

100 Fundraising Tips

Set a Fundraising Goal for yourself and team.

Share your goal with friends, family and co-workers so that they can help you fundraise for seriously ill children and their families.

Don't be afraid to make the ask

Remember that you can't raise money to help children if you don't ask people for help. Be proud of what you are doing and your supporters will be proud to help you.

Hold your own mini-fundraiser

From bake sales to car washes to date auctions, movie night, tea party, there are lots of easy ways to host your own mini-fundraiser.

Online Fundraising

Create your own personal/and or team page that prospective donors can view. Upload your contact email list and send out custom emails inviting friends and potential sponsors to make an online credit card contribution. Our system is safe, quick and easy for all donors and offers a scrolling page to see their name!

Face to Face

Ask potential donors for a few minutes of their time so that you can talk without interruptions. Let them know why you are participating and remember, you are not asking for the contribution for yourself, but for the thousands of seriously ill children and their families. The Ronald McDonald house is their home away from home during these difficult times and they need our help!

Telephone

Get together a list of all your friends, co-workers and other contacts and pick an afternoon to sit down and personally call them. It is easy; just let them know of your plans to walk in the Ronald McDonald House Long Beach "Walk for Kids" event and why you are passionate about the work we do. Let them know about our home environment, the special volunteer meals and more that you may have volunteered for at the home. If they are not able to contribute financially ask if they would volunteer sometime in our kitchen or even volunteer in this walk.

Letter Writing

Personalize your letter with details about yourself and there reasons you are walking. You might even want to include some personal stories about some our children posted on our website or facebook page. Remember your audience when crafting your letter to tailor it to fit your friends, family, co-workers or business owners. Consider enclosing a self addressed envelope for a check donation or offer to pick it up in person if possible.

Matching Gifts

Check if your company offers a matching gifts program. Usually the contact person is your Human Resources Director. This program offers you a great way to double the money you raise simply by asking your employer how to enroll in this program. At the same time be careful to check your employee handbook as some companies may not support fundraising within your work environment. So check first and be respectful of your company's policy.

Donor Events

Let your sponsors decide how much they wish to give in support of your goal for our cause. Don't limit yourself by asking for certain dollar amount as they might have a bigger number in mind. You will be surprised to learn what some people and companies are willing to give to support serious ill children and their families.

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Businesses you patronize regularly

Ask the people at the places you frequently support for a donation such as your hair stylist, dry cleaner, doctor, dentist, gym, coffee house, favorite restaurant, gas station, manicurist, grocer, and anywhere you spend a great deal of your hard earned income.

Acknowledgements

Always remember to say thank you either in an email, in person, or with a personal note card depending on what method you used to solicit this gift originally. This is one of fundraisings' biggest mistake is to not thank your generous donors regardless at the size of the gift. Who knows next year they may contribute even more to your goal!

Ideas to raise money for the Long Beach Ronald McDonald House "Walk for Kids" event.

- 1.) Have a bake sale
- 2.) Have a dog wash
- 3.) Lemonade stand
- 4.) Walk friends or neighborhood dogs
- 5.) Hold a car wash
- 6.) Collect aluminum cans or plastic bottles
- 7.) Host a casual dress day at your office and charge a \$5 fee
- 8.) Host a party in your home
- 9.) Put together a fashion show
- 10.) Host a film viewing party
- 11.) Host a backyard garden party
- 12.) Cut your neighbors lawn
- 13.) Have a raffle of item(s)
- 14.) If in a school with uniforms ask if one day kids can wear approved casual clothes again for a fee.
- 15.) Face painting for kids and teens
- 16.) A plant sale
- 17.) A cake walk
- 18.) Host a scavenger hunt
- 19.) Host a kickball, softball, basket ball or tennis tournament
- 20.) Offer shoe shines
- 21.) Host a used CD or DVD sale
- 22.) Host a silent auction
- 23.) Create a wine tasting party
- 24.) Create a dance night
- 25.) Host a poker or other card game event
- 26.) Have a spaghetti dinner
- 27.) Host a BBQ
- 28.) Tea Party
- 29.) Collect everyone's loose change. This adds up quickly
- 30.) Host a pool tournament
- 31.) Have an auto show
- 32.) A motorcycle or bike event
- 33.) Ask your favorite business establishments if they would allow a plastic jar or container for change at the register.

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- 34.) Host a bingo event
- 35.) Have a Yard or Garage Sale by yourself or with friends for Spring Cleaning.
- 36.) Offer legit neck or back massages
- 37.) Email ten people asking for \$10 or \$25 each.
- 38.) Host a pot luck event at work for a nominal \$5 fee
- 39.) If you are having a birthday, graduation, anniversary or other ask for a donation instead of a present.
- 40.) Bring in donuts or bagels to work and place a donations jar next to them.
- 41.) In your place of worship ask if you can add to the weekly news bulletin, or if there is a community calendar board for announcements.
- 42.) If you own art or other article of value raffle or sell it to the highest bidder.
- 43.) Ice cream social
- 44.) Raffle (some businesses may donate the item such as a massage, tickets to an event or sports game.
- 45.) Baby sit children or pets for a donation.
- 46.) Balloon sales
- 47.) Arrange a special hike or bike ride event for a donation.
- 48.) Have a bowl-a-thon
- 49.) Host a ice skate event
- 50.) Offer house cleaning or office cleaning for a donation.
- 51.) Host a bar event function for a cover charge.
- 52.) Host an event at your favorite restaurant for a portion of the proceeds.
- 53.) Host a photo booth
- 54.) Host a \$1 Hug booth
- 55.) Sell our \$1 Red Shoes sheets House has extra tabs of sheets
- 56.) Sell sweet or beverages not offered in your work place
- 57.) Host a Pie Smash event
- 58.) Host a Pie Toss event ask your favorite teacher, boss to be the target
- 59.) Host a Karaoke event
- 60.) Guest bartend at a friend's home party for tips
- 61.) Host a concert benefit with small jazz group, band, or string quartet
- 62.) Offer to be a designated driver for a night or multiple nights on weekends for a fee
- 63.) Help someone revamp their resume
- 64.) Host an ice-cream social event
- 65.) Host a tequila tasting event
- 66.) Charge to take legit photos of someone using your smart phone for a fee
- 67.) Host a fun tutorial event like how to create your own succulent planter
- 68.) Grow and sell small succulents within the year
- 69.) Choose a torture event...within the office or among friends charge to inflict small notions of torture. Such as trade jobs
- 70.) Host a smoothie stand remake of lemonade stand
- 71.) Host a spelling bee
- 72.) Offer to wrap presents during upcoming holidays such as Moms Dads Grads Day's
- 73.) For the Birds (Deliver a group of plastic flamingos at someone's front door with note for a donation will move to a neighbor or friend of their choice
- 74.) **Bail Me Out** – Handcuff two willing fundraisers and let them lose when they raise “bail”. This is perfect for School or large office with a fake jail or office cell visible for everyone to see.
- 75.) **Make it up** – Send out invitations to a made up event and offer invitees tickets to support the cause without having to leave home.

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- 76.) **It's a Bust** – Sell balloons for \$10 each and insert a number in each that corresponds to a raffle ticket given to the purchaser. Pop a balloon for each available prize and read off the winning number.
- 77.) **Nacho Dough** – Sell a lunch or dinner of nachos and a cookie at a church or school when participants already need to stay through a meal.
- 78.) **Go Hairless** – Volunteers commit to shaving their heads if a specified amount is raised by a deadline.
- 79.) **Skip a Meal** – Sponsors commit to giving up a meal together and give the money saved to the designated cause.
- 80.) **Holiday Shop** – Collect new and gently used items from your volunteers and resell them in gift baskets at a holiday shop.
- 81.) **Rent-a-Worker** - Volunteers commit to working for an afternoon doing any odd jobs sponsors “hire” them to do.
- 82.) **Egg ‘Em On** – Go door to door negotiating with each neighbor for how much they will pay to see you do a crazy stunt with a raw egg (i.e. juggle, crack it on your head, throw it up and catch it).
- 83.) **Pay it Forward** – Give each person in your organization \$10 and a specific amount of time to use the funds to raise as much as they can for the cause.
- 84.) **Reverse Raffle** – All potential sponsors get a raffle ticket and sell it back for \$10 to avoid getting their name drawn to do something embarrassing.
- 85.) **Cookbook** – Group members offer their best family recipes for a cookbook.
- 86.) **Fore!** – Hold a tournament at a golf course that will offer reduced greens fees and get prizes donated. Getting local celebrities to participate will draw more participants.
- 87.) **Diva it Up** – Design and sell t-shirts advertising your group’s cause.
- 88.) **Work of Art** – The younger members in your organization create a drawing that is transferred onto note cards, t-shirts, mouse pads or coffee mugs for purchase.
- 89.) **Spa Night** – Offer to have female volunteers give manis, pedis and 5 minute massages at a Women’s Night Out for donations
- 90.) **Halloween Collection** – Use this door-to-door holiday to collect coats, candy, or change for your charity.
- 91.) **Give it up** – Sponsors commit to give up a regular activity for a month and donate the money they save to the designated cause.
- 92.) **Capital Campaign** – Set a goal, make the direct ask, and avoid an endless slew of small fundraisers.
- 93.) **Social Media Call** – Let potential donors know about your fundraising need through Facebook and Twitter.
- 94.) **X Marks the Spot** – Sell golf balls for \$10 each and send them all down a hill with the “tossers” blindfolded. The 3 that get closest to the center of a taped “X” below win cash prizes.
- 95.) **Eat for a Cause** – Ask a local restaurant to donate 10% of their profits on a designated night for your cause in exchange for encouraging supporters to eat there.
- 96.) **Matching Gift** – Ask a corporation or individual to match any donations your organization collects in a specified amount of time. Then, contact potential donors about giving to match the gift.
- 97.) **Birthday Pledge** – Ask for donations to a favorite cause instead of birthday gifts.
- 98.) **Who’s Got Talent** – Hold a talent show with an entry fee for each act and sell tickets.
- 99.) **Pump it up** – Coordinate with a local gas station to have volunteers serve as gas station attendants who pump
- 100.) Offer to wait on tables at a sit down dinner for tips.