

50 FUNDRAISING IDEAS

IDEAS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

(Quick, easy and/or not too many people needed)



1) Fancy Dress/Dress Down Days

- Pay to wear fancy dress or casual clothes and (threaten to!) fine those who don't.
- Have a silly shorts and leggings, silly ties or tops. Seventies day or trainspotter day. Why not do it once a week or month perhaps every pay-day?
- Award a small prize for the best.



2) Cake Bake

- Auction or raffle a novelty cake or sell cakes at work. Run a cake trolley and sell slices and individual cakes every month.
- People on their breaks are a captive audience and fancy a nibble between 10.00 & 10.30 am and 3.00 & 4.00 pm. Charge 50p / £1 each.



3) Head Shave/Leg Shave/Chest Wax!

- Find a willing volunteer
- Invite the local press and a local Beautician if possible to do the job properly.
- Get sponsorship from colleagues, friends and family.



4) Car Park Fines

- If you have a car park, ask for a voluntary donation for parking for one day. Make sure you have a couple of volunteers to collect donations,



5) Sponsored Silence

- This has worked particularly well where there is a real chatterbox in the company.



6) Guessing Games

- Guess the name of the teddy bear, weight of a cake, how many peanuts in a jar, the list is endless. Charge between 10p and £1.00.
- We can supply raffle tickets if required and help you make "Guess Sheets" and "Quiz Sheets" to help with your fundraising.
- Make up simple Quiz Sheets that people have to answer a number of questions and then hand in the sheets with a prize for the correct answers.
- These are a good way to engage with your customers to support your fundraising.



7) Local Sporting Events

- Many towns and villages hold their own fun run, half marathon or 10km run.
- Enter a team from your company. Make sure you wear a T shirt.



8) Dress Down/up/shorts/hat day!

- Arrange to have a Dress Down day once a month and charge your work colleagues a small fee to dress down, or fine those that don't join in. Lots of other ways to do this from wear a hat to work or even 'overdress' day and come to work in your Dinner Suit or even your Wedding Dress!



9) Sponsored Slim

- This is simple if you are the one who is sponsoring!
- Find one willing volunteer or preferably a team so that they can support each other. Sponsor them per pound lost.



10) Using Existing Events

- There are sometimes events already planned such as dinner dances, balls, Christmas parties and conferences.
- Why not use these opportunities to run a raffle, table quiz or just ask for sponsors to raise funds. This means your initial outlay is very low and more money can go to your fundraising.



11) Halloween Apple Dunk

- Simple to run in the canteen/restaurant but lots of fun. Everyone pays to enter. Try to get a manager dunking when most people are in the canteen.



12) Pot Luck Lunch

- Each person in a team prepares a different item for lunch (they can buy something if they can't cook).
- Everyone puts in £1 and has a team meal.



13) Raffles

- Raffles can be great money earners.
- There are many laws governing raffles - see *the Legal Advice section for details*, or contact the Carlisle Youth Zone for advice
- You need to start organising a large raffle about three to six months before the event to allow for tickets to be printed and time to sell them.



14) Sponsored Events General

- These are always popular e.g. bed push, silence, swim, cycle, head shave. Go for something unusual or challenging.
- Be bizarre but safe. Individual sponsorships have included a half a beard shave and all night fishing.



15) Sponsored Stop Smoking

- Tie this in with National no smoking day.
- We can supply anyone who wants to give up with helpful information, or call the Quitline on 0800 848 484 you can even quit 'on-line' now at www.ash.org.uk



16) Swear Box

- This can raise a lot of money if you have any little 'firecrackers' on site!



17) Ten Pin Bowling

- Easy to organise if you've got a local bowling hall.
- Charge for entry and award a small prize to the winning team. Or run a marathon sponsored bowling competition.



18) Charging People to Come to Work!

- Charge people a small (voluntary) fee to come into work.
- Have lots of helpers positioned on all the entrances'



19) Caption Competition

- Whenever you have a group of people who work together minimum of 25 to make it worthwhile run a caption competition.
- Get a photo of a 'known' person within the company, preferably doing something they wouldn't normally do or wearing an unusual expression (partners are good suppliers of photos!)
- Photocopy the picture onto an A4 sheet with blank lines for names and captions.
- Charge for each entry and give a cash prize of, say 25% of the proceeds. Elect a panel of judges beforehand and announce the winning captions (1st 2nd and 3rd) at the end of the event.

IDEAS WHICH NEED MORE ORGANISATION



20) Angling Competition

- A sponsored event, either weight caught, or total number of fish



21) Involving the Local Community

- To make absolutely sure that the local community know what you are doing for the Youth Zone get them involved.
- Why not hold a tournament with a local school e.g. rounders or netball, or help to run a fundraising coffee morning with the PTA or a local community group (Scouts, Church, WI, Rotary Club, Lions Club, etc.)



22) Individual Endeavour

- When one individual does something that captures the imagination of the whole group. For example, an employee of a company did a sponsored motorcycle ride to France, and someone else cycled from John O'Groats to Land's End!
- If you are planning an individual event which you want the whole group to get involved in, please contact the Youth Zone fundraising department so that advice can be given.
- There are lots of 'action style' events that are available such as Abseiling, White Water Rafting, etc. why not enter one yourself or get together with a few friends and work colleagues and enter a team. Contact the fundraising department at the Youth Zone for details of forthcoming events.



23) Band Night/Disco

- Very popular events Get a good band well in advance, they may reduce their costs for a good cause and publicity. Charge for admission and refreshments. Organise a raffle or auction a few items.
- Beware, up front outlay can be high. Sell sufficient tickets to cover costs beforehand, sell a few on the night, and price them right.



24) Ball

- Hold a ball, (it could have a theme), in a lovely local location. Budget carefully and sell all your tickets well in advance as these events can be costly and labour intensive. Done well, they can be a huge success.
- Beware, up front outlay can be high. Sell sufficient tickets beforehand to cover costs and not on the night, and price them right.



25) Bed Push Or Pram Push

- Run as a sponsored event, choose a high profile route e.g. through the town centre on a Saturday morning, or make it a 24 hour marathon.
- Get individual teams sponsored and collect money along the way, remembering to observe the rules on street collections. You need to inform the police and get a local authority licence.



26) Product Sales

- Can a local shop donate any damaged products to sell at a discount on site or at local events?
- This usually proves very popular with the public and raises lots of money.



27) Slave Auction

- Run this at a work event. Make sure you have about 10 volunteers or people who you know will be game for a laugh.
- Try and get everyone to brainstorm some slavish chores which can be carried out at the event. Past examples include shaving legs, singing a song, buying everybody a round, serving drinks for the rest of the night, dressing as e.g. Spice Girls etc.
- Appoint an auctioneer to get the proceedings going.
- Before the start of the auction, each person is told what their slave task will be.
- Once the bidding starts, each person taking part has the option to buy themselves back out of doing a horrible task, to increase the bidding. Everyone can bid.



28) Car Boot/Table Top Sale/Jumble Sale

- Hire or borrow a hall or outdoor site or use the car park (security permitting).
- Sell pitches (for at least £5) or ask stall holders to donate a percentage of profits (10%) sell refreshments, charge admission.
- If you are entering a car boot sale to make money, price everything beforehand. Do not under-price and have a box for 'everything under £1'.



29) Sporting Sweepstake

- Based around any big sporting event such as the Derby, Grand National, Premier League, and World Cup Cricket.
- Divide the prize money between the Youth Zone and the winner.



30) Barbeque

- Ideal for a summer evening (!) Try to get your someone to donate food.
- Hold a raffle or have some family activities. Charge for admission and for each activity.



31) Car Wash/Car Parking

- Ideal in company car parks which are near to or in town centres or sports grounds, as these are generally not used on a Saturday.
- If you are offering a car parking service, make sure you have plenty of volunteers to help direct cars around the car park.
- Offer a charge for parking (say £3) with an extra £3 on top to have the car washed as well. You can also offer the car washing service on its own for say £5.
- You will need an easily available supply of water and at least two people per car. Aim to take no more than 10 minutes to wash each car.



32) Cricket or Football Match

- Easy to organise on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. You may already have existing teams.
- Even better hold a tournament each season, where each team pays to enter and there is a trophy for the winning team.



33) Balloon Race

- Get hold of some biodegradable balloons, attach labels to them, 'sell off' each balloon and put the name and address of the purchaser on the label.
- Have the balloon release at an event or in the site car park make sure you take photographs as they can make very dramatic pictures for your newsletter and local press.



34) Cookery Book

- Invite celebrities or local restaurants to submit a recipe (they will benefit from the publicity) and put together a cookbook. A simpler version of this is a cookbook produced by the staff.
- The Youth Zone will have a cookbook available shortly featuring recipes by the youngsters that use the Youth Zone which you could sell to raise funds.



35) Cow Pat Lottery

- Borrow a local field, with a cow! Divide the field into a numbered grid, then sell the squares.
- Wait for the cow to perform and the chosen square is the winner!



36) Exercise to Music Aerobics/Fitness Marathon/Zumbathon

- Run this as a sponsored event or if there is an exercise expert on site, run an evening class every week. Participants pay a fee which goes to the Youth Zone



37) Fancy Dress Party/Pub Crawl

- Charge for tickets, charge extra for people who don't wear fancy dress and hold a raffle on the night. Make sure you get permission from the pubs to collect on their premises.



38) Family Fun Days

- We can put you in touch with companies who will help you run these. Budget carefully and make sure you sell plenty of tickets in advance, as they can be expensive to run. Maybe link with another event, a sponsored bike ride for example.



39) Tombolas

- Run a tombola at a local event. Collect prizes from suppliers, colleagues and friends before the day. Give everyone plenty of notice to donate prizes.



40) Original Artwork Sale

- Ask local artists to donate work. If you have an artist on site even better.
- Any picture, however bad or good, looks more attractive in a mount. So get them mounted (this works out between £5 to £15 depending on size) and wrapped in a protective cover. Let the purchasers pay for the framing as this can be costly.



41) Bingo

- Hold a bingo evening or have a bingo session at an existing event.



42) Health Promotion

- Link in with your local health services to make your fundraising part of a get fit campaign or promotion
- Have a sponsored slim or fitness class as part of an overall promotion.
- Leaflets on subjects such as healthy eating, looking after your heart, etc. are available from your local health centre and you can use these to distribute to employees as part of a health promotion campaign.



43) Pub Games

- Teams pay to enter for dominoes, skittles, darts, shove ha'penny, quiz etc. Have plenty of fun prizes and charge for refreshments.



44) Quiz Evening

- Teams pay to enter £5 per person. Sell refreshments served by waitresses and waiters whose tips go into the pot as well. Have some prizes and perhaps a raffle.
- Organise questions into themed groups, 10 groups, 5 questions in each for a 2 hour event.
- You can buy books of questions at booksellers.
- The Youth Zone has a Movie Quiz available which you can make use of. Contact the Youth Zones fundraising department for details.



45) Race Nights

- The Youth Zone is able to help you organise these including providing the equipment to run the event and material to get your races and horses sponsored.
- Races with eight runners are shown on a big screen and bets are taken on who will win. Great fun and you can make more money if you serve food and drink too!



46) Duck Race

- Hire or borrow some numbered plastic ducks and sell them off. Launch the ducks in a local river or stream and give a prize to the owner of the duck that crosses the finishing line first.



47) Shoe Shine Lunchtime

- Offer shoe cleaning at lunchtime.

48) Treasure Hunt



- Plan a route to be followed by car, foot or bicycle through local towns or villages. Hide directions in cryptic clues given to teams at the start of the hunt.
- Add interest by giving competitors questions to answer or asking them to collect various items (e.g. a lump of coal, yesterday's newspaper) en route. '
- If using cars, make a note of each entrant's mileage at the start of the event and make the winner the one with the lowest mileage at the end and/or the greatest number of marks.
- Try out the route a week before the event. If it is to take place in the summer, finish with a barbecue or barn dance. Inform the police of your plans and how many vehicles will be taking part.



49) Christmas Party

- Have the usual bash but make it fancy dress or have a Christmas raffle.



50) Zany

How about greatest number of marshmallows in a mouth, throw a custard pie at your boss or manager, eating jelly with chopsticks, blindfold jelly feed (both parties blindfolded), eating the greatest number of doughnuts without licking the lips, putting feet into wellies filled with 'gunge' (wallpaper paste with colouring) and lucky dip in a bucket of slime?

**50 ideas to get you started!
And you will think of many more.**

***There is an A Z checklist which
may help too.***