

CREATING A NONVIOLENT ECONOMY



Finding Money to Support NVC Events

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About this document

We often receive requests for financial support (reductions in fees, scholarship places, travel allowances, etc.) from would-be participants at NVC events, and value applicants' understanding that support can look a lot of different ways.

Whilst their NVC skills do seem to allow organisers to dream up any number of creative solutions to cost-related problems, we also value support for ourselves.

We have prepared this document in order to share some strategies we have noticed working in various areas then, and hope it might trigger some further creative ideas in you.



Many people who haven't heard about NVC may prove more eager to support your learning than you imagine.

1 Ask for sponsorship from people who know nothing about NVC

A would-be participant in Singapore returned to ask his boss for sponsorship to attend a particular intensive training no fewer than five times. That organisation now has its own practise group, facilitated by that student.

We hold that asking for sponsorship from people who know nothing about NVC achieves two things. Firstly, it draws financial resources into our Giraffe Economy, which makes it easier for organisers to offer scholarships etc. Secondly, it helps raise awareness around NVC.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to hear the 'Yes' behind the 'No' in sponsorship conversations then, and find that would-be participants can increase their fluency enormously through this strategy.

2 Ask for support from practise group participants

Where members in a local NVC group cannot afford for everyone to attend a particular event, we encourage you to 'elect' one or two individuals you imagine can bring their learning back to your group.

And, if money is too thin on the ground for your group to invest even a single person at an event, we encourage you to make a collective application to organisers for a reduction in fees or a scholarship place.

When you identify a single person you imagine can bring learning back to your group in this way, you contribute an unbelievable sense of ease to organisers who might otherwise struggle to determine where a disbursement of available funds can make the most difference.



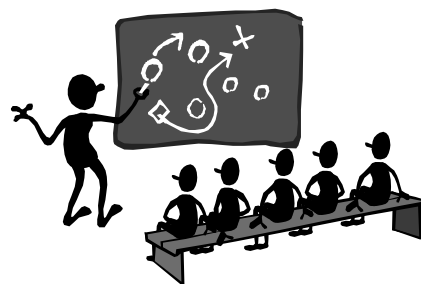
Local practise groups in some geographical areas 'elected' to support members' in joining Marshall Rosenberg's Summer Trainings in Switzerland during June/July 2005.

3 Request coaching support

We fully appreciate that options 1 and 2 require both guts and fluency to prove effective, and we encourage you to find an experienced empathy buddy or coach to support you along these paths.

When approaching organisers and/or trainers for this kind of support, please state your request for coaching as clearly as you know how to, however. (Organisers in particular are very used to receiving requests for financial support and, except where you are clear with your request, you may hear an organiser offer you a scholarship or reduction in fees instead of coaching!)

Frankly, whilst it is by no means the only strategy we use to support our events, as long as more than half the world's population lives on less than US\$1 per day, we find we can ALWAYS use money. And we warmly appreciate your willingness to help us find it!



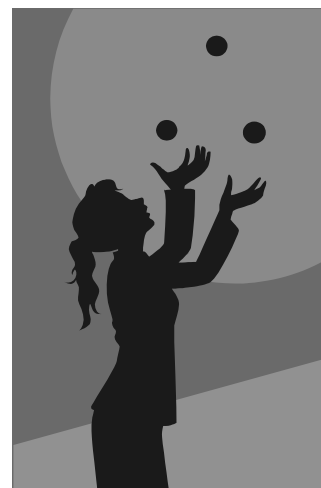
Would be fund-raisers are **ALWAYS** welcome, particularly when you ask for support in developing your skills in this area.

4 Make sure organisers recognise your skills

Organisers can nearly always make use of a helping hand or two. Please let organisers know what you can do to assist them, and describe this in concrete language – e.g. if you know how to make fantastic cheesecake, tell them you know how to make fantastic cheesecake.

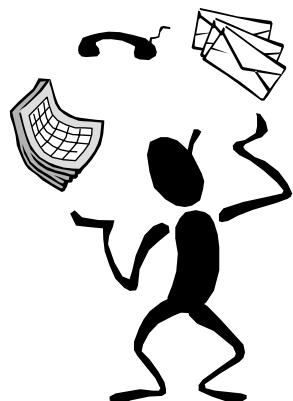
Specific skills NVC organisers will enjoy hearing about include:

- Do you have design or copywriting skills? If so you can contribute towards creating materials that support organisers in attracting more paying participants, which generally allows them to offer more scholarships.
- Do you have IT skills? If so you can help with websites and/or emails, and find ways to automate certain administrative tasks.



Some organisers provide a form where you can list your skills, and **ALL** organisers can benefit from hearing what you're capable of.

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(continued from Page 3)

- Can you cook? Organisers may be looking to hire caterers.
- Are you a neat freak? We find it wonderfully helpful to have people picking up tissues that get dropped or re-arranging chairs during breaks.
- Do you have a car? Organisers sometimes require 'runners' to nip out to the local copy shop or pick up more flip chart paper.
- Are you willing to spend some time creating materials? Many trainers use Dance Floors and/or other materials during trainings which take time and energy to produce. Would-be participants can often help by feeding sheets of paper through photocopiers and/or laminators, cutting things up and/or packaging them.

5 Consider what services you can offer to other participants

NVC organisers and teachers generally value the idea of a Giraffe Economy where people can contribute something they enjoy contributing and everyone can have fun together.

Please let organisers know if you have books or other materials you could offer to other participants at an event. Can you offer backrubs or pedicures? Would you be willing to erect tents, bang nails into things or collect wood for campfires? Whatever your 'gift', we encourage you to share it AND to request whatever support you yourself are in need of.

Organisers appreciate hearing about your gifts ahead of time out of several needs, including comfort and safety for other participants. (We prefer to avoid price wars, for example, which can start accidentally when different people offer the same item or service with different requests attached to it.)



Whatever your gift, please make sure organisers know about it ahead of time.



www.nvcinbusiness.com

Founded in Singapore and operating through a network of strategic partnerships, FUTURITY is a commercial enterprise that aims to provide a link between a team of trainers certified by the international Center for Nonviolent Communication to share the NVC and those businesses that may choose to benefit from their expertise. It also produces and shares a variety of corporate training materials.

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Also, if you find our materials helpful to your training practise, do please let us know.

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