



Email for Canning in Class

One of the easiest ways to can to collect donations is by asking the people around you, like your classmates. Speaking and passing around your can in class is a quick way to collect donations, especially on a push day. Consider putting your Venmo name on your can as well! Prior to canning in class, you should email your professor to ask for permission to speak and pass your can around. If you are having trouble writing that email request, use the following template as an example:

Dear Professor [insert professor name here],

This year I have the exciting opportunity to serve as [insert your position here] for VOLthon. VOLthon is a student run fundraising organization that works year round to raise funds for its local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, East Tennessee Children's Hospital. However, VOLthon is so much more than just another fundraiser. It is an opportunity for college students to make a difference for the kids in their community. Our creed here at UT says to volunteer and help others, and by being involved with VOLthon that's exactly what we are doing.

On [insert date here], I was hoping I could have the opportunity speak to our class [include specific class date and time - professors have a lot of classes!] about VOLthon and pass around a can to ask for donations. [If there is a specific push day happening, include information about the push day and its goal]. This would greatly assist VOLthon in raising awareness and funds for our mission this year, and I would not take more than 5 minutes of time to do so.

If you have any additional questions or need further information I would be happy to provide it! Thank you for your time and your consideration of this request.

*For the Kids,
[insert signature here]*

Remember, even if your professor says no, respond with a kind email thanking them for their consideration. If they say yes, be sure to send a follow up email thanking them for the opportunity! This goes a long way in building relationships with faculty on campus!



Letter Asking for Donations

As college students, often our first thought as to where to go to ask for donations is social media or Venmo. That's a great way to reach some people, but many people, especially adults, may not find this their preferred way to be reached out to for a donation. It is also significantly less personal since you are posting and reaching out to a mass audience instead of reaching out to individuals. Consider crafting a personal email instead to a group of possible donors. You could email them all individually, or you could write unique emails to each of them. Regardless, it is a more personal ask that is likely to help you reach a wider audience than you might online.

Dear [insert donor name here], or Dear Family and Friends,

For those of you who may not know, this year I have the exciting opportunity to serve as [insert your position here] for VOLthon. VOLthon is a student run fundraising organization that works year round to raise funds for its local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, East Tennessee Children's Hospital. However, VOLthon is so much more than just another fundraiser. It is an opportunity for college students to make a difference for the kids in their community. For 12 hours in the spring, we will stand on our feet in honor of the kids at the hospital, VOLunteering for tomorrow's miracles. It's truly an honor to be a part of this incredible group of students, a part of this generation fighting for the next.

Through hearing stories from kids and their families at our events and from volunteering at the hospital, I have had the opportunity to really see that the money we raise does make a difference in the lives of the kids in our community. I want to make the biggest impact I possibly can for these kids, and this year I have set my fundraising goal to [insert fundraising goal here] so that I can help our program and our hospital continue to grow. Our creed here at UT says to volunteer and help others, and by being involved with VOLthon that's exactly what we are doing. I am committed for the kids at ETCH and want to be the difference that gets them better.

This year, I would like to ask for your support as I push towards my fundraising goal and work to make a difference in East Tennessee. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so online at the link below - all donations are tax deductible! Even just a dollar donated makes a difference, because those little donations add up to make a huge impact.

[insert link here]

If you cannot make a donation today, know that you can support me through keeping VOLthon and the children and families affected by pediatric illness in your thoughts this year. They have big battles they are fighting each day, and VOLthon has some big goals to reach this year.

Thank you for all of your love and support, and please feel free to add me on social media or reach out via text or email if you would like to see more of what VOLthon is working on this year! Here's to a year of making miracles For the Kids!

*For the Kids,
[insert signature here]*

[optional add on] If you prefer to make a donation through cash or a check, please mail cash or a check made out to "East TN Children's Hospital" to the address below. Be sure to put VOLthon-[insert your name here] in the memo line!

*East TN Children's Hospital
ATTN: VOLthon
2018 Clinch Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37916*



Thank You Note

Thanking your donors is such an important thing to do, because it shows them that their gift mattered to you and shows them how their donation made an impact. Additionally, it can create a long term donor who continues to support you year after year, because they saw how much the donation meant to you and to the program. Thank you notes should be send promptly, within a week or two of the donation being made. Below is a thank you template, but note that you should not simply copy this word for word. You can make it longer or shorter depending on who the donor is and how well you know them. Be sure to make your thank you notes as personal as you can, adding a bit of your own story to it to make it more meaningful.

Dear [insert donor name here],

I wanted to reach out to thank you for your generous donation to VOLthon this year. Your support means so much to me, and I cannot thank you enough for helping to grow my impact on East Tennessee Children's Hospital this year. [Option to insert part of your personal story here - explain why you got involved, what position you hold, or why the cause is important to you]

East Tennessee Children's Hospital is the only comprehensive regional pediatric center in East Tennessee, and it serve kids from all over the region regardless of their ability to pay. The funds that we raised this year are going to support [insert where funds are going here]. Thanks to your gift, we are ensuring that that department has the most up to date equipment possible so that the kids seen there receive the best care and treatment. Thank you for making that possible.

[optional paragraph] On [insert event date here], I will be standing on my feet for 12 hours for the kids at Children's Hospital, pushing towards my final fundraising goal and raising awareness for the mission of the hospital. I will be standing and dancing and fundraising so that the kids at the hospital can heal and get better and hopefully join us someday too. I ask that you keep me and our students in your thoughts on that day, as I will be keeping you and all the other selfless donors in my thoughts as well for making that day a reality.

Thank you for helping to make miracles this year For the Kids.

[Insert Signature here]