

Fundraising A to Z

Asking for donations though emails and social media are the most effective ways to raise money to help grant wishes. Looking for something more creative? Here are some ideas to inspire you.

A

- **Art Sales:** Invite students as well as local artists to contribute pieces for the show. It's a win-win situation: students get to display their art for parents, while local artists get exhibit space and free publicity. Revenue can be generated by charging admission tickets, selling refreshments as well as purchasing art.
- **Auctions:** Many teams put together live or silent auctions. You can make a whole event out of it (Collectibles and sports auctions are very popular).

B

- **Barbeque Contest:** Host a BBQ cook off with friends and neighbors. Charge an entrance fee to the participants eating, cooks enter for free. This fundraiser is fun for everyone, especially those who love to eat!
- **Bake Sale:** Have a bake sale at school, work or a busy community place. Or have a **No-Bake Sale** where co-workers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.
- **Book Sale:** Dust off your old books and have a book sale to raise money.
- **Bottle Drive:** Set up a box or container up in your workplace, home, and/or school to collect returnable bottles and donate that change!
- **Balloon Day:** Sell a silver or blue star balloon with a message attached for \$2 each at work or school. Take orders in advance and then deliver the balloon messages at a later date.
- **Bowl-a-thon:** Set up student/ family teams to hold bowl-a-thons where you get pledges per pin you knock down.
- **Breakfast With:** Put together a breakfast with Santa or the Easter bunny or other favorite kids' character. Work with a local restaurant or your team can do it themselves at a hall or club. Have someone in costume and sell tickets, also have the kids get their pictures taken. You could also use this as breakfast with the mayor or other high profile person.
- **Babysit/Pet Sit:** Offer your services to watch over your neighbor or family friend's children or pets while they are away and your pay is their donation
- **Block Party:** Put together an old-fashioned block party in a parking lot, or close off a neighborhood street (with permission). Have a band or DJ donate a few hours, have a BBQ, do face painting, games etc.

C

- **Car Wash:** Hold a wash at a popular community building/landmark. Try saying “donations accepted” instead of charging a set price (people tend to give more).
- **Carnation Sale:** Everyone enjoys getting flowers! Have co-workers, classmates and even neighbors purchase carnations and send them to a special someone.
- **Cut-a-thon:** Have a beauty salon or vocational school hold a cut-a-thon for you. Getting teachers / staff involved will make more students excited to participate.
- **Coin Drive:** Place containers in each department or classroom. Ask everyone to contribute spare change for a week or month period of time. (Optional: Give the winning class / team a prize such as a pizza party or ice cream social)
- **Concession Stands:** Set up a concession booth at a community event.
- **Comedy Club:** Ask a local comedy club to host an evening in support of Make-A-Wish and invite all teams to sell tickets. The teams would get the credit for the tickets they sold.
- **Cook Off:** Guests attending pay a set price which includes dinner and a school event (ex: basketball ticket for that night's game). Guests are served dinner as well as ballots to rank their favorite cook off items. Announce the top 3 at half time of basketball game.
- **Cooking Class:** If you are the next Julia Child or Emeril, offer to teach your neighbors, co-workers, classmates, family, and friends the latest recipes and ask for donations!
- **Christmas Party:** Play carols, serve cookies and hot chocolate, decorate tree ornaments, have pictures with Santa and charge an admission.

D,E

- **Dress down day:** Employees or students (with uniforms) can dress down for the day in exchange for donations. This can also work for a theme (such as pajama day).
- **Dog Wash:** Set up a dog wash in your front yard and have all the dogs in the neighborhood come over and get a bath. Of course, ask for a donation!
- **Dances for Wishes:** Students can hold a school dance. Adults can put together a dance at a local club or hall. Get a band or DJ to donate their services.
- **Eating Contest:** Have a contest amongst co-workers, family, or friends to see who can eat the most! Have them donate an entrance fee or who they think will win.

F

- **Flamingo Yard:** This is a really fun fundraiser that will be for teenagers or youngsters accompanied by adults. You acquire plastic garden flamingos, and then “land” them secretly into someone's garden leaving a note, with explanation and contact details, on one of the flamingos. That garden or yard's owners then has to donate a

fee (\$5 for example) to have the flamingos removed. They can also donate a higher fee (\$10 for example) to have them removed and "landed" in one of their friend's gardens. This fundraiser has been a huge success for many groups and can be fun for months and months.

- **Fashion show:** Work with new or existing clothing stores to hold a fashion show. You could have it at the local mall, school or use a club hall.
- **Flower sales:** Work with your local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems (carnation or roses) at your place of work or school

G

- **Game Night:** Have a party with a purpose. Invite everyone to come to your house to play board game, charades etc. Charge an "entrance" fee.
- **Garage Sale:** Ask all of your friends and neighbors to participate by donating items for a garage sale. Make signs that advertise that all proceeds are going to support local Make-A-Wish.
- **Golf Tournament:** Have your team put together a golf tournament with the proceeds benefiting your walk goal.

H,I,J,K

- **How Many In That Jar?:** Load up a jar full of goodies and ask co-workers, family, friends, or even neighbors to guess how many are in there. Ask them for a donation to guess and grant the winner a small prize.
- **Haunted House:** This is the perfect fundraiser for Halloween. Organize a haunted house and admission. You can also sell treats, refreshments or bob for apples.
- **Ice Cream Socials:** Plan one at your place of work or for friends, asking for donations to attend. Sell ice cream, low-fat yogurt and other frozen treat for dessert at your school or place of work (Everyone loves ice cream).
- **Jail & Bail:** For a donation employees can be "arrested". For an additional donation they can post their own bail, or employees have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate). This activity can also be done on site at an event.
- **Karaoke:** Students/ guest pay \$2.00 per song or people can "donate" \$5 and pick someone in the audience to go up and sing (teachers, principal, peers, etc.).

L,M,N,O

- **"Loose Change Day":** Ask your child's school to have a "Loose Change Day." Make a flyer encouraging each child to bring in loose change from their house to be donated to Make-A-Wish. Encourage the school's math classes to assist with

counting, predicting, and rolling the change. This is a great way to involve the entire school. You can hold this event multiple times.

- **Letter Writing:** A great way to ask for donations without asking in person. Send letters out to your friends and family explaining what you're doing and why, and asking for a specific amount (more than you want) seems to work best or leave it up to them. Write them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people are writing letters on behalf of their pets or babies adding a little humor.
- **Mow-A-Lawn:** Check with neighbors and friends and see if you can mow their lawn for a donation (This is great for teenagers).
- **Movie Night:** Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and soda and charge admission. Or have a movie week during lunch hour at work. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch.

P,Q,R

- **Pancake Breakfast:** Hold a pancake breakfast at a hall, school, work, or church on a specific day.
- **Parking Space Auction:** Company employees can auction off a prime spot!
- **Pot Luck Lunches:** Designate every Wednesday as Walk for Wishes Pot Luck Day, where team members take turns making chili, salads, desserts, etc.
- **Quilt Squares:** Sell quilt squares. The squares can be sold in honor or in memory of a wish kid.
- **Radio Station:** Call your favorite radio station and ask them to make an announcement on the air about your fundraiser (and/or donate as well). They may even want to interview you to know more about it.

S

- **Star Sale:** Sell Make-A-Wish paper stars to display at the office or school. Contact Make-A-Wish to get your paper stars.
- **Skunk Them:** Put a stuffed skunk on a coworker's desk. They need to pay a donation to your team to have him go away or they need to pay to be de-skunked. See Flamingo Yard for other ideas.
- **Spaghetti Dinner:** Have your team put together a spaghetti dinner at a local hall or club. School teams have also done this with the help of their parents. The students take the tickets wait and clear tables.
- **Student/Faculty Basketball Game:** Set up a benefit basketball game between students and faculty, or put together an alumni game.
- **Sports Party:** Have a Super Bowl party and ask everyone for donations when they get there. The same can be done for the NACC Championship basketball game, Indy 500, Masters final round etc. Great idea for the team member with a big screen TV!

- **Sell space on your Team shirt:** Sell small blocks of space on your team shirt you plan to wear at the walk (suggested \$10 donation). Encourage donors to write a tribute message.

T,U,V

- **Turkey Drawing:** Get a grocery store to donate a certificate for a turkey or ham to be picked up just in time for Thanksgiving, Easter, Christmas or a BBQ package for Labor Day or Memorial Day. Food is always a good item to chance off.
- **Video Sale:** Hold a video/DVD sale at work or school and have each team member bring in videos they don't watch anymore, especially kid videos their children have outgrown. Other employees with younger children would appreciate this.

W,X,Y,Z

- **Wrap Presents:** During the holidays, set up a booth at a local mall, plaza or busy department store. Have team members/classmates donate the paper and tape and raise money while helping out holiday shoppers.
- **Yard Sales:** Just like the garage sales, work together as a team, or have one individually.