

Fund Raising

By Karen Zhang

Karen in America



在美国，几乎人人对慈善捐款都不陌生，甚至都参与过。慈善捐款与美国人紧密相关的原因是它存在于他们生活的方方面面，小至学生们想要开展的项目，大至政府想要改善城市的基础设施，都需要人们慷慨解囊。下面就让我们从Karen的文章中了解更多吧。

In China, school projects receive financial support directly from the school or authorities. However, if students in America want to do some extracurricular activities, such as organizing a spring trip or attending an interscholastic^[校际的] debate, they have to raise money on their own. This is a good opportunity for students to show their spirit of teamwork.

In summer particularly, you will often see a group of students wearing the same colored T-shirts. Some take turns holding up a big sign on the roadside, pointing the drivers to a free car wash; while some others work hard at a gas station nearby to wash customers' vehicles. Although it is said the car wash service is free, every customer knows this is how students generate money for their school project. Most of them will kindly give tips to the hard-working students.

On another occasion, girls from elementary school will usually sit outside a mall or a

supermarket, serving customers home-made lemonade^[汽水] or cookies. Again, some of them are from the Girls Scouts^[女童子军]. Without customers' generosity^[慷慨], their summer adventures may fall through.

Now you know why it is part of American life to give away something for charity, because most non-profit organizations live on donations. Usually before the annual income tax deadline—April 15, American non-profits will do all they can to persuade people to donate to their organizations. Do you know why? Donations to non-profits are deductible^[可免除的]. That means taxpayers^[纳税人] can deduct the amount of their donation to a non-profit from their income tax payment. As the old saying goes, it's better to give than to receive.

Fund raising is well known by every American. From a third-grader who wants to complete his school project to a governor who wants to improve public infrastructure^[基础设施], they all need to generate funding one way or another. Thus, grant writing has become a money-making profession. If you are an excellent grant writer, you'll be a high demand for many firms and even for government bodies.



Perhaps next time when you see acknowledgement pages in a brochure^[小册子], you will respect those names as the generous contributors^[捐助者] they are. Without their generosity, the program wouldn't be possible. You certainly would want more funding for what you are enjoying. More funding, good service; little or no funding, corporation closes. 🍀