

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## How About A Little Help For Your Hometown Project?

(NAPSA)—No matter where you live, chances are your community is trying to raise money for a special project. Maybe your local fire department needs additional funds to train volunteers or your town is looking to revamp the local recreation center. Despite the creative ways communities try to finance their neighborhood initiatives, from new computers for the local middle school to a shiny town clock for Main Street, one fact remains: There is always a need for more money.

Occasionally a benefactor steps forward to lend a helping hand. From now until May 31, 2007, the “My Hometown Helper” grant program, sponsored by Hamburger Helper, is offering grants to qualified community groups across America.

The program is accepting online entries that describe how the “My Hometown Helper” grant would make a difference with community initiatives. All requests for funding must be sponsored by a municipal or civic organization or public school. Applicants may be awarded between \$500 and \$15,000 for community projects.

If your local project or initiative demonstrates a real need in your community and you can use a little extra financial help, visit [www.myHometownHelper.com](http://www.myHometownHelper.com) for a complete set of grant rules and guidelines.

### Funding By the Numbers

According to the Internal Rev-

## Grassroots fundraising efforts can bring people together as well as improve the town.

enue Service, the number of organizations looking for donations has doubled in the last 15 years, exceeding 800,000 charitable organizations. While this is a large number and may mean increased competition for funding, communities have long been implementing successful fundraising tactics to help complete local projects.

### Other Ways to Raise Money

Anyone who has organized a fundraising event can tell you it involves a lot of planning, dedication, time and team effort. Individuals must work together to identify their needs, establish objectives and goals and, finally, put their plan into action. For big projects, some towns host a beneficiary golf tournament, fashion show or concert in their community. While for smaller initiatives, a local high school car wash or a 5K run does the job. Grassroots fundraising not only brings people together, but also rallies support and boosts morale.