



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

The sky is the limit when it comes to fundraising ideas. Have fun and your donors will too!
Please remember to get the necessary permission before holding your fundraiser.

AT WORK

Casual Day / Dress-up Day: Get permission from your supervisor or human resources to charge co-workers \$5 for the privilege of dressing casual on a specific day. Or, if the dress code is already casual, have a fancy dress day!

Donuts/Bagels: Buy a box of donuts or bagels on the way to work and sell them at the office for \$1 each.

Breakfast Burritos: Make or buy breakfast burritos and sell them for \$1 each.

Have a Book Sale: Have co-workers donate books they've read to your cause, then sell them to other co-workers to make a huge profit! Most employees have books right on their shelves that would be better off having others read them, even if the company has paid for the book originally.

Duck Races: Buy little rubber duckys and have a competition with heats, 5-10 ducks per race. Race them in a blow-up swimming pool. Have the heats during the day with the Final winning race during a company happy hour. \$1.00 rental of the duck for each race. Get a donated prize for final awards. Those who give the most (having rented a duck for each heat) have the greatest opportunity to win. (Be sure to check with your company before doing this).

Sell Lunches at Work: Cook lunches for the entire office. Each week you can prepare a menu listing items available, usually hot/cold choice for each day. Lunches can be \$5, paid ahead of time. Use what you need for expenses, and the rest is put into your fundraising. This is a good way to get money repeatedly from the same source.

Company Silent Auction: Ask co-workers to bring in an item or two they have in their homes that they think others might like to purchase. Set up a silent auction table at work and let it run a day or two.

Wear a Dollar Pinned to your Lapel or Collar: When someone asks you what it is there for you have 15 seconds to tell them what you're doing and get their donation.

Office Supply Garage Sale at Work: Ask for permission to charge a nominal handling fee for collecting and redistributing office supplies at work. Different departments within a company can purchase unused supplies from other departments (or employees can purchase from other employees). You save the company money on new office supplies. They pay you a minimal handling charge. After all departments have done their shopping, ask if you can sell the remaining to employees. Cleans out the clutter.

Covered Dish Lunch: Ask co-workers to bring a covered dish for a lunch party. Charge a lunch fee (typically what they would pay for lunch at a local restaurant).

Bake Sale with a Twist: After asking everyone in the office for a monetary donation, ask them for a baked goods donation. Gather all the goods on a Friday and have a giant bake sale on Saturday at a busy Wal-Mart or food store (be sure to get permission from the store first). This way none of the money is out-of-pocket and you can offer lots of variety in the goodies sold.

Show the Support: Sell paper cutouts of the House logo to fellow employees. You can post each cutout with the employee's name on your office wall to show who has been supportive.

Office Competition: Does your office have a competitive spirit? If so, challenge another office or department to a duel of the donation jars! Provide each "team" with a large donation jar. The team that raises the most funds wins lunch (subs, pizzas, salad) – see if you can get a gift certificate to cover this from a local restaurant. Some offices have great fun with this event.

Raffle a Day Off: Ask your company if they would be willing to donate a paid day off to the winner of a raffle. It is a painless way for companies to make a donation without actually giving cash. Make up tickets. Schedule the drawing and publicize the event. Sell tickets for \$5-\$10 to all employees. Many people will buy multiple tickets for the chance to win a day off. This is an easy way to raise funds and it's fun for everyone involved.

AROUND TOWN

Percentage Sales: Ask the owner or manager of various establishments you frequent (grocery store, restaurant, dry cleaners, etc...) if they will donate a percentage of a day's profits to your fundraising efforts. Many restaurants have percentage day programs already in place, such as Fresh Choice.

Raffle: Raffle off anything from a meal at a local restaurant, homemade basket of goodies, bachelors or bachelorettes (who are asked in advance of course) – or anything you can get donated.

Community Space: Ask a local supermarket to donate space to run a bake sale, garage sale, or car wash. Recruit friends to help. Wal-Mart is supportive in matching funds for money donated, and other stores may be as well.

Bring on the Blues (or Country or Rock and Roll): Get a music room to donate time and a band and charge a \$10 ticket charge.

Store Front Collections: Ask your local grocery store or bank if you can spend a Saturday asking patrons to support your efforts. Take information about Ronald McDonald House and what you are doing to hand out to those who come in.

Barnes and Noble: Contact your local Barnes and Nobel about donating a percentage of the sales from one evening. Some will support fundraising efforts for a good cause.

Candy Sales: Buy candy bars in bulk at Costco and double the price to sell them.

Crab Race: Buy a bunch of hermit crabs and paint numbers on their shells in nail polish. Get a local crab or seafood restaurant to sponsor and tell people about the crab races to raise money for RMH. Get a big piece of wood and paint a start and finish line on it. Each person gets to pick a crab and put down \$5 on it to win the race. Ask the restaurant to donate a free dinner to the “owner” of the winner.

WITH FRIENDS

Let's Have a Party: Host a party for friends and charge admission. What better excuse to have a party? Possible themes include:

- Gourmet dinner party: Treat guests to the finest cooking or the finest your local restaurants have to offer!
- Ethnic food sampler: Offer friends a sampling of the best foods from around the world.
- Progressive feast: Ask neighbors to commit to provide one stage of the meal at their homes (cocktails, appetizers, dinner, dessert and nightcap).
- Road Rally Treasure Hunt: Charge a registration fee for each person on the team. Organize a route with clues at each site for contestants to find the next stop. Establish a time limit and final meeting place. Arrange for prizes.

Bingo: Contact a local bingo game and ask to get put on their calendar. They are required to give a portion of funds to charity.

Candy for Dough: Hand out candy in return for donations at different sporting events (get permission from the people putting on the event).

Silent Puppy Sale: Dress up as a clown and sell balloon puppy shapes.

Parlor Game Olympics: Pull out all of those parlor games you have been wanting to play and make your home a “game festival”.

- Charge a registration fee for each person and/or charge a fee to compete in each game.
- Set up a game or two in each room or corner of a room. Games can include Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit, Yahtzee, computer games or any other favorite game.

- Have guests draw a number at the beginning of the evening. That number will determine in which order they will play at each game (determine a rotation using these numbers before guests arrive).
- This allows the guests to mingle and keeps the competition fair.
- Assign a few guests to act as judges. Any guest who does not follow the rules has to pay a “penalty”.

“Special” Olympics: Using the idea above, set up a blow-up swimming pool, tricycles, and lay out a race track—have guests “swim” through the pool on their hands and knees, ride the tricycle around the track and “race” by hopping and crawling.

Craft Show: Arrange a local craft show. Crafters pay a minimal fee to participate and have visitors donate a nominal fee to come in to buy. Ask for a percentage of sales or set one up where the crafters get free space and donate the proceeds from the day.

Recruit a local fraternity or sorority: to bake and sell cookies or donate funds.

Scavenger Hunt: Organize a large event, concluding at a hall or a smaller event concluding with a potluck dinner at your home.

- Charge a registration fee for each person. Form teams of approximately 4 people.
- Assign a team captain.
- Create a list of items for guests to find.
- Establish a time limit.
- The team with the most complete list and best time wins.
- Get a crew of volunteers to help verify that items match the list, keep team items separated and to help with food and activities when teams return.
- Announce winner after dinner. Winners can get a trophy or donated prize.
- Be sure each team takes items on their lists home with them!

Photo Rally: Have everyone dig out cameras or find a one-hour developing shop to donate development of one roll of film for each group competing.

- Charge registration fee for each person.
- Create a list of items, place, or people posing with each other. Make it difficult and original.
- Establish a time limit and final meeting place, as well as a board to display each group’s photos.
- Arrange for prizes and trophies for the group that reaches the final meeting place with all of their pictures.

Women’s Day Out: Recruit a local massage therapist, manicurist, hair stylist, and makeup artist to donate their services for one evening and charge a nominal fee.

GARAGE SALES

Door Hangers: Place door hangers on neighbors' doors to ask for donations for garage sale items.

Neighborhood Garage Sale: Notify your neighbors and ask them to donate items in lieu of money. Let them know when you can pick up the items and when the garage sale will be held.

OTHER IDEAS

Halloween: Wear costumes and trick-or-treat for donations.

Bead bracelets: Make bead bracelets for team members or inspirational items for runners and walkers and sell them to the team for a profit.

Pancake Breakfast: Work with a local church or hall to arrange a pancake breakfast. Talk to local stores such as Costco or Smart & Final to get food donated.

Bowling Tournament: Ask your local bowling alley if you can hold a weekend tournament for RMH. Invite even your not-so-athletic friends to compete.

Recycling: Have people donate empty cans and bottles.

Car Wash: Talk to the local high school or a church group and ask them to help you run a weekend car wash.

Answering Machine Message: "I can't come to the phone right now. I'm out raising funds for Ronald McDonald House. If you haven't made a contribution yet, it's not too late! Leave your name and number, and I'll call you back as soon as I receive your check!" (or something funny and catchy your friends will respond to).

Pet Costume Contest: Charge an entry fee, and give categories to compete in. Possible categories would be movie stars, political figures, and Disney caricatures. Charge entry fee, ask for donations from spectators and ask for a local vet or pet store to sponsor in exchange for advertisements on flyers the day of the event.

Bunco or Poker Party: Set up a Bunco or poker party and ask guests to make a donation to enter the games.

Restaurant Cocktail Party: Talk to a local restaurant to see if they will work with you to do a cocktail party (or a wine or beer party) with proceeds or a percentage of proceeds to go to RMH. Happy Hour (when drinks are lower-priced and food is free) might be an option.

Wine Party: Ask a local winery if they will donate wine and appetizers for a one/two hour wine party.