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AUCTION PROCUREMENT HELP & DONATION IDEAS

We have heard some people tell us that procuring is hard and they aren't sure how to go about it...Below are some easy ways to ask friends and businesses for donations. We asked one person to try all the methods below over ***one day*** and she ended up with 17 very nice items! See below for how she did it:

**Social Media**

One post to a Facebook page asking for donations from friends and family ended the day with 5 unexpected donations from distant family friends.  Most were from people who had talents (sewing, cooking, bacon making!) and were willing to donate them to a friend in need.

**Visiting Businesses In Person**

Take a handful of procurement forms and procurement letters and visit some businesses in the area. Another great idea is to carry these with you in your car and grab them when you go to dinner or the movies or on errands.  It feels easier to ask when you have your credit card out paying for something (you don't feel as much like a solicitor that way.)  Here is what you can say: "I belong to the Northpoint Cooperative Preschool and we are holding our annual live and silent auction in March and I wondered, do you ever donate gift certificates to events like that?  Here is a letter explaining more about the event and our tax id is included."  4 more items were found this way.

**Calling or Emailing Businesses You Use Regularly or Like**

You can spend some time emailing businesses you personally like to use.  Hotels you stay at regularly, restaurants you eat at often, stores you shop at regularly.  These are more fun to write because you are contacting businesses you have a connection to!  2 donations were acquired this way.

**Calling or Emailing Businesses You Don't Use Regularly**

If you have some free time and you are on the computer, surf the web and email any business you can think of. (Usually more success is with smaller companies and ones that are somewhat geared toward children or young mothers and fathers.)  6 items were found this way.

**DONATION IDEAS:**

After last year’s auction, we asked attendees what types of items they love to purchase at these events. Their answers are great ideas on what types of things to procure.

**What are some of your favorite kinds of things to purchase at a SILENT auction?**

* Easter baskets
* Gift certificates for local stores & services like auto detail
* Photography packages
* Kids' activities & gifts
* Spa gift cards or spa services
* Love sporting goods/tickets
* Fun baskets, unique items
* Gift certificates to unusual activities
* Kids themed gift baskets
* Experiences - hotel stays, restaurant gift cards, photography packages, etc.
* Tickets to local venues
* Home decor, kitchenware
* Hair/body products
* Baskets with food and drink
* Tattoo session gift certificates
* Experiences (go-carts, I Fly, rock climbing...) and dining
* Things that you would definitely use - wine, gift certificates, etc.
* Zoo membership, photography of kids/family, kids museum membership, fun kid stuff
* Wheel barrows!
* Kids / adult birthday packages
* Tickets to events, sporting, theater
* Date nights
* Toys, baby things, goodie baskets
* Services such as car detailing, landscaping, house cleaning, massages, etc.
* Nice wine, more than one bottle
* Jewelry, spa items

**What are some of your favorite kinds of things to purchase at a LIVE auction?**

The overwhelming survey response was “Experiences!” - everyone loves a fun day out or weekend away. If you have a family member with a timeshare or vacation rental who would like to donate a night or two, those are very desirable live auction items!

* Seahawk tickets
* Vacation rentals
* Trips
* Quilts
* Seattle overnights
* Overnight stays
* Weekend getaways
* Specialty sports games
* Hotel packages
* Unique items that you can't go out and buy - yacht to Seahawks game, etc.
* Day trips, events

**If you have any questions, c**ontact the Auction Committee at ncpreschoolauction@gmail.com. We’d love to hear from you!