

We believe that our group project was a success. Even though we did not reach our original goal of five hundred dollars in ticket sales, we believe that our \$275.00 proceeds were a significant amount. Also, our educational PowerPoint helped to raise awareness about our target country, Sri Lanka. Although we think the event was a success, there are still some things that could have been improved on with the raffle. Our group feels that spreading out the ticket sales in several different locations instead of just the Kansas Union and being able to sell tickets outside of our booth would have boosted our proceeds significantly. These tactics would have widened our selling base to other students and to other community members. Also, we could have had more interesting prizes, in addition to our iPod, or made a theme raffle for added attention.

Another idea we have was that there could have been more awareness building in the form of added chalking and flyer distribution, not just from our group but from the class as a whole. It seemed that even with the publicity that we created, many people at the University were still not aware of what we were doing. Perhaps there could have been more media attention before hand, or more effort in advertising.

One of the more trying problems with our raffle was attempting to get attention to our booth from people passing by. Our group used music, a PowerPoint presentation, and posters to attract people. These tactics did seem to draw people's attention but sometimes not enough to bring them over to the table. We ended up trying to dialogue with them by greeting others and this sometimes worked to just scare them away completely. One thing that worked was having group members in front of the table addressing questions and drawing more attention.

In our flyers, we posted a group member's phone number that people could call to ask questions about our raffle and it became our own personal raffle information line. Much to our surprise, people did call it and ask questions. The raffle hotline gave our group a sense of legitimacy because potential donors could talk to us personally and thus gain a sense of comfort and personality to go with the project. This in turn increased sales and was informative and interesting to donors.

One of the things that turned people off to our raffle was the ticket prices. Some people thought the price was too high. After they saw the wonderful prizes we were offering though, they changed their mind in many cases. Also, the fact that we were a smaller raffle attracted other people because they felt that they had a greater chance to win. Another thing that happened, much to our benefit, was that our prize base was widened when another group decided to donate their raffle prizes to us on the day of the event, making the raffle more attractive.

Through the Tsunami Relief project we learned many wonderful and useful lessons that we will be able to apply both to our future work at the University of Kansas and to our careers. First of all and most importantly, we learned the lesson of teamwork. This project was centered on the five of us coming together and collaborating our ideas as a group. In order for our efforts to turn out successful, it was necessary that we always function in this way. Because of the fact that it was crucial that we work together we have furthered our communication abilities and our interpersonal skills. With a five member group, the challenge of fitting together each member's ideas meant that we had to compromise. This related to politics very much because that is what governments must attempt to reach both with other nations and their own citizens in order for the world to

function smoothly. Just as governments do, we had to piece together our ideas efficiently and in a manner that was fair to each individual member of the group. This was a challenge in the beginning but as the project moved forward, so did our ability to work together as one cohesive unit.

The second major lesson that we have learned through this project deals with organization. There were many different aspects to this project and organizing the details of each of these separate aspects was also very important to the success of the overall effort. We had to organize the various fundraising information as well as that of the donors and participants in the raffle. This task was difficult at first. We met the challenge by developing spreadsheets to organize the financial aspects of the project and by specifically designing our raffle ticket in order to collect the necessary information of all the raffle participants. Organization is a key component to the success of an effort such as this for many reasons but most importantly for the issue of legitimacy. All of the money raised through the raffle needs to be properly accounted for and also each of the prizes donated needed to be well documented. We needed to have information and be organized in our efforts in order to appear legitimate to the donors and businesses. Without this aspect of legitimacy, we would not have collected the valuable items that we did or raised the amount of money that we have.

Finally, the most important lesson that we learned deals with the compassion and kindness of human beings. At first we thought that it might be difficult to raise money for a disaster that happened several months ago, but we were quickly proven wrong. As we spread throughout the community, we were amazed by the willingness to participate in

our fundraising from all different groups of people. The concern that the people of Lawrence displayed throughout this project was very heartwarming.

As a group we feel that we were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in a project like this. A project of this magnitude is not easily organized and coordinated, but the Tsunami Relief Day was very successful and accomplished both of these tasks. The individuals that benefited the most from this project are obviously the individuals that were victims of the tsunami disaster. However, we feel that we have also benefited greatly through these efforts in a very different way. The skills that we have acquired through this project and the information that we have attained are priceless. These benefits will last us a lifetime. As a group we hope that the victims of the Asian Tsunami Disaster will benefit as much as we have through the efforts of our comparative politics class.