

Fund Raising For Your Statue

1. We will make a miniature replica if you want us to. You could use the miniature to start “Adopt a Cop” (like the “Adopt a Highway” program.) For a specified donation amount, the organization or group gets a sculpture with the name of a particular cop – their beat man, their school liaison officer, an officer killed in the line of duty – that they can “sponsor.”
2. Add a second plaque to your statue plans (perhaps on the opposite side of your base) and list the names of major donors – the thought of their name on something lasting (hundreds, even thousands of years – bronze is very durable) can be very persuasive.
3. Send letters to businesses – banks, law firms, gun shops, uniform supply companies, anything related to law enforcement – requesting donations for the statues. Print the names of all contributors in your department/association newspaper.
4. Send letters to charitable gambling organizations – your statue qualifies as a civic project under most rules. Check with the city or county attorney to see if drug forfeiture money can be used – sometimes all that is necessary is passing resolution approving the funds for such a use.
5. Make presentations at local VFW’s, American Legions, Jaycees, Eagles, etc., asking for their assistance. Many already offer recognition to officers for outstanding service, and they would be proud to be part of the project.
6. Approach city/state arts organizations and private foundations for possible grants. Emphasize the enduring and educational aspects of art – providing a visual confirmation of a spoken message, offering an example for children to follow, not just today, but in the future as well. Many states are now covered by “Percent for art” programs that require that a certain percentage of the budget for new/remodeled government buildings be used to purchase works of art.
7. Organize a fund raising event at which a miniature statue could be raffled off along with other donated items, and food and beverages sold.
8. Use our custom lapel pins, challenge coins or special edition prints to sell outright, or use as a premium for a particular donation level. These can be made to resemble your statue and/or memorial site.
9. Stage a “walk-a-thon” “bike-a-thon” and/or motorcycle rally, where the participants get people to sponsor them for each mile they travel.

10. Hold a “Jail and Bail” event, where the local law enforcement officers put individuals in the lock-up, and the “jailbirds” have to raise their bail by calling others to make charitable donations.
11. Approach your benevolent group or federation and don’t forget the retired officers. One department’s statue was entirely funded by the retirees association.
12. Organize a celebrity fund raiser, complete with dinner, silent and live auctions, etc. See if one of the hotels or restaurants will let you use their facilities free of charge (in exchange for the bar or food.) Have local VIP’s (Mayor, Chief of Police, Sheriff, TV and radio news personalities, sports figures) serve as celebrity waiters – they can raise additional funds by “selling” chairs at their tables, offering silverware and napkins for additional fees and requiring generous “tips.” Each table can have a donated centerpiece or prize (maybe even miniature statues) that can be used to start the auction.
13. Get the spouses involved – they are often looking for projects, and eager to show their support for the department. In addition, they often have close contact with the community, and their involvement would avoid direct fund raising by the department, if that is seen as a problem.
14. One department has had tee-shirts made up with the image of their statue printed on the front. They are raising funds and at the same time, getting the real message and meaning of the statue/memorial out into the community. **Remember: You must have the permission and approval of the artist to use the image of the statue if “copyright” exists, call us for details on this.**
15. Be creative – one department had a little fun by making up posters that said that their statue was being held hostage, and they needed to raise the “ransom money” in order to get it back safely.
16. Organize a “Pennies for the Protectors” campaign in local schools. Put containers in each grade, and see which class can collect the most above a certain amount, and reward the winners with a prize. (nickels, dimes and quarters are okay too.) Ask one of the local banks to match every penny collected.
17. Use the “Protector” in conjunction with your D.A.R.E. program. With the permission of D.A.R.E. America Inc. The little boy or girl can be dressed in a D.A.R.E. tee shirt as a concrete and very permanent way of demonstrating your dedication to the program’s message.
18. Ask local monument companies to donate a base for your statue. See if local teamsters will do the hauling and installation. Persuade a nursery to share a few bushes or trees for landscaping, a fabric company to provide a drape for the unveiling, the high school band to provide the music. Make your project a true community effort.

19. Brodin Studios cast up miniature police hats and fire helmets for the Shawnee Police and Fire Protectors Memorial. These were put on key chains and given out to donors of a certain level. (Shawnee sent us pieces of an actual fire pump that we melted down and used to cast up the larger memorial statues and these little charms for the key chains- it had an historical aspect to it, as well.)
20. The Shawnee, Kansas and Jasper, Alabama Memorial Committees published the names of the donors in the local papers during the fund raising – this served to encourage others to “get on the band wagon” and send in their contribution.
21. We have a source for laser-engraving paver’s bricks. Each brick can have up to four lines of type on it and/or a logo. The price of the bricks depends on how many you order, but even at the minimum, they are only about \$17 each (includes engraving and delivery to your site.) The bricks can then be used to create the base, walkways around the sculpture, or wall behind the statue. One department offered the bricks for a \$50 donation, and they sold out in less than a week! And had to order more. (She said that she wished they had asked for a \$100 contribution.) Adding “capstones” to a low wall like the Illinois Firefighters Memorial or a larger size brick to the outer edge of the walkways.
22. Sell light posts and/or flag poles on the memorial site and attach a small plaque to the item with the sponsor’s name on it. Add more benches to the site and secure sponsors for each.
23. Hold inter-department activities such as a “Water ball” tournament. A Beef Feed for the community during your towns summer festivities.
24. The Eastpointe, Michigan Fire Chief ran 25 miles, and members of the department and the community pledged money for each mile he completed.
25. Batavia, Illinois committee (which is made up entirely of spouses, including one firefighter whose wife is on the police department) had a “Dunk-a-Cop”, among other activities.
26. Brodin Studios can create medallions, a variety of plaques or memorial coins that can be sold, or presented to donors. The medallions can be single or double sided. You could even plan to issue one medallion during the dedication year, and a new medallion each year after that.
27. The Lake County Sheriff’s Department got an organization called “TLC” (Truckers Love Children) to come up to Minnesota and pick up their statue (saving them the freight charges. In addition, they contacted the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) lodges in all the states in between and arranged for a police escort through each state!

28. The District Four FOP in Florida had pin sets made up (after getting our permission and approval of the design.) Since they commissioned a double “Protector” statue, one pin had the female deputy holding the hand of the little girl, and the second pin had the male officer holding the hand of the little boy. One pin was given to each member at the convention, but they had to buy the second pin to complete the set! (We have a source for pins that are top quality and reasonable.)

29. The Newport News Police and Fire Memorial designed a special fund raising project for the schools: paper chains they called “links of valor.” The kids could purchase a link for a dime (the project co-chair said she’d recommend a quarter) and the resulting chains were displayed at a local shopping center, the chains went four times around the center and raised over \$4000.