

Donation Tips

How Do I Ask for a Donation?

You can ask for donations by mail, by phone or in person. **If you're there in person, it's a lot harder to turn you down.** If the person you've contacted says, "We'll think about it" or "We'll get back to you on that," your response should be, "Oh, let's just get it done right now. Here, I've already filled out most of the form."

When you approach a business, **it is important to specify what you're looking for.** Suggest something of medium value from their inventory, but be specific in your request. The better your connection, the greater should be your request. Donations may be tax deductible.

Don't ignore Mom-and-Pop businesses. They really count on returning customers, and they really understand the dynamics of word-of-mouth advertising. That's how they survive. They also value community and so can be expected to appreciate the community organization you are working for.

Many companies enjoy helping employees and their families. Matching funds are often available. Contact your HR department. Do it now - many companies donate annually in the Spring!

Leave the cover letter and donation certificate with the manager at places you frequent. The more you leave, the more you get back! Don't get frustrated - success rates can run at about one donation for every ten requests. This is a great response!

What if I HATE asking for free stuff?

No problem! No worries! Put *yourself* out there! Put your craftiness, your Iron Chef ability, your handy skills, your penchant for gardening or your balloon twisting into animals expertise to use! We have received great donations in the past from families who contribute their time, talent, and materials in fun, unique ways. Get together with a couple of others to put on a bash or sponsor something!

I want to contribute, but I'm just SO BUSY.

Cash is always good! Write big fat (or whatever feels right) checks to Great Rivers Choral Society and thanks!

Don't Forget . . .

- restaurants
- grocery stores
- hair salons
- wine shops
- gas stations
- dry cleaners
- fast food joints
- manicure shops
- museums
- kids attractions
- bowling alleys
- produce markets
- miniature golf
- luxury item stores
- radio & TV stations (station tour, helicopter ride?)
- movie theaters
- book or music stores
- bakeries

**Sometimes stores have a buy one get one free or 50% off.
Buy one for you and donate the second item to GRCS.**

Please remember that items should be new, unless it is artwork, books, an antique or very gently used.