

fundraising for dummies pdf

fundraising for dummies pdf is a valuable resource for individuals and organizations seeking to understand the essentials of raising funds effectively. This comprehensive guide covers fundamental concepts, strategies, and practical tips for successful fundraising campaigns. Whether you are a novice fundraiser or looking to enhance your skills, this article explores the key elements found in fundraising for dummies pdf materials, including planning, donor engagement, and legal considerations. The content emphasizes actionable steps and best practices to maximize fundraising outcomes. Additionally, the article highlights different fundraising methods and how to choose the best approach for various causes. By exploring this topic, readers will gain clarity on how to navigate the complex landscape of fundraising with confidence and professionalism. The following sections break down the core components of fundraising for dummies pdf to provide a structured learning path.

- Understanding Fundraising Basics
- Planning a Fundraising Campaign
- Effective Fundraising Strategies
- Engaging and Retaining Donors
- Legal and Ethical Considerations in Fundraising
- Utilizing Technology in Fundraising

Understanding Fundraising Basics

Grasping the fundamentals of fundraising is essential for anyone aiming to raise money for a cause or organization. Fundraising involves soliciting financial support from individuals, businesses, foundations, or government entities to fund projects, programs, or operations. The **fundraising for dummies pdf** guides typically start with defining key terms and concepts such as donors, pledges, grants, and sponsorships. Understanding these basics lays a strong foundation for building effective fundraising plans and campaigns.

Types of Fundraising

There are various types of fundraising approaches, each suited to different goals and audiences. Common methods include:

- **Individual Giving:** Soliciting donations from individuals, often through direct mail, phone calls, or online platforms.
- **Corporate Sponsorships:** Partnering with companies to receive financial support or in-kind

donations.

- **Grant Writing:** Applying for funds from foundations or government agencies through detailed proposals.
- **Events:** Organizing fundraising events like galas, auctions, or walkathons to engage supporters.
- **Online Fundraising:** Using crowdfunding platforms and social media campaigns to reach a broad audience.

Key Fundraising Terminology

Familiarity with fundraising vocabulary is crucial for effective communication and strategy development. Terms frequently encountered include:

- **Solicitation:** The act of requesting donations.
- **Prospect:** A potential donor or supporter.
- **Stewardship:** The process of maintaining relationships with donors after a gift is made.
- **Capital Campaign:** A targeted fundraising effort to raise a large sum within a specific timeframe.
- **Endowment:** Funds invested to provide ongoing income for an organization.

Planning a Fundraising Campaign

Effective planning is a cornerstone of successful fundraising efforts. A well-structured campaign ensures goals are clear, resources are allocated efficiently, and progress is measurable. The **fundraising for dummies pdf** resources emphasize the importance of setting realistic objectives and creating a timeline with actionable steps.

Setting Fundraising Goals

Establishing clear and achievable goals guides the entire fundraising process. Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). For example, setting a goal to raise \$50,000 within six months for a new community center provides a tangible target for the campaign.

Developing a Fundraising Plan

A comprehensive fundraising plan outlines strategies, target audiences, communication channels, and responsibilities. Key components include:

- Identifying target donor segments
- Choosing appropriate fundraising methods
- Creating a budget for campaign expenses
- Assigning roles to team members and volunteers
- Establishing metrics to evaluate success

Building a Fundraising Team

Assembling a dedicated team is critical for executing the plan effectively. Teams often consist of staff, volunteers, board members, and fundraising professionals. Each member should have clear responsibilities such as donor outreach, event coordination, or grant writing.

Effective Fundraising Strategies

Successful fundraising depends on employing strategies that resonate with donors and align with organizational goals. The **fundraising for dummies pdf** literature presents proven techniques that can be tailored to different contexts.

Personalized Donor Communication

Engaging donors with personalized messages increases the likelihood of contributions. Tailoring appeals to the interests and past giving behavior of donors demonstrates appreciation and builds trust.

Storytelling and Impact Reporting

Sharing compelling stories about the cause and the impact of donations helps connect emotionally with supporters. Regular updates on how funds are used reinforce donor confidence and encourage continued giving.

Diversifying Fundraising Channels

Utilizing multiple fundraising channels expands reach and reduces dependency on a single source. Combining direct mail, online campaigns, events, and corporate partnerships can optimize overall

fundraising results.

Leveraging Matching Gifts and Challenges

Encouraging donors to take advantage of matching gift programs or participate in challenge campaigns can motivate increased giving by amplifying the perceived impact of their donations.

Engaging and Retaining Donors

Building long-term relationships with donors is vital for sustained fundraising success. The principles outlined in fundraising for dummies pdf highlight donor stewardship as a continuous process.

Donor Recognition and Appreciation

Recognizing donors publicly or privately for their contributions fosters goodwill. Techniques include thank-you letters, acknowledgment in newsletters, and special events for major donors.

Maintaining Regular Communication

Consistent communication keeps donors informed and connected. Newsletters, social media updates, and personalized messages ensure donors feel valued and involved.

Creating Opportunities for Involvement

Inviting donors to participate in events, volunteer opportunities, or advisory roles deepens their engagement and loyalty to the cause.

Legal and Ethical Considerations in Fundraising

Complying with legal requirements and maintaining ethical standards safeguards an organization's reputation and donor trust. The fundraising for dummies pdf resources provide guidance on critical compliance issues.

Registration and Reporting Requirements

Many states require charitable organizations to register before soliciting funds. Accurate financial reporting and transparency are essential for legal compliance and accountability.

Donor Privacy and Data Protection

Respecting donor privacy and securely managing personal information are ethical obligations. Organizations must implement policies to protect donor data from unauthorized access or misuse.

Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

Fundraisers should act in the best interest of the organization and avoid situations where personal interests could compromise professional judgment or donor confidence.

Utilizing Technology in Fundraising

Modern fundraising increasingly relies on technology to enhance efficiency and reach. The fundraising for dummies pdf approaches emphasize leveraging digital tools to optimize campaigns.

Online Donation Platforms

Platforms that facilitate secure online giving simplify the donation process for supporters and allow organizations to track contributions effectively.

Social Media Fundraising

Social networks provide powerful channels to raise awareness, engage supporters, and drive donations through targeted campaigns and viral sharing.

Donor Management Software

Using customer relationship management (CRM) systems designed for nonprofits helps organize donor information, automate communications, and analyze fundraising performance.

Virtual Events and Campaigns

Hosting virtual fundraising events and campaigns enables organizations to connect with a global audience, reducing costs and expanding participation opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF' about?

The 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF' is a comprehensive guide that provides beginners with essential

strategies, tips, and best practices for successful fundraising efforts.

Is 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF' available for free download?

While some websites may offer free versions, it is important to access 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF' through legitimate sources such as official publishers or authorized retailers to avoid copyright infringement.

What topics are covered in the 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF'?

The PDF covers topics including planning fundraising campaigns, understanding donor psychology, organizing events, online fundraising techniques, grant writing, and maintaining donor relationships.

Who can benefit from reading 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF'?

Nonprofit organizers, small business owners, community leaders, and anyone new to fundraising can benefit from the practical advice and step-by-step guidance provided in the book.

Are there updated editions of 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF' that include digital fundraising methods?

Yes, recent editions of 'Fundraising for Dummies' incorporate modern fundraising techniques such as social media campaigns, crowdfunding, and digital donor engagement strategies.

How can 'Fundraising for Dummies PDF' help improve fundraising success?

By offering clear instructions, real-life examples, and actionable tips, the PDF helps fundraisers develop effective plans, connect with donors, and maximize fundraising outcomes.

Additional Resources

1. Fundraising for Dummies

This comprehensive guide offers practical advice for beginners looking to raise money effectively. It covers a wide range of fundraising strategies, including events, grant writing, and online campaigns. The book also provides tips on building donor relationships and managing fundraising teams, making it an essential resource for nonprofits and individuals alike.

2. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Fundraising

Designed for those new to fundraising, this book simplifies the process with clear explanations and step-by-step instructions. It explores various fundraising methods and helps readers understand how to create compelling appeals. The guide also addresses legal and ethical considerations, ensuring fundraisers operate with integrity.

3. *Successful Fundraising for Nonprofits*

This book delves into the strategies that help nonprofits secure funding consistently. It emphasizes the importance of storytelling, donor engagement, and building long-term relationships. Readers will find actionable tips on planning campaigns, utilizing social media, and diversifying funding sources.

4. *Fundraising 101: A Complete Guide to Raising Money*

Ideal for newcomers, this guide breaks down the fundamentals of fundraising in an easy-to-understand format. It covers essential topics such as identifying potential donors, organizing events, and leveraging technology. The book also includes templates and checklists to help readers implement their fundraising plans effectively.

5. *The Art of Fundraising*

Focusing on the creative aspects of fundraising, this book teaches how to craft engaging campaigns that resonate with donors. It highlights the role of storytelling, branding, and communication in successful fundraising efforts. Readers will learn how to inspire generosity by connecting emotionally with their audience.

6. *Grant Writing for Dummies*

While centered on grant writing, this book is invaluable for fundraisers seeking to diversify income streams. It guides readers through the entire grant proposal process, from researching opportunities to writing compelling narratives. The book also offers tips on building relationships with grantmakers and managing awarded funds.

7. *Effective Fundraising Management*

This title focuses on the organizational side of fundraising, offering strategies to manage teams and campaigns efficiently. It covers budgeting, setting realistic goals, and measuring success. Nonprofit leaders and fundraisers will benefit from its insights into creating sustainable fundraising programs.

8. *Digital Fundraising for Beginners*

As online giving becomes increasingly important, this book provides a beginner-friendly introduction to digital fundraising techniques. It explores social media campaigns, email marketing, and crowdfunding platforms. Readers will gain practical knowledge on how to reach wider audiences and maximize online donations.

9. *Building Donor Relationships that Last*

Retention is key in fundraising, and this book emphasizes strategies to cultivate and maintain strong donor connections. It discusses personalized communication, recognition programs, and stewardship practices. Fundraisers will learn how to turn one-time donors into lifelong supporters through trust and engagement.

Fundraising For Dummies Pdf

Fundraising for Dummies: Your Ultimate Guide to Securing Funding

Are you drowning in paperwork, struggling to secure funding for your passion project, nonprofit, or business? Feeling overwhelmed by the complexities of grant applications, donor cultivation, and crowdfunding campaigns? You're not alone. Thousands struggle to navigate the challenging world of fundraising, leaving dreams unfulfilled and vital initiatives underfunded. This comprehensive guide

cuts through the jargon and provides you with a clear, actionable roadmap to success.

This ebook, "Fundraising for Dummies," by [Your Name/Pen Name], will equip you with the essential knowledge and practical strategies you need to confidently approach fundraising, regardless of your experience level.

Contents:

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Chapter 3: Mastering Grant Writing: From Research to Submission, Maximizing Your Chances of Success

Chapter 4: Crowdfunding Strategies: Leveraging Online Platforms to Reach a Wider Audience

Chapter 5: Cultivating Donor Relationships: Building Trust and Fostering Long-Term Support

Chapter 6: Budgeting and Financial Management: Tracking Expenses and Demonstrating Accountability

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Fundraising for Dummies: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: Why Fundraising Matters and Setting Your Fundraising Goals

Fundraising isn't just about money; it's about securing the resources necessary to achieve your mission. Whether you're launching a startup, running a non-profit, or seeking funding for a personal project, understanding the importance of effective fundraising is paramount. This introductory chapter lays the groundwork for successful fundraising by:

Defining your mission and vision: Articulating your goals clearly is the first step. What problem are you solving? What impact do you hope to make? A well-defined mission will guide your fundraising efforts and resonate with potential donors.

Identifying your target audience: Who are your ideal donors? Understanding their motivations, values, and giving patterns is crucial for tailoring your fundraising appeals.

Setting SMART goals: Your fundraising goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. This ensures you have a clear target and can track your progress effectively. Don't aim too high initially; start with achievable milestones to build momentum and confidence.

Creating a fundraising plan: This plan outlines your strategies, timelines, and budget. It's your roadmap to success, keeping you organized and focused. Include details on the types of fundraising you'll pursue (grants, crowdfunding, individual donations), target amounts, and key deadlines.

Keywords: Fundraising goals, mission statement, target audience, SMART goals, fundraising plan, nonprofit fundraising, business funding, personal project funding.

Chapter 1: Understanding Your Audience & Needs: Identifying Potential Donors and Assessing Your Funding Requirements

Before you even think about writing a grant proposal or launching a crowdfunding campaign, you must understand your audience and your needs. This involves:

Donor research: Identifying potential donors requires thorough research. This could involve looking at databases of philanthropic organizations, researching individuals who have donated to similar causes, and analyzing your network for potential supporters. Consider their giving history, interests, and areas of focus.

Needs assessment: A thorough needs assessment outlines exactly what resources you need and how those resources will be used. This demonstrates to potential donors that you have a clear plan and are using their contributions responsibly. This should include a detailed budget outlining anticipated expenses and justifying each item.

Developing a donor profile: Create detailed profiles of your ideal donors, outlining their demographics, motivations, and giving preferences. This helps tailor your communication and fundraising materials to resonate with specific groups.

Building relationships: Networking and building relationships with potential donors is crucial. Attend industry events, connect on social media, and engage in meaningful conversations to foster trust and understanding.

Keywords: Donor research, needs assessment, donor profile, donor cultivation, relationship building, grant writing, fundraising strategy, target audience analysis.

Chapter 2: Crafting a Compelling Narrative: Telling Your Story and Building Emotional Connections

Fundraising is about more than just numbers; it's about connecting with people on an emotional level. This chapter focuses on:

Developing your story: This isn't just about the facts and figures; it's about the human story behind your cause. Who are you helping? What impact will your project have? Use compelling narratives to engage your audience.

Highlighting impact: Quantify your achievements and illustrate the positive impact of your work. Use data, testimonials, and success stories to demonstrate the effectiveness of your initiatives.

Using powerful visuals: Images and videos can significantly enhance your fundraising materials and capture the attention of potential donors.

Creating different versions of your story: Tailor your narrative to different audiences and platforms. A concise story for a tweet will differ from a detailed narrative for a grant application.

Keywords: Storytelling, fundraising narrative, emotional appeal, impact measurement, visual storytelling, grant proposal writing, crowdfunding campaign, donor communication.

Chapter 3: Mastering Grant Writing: From Research to Submission, Maximizing Your Chances of Success

Grant writing is a specialized skill, but with the right approach, you can significantly increase your chances of success. This chapter covers:

Grant research: Identify funding opportunities that align with your mission and goals. Utilize online grant databases and network with grant-making organizations.

Proposal writing: Structure your proposal according to the funder's guidelines and ensure it includes all necessary components, such as a compelling narrative, detailed budget, and evaluation plan.

Meeting deadlines: Grant deadlines are strictly enforced. Plan your timeline accordingly and ensure you submit your application on time.

Following up: After submitting your application, follow up with the funder to inquire about the status of your proposal.

Keywords: Grant writing, grant proposal, grant research, funding opportunities, grant deadlines, proposal writing tips, nonprofit grant, foundation grants, government grants.

Chapter 4: Crowdfunding Strategies: Leveraging Online Platforms to Reach a Wider Audience

Crowdfunding platforms offer a powerful way to reach a broader audience and engage potential donors. This chapter explores:

Choosing the right platform: Different platforms cater to different types of projects. Research various platforms to find the one that best suits your needs.

Developing a compelling campaign: Craft a captivating campaign that clearly explains your project, its impact, and the rewards offered to backers.

Building pre-launch buzz: Generate excitement before launching your campaign by building anticipation through social media and email marketing.

Managing your campaign: Regularly update your backers and respond to their comments and questions.

Keywords: Crowdfunding, crowdfunding platforms, crowdfunding campaign, Kickstarter, Indiegogo, crowdfunding strategy, social media marketing, email marketing, reward-based crowdfunding.

Chapter 5: Cultivating Donor Relationships: Building Trust and Fostering Long-Term Support

Building strong relationships with donors is crucial for long-term fundraising success. This chapter covers:

Expressing gratitude: Always express sincere gratitude to your donors for their support.

Providing updates: Keep your donors informed about your progress and the impact of their contributions.

Developing stewardship strategies: Implement strategies to cultivate relationships and encourage repeat giving.

Personalization: Personalize your communication to build stronger connections with your donors.

Keywords: Donor relations, donor stewardship, donor retention, gratitude, donor communication, personalized communication, donor cultivation, donor engagement.

Chapter 6: Budgeting and Financial Management: Tracking Expenses and Demonstrating Accountability

Effective financial management is essential for demonstrating accountability and securing future funding. This chapter covers:

Creating a budget: Develop a detailed budget outlining your anticipated income and expenses.

Tracking expenses: Maintain accurate records of your income and expenses.

Financial reporting: Prepare regular financial reports to demonstrate accountability to your donors and stakeholders.

Compliance: Ensure compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

Keywords: Fundraising budget, financial management, expense tracking, financial reporting, accountability, financial transparency, budget planning, nonprofit finance.

Chapter 7: Legal and Ethical Considerations: Ensuring Transparency and Compliance

Maintaining ethical and legal compliance is crucial for building trust and avoiding potential problems. This chapter covers:

Transparency: Be transparent about your organization's finances and activities.

Data privacy: Protect the privacy of your donors' information.

Legal compliance: Ensure compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

Ethical fundraising practices: Adhere to ethical fundraising standards.

Keywords: Fundraising ethics, legal compliance, data privacy, transparency, ethical fundraising, donor confidentiality, fundraising regulations.

Conclusion: Sustaining Your Fundraising Efforts and Celebrating Success

This concluding chapter emphasizes the importance of continuous learning, adaptation, and celebration of achievements. It provides a framework for long-term fundraising success. It encourages you to review your fundraising plan, adapt strategies based on results, and acknowledge your accomplishments.

Keywords: Fundraising sustainability, long-term fundraising, continuous improvement, evaluating success, celebrating achievements, future fundraising plans.

FAQs

1. What is the best type of fundraising for my organization? The best type of fundraising depends on your organization's needs, resources, and target audience. Consider a mix of strategies for optimal results.
2. How do I write a compelling grant proposal? Focus on telling a clear, concise story that highlights your organization's impact and demonstrates a need. Address the funder's priorities directly.
3. What are the key elements of a successful crowdfunding campaign? A strong campaign features a compelling narrative, clear rewards, effective marketing, and consistent engagement.
4. How can I cultivate long-term relationships with donors? Show gratitude, provide updates, offer personalized communication, and create opportunities for ongoing engagement.
5. How do I create a realistic fundraising budget? Research your costs, anticipate potential income sources, and build in contingency planning.
6. What are the legal and ethical considerations in fundraising? Ensure transparency, protect donor privacy, and adhere to all relevant laws and regulations.
7. How can I measure the success of my fundraising efforts? Track your progress against your SMART goals, analyze key metrics, and use data to inform future strategies.
8. Where can I find funding opportunities? Research online grant databases, network with other organizations, and explore crowdfunding platforms.
9. What if my fundraising campaign doesn't reach its goal? Don't be discouraged. Analyze what worked and what didn't, and use this feedback to refine your approach for future efforts.

Related Articles:

1. Grant Writing for Beginners: A step-by-step guide to writing effective grant proposals.
2. The Power of Storytelling in Fundraising: How to use narrative to connect with donors.
3. Building Strong Donor Relationships: Techniques for cultivating long-term support.
4. Crowdfunding Platforms Compared: A review of popular crowdfunding platforms and their features.
5. Creating a Fundraising Budget that Works: A guide to budgeting for successful fundraising.
6. Ethical Fundraising Practices: Best practices for ensuring ethical and transparent fundraising.
7. Measuring Fundraising Success: Key metrics and analysis techniques for evaluating results.
8. Fundraising for Nonprofits: Strategies specifically tailored to nonprofit organizations.
9. Fundraising for Small Businesses: Techniques for securing funding for startup ventures.

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organization will collapse. The dirty truth is that, with no fund raising, there is no social enterprise or enduring mission. This book will help you shoulder the burden of fundraising and ensure the long-term success of your venture.

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review process and how it helps improve one's grant writing skills and successes. One-stop funding websites, and state agencies that publish grant funding opportunity announcements for seekers who struggle to find opportunities. New to third edition.

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Higher ed fundraising can't keep doubling down on ineffective practices. We can't keep hoping donors give. Instead, we need to give donors hope. We need to adapt to new philanthropic realities in higher education, both to avoid wasteful, depletive fundraising and to optimize our institutions ability to produce more significant, sustainable fundraising results. This will require rethinking how we organize ourselves at every level, including the board, executive team, and advancement operation. In the largest sense, what we must be most attentive to going forward is what we've been inattentive to in the past: the growing gap between what institutions wanted and hoped for from their donors and what donors wanted and hoped for from schools, colleges and universities. In *The Future of Fundraising*, James M. Langley describes the changing philanthropic behaviors and expectations of our donors, then details the strategies and tactics that will allow fundraising operations and institutions to detect and catch the prevailing winds in their sails and thereby expedite the advancement of their missions and sustain donor trust. Langley contrasts old, increasingly ineffective approaches with current and emerging best practice, unpacking in practical detail how we must organize ourselves and how we must create new models of collaboration to establish a more adaptive craft. From the author of *Fundraising for Presidents* and *Fundraising for Deans*, this new book that will challenge, inspire, and empower you to create the conditions at your college or university for more sustainable philanthropic growth.

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The complete guide to fundraising planning, tools, methods, and more *Fundraising Principles and Practice* provides a unique resource for students and professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of fundraising in the current nonprofit environment. Based on emerging research drawn from economics, psychology, social psychology, and sociology, this book provides comprehensive analysis of the nonprofit sector. The discussion delves into donor behavior, decision making, social influences, and models, then uses that context to describe today's fundraising methods, tools, and practices. A robust planning framework helps you set objectives, formulate strategies, create a budget, schedule, and monitor activities, with in-depth guidance toward assessing and fine-tuning your approach. Coverage includes online fundraising, major gifts, planned giving, direct response, grants, corporate fundraising, and donor retention, with an integrated pedagogical approach that facilitates active learning. Case studies and examples illustrate the theory and principles presented, and the companion website offers additional opportunity to deepen your learning and assess your knowledge. Fundraising has become a career specialty, and those who are successful at it are among the most in-demand in the nonprofit world. Great fundraisers make an organization's mission possible, and this book covers the essential information you need to help your organization succeed. Adopt an organized approach to fundraising planning Learn the common behaviors and motivations of donors Master the tools and practices of nonprofit fundraising Manage volunteers, monitor progress, evaluate events, and more Fundraising is the the nonprofit's powerhouse. It's the critical component that supports and maintains all activities, and forms the foundation of the organization itself. Steady management, clear organization, effective methods, and the most up-to-date tools are vital to the role, and familiarity with donor psychology is essential for using these tools to their utmost capability. Fundraising

Principles and Practice provides a comprehensive guide to all aspects of the field, with in-depth coverage of today's most effective approaches.

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stakeholders throughout the community. Dowd and her team from Library Strategies, a consulting group of the Friends of St. Paul Public Library, share proven strategies that have brought in more than \$1 million annually. Believing that private fundraising is a natural for libraries large and small, they start with 12 facts about library fundraising and focus on activities with the highest return. Tips and features include: The gift pyramid model for developing the culture of giving that leads to big gifts Overcoming fears of sponsorship and embracing cause-related marketing Pitching the appropriate charitable gift Confronting common fears of requesting major gifts The pros and cons of membership programs

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the insightful advice Mal Warwick offers in this concise and eminently readable book. It's practical, down-to-earth, and addresses the complex, real-world challenges of raising money in tough times. —Ben Jealous, president, NAACP Fundraising When Money Is Tight is an important book in a difficult time for all. This is the right book for anyone who is committed to advancing the public good. —Jane Wales, founder, Global Philanthropy Forum, and vice president, Aspen Institute This is a must-read book by any fundraising manager. It's timely, it's a good read, and the moment I put it down I made sure my managers got focused, got real, and got with the project today. —Mark Astarita, director of fundraising, British Red Cross

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