

20 fundraising ideas

You may wish to use these fundraising ideas by themselves, or if you have a target you want to reach for a sponsored event, why not include one of these to get you closer? Whatever you do, take photos and let us know your plans!

-athons and walks

Take an idea, any idea, and then supersize it! Whether you choose a physical activity like running or walking, a scary one like abseiling or rock climbing, or something more chilled like yoga or pilates, turn it into an epic event and get as many people to sign up and get sponsored! We can supply sponsor forms and all the support you need. Raise extra money by getting photographs taken and ask for donations in return for copies.

Walk, run, ride, climb, talk, yoga, football, tennis, table tennis, badminton, or any activity that interests a lot of people – whatever you like doing, just do loads more of it! Get a sponsor from a local business, make it different and longer in duration and get some friends to join.

Organising your own walkathon can be a great way to see a city, or the countryside – or even both! Invite family and friends, and their dogs to make it a big and fun ramble!

Sports matches

Hold a sponsored football match, make teams of different companies or community groups. If you've got smaller numbers why not opt for a game of five-a-side? Raise funds by charging a player fee and why not let spectators donate to take part in a penalty shootout at the end of the match?

Year to Remember

What's the most memorable year of your life? Why not make it this year, and for all the right reasons. What could you do for a year to make a difference? Doing something everyday for 365 days is the ultimate dedication and a sure way to encourage people to sponsor you. But what to do? How about giving something up for a whole year?

Give it up!

We all have bad habits, some worse than others (we are looking at you toenail biters) but if you have a habit you want to kick why not do it whilst fundraising for vital support and research? If your habit is costly why not donate the money you save or if your habit causes more frustration to others than yourself why not have people sponsor you? You could give up things like crisps, television, alcohol, chocolate, meat, smoking and swearing. Or if you are feeling particularly adventurous, you may want to give up your hair and shave your head!

Annual Collection

It is like a piggy bank thing. You can either do it on an individual or familial basis, or on community basis. Just devote a donation box, and keep making donations every now and then when you come across an unspent pence or a pound in your pocket.

Food for good

Whether it is lunch with colleagues, a coffee morning or bake sale or afternoon tea, join with family, friends or work colleagues and share dishes you've prepared. It's a sociable way to raise funds and you all get to eat yummy food too! Bake sales are well-known now and with more home bakers than ever, lots of people want to show their great talents! Why not time it to coincide with a big day like Pancake Day or Halloween?

Dinner party

A more formal version of the above, which can be hosted all year round, on its own or in support of other events a dinner party can be adapted to appeal to most people. Plan some games to play with money stakes where all the money is donated after. You can always choose a theme based on the type of food you love or a favourite film or a period in history. Invite everyone to come in fancy dress or have a travelling dinner, from one venue to the next. Why not try your own version of Come Dine with Me for charity - invite a group of friends to compete against each other. Try getting 4 groups of 4 to compete, with everyone putting in £25. The winner from each group of 4 then plays in a grand final with the winner receiving £100 and the rest is donated. You could even space it over several weeks with blogs to encourage support from more friends or work colleagues, updating on the competition, including photos and any kitchen disasters or triumphs!

Party time!

If you like to dance, or chat, or invite your friends round for a night in, turn it into a big party! You can spice it up with karaoke or playing on consoles, or get the sound system going and have a big disco! Give it a theme like Alice in Wonderland, Casino, James Bond or Studio 64, invite guests to come in fancy dress and find someone to take photos so you can have a night to remember! Hold your party on or near to a special occasion like Halloween, Xmas, New Year, Easter or St Patrick's Day, and increase the funds raised with fun games like an egg or present hunt.

Turn the tempo up with strictly ballroom or a celidh! Ask a local venue if you can use their function room and ask for a donation with every drink bought! Whether you've travelled the world or just love a particular culture, an international theme is a great way to get people excited about raising money. Choose your country - or go 'around the world' - and charge people an entry fee. Have a think about dress codes, food and music. Entertainment such as quizzes can be a great way to raise extra funds at the event

Or chill things out a bit with a jazz music night or a night with mulled wine and classical music. You could put on an evening of entertainment like a games night of charades or Monopoly and charge for entry. Tight on time? Put on a lunchtime session at your office and colleagues can play for the price of a coffee.

Games Night

You don't have to be a Monopoly board master or play scrabble like Carol Vorderman to host a games night. You just need games, a place and people. It can be as simple as charades or if you have a screen and console to hand why not go down the gaming route, charging friends to play.

It's a Knockout

Fun is a big incentive for people to get involved but we'd also recommend reaching out to businesses to donate a prize to help a good cause (and if your event gains press interest they will also get exposure). You may need materials so if you, or somebody you know works in a school or local sports centre reach out to them, and if you don't have one perhaps ask a neighbour if they have a hosepipe you could use! Think of some silly obstacles to create and if you can get bouncy suits to fit everyone, all the more fun!

Arts, crafts, jewellery, plants, vegetables, facepainting, Xmas cards – sell your hobby!

Whether homemade or donated, arts and crafts are very popular. People will pay or donate more for something that is unique and special and made with love. If you have high value pieces you're looking to donate an auction could be the best route for you, or if your skill set lies in making why not put on a 'make-your-own' craft session?

Whether its knitwear for British weather, or cards you have made yourself, use social media to maximise the opportunity. Set up a Facebook page, or for more publicity knit somewhere that will generate interest (but fundraising from your own home is equally as appreciated)!

Involve your neighbours, friends, and family – everyone you can – and get them to donate old jewellery that they no longer wear.

Jumble Sale

A jumble sale can be done on any Sunday. All you have to do is inform people about the event. On the day of the event, you just need a few tables and a few people who can manage the money. People are usually generous at doing this, so you can turn this fundraising idea into a regular feature.

Quick and easy fundraising

Name the teddy, bunny or bear. Guess the number of things in a jar. Add these to any event to get more donations.

Sweepstakes

Want a way to fundraise fast? A sweepstake could be the perfect way for you to raise money. You have one question for example, 'How many sweets in the jar?' and people pay to be given an answer. Whoever has the winning answer gets a prize and you donate the money raised.

Matched Giving

Whether you are raising money in the office or outside of work, ask your employer about matched giving. Lots of our fundraisers have doubled the amount raised thanks to their employer so don't be afraid to ask. If you're running a small event, ask your friend or family to match the funds raised.

Lawn Mowing, dogwalking, odd jobs, helpful neighbour

Easy to do and easier to ask for donations in return for a favour or a small job! Just make some fliers to let people know what you can do and the great cause you are supporting!

Clothing themed fundraising – dress down, uniform free or fancy dress

People like to laugh, so give them an incentive to sponsor you by letting them nominate what you wear. Alternatively, if you are at school, ask the teachers to support a uniform free day. Swapping your usual uniform for fancy dress could help you raise even more money. Get your office to relax a little with a dress down dress code.

Quiz night

The pub, village hall, local sports centre and your best mate's garden are all venues suitable for hosting a quiz. Decide what is right (and available) to you and get working on those questions. Will the focus change by rounds or will your quiz be more niche, with all questions specific to a particular band, film or book? You host the night and guests pay to play. Simple... but the questions might not be.

Bag pack

Offer a local business or supermarket to be a bag packer in return for customers donating. This works particularly well at Christmas and other busy times of the year, when an extra helping hand is always welcome. As well as donating paying you for bag packing, you can also ask the customers for donations for your charity, with the employer's permission of course.

Talent Show

Fundraising is all about doing what you can to make a difference, so if you can hit the high notes like Mariah then an X-Factor style competition could be right for you. If you're not the singer in the group stick to hosting and if you can't find the talent to compete why not host a night to watch a talent show. You can put a sweepstake on the show, from who'll be the first to go to how many times the phrase "I didn't like it, I loved it" gets used. The prize can be a percentage of the money raised or a non-monetary prize of your choosing.

Bingo, Raffles and Auctions Raffle

A raffle is great to have at a fundraising event like a fun day or as part of your fundraising for a wider event. Just charge a fee for tickets and the winner gets a prize., This could also work as a standalone fundraising activity. Just be aware of offering unwanted gifts as prizes, your friends may recognise them! If you go for a bigger raffle, make sure you fulfil the legal requirements for selling tickets to general public. You can also go for free prize draws to make an event more interesting.