**Instructions:** We are raising funds for a local park restoration project. This event will approach local community leaders and residents of the community to gain their support for the project. I need a speech that will entertain and move people to donate.

Good Morning,…….please gather round the infield here at the park, and we appreciate everyone’s enthusiasm by attending on a Saturday. I know we all have items on our weekend schedule, and with few exceptions, this morning’s get together here is on our front burner. I want to thank those in attendance, the mayor, several council-members, and specifically the residents of our community who not only utilize these facilities, but who over three generations have pitched in, (literally and figuratively), with the maintenance, upkeep, and financial support. This park, this recreation area, this venue, where we’re standing right now, (some in holes, please don’t sprain an ankle, yet anyway), *(muted laughter),* has been an anchor in this community for over a quarter of a century. It has been a place to recreate, to compete, to be entertained, to play hooky, and sometimes even acted as a ‘babysitter for a few minutes’, if you had *plans*, *(muted chuckles).* It has hosted teams, concerts, community gatherings, rallies, Bar-B Qs, weddings, dog trials, and sledding in the winter. It has taught youngsters the meaning of fair play, competition, winning, and lessons gained by loss. It has shown what sportsmanship is, or at least to some over enthusiastic parents, what sportsmanship SHOULD be. (*lite laughter).* It has been courted by developers, investors, and adjacent property owners. Yet,…it remains ours, our place to escape, to exercise, to be entertained, and to entertain. It has been a respite from stress, from too much commotion in life, from work, it has been our ‘Go-To’ solace for so many reasons, sporting as well as personal. I ask you to look around, to see how our family member, this park, has aged, has become a bit weary, yet has stood strong when we needed it. It isn’t broken as you can’t break the spirit of a place such as this. But like us, it will sometimes reach out for help, and that is why we are here this very minute. The park needs deferred maintenance on the grounds, bleachers, bathrooms, and pathways. It also needs electrical updates and overhead lighting expansion. We have costed out a capital improvement plan to bring our place, this place, up to standards and into the future. Now, I see some folks grabbing their wallets as if a pickpocket was working the crowd, *(laughter*), and some of you subtly backing up towards the parking lot, (*lite laughter).* Don’t think you’re getting away that easily, if you look back there just coincidentally one of our public work’s dump trucks has unexpectedly blocked the parking lot exit. (*heads turn, some laughter).* Of course, I am joking, (well we did block the mayor’s car). (*Another short laugh).* *Speaker pauses, then continues:* I am not going to drone on here with endless numbers. What we need is all itemized and lined out on one sheet, here behind me for you to pick up once we move the *dump truck*. If you look at the bottom of the page, you’ll see that if each household gives $40 for three consecutive years, that will exceed our goal. The mayor and city have pledged 60% of the total, we the family members of **our** park, are responsible for the other 40%, or $40 times three. To help you too, the city planner has filed a surveyed plat of this park with the IRS, designating it as a charitable entity, or what is called a ‘501 (C) (3). So, your contribution, can be a charitable donation if you elect to do so. You can drop off a check or use a debit card at city hall. You can mail in your pledge, or better yet, take those white knuckles off your wallets right now, as I just happen to have a receipt book with me this morning, *(speaker raises a small receipt book accompanied by* *laughter).* This community is like a large wagon wheel, all of us being the spokes, and this park being the hub. Let’s keep the hub maintained and shiny, so it continues to give the support it has to all of us for so many years. (*pause).* That’s all I have folks, thank you for coming. I’ll let you all get on with your day now, even those who just might want a ‘baby-sitter for a few minutes’. *(Laughter, applause, and the group disperses.)*