

# Fundraising Ideas

If you're looking for ways to raise money for Akron Children's Hospital, take a look at these ideas!



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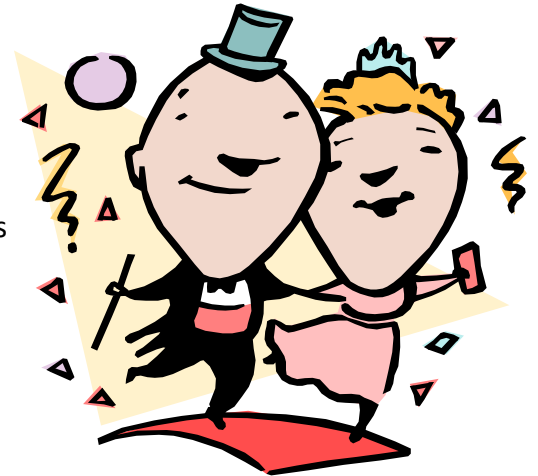
## **Throw a Party...**

Consider planning a special event to complement your fundraising activities. The admission to the event would be a donation to Akron Children's Hospital. This is a great excuse for a party!

The key to successful events is good planning. In planning your event, determine all of the potential fundraising opportunities associated with the event and select the opportunities that represent the greatest potential for dollars. Below is a listing of special events with brief descriptions. This list is not intended to be inclusive, but rather, represents a sampling of a variety of special events.

### **Some basic planning steps may include:**

1. Determine the theme and date of the event.
2. Make a list of all of the items you will need.
3. Make a list of people or businesses that might donate the items that you need for the event.
4. Contact the people or businesses on your list and ask them to donate these items to support your event and Akron Children's Hospital.
5. Put together your invitation list. Invite everyone you know!
6. Determine your admission fee. (Make sure you ask enough. Remember, only a portion of the admission is a tax-deductible donation.)
7. Create a flyer or tickets to promote the event.
8. Include additional moneymaking mini-events in your party. (Raffle, Chinese Auction, etc.)
9. Have a great time!
10. Remember to thank everyone, including your donors and guests.
11. Contact the Foundation Office for advice before, during and after the event.



### **Possible Party Themes:**

- ◆ **PARLOR GAME OLYMPICS** – Bring out all of your parlor and board games and transform your house into 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. Games might include board games, card games, billiards, Play Station/Xbox 360/Wii games, etc.
  - Have each guest draw a number at the beginning of the evening. That number will determine in which order they will play each game. This will allow the guests to mingle and keep competition fair. (You will determine a rotation using these numbers before the guests arrive.)
  - Assign a few guests to act as “Olympic” judges. Any guest that does not follow the rules will have to pay a penalty “fine”.
- ◆ **DIGITAL CAMERA OR POLAROID RALLY** – Perfect for a group of creative and competitive people. Have everyone dig out their old Polaroid cameras or use your digital camera.
  - Charge a registration fee for every person on each team.
  - Create a list of items, places and people. Make the list difficult and creative.
  - Establish a time limit and final meeting place as well as a board to display each group's photos.
  - Arrange for prizes and/or trophies for the group that reaches the final meeting place with all of their pictures.

- ◆ **SCAVENGER HUNT** – This is an easy and fun event for groups of friends or families. You can 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 every person. Form teams of approximately four people.
  - Each car should have a “team captain”.
  - Create a long list of items for your guests to find. Be creative!
  - Establish a time limit. Keep track of start and finish times.
  - The car with the most complete list and best time wins.
  - Volunteers can help you verify that the items found match the items on the list. They can also keep each team’s items separate and help with food and activities when the teams return.
  - Announce the winner after dinner. The winners may get a trophy or other prize.

◆ **Other Party Ideas:**

70’s Party

Bowling Party

Cocktail Party

College Bowl Game Party

Daytona 500 Party

Ethnic Food Sampler

Gourmet Dinner Party

Grammy, Emmy or Oscar Party

Progressive Feast

Road Rally Treasure Hunt

Rock Climbing Party

Super Bowl Party

Treasure Hunt

Wine Tasting Party

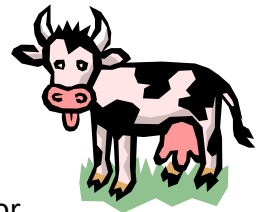
## Friend's Involvement...

- ◆ **BOWL-FOR-KIDS** – Schedule a night to go bowling. Ask the bowling alley to donate the lanes for three hours and possibly pizza and pop. Ask ten friends/family members/coworkers to be on a bowling team and to each raise a minimum of \$50 in pledges. Allow them a week or two to raise their funds. Their donors can pledge a flat dollar amount or a quarter per pin, etc. Tally all funds raised at the event. Offer donated prizes to the highest fundraiser.
- ◆ **CRAFT SHOW** – Take advantage of the tremendous interest in handmade crafts and arrange a craft show. Crafters pay a nominal fee for space at the show and visitors to the show pay a small donation to enter.
- ◆ **BIRTHDAY PARTY** – Ask guests to make donations rather than bringing gifts.
- ◆ **PET COSTUME CONTEST** – Hold the contest at a dog park or at a community event. Create flyers and post them in vets' offices and kennels. Establish categories for competition (i.e. movie stars, political figures, Disney characters, etc.) Charge an entry fee and ask for donations from spectators. Ask local vets to judge and possibly donate services as prizes. In addition to asking vets to serve as judges, ask them to be an event sponsor and make a donation in exchange for advertisement on flyers and at the event.
- ◆ **WOMEN'S DAY OUT** – Recruit a massage therapist, manicurist, hair stylist and make-up artist to donate their services for free one evening and charge a nominal fee.

## At Work...

- ◆ **BAKE SALE WITH A TWIST** – After asking everyone in your office for a monetary donation ask them for a baked good donation. Gather all of the baked goods on a Friday and have a giant bake sale on Saturday at a local store. This ensures that none of the money is out of your pocket and you can offer a variety of goodies.
- ◆ **BIGGEST LOSER COMPETITION** - Pay to participate, pay if you gain a pound or pay if you miss weigh-in day. Weigh-ins take place at a consistent, designated time each week. Individual weights should be kept confidential. At the end of a specified period, the contestant that has lost the most weight wins a prize. All money collected above the prize amount is donated to Akron Children's Hospital!
- ◆ **BLIND AUCTION BAKE SALES** - Place a brown lunch bag next to each baked goody and have people throw their bid in the bag. The highest bidder wins the treat! Bonus if you come up with a catchy slogan like "Donuts for Dollars" or "Cookies for Kids".
- ◆ **BOOK SALE** – Have your co-workers donate books to you that they have already read. Then sell them to other co-workers to make a profit.
- ◆ **BROWN BAG IT!** – Encourage your co-workers to “brown bag it” for a day or week and donate the money they would have spent on going out to lunch.

- ◆ **CASUAL DAY** – Get permission from your supervisor or human resources director to charge co-workers \$5 for the privilege of dressing casual on a specific day.
- ◆ **CONFERENCE ROOM ETIQUETTE** - Charge late attendees a dollar per minute they are late. Fine people who check their cell phone \$1. If people take a call on their cell phone, charge them \$5. Impose a tax for meetings that do not end on time. Increase the fee if the meeting carries over into lunch. Anyone who leaves the meeting early unexpectedly is charged a fee.
- ◆ **COVERED DISH LUNCH** – Ask coworkers to bring a covered dish for a lunch party. Charge coworkers a lunch fee – typically what they would pay for lunch at a local restaurant.
- ◆ **DEPARTMENT BREAKFASTS OR LUNCHESES** - Different departments hold "Bagel Breakfasts" or "Salad Bar Lunches" and charge everyone for coming.
- ◆ **DONUTS/BAGELS** – Buy a box of donuts or bagels on the way to work and then sell them at the office for \$1 each.
- ◆ **DUCK RACES** – Buy little rubber ducks and race them in an inflatable swimming pool. Have a competition with heats, 5-10 ducks per race. “Rent” the ducks for \$1 per race. Hold the heats during the workday, and hold the final winning race during a company happy hour. Get a prize donated for the winner.
- ◆ **JELLY BEAN GUESS** - Charge everyone \$0.50 to guess how many jelly beans (or M&Ms or paper clips, etc) are in a jar.
- ◆ **KISS A COW (OR PIG)** – Employees can “nominate” their boss/manager to kiss a cow or pig by donating money on their behalf. Whichever boss/manager has the most donations kisses the cow or pig.
- ◆ **OFFICE COMPETITION** – If your office has a competitive spirit, 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.
- ◆ **RAFFLE A VACATION DAY** – Ask your boss or human resource department to donate a paid day off to the winner of a drawing. This is an easy way for most companies to make a donation without giving any cash. Sell tickets to the drawing for \$5 - \$10.
- ◆ **SELL LUNCHESES AT WORK** – Prepare a weekly menu, listing a cold and hot choice for each day. Distribute menu to co-workers and collect their orders with payment. Lunches cost \$5 in advance.
- ◆ **SET AN OFFICE GOAL** – Set a goal as an office and if you achieve your goal, celebrate with a party or early dismissal!
- ◆ **SILENT AUCTION** – Ask coworkers to bring in an item or two they have in their homes or contact local restaurants/shops to get donations. Set up a silent auction table at work and let it run a day or two. Highest bidder wins the item.



## Around Town...

- ◆ **BRING ON THE TUNES** – Get a local music establishment to donate time and a band and charge \$10 a ticket.
- ◆ **CELEBRITY BARTENDER/SERVER** – Find a local establishment that will allow you to guest bartend and donate your proceeds.
- ◆ **CLUB DONATIONS** – Go on a speaking circuit at local clubs and organizations. Contact local service clubs (i.e. Kiwanis, Elks, Lions, American Legion, Jaycees, etc.) and ask if you can have a few minutes on the meeting agenda. These groups are very responsive and have a treasury set aside for charity requests.
- ◆ **COINS FOR KIDS** – Place coin boxes or cans in businesses that will allow you to do so.
- ◆ **COMMUNITY SPACE** – Ask a local supermarket to donate space to run a bake sale, garage sale or car wash. Recruit your friends to help.
- ◆ **CRAB RACE** – Buy hermit crabs and paint numbers on their shells with nail polish. Get a local seafood restaurant to sponsor and promote your crab races. Paint start and finish lines on a large piece of wood. Each person picks a crab and pays \$5 to race it. Hold heats if necessary. The winner of the final race wins a free dinner at the restaurant.
- ◆ **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** – Work with a local church or community center to arrange a pancake breakfast.
- ◆ **PENNY COLLECTIONS** – Ask permission from malls to collect pennies from their fountains, clean them, roll them, and use them as a donation!
- ◆ **PERCENTAGE SALES** – Ask the owner or manager of establishments you frequent (grocery store, restaurant, dry cleaner, bookstore, coffee shop, etc.) to donate a percentage of a day's profits to your fundraising efforts.
- ◆ **STORE FRONT COLLECTIONS** – Ask your local grocery store or bank if you can spend a Saturday asking patrons to support your efforts.



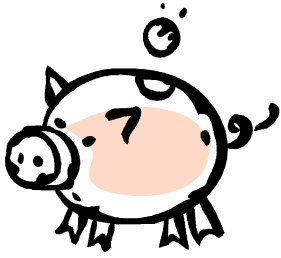
## Get the Kids Involved...



- ◆ **KIDS NIGHT OUT** – Ask your local community center to donate space for an evening and sponsor a mixer for middle schoolers.
- ◆ **LOCK-IN** – Host a mega sleepover party with food, games, dancing, treasure hunts, bedtime stories, etc. Ask that everyone donate to participate.
- ◆ **RECYCLING** – Distribute a flyer around your neighborhood soliciting recyclables. Have your kids pick up neighbors' recyclables.
- ◆ **SHOVEL DRIVEWAYS** – Kids can offer to shovel driveways for a donation.

## Great Miscellaneous Ideas...

- ◆ **ANSWERING MACHINE MESSAGE** – “I can’t come to the phone right now. As a walker for Walk for Babies, I’m out collecting spare change and raising for the NICU at Akron Children’s Hospital. If you’d like to contribute, leave your name and phone number after the tone and I’ll call you back as soon as I wrap up my hold up!”
- ◆ **WEAR A DOLLAR PINNED TO YOUR LAPEL** – When someone asks why you’re wearing a dollar, explain what you are doing and ask for a donation.



# More Fundraising Ideas

**This is just a small sampling of the opportunities that await you! Be creative and the possibilities will be endless!**

Ask Your Neighbors  
A-Thons  
Bachelor Auction  
Bake Sale  
Basket raffle  
Beautiful Baby Contest  
Beauty Day  
Board Game Sale  
Bottle/Can Collection  
Bowling Tournament  
Boxed Lunch Sale  
Candy filled Mugs/Bags  
Candy Sales  
Car Show  
Card Tournament  
Carnival  
Celebrity Luncheon  
Cheesecake Sale  
Chili Cook-Off  
Church Donations  
Clean Houses  
Club Donations  
Concession Stand  
Cookbook Sale  
Corporate Sponsor  
Cow Patty Plop  
Crab Race  
Craft Show  
Crazy Hat Day  
Dinner/Breakfast  
Discount Card Sale  
Dog Sled Pull  
Donate Your Services  
Donations  
Dress Down Day  
Dunk Tank  
Fashion Show  
Fish Fry  
Fitness Walk  
Flower Sale  
Game Booth at Carnival  
Garage Sale  
Gift Wrap Sale  
Ice Cream Social

Local Business Fundraising  
Massage Therapy Session  
Newspaper Drive  
Night Club Admission  
Office Competition  
Pancake Breakfast  
Parking Cars  
Pizza Sale  
Popcorn Booth  
Pretzel Sale  
Psychic Reading Night  
Putt-Putt Golf  
Recycling  
Road Rally  
Rubber Duck Race  
Senior Dance  
Silent Auction  
Singles Dinner  
Softball Tournament  
Spaghetti Dinner  
Tailgate Party  
Teen Dance  
Theme Party  
T-Shirt Sale  
Tupperware Party  
Vegas Night  
Walk-a-Thon  
White Elephant Sale  
Women's Day



