Support you didn’t realize you had for your Math Teachers’ Circle

A cardinal rule in fundraising is to “use the support you have to leverage additional support.” You may not realize it, but your Math Teachers’ Circle already has significant support that you should make sure to mention when you approach potential funders:

• AIM has provided the equivalent of about $10,000 in direct support to your team by paying your way to a “How to Run a Math Teachers’ Circle” workshop and providing staff to work with you during the week.

• If you attended a “How to Run a Math Teachers’ Circle” workshop in Washington, D.C., you have also been supported by the NSA, which provided major funding for those workshops, and by the MAA, which generously donated its space for the workshops.

• The Math Teachers’ Circle Network is sponsored by AMS, MAA, NSA, NSF, the Educational Advancement Foundation, and Math for America (please visit http://www.mathteacherscircle.org/about/sponsors.html for our most up-to-date list of sponsors). So, what you are doing (although perhaps not your specific team) has been supported by all these agencies in addition to AIM.

• Volunteer hours count. That includes the time that your team spent at the workshop, meaning that just from that week approximately 200 volunteer hours have already been put in toward making your Math Teachers’ Circle happen.

• In-kind support also counts. For example, has your school, college, or university agreed to let you use their facilities for your meetings? That space isn’t free for them to keep up, and if you were holding meetings elsewhere (for example, a hotel or convention center), you’d probably be paying to rent meeting space. Anything that you’re provided with at no cost to you—meeting space, copies of all those handouts, help from support staff with contacting teachers, etc.—saves you money and shows potential funders that people are behind what you are doing.