagues www.ajli.org

Rotaract (Rotary Clubs for 18-30 year olds) www.rotaract.org
Altrusa www.altrusa.com
National Exchange Club www.nationalexchangeclub.org
Ruritan www.ruritan.org
Jaycees www.usjaycees.org
Loyal Order of Moose www.mooseintl.org
Variety Clubs International www.varietychildrenscharity.org
Civitan International www.civitan.org
General Federation of Women's Clubs www.gfwc.org
Optimist International www.optimist.org
AMVETS www.amvets.org
Americian Legion www.legion.org
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) www.vfw.org
Local Police Benevolent Organizations or Union Groups
Local Fire Benevolent Organizations or Union Groups
Local Union or Labor Organizations
Local Professional Organizations (doctors, lawyers, therapists)
Faith-based groups

The customizable letters were created in Microsoft Word so they can easily be modified for your chapter's use. Just replace your local information in the parenthesized areas. Remove any information that does not apply to your chapter.

Be sure you proofread every letter before you send it out, to insure all modifications have been made and are correct. Remember to follow-up on every request.

For Amtryke requests, it often works best to give a details of a specific child and a price for their specific tryke. If it's a general Amtryke request, the average price that we use is \$750.

For operational support, keep your requests to \$300 or less. When calculating your operational costs you should not include your dues, but you should include your insurance, postage and professional fees (tax preparation and such.) Once you have reached your goal on operational costs, you can concentrate on Amtryke funding. In the AmTryke letter it makes reference to an enclosed brochure. The AMBUCS General brochure can be purchased on www.ambucs.org.

Good luck and, as always, the AMBUCS Resource Center is here to offer you support. If you have a question regarding the letters or how to use them call 800-838-1845 or email ambucs@ambucs.org.

(Revised 8/15)