



Check out these Creative Participant Fundraising Ideas:

Believe it or not, these ideas have actually been done and were proven successful!

- Asked 5 friends/family members to forward my fundraising e-mail onto their contacts. For the friends that did that, I gave them a \$10 gift card to say thank you. I received about 10 additional donations from this!!
- Created candy bags (at Christmas & Easter) and sold them at work for \$2.50
- Stood on top of a highly visible restaurant's ROOF and vowed not to get down until she had raised \$1,000 - she got great media coverage and had her funds raised in just a few hours (this was before my time - but I still hear about it from old alumni)
- Tupperware & Pampered Chef parties - get money instead of cooking items
- Created a Team Challenge beanie baby and sold them.
- Created Team Challenge charm bracelets and sold them.
- Sold Minor league baseball tickets and kept a profit of \$.50 per ticket sold
- Fundraising Concert
- Barter off their Trade/Skills to raise funds
- Selling blue and orange beads at Bears tailgate parties (\$150/\$200 an hour)
- Worked at a neighborhood florist on Valentine's Day (\$500)
- A karaoke contest mocking American Idol
- Selling frozen Otis Spunkmeyer cookies and desserts. Participants keep 40% of their sales.
- A consumer reporting agency has asked us to help them in increasing their consumer reports. Participants get paid up to \$7 per report with the ability to turn in as many reports as possible.
- A local restaurant asked us to provide a participant as a "celebrity waiter" and they got to keep 10% of the proceeds and their tips.

- A participant set up a booth at the St. Patrick's Day parade this year and sold beer. (\$1,300 raised)
- Asked local restaurants to donate a percentage of their profits on a particular night to their fundraising. They can get people to come to the restaurant to support them and it's practically no work.
- One of our participants is a school teacher and she had her principal challenge the students to raise at least \$2,000 in a week--if they reached this goal, she would sleep on the roof. They surpassed their goal and she slept on the roof!
- A participant had a pet bake sale (she made dog biscuits) and sold them outside of a pet store.
- Ask your leasing office of your apartment if the neighborhood can over-write their rent checks by the amount they would like to donate. The office can keep track of the overage and write you the check. Then write your apartment complex letters letting them know about the giving opportunity.
- Put tiny ribbons in all of your fundraising letters and ask your donors to write the name of their friends or family with IBD and mail it back with their donation. The participant then pins the ribbons on their jersey for the event.
- Collecting books from friends and family and selling them at Half Price Books, 100% used for fundraising efforts. One participant has raised over \$300 to date.
- Proceed night at local restaurants. This has worked well at most chains like, Unos, Pizza Hut, Popeye's Chicken, Yats and Chipolte. 10% - 15% of all sales from an evening benefit the Foundation if a person brings in a flyer with the individual who is fundraising's name on it. This can also be done at Borders with book sales. 10% of funds go to the Foundation for every flyer an individual brings in and buys a book.
- Gift Wrapping during the holidays at Barnes and Noble, Borders and the Mall for tips.
- Creating bracelets made of sterling silver and glass beads in Team Challenge colors and selling them for \$40. .
- Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Party Lite, Tupperware and Home Interior parties. 10 – 15% of sales go directly back to the participant for their fundraising efforts. We do a couple of these each season and they seem to be a big hit with the teams.
- Company Breakfasts or lunch – Participants will ask a local chain, like Au Ban Pain, to donate breakfast for an event that they will have at work. One of our

participants works at a hospital and did this. She charged \$10 plate and raised over \$300.

- March Madness Pool – College basketball is always a huge time of year and everyone participates in office pools. You can set one up online and is a great way to raise funds.
- Sports Celebrity Golf Tournament
- Entertainment Books have proved to be a great seller for participants
- Picture calendar of coaches and teammates which was sold
- Cycle raffle (bike value \$3000) 1000 tickets sold, profit \$7000
- Locally designed Team Challenge Christmas ornaments \$500 profit
- A participant is a brewmeister by profession. She offered tours and samples of the Harpoon Brewery for a donation.
- Jewelry is becoming very popular. One unique piece was a necklace and/or bracelet with the blue and orange beads, where you could include a framed picture of your honoree in the middle.
- A nice twist to the letter campaign: An alumni sent out his letter to his list and then teamed up with his honoree who wrote an introduction to the participant's letter. The letter was then sent to the Honoree's mailing list and he collected the donations and corresponded with his family and friends. The participant raised an additional \$2500 from the Honoree's list.
- Charity Bachelor / Bachelorette Auction: 2 participants teamed up to put on an auction at a local bar that included a silent auction with donated items / gift certificates, as well as a live auction in which bachelors and bachelorettes were auctioned off. They ended up netting \$7,000. Price of admission included drinks / food.
- "Dine Around": 2 local chefs on the team organized a Dine Around. Guests paid \$75 for their ticket and were treated to a "progressive feast" at 5 downtown restaurants - a bus transported people to 5 stops (5 courses), where they enjoyed donated food and wine prepared by nice local restaurants. They netted \$7,500.
- Kiss a Pig – A teacher at an elementary school raised money by challenging the students to fundraise to see her kiss a pig (they raised the set amount, so she brought a pig into school and kissed it in front of all of her students.)
- Speed Dating Event (\$6000 in one night)

- Wine Tasting at an Art gallery (\$2000),
- Selling treats at your desk (\$500 over the course of the season). Our people have also had a lot of success with adding components on to events. Rather than just having a wine tasting, have a silent auction there as well.
- Group garage sales. About 8 participants were able to put on a weekend garage sale. They made about \$1,000.
- Food sales in front of local supermarkets. Some markets match whatever amount is raised. Wal-Mart matches, and one of our participants sold raffle tickets in front of a local Wal-Mart. She received \$250 in matching funds from the store.
- Enchilada or tamale sales. A Southwest version of a bake sale. One participant who worked at Costco had a fellow employee donate enchiladas once a week. What a generous colleague!
- Hold a Pre & Post Oscar Party – The Works! Red carpet, Ballot Box, Movie Trivia, Prizes, Silent Auction, Pose with a “star” (Cardboard Star)
- TGIF Restaurant Party – a full day event. Percentage of the bill is donated
- “Lobster Night” night at one of the local parks. Lobsters are donated by a seafood distributor.
- work summer festivals and street fairs pouring beer, scooping ice cream
- Flamingo landing- put pink flamingos in donor’s yard...they give donation to have them “fly away”
- Outback and Applebees lunchtime fundraisers – Both restaurants will donate their food and for \$10 you can come eat lunch one day during the week.
- One doctor offered to her co-workers that she would take their shifts & they’d get a paid day off in exchange for a large donation
- Birthday party with donations instead of gifts/Donations in lieu of anniversary gifts – for a 25 year wedding anniversary a participant asked for donations to Team Challenge in lieu of gift