



Vol 1 Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of Mountain Fund news for Member Agencies. Our goal in providing you with this quarterly newsletter is to make certain that you are in touch with all the tools and opportunities that exist for your organization. We will also use this newsletter to let you know about what other Member Agencies are doing that is working for them.

GrantStation

Your membership in the Mountain Fund includes a subscription to GrantStation, the world's largest database of foundations and donors. When you sign up at GrantStation you will automatically begin receiving their online newsletter which is packed full of great, timely ideas for how to increase your funding opportunities. The most recent issue includes an article on the Twelve Steps to Writing a Winning Proposal, Six new announcements of Funding Opportunities as well as information about upcoming grant writing seminars and fund raiser conferences. All this is included in your Mountain Fund Membership. The CEO of GrantStation had this to say about the Mountain Fund

"What a wonderful organization. I am truly blown away by your vision." CEO Cynthia Adams - www.GrantStation.com

Guidestar

If your organization is not yet registered at Guidestar, you need to do this right away. Guidestar is a free online database that will help foundations and corporations looking for good causes find out about you. You must be a US 501C3 nonprofit to register. If you are a foreign NGO let us know and we will be sure and include you as part of the Mountain Fund's registration on Guidestar and get you noticed. The Web Site for Guidestar is www.guidestar.org.

Tech Soup

We all use computers and we all need software. Did you know that as a nonprofit you can join TechSoup for free and access the latest and most popular software for pennies? Are you building a web site? Get Dreamweaver for only \$35.00! How about Microsoft Office 2003 Professional for \$20.00! Techsoup is also packed with tips and ideas for using technology as part of your fund raising plan. When you sign up at TechSoup you'll also receive their online newsletter informing you of new software and hardware products that you can purchase. You must be a US 501C3 to use TechSoup. If you are a foreign NGO, let us know and you can still access TechSoup via the Mountain Fund.

Mountain Fund in Climbing Magazine

The Mountain Fund will have nearly a full page advertisement in the annual photo issue of Climbing Magazine which is due out in mid-May. We are also planning space for the annual Epic's issue in September. In addition we are negotiating for space in Rock and Ice and Alpinist and expect to be in both before the end of this year. We believe that the climbing community will have a strong interest in supporting the work of our Member Agencies. Most of the Mountain Fund's Member Agencies were in fact started by climbers, trekkers or hikers who visited many of the world's mountainous regions, discovering the poverty that so many of the people in these beautiful locations live with every day.

Membership Dues and Memorandum of Understanding

This is a reminder that Membership Dues and Memorandums of Understanding need to be submitted to the Mountain Fund before you can begin to reap the rewards and benefits that come with that membership. Please return your MOU's and remit your dues and the one time web setup fee ASAP. We really can't move forward without you. While the membership dues are extremely low, they do allow us to provide you with the many benefits of membership. Please do take care of this today.

Powerful Partners

Grants and Scholarship Awarded to Fund Members

The Mountain Fund is pleased to announce that we have created a great partnership opportunity for two of our member agencies. Working with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), The Alpine Fund, the Anatoli Boukreev Memorial Fund and one of our corporate sponsors, SummitClimb we have obtained a grant and scholarship for a young "graduate" of the Alpine Fund programs, Oksana. Oksana is 20 yrs old and was raised in an orphanage in Bishkek. She got involved in the Alpine Fund and eventually become an intern. She is extremely motivated, taught herself English and wants to be more involved with climbing with the goal to become a guide. She has received a scholarship from NOLS for a North Cascades Mountaineering Course. Airfare and other costs are being provided by Summitclimb and the Anatoli Boukreev Memorial Fund. This is the Mountain Fund in action, creating powerful new ways of working together for better.

North Face to Fund Member Agency Karing for Kids

The North Face has chosen Mountain Fund Member Agency, Karing for Kids-Nepal as an official charity for 2005. They have set a goal of providing the clinic operated by KFK with enough funding for an entire year's budget. See more at <http://www.thenorthface.com/globalgiving/>

New On Line Donation Tool

Use of Funds Donated

Over the past several months, the folks at GuideStar conducted a survey of donors asking about the use of donated funds. Here is the response they received.

"Should charities be able to use earmarked donations (those given for a specific purpose or program) for other things?" The answer was a resounding "No":

| | |
|-------|-----|
| No | 65% |
| Maybe | 30% |
| Yes | 5% |

How's your WWW ?

To be effective we all know that having a web site is a necessity. We'd like to hear from you about how the costs of that are impacting your organization and how happy you are with the service you get. The Mountain Fund will soon have a dedicated web server and we are considering making the excess space on that server available to Member Agencies for web hosting. We'd like to hear from you it that would be helpful to your organization. E - Mail your thoughts to MtnFund@mountainfund.org

TicketMaster for NonProfits

That's right, the same people who handle tickets for sporting events, concerts and other performing arts events now offer a good processing option for nonprofits. No setup fee, no monthly fee and a low processing fee all mean that you can easily and inexpensively process credit card donations online. By teaming this service with e-tapestry you can create a powerful "back end" to your web site to process credit cards and capture donor information automatically in e-tapestries database. The e-tapestry database is free up to 500 records. E-mail us for more about this or visit www.iats.ticketmaster.com and www.etapestry.com

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