



# Fundraising Toolkit



# Fundraising Instructions

## Online donations:

During online registration through

[https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\\_information.php?event\\_id=5666](https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=5666), you have the option to create a fundraising page.

If you did not choose this option during registration, no problem! You can still create a fundraising page by visiting

[https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\\_information.php?event\\_id=5666](https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=5666) and clicking “Become a Fundraiser.”

1. Personalize your fundraising page to include:
  - Your fundraising goal
  - Why you are participating in the Cincinnati Gorilla Run
  - Include any personal connection to the mountain gorillas
  - Upload images (gorilla pictures, training in your gorilla suit, etc.)
2. Send your fundraising page link to all your friends and family! On your fundraising homepage, click the “Send an email to Friends and Family” button. Or share your fundraising homepage URL via email. For your convenience, we’ve provided a [pledge letter](#) template.
3. On your fundraising page, click on the social media icons to let your Facebook friends and Twitter followers know about your fundraising efforts!
4. Remember you are eligible for great fundraising [pledge incentives](#)!
5. For additional help and support, email [saveagorilla@yahoo.com](mailto:saveagorilla@yahoo.com) with questions.

## Offline donations:

You can also collect cash donations or checks made payable to MGCF. Record fundraising dollars on the [pledge form](#) and drop off at the gorilla suit pick up of your choice or the donations table on event day.

# Pledge Letter to Send to Supporters

Hi There!

Remember the movie, "Gorillas In The Mist"? Well, I will be a gorilla for a day participating in the 1st annual Cincinnati Gorilla Run on April 1<sup>st</sup> in downtown Cincinnati.

I am raising funds for the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund and am asking you to help by making a contribution. I've set a personal fundraising goal of \$[INSERT GOAL]. Please visit [ADD PERSONAL FUNDRAISING PAGE WEBLINK HERE] to donate online quickly & securely. Or, why not join me on the day of the event? Visit [www.cincinnatiGORILLARUN.com](http://www.cincinnatiGORILLARUN.com) to register today.

Why are we doing this?

MGCF needs to expand its veterinary program by educating local Ugandans and Rwandans to become veterinarians. The current facility at Makerere University has outgrown itself and we need more room to further the education of locals to first, protect the mountain gorilla, then expand to other wildlife in Uganda and Rwanda. MGCF needs support in raising funds to build a new expansion that will provide new lecture halls and a wildlife museum to conserve gorilla remains for future studying. MGCF was the first in the world to ever build an "on location" vet center in 1986 for the protection of endangered animals. Since then, 20 expatriate veterinarians have served in the countries and now locals have been educated enough to take over and protect their own wildlife. This is a great thing for central Africa!

I thank you in advance for your support and really appreciate your generosity!!

Cincinnati Gorilla Run main web site: [www.cincinnatiGORILLARUN.com](http://www.cincinnatiGORILLARUN.com)

If you would like more information about the Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund and how funds raised through the Cincinnati Gorilla Run are used, please visit [www.saveagorilla.org](http://www.saveagorilla.org).

Please forward this email to as many people as you can and encourage them to donate!

# Fundraiser Checklist

## ✓ HAVE A PLAN AND STICK TO IT

The most effective way to achieve your fundraising goal is to create a detailed plan outlining the steps you'll need to complete in order to meet your objectives. Remember, sticking to your plan will ensure success!

- Set a goal of at least \$250.
- Start early so you can give people ample time to donate.
- Make it personal. Educate your donors on why this cause is so important to you.
- Stress the benefits of contributing.
- Ask BIG before going small.
- Never feel guilty about asking for donations.
- Keep track of who you've asked and follow-up.
- Always ask contacts to forward your email to others.
- Keep donors updated on your progress.
- Ask, Ask, Ask!
- Send thank you notes!

## ✓ DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK EVERYONE YOU KNOW

- Start by making your own contribution!
- Friends, family members, and co-workers. You never know who is willing to contribute!
- Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program or would be willing to make a corporate donation...have your donors ask their employers too!
- Email local businesses that might be interested in your cause. Ask them to sponsor you.

## ✓ USE SOCIAL MEDIA

- Update your Facebook status to let your friends know you are raising money for the mountain gorillas.
- Tell your Twitter followers about your fundraising efforts.
- Keep everyone up to date on progress towards your goal.

### Set a Fundraising Goal

I will raise \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (we recommend \$250.00) by April 1, 2012.

I will contact \_\_\_\_\_ people in order to reach my goal.

Estimate the average contribution will be \$50 and that 50% of the people you contact will contribute. If you plan to raise \$250, you only need to contact 10 people. Simple!

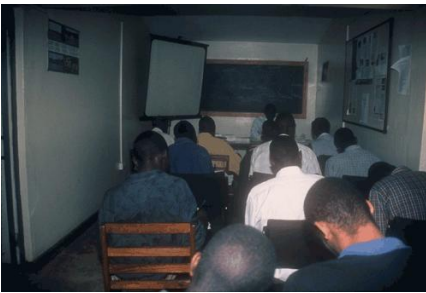
# Why are we doing This?



Dr. Dian Fossey asked Ruth Keesling for help in 1983. Since Dian's murder in 1985, Ruth and the MGCF have kept that promise. She started with 248 known mountain gorillas to be alive and today there are estimated to be 790 in the wild. These animals are not seen at zoos, but only in the wild. Since we are their closest relatives, we need to help them.



The locals set snares in the National Park to capture deer or duiker (their food source), but the gorillas also get caught in the snares. If the gorilla are not tended to, they will die from the snare wounds, poaching and diseases. In response to the need to protect the gorillas, Ruth Keesling started a project called, "Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project", and Veterinarians were installed on location.



Ruth Keesling started the Wildlife Animal Resource Management at the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. This department teaches local Ugandan, Rwandan, Tanzanian, Kenyan and Congolese to become qualified as park rangers or they can continue on to become Veterinarians. This is the first of its kind for Africa and over the years, the department has become the fastest growing in the University. The current building is no longer large enough to house the number of veterinary students. Today, we are answering the call for action and now expanding the facility to become the Ruth Morris Keesling Center of Wildlife Health and Medicine to house the WARM Department. The brand new facility will include: two main lecture rooms, two large scale research laboratories, postgraduate and grant research offices. The lower section will contain a Wildlife Disease Surveillance Biohazard Level 1 Bio Bank. When this building is complete, we have kept our promise to Dr. Dian Fossey!



Dian Fossey's final journal entry:

*"When you realize the value of all life, you dwell less on what is past and concentrate more on the preservation of the future."*



# Pledge Form

## Cincinnati Gorilla Run April 1, 2012



Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_






City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name	Address / City / State / Zip	Email	Amount Pledged	Cash Check
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<b>Total</b>				

- Please make checks payable to: MGCF
- Bring this form to the gorilla suit pick up location of your choice or to the Cincinnati Gorilla Run on April 1, 2012
- The donor's name and address or email must be clearly printed and complete on the form above to receive a tax receipt from Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund.

# Pledge Incentives

Raise this amount	...to receive
\$50	Event T-shirt -or- Silverback Coffee of Rwanda (1 lb. bag) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">   </div>
\$125	Plush Gorilla <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>
\$250	Fleece vest <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>
\$500	You'll be entered to win a custom Silverback bike from Cape Town, South Africa!* <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px; text-align: right;"> <p><i>*A minimum of 2 individuals must reach this fundraising level for the drawing to occur. Drawing will take place on April 1, 2012 during the awards ceremony.</i></p> </div> </div>

*Pledge incentive prizes are cumulative.*

Raise \$500 and you're entered into the bike drawing in addition to receiving a vest, plush, and event t-shirt or coffee.