

# 5 Legal & Effective Alternatives to Starting a Nonprofit



## How to Launch Your Mission Without Forming a 501(c)(3)

### Did you know you can launch a mission project without starting a nonprofit?

Your God-given passion is what matters. How you realize that mission is entirely up to you and how you listen to the Lord's leading.

What many people don't realize is that starting a nonprofit is similar to starting your own business. That can seem daunting. And if it does, you are not alone. Launching a business isn't for everyone. God didn't design everyone to be a business owner. But, He has called each of us to live out our unique calling in life.

If you have an idea for a mission project and your inner passion is stirring, only you can bring it to life. However, there are ways you can realize your God-given mission without starting a nonprofit. That's why we want to share these alternative methods with you.

Here are 5 nonprofit alternatives you can consider.

### 1. Get a Fiscal Sponsor

[Fiscal sponsorship](#) is a quick and simple way for most mission projects to launch and operate as a nonprofit. It's super easy to apply for one, and it makes everyday maintenance a breeze in the long run.

A fiscal sponsor will endorse you with their 501c3 status. This means you won't need to file all the legal paperwork or apply for IRS approval. Instead, you can get started right away in spreading the word and raising funds for your cause.

And partnering with a fiscal sponsor gives your project the immediate credibility and accountability of a long-standing nonprofit--which grant-givers like to see. Fiscal sponsorship will also give you the freedom to lead and direct your mission work the way you want, rather than having to follow strict guidelines someone else set in place.

Otherwise, if you launch a nonprofit on your own, you would have to wait for government approval before starting anything--and that could take up to a year of waiting.

*Rather than spending a year waiting for 501c3 approval, you could spend that year feeding kids overseas, saving girls from sex trafficking, educating people with disabilities, or whatever your mission might be!*

### **Benefits of Fiscal Sponsorship:**

- Handles bookkeeping and fund disbursement
- Sends donation receipts to your supporters
- Provides monthly financial reporting
- Offers website and branding support
- Guides you in fundraising and marketing
- ...And more!

Fiscal sponsorship will expertly manage the backend work, so you don't have to! Truth is, doing all the administration and operational tasks on your own is a steep learning curve and may require hiring staff for each area of expertise.

On the other hand, a fiscal sponsor will charge a small allocation fee for their services, but, in the long run, it can save you immensely in time, energy, and money.

If you decide to partner with a fiscal sponsor, there are many to choose from. Feel free to [browse the online directory](#) to find an organization that aligns with your core mission and values.

#### **Did You Know?**

Global Horizons Inc. offers fiscal sponsorship tailored for mission projects.

[Explore our partnership levels »](#)

## **2. Fundraise for Your Cause**

Crowdfunding is an excellent option for collecting money quickly to fund a specific goal, such as rebuilding a school or helping fund an emergency medical expense.

If your primary goal is to raise money for a cause you care about, crowdfunding is a simple place to start. All you need is to set up an account with a designated platform and share the link. Here are some of the best [crowdfunding options for nonprofit use](#) from one platform.

When choosing your platform, it's best to pay attention to startup costs, credit card fees, and transaction fees. (Those percentages can add up quickly!) Also, if branding is important to you, make sure you look for customization features. If the platform you use can track your donors and integrate with other programs, you will thank yourself in the long run.

Suppose you want to raise awareness about a cause or collect donations for an existing nonprofit effort. In that case, you could launch an annual fundraiser. Although fundraisers take more hands-on work than crowdfunding, it can be a lot of fun, too!

Maybe you can put together a formal dinner with a guest speaker, a family-friendly comedy event, or a turkey trot for your cause. The possibilities are endless!

Regardless of what you decide to put together, fundraising will take creativity and a team of people to make it happen. In addition, you will need to raise awareness for the event through marketing channels and coordinate all the event details to have a successful turnout.

### **3. Partner with a Mission Agency**

If you want to serve in a structured environment, where the format for how to carry out your mission work is already in place, then you should consider partnering with a mission agency.

A mission agency is basically an employer for full-time missionaries. By partnering with a mission agency, you will often receive training and guidance for your mission work in the field.

However, just like fiscal sponsors, there are several mission agencies to choose from. They vary by cause, location, denomination, and the benefits they provide. You'll want to [browse a mission directory](#) to find the right partner for you.

### **4. Engage With Your Church**

What better place to get support for your project than from your church family? Your church could help support a multitude of mission projects.

Maybe you want to host a refugee family or collect food for the local pantry. If it feels appropriate, you can talk with your lead pastor to discuss your options for support and involvement.

## 5. Work or Volunteer for a Nonprofit

You don't need to reinvent the wheel. Rather than starting your own nonprofit, you can work or volunteer for an existing one. This way, you can live out your mission without the added stress of running your own nonprofit or committing too much of your own time and resources.

It starts with doing your research. If a nonprofit is already doing an excellent job at something you want to do, then why not get involved? You can find a variety of short-term or ongoing volunteer roles along with open positions in the nonprofit world.

Opportunities exist in:

- Community Outreach
- Event planning
- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Administration

Getting involved in a nonprofit is a great way to learn the backend processes and gain experience before starting your own. What better way to prepare than diving into the deep end with someone who already knows how to swim?

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Your God-given passion is there for a reason, and you have so many options to bring it to life. If you're not ready to start a nonprofit, you have other options to consider. With prayer, you can decide which method God wants you to pursue.

### Want to Explore Fiscal Sponsorship?

We would love to talk with you! Email us at [info@globalhz.org](mailto:info@globalhz.org) or call us at **612-294-0419** to speak with one of our nonprofit experts. We can't wait to hear about the ways God is working in your life.

**Schedule your free discovery call.**



[globalhz.org](http://globalhz.org)

Links:

1. Fiscal Sponsorship: <https://globalhz.org/blog-what-is-a-fiscal-sponsor/>
2. Fiscal Sponsor Directory: <https://fiscalsponsordirectory.org/>
3. Global Horizons Partnership Levels and Application: <https://globalhz.org/the-application-process/>
4. Crowdfunding ideas: <https://donorbox.org/nonprofit-blog/crowdfunding-for-nonprofits>
5. Mission Agency Directory: <https://www.themissionapp.com/directory-missions/>