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INTERNATIONAL  
MEDICINE

## Interview with an INMED Graduate on Fundraising

- *How much money were you able to raise for your rotation?*  
Over \$6,000 USD
- *What were your fundraising strategies?*  
My main strategy was sending letters to family and friends. I tried to explain in my letter where I was going, what I would be doing, and why I wanted to do it in the broader context of my career path. I also looked for scholarships online, a great resource for this the Christian Medical Dental Association.
- *Who did you ask?*  
First, I asked about 150 of my closer Facebook friends if they would like a letter and about 30 replied. I also asked my parents for the addresses of aunts, uncles, grandparents, and church friends, which was about another 20 people. Finally, there were a handful of college professors and staff from my undergrad, which was another 10 people. This totaled about 60 people. I printed off the letters and signed them and addressed them by hand.
- *What did you say to potential donors?*  
I tried to explain my basic story of how arrived at this trip and what I hoped to learn. Since most people can detect when you are exaggerating or being dishonest, just be open and honest about the trip.
- *How did you thank donors/ keep them informed on your rotation?*  
While I was on the trip, I kept a blog, which I updated about once per week as well as before I left and after I returned. I tried to include pictures and what day-to-day life was like during the trip. Basically, if my mom was going to be interested in it, I tried to put it on the blog. Once I returned to the States, I sent out a summary letter to the entire original group that I sent support letters to, this would close the loop for those who are more technologically challenged.
- *Did you find sending donations to INMED helpful?*  
Sending the money directly to INMED was very helpful as they kept everything organized and it added some professionalism.