

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FRANKFURT

Written by Paige Feldman

Basic event details: name of the event, date, target audience

The main event we were a part of was worldfest and that took place May 31st, 2015. It was an event that is for all age groups that is annually hosted. This event was our biggest but throughout the year we are constantly doing fundraising events and awareness events.

Describe the event, and how it worked.

Operation smile created a booth where people would come build a smile bag. The event as a whole is to experience other cultures and there are booths from all over the world. Service groups set up stands to raise awareness.

What were the objectives of hosting this event? (awareness, fundraising, target audience, etc, etc)

For service groups the objective is to raise awareness.

How did you implement the event? What were the resources that you had to collect (volunteers, supplies, sponsorships), and how did you go about doing it?

People from our group were there to set up and run the booth. Through the year we were raising money for the products that we could not get donated for this event. We had shampoo drives and got donations from local business for things such as tooth brushes and tooth paste. We also made all of our own bags.

What were the greatest successes of the event? What were the challenges?

Our biggest success was the involvement of the community. I think our biggest challenge was the time frame and getting everything in order in a short amount of time.

Knowing what you know now, what would you do differently?

I would make sure that our group and everything in order well in advanced as I feel that we were rushing to get everything finished for the event.

What advice would you give to another club/group trying to host a similar event?

I would recommend that like I said time management is important and before having an event like this one it is very important to make sure that everything is in line well in advance.

GALA DINNER

Hosted by the student club of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Written by Farah Nanji

The student club in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, was established in March 2015. On May 30, 2015, a dinner gala was hosted for adults. This event was hosted to raise funds and create awareness about not only the student club activities, but also about Operation Smile itself and the mission in the DRC. This elegant event was held in Kinshasa's finest 5 star hotel, Kempinski, Fleuve Congo where guests purchased tickets for \$150 each. The various student activities were discussed on this night such as the painting of the wards and corridor of the hospital, Clinique Kinois. This was our first large-scale project with the objective of renovating the hospital, as the children who will be operated during the mission in July 2015, will be spending their time in this clinic before and after their surgery. We successfully carried out this project by collecting funds through various methods such as selling bracelets and t-shirts to raise money for the renovation of the walls and the purchase of the painting supplies.

The student club worked tirelessly to carry out this project and I was glad to have the opportunity to share our accomplishments at the gala. To successfully plan the gala, I contributed by collecting sponsors and donors. It was challenging, as the process of getting sponsors was time consuming. In addition, I had to format the newsletter and logos while balancing schoolwork at the same time. Despite the obstacles, we were successful as we managed to get twenty-five sponsors and seven individual donors. The only thing I would do differently is approach the sponsors before and give them a deadline. I encourage other student clubs to host a gala, as it is an excellent way to raise awareness and entertain the guests as well. I advise all students to plan ahead. This gala was an amazing experience for me, as I not only contributed to aiding the mission, but I also learned a lot about approaching companies and organizing large events.

COLOR IN ACTION 5K

Hosted by Seven Lakes High School, Texas

Written by Santiago Avila

We started the Color in Action 5k in 2013 in hopes of creating an event that would attract families in the community regardless of physical ability. The latest installment of this annual event was this year on April 25th. The fact of the matter is that this sort of fun run is less about finishing first and more about raising awareness and funds for a great cause. In order to accomplish just that, it's necessary to seek out a hard-working team, sponsorships, publicity outlets, and volunteers among many others. In terms of finding a team, it's important to look for resourceful individuals that understand that every bit of work put into the event has the potential to impact a child's life.

Organizing a race of any sort is an incredible amount of work. But it's also rewarding. The months before the race are packed with life-long lessons that will serve the organizer in every avenue of life: from managing a budget, to creating a successful sales pitch, to even speaking with government officials. It's not easy. If it were, then perhaps it wouldn't be quite as successful. The first thing I ask of anyone wanting to carry out a similar project is simple. "Why?" Understanding your purpose will draw motivation from the well when you thought it had gone dry. That is the most important tip I can give. Second, I would urge students to avoid procrastinating. One thing is putting off homework to the last minute; while still not ideal, it merely depends and affects an individual. Organizing a race depends on and affects way too many people with different timelines and variables, so it's necessary to allot sufficient time for all parties. Lastly, I would encourage those interested to do some research, speak to other event organizers, and go out to volunteer at other races.