

50 FUNDRAISING IDEAS - 2015

- 1) Campsite Decorating Service: not everyone is as super creative as you! Offer a campsite decorating service during set up at Relay. Provide teams with examples of your work and references from your team.
- 2) Rooftop Fundraiser: Hold yourself hostage! Chain or otherwise affix yourself to a centralized rooftop in town and commit that you won't come down until \$X are raised. Get the local media to cover your "hostage situation".
- 3) "Spin the Bottle": Wrap bottles of wine in paper bags and arrange them in a circle. Place a bottle in the middle and charge \$10 per spin. The player wins the bottle that the center bottle points to. It could be a cheap or expensive wine.
- 4) "I'm not homeless, just trying to help cure cancer": take a homemade sign and your enthusiasm to the streets! Get your team to take over the four corners of a busy intersection and proclaim your dedication to the cause. Collect donations and provide passersby with event information.
- 5) Campsite Valets: set up a table at the entrance to your event and sell valet service for teams unloading their campsite supplies. Offer cart rentals and tent set up services for an extra fee.
- 6) Crab Soccer Tournament: Bring out everyone's inner child with a good old fashioned crab soccer tournament. All you need is a giant inflatable ball, a few cones and a bracket.
- 7) Ball Drop Raffle: sell numbered ping pong balls to win a donated prize. Drop the balls from any height above 6 ft and whichever one lands closest to the bullseye wins. Get really ambitious and drop it from a crane or a front loader!
- 8) "Boys in Bras" Car Wash: Decorate bras for breast cancer awareness and ask a group of gentlemen to wash cars for the cause. You'll get lots of attention and plenty of smiles!
- 9) Jenga Tournament: Use several sets of Jenga blocks to host a tournament style competition. Charge an entrance fee and/or offer a prize for the winner. Add Relay related trivia questions to the blocks for an added level of competition.
- 10) Dodgeball Tournament: who doesn't love a good old fashioned game of dodgeball?! Teams of 6-8 participants can compete bracket style for a prize or offer the entrance fee money to the winning team's fundraising total.
- 11) Reverse Raffle: instead of selling tickets to win a prize, sell tickets to NOT win an unwanted prize. Make it something undesirable like a fruit cake, comedic roast, or bad costume they have to wear the rest of the night. Each person receives one ticket upon entry and can sell their ticket back for a price. They can also buy extra tickets for others in hopes they'll win the unwanted prize.
- 12) Prom Dress Rugby: Ask your local rugby team to host a scrimmage and dress in old prom dresses! Sell tickets at the door and offer concessions. Pictures with the players could add an additional source of income.
- 13) Outdoor Movie Night: Portable movie screens are easy to make and/or relatively inexpensive to rent. Host a movie night in your backyard, at your local park or anywhere with grass, really. Sell popcorn and candy. Show a Relay For Life video as the preview!
- 14) Painting Night: These have become increasingly popular over the past few years. 3rd party companies will coordinate the event for you and donate a portion of the proceeds. You just have to get the people! Some companies will even let you request special paintings like purple sunsets, cancer ribbons or paws (for Bark For Life).
- 15) Dunk Tank Jail & Bail: Two classic on-site fundraisers rolled into one. The tank is the jail. People can have someone arrested for any dollar amount and they must match that donation within a time frame or go in the tank.
- 16) Walking Tacos: This is a great on-site food fundraiser. Create a taco bar and mix the ingredients in a bag of chips. Doritos and Corn Chips work best. Stick a fork in it and they're done!
- 17) Are you feeling fortunate?: Make paper fortune cookies out of craft paper and add a fortune to each one. Charge \$0.25 per draw to see if their fortune wins them a prize.
- 18) Lawn Games: You can make "life size" versions of a lot of popular games to use at Relay. Chess, Jenga, Glow in the dark Tic Tac Toe, Pick Up Sticks and Scrabble are just a few.
- 19) Egg Painting: Fill egg shells with different colored paints (representing different cancers) and ask participants to throw them at a canvas. Charge per throw or raffle off the painting at the end of Relay.
- 20) Sponge Toss: A classic carnival game that's great for hot days. Contestants get 3 throws to make it through as many holes as they can. They get a prize if they hit two or more!
- 21) Pucker up w/ a Pig: This works great in office or school settings. Charge \$1 per vote to elect a member of the staff to kiss a pig (or any other farm animal). Run the competition for a week or two and have a big assembly to celebrate the winner.
- 22) Lucky Straw: Stick straws in brownie squares and charge \$1 per guess. The contestant gets a brownie and if their straw possesses a special marker, they also win an additional prize.
- 23) Golden Egg: Place eggshells upside down in a tray with sand (after you've removed the tops and the contents). Place a marble

under a few of the eggs. \$1 per guess and the winner gets a prize.

- 24) Hairy Hedgehog: Place sticks in a styrafoam ball and paint the ends of a few sticks. Charge per guess and the one who pulls a painted "quill" wins a prize.
- 25) Crazy Carrots: Burry whole and half carrots with green tops in a bucket. Charge per guess and the one who pulls out a whole carrot wins a prize.
- 26) Mug Madness: Place 1-2 dozen mugs upside down on a table and place a gift card under a few winning mugs. Charge \$1 per guess and the winner walks away with the gift card!
- 27) Attack of the Ducks: If you have a river in your town, coordinate a massive rubber duck race! Number each duck and charge \$5 per duck racer. The winner gets a prize and/or a duck topped trophy!
- 28) Silly Strong Your Boss: \$5 a can...need I say more?
- 29) Sponsorship Competition: If you receive a sponsorship that is not credited to a team, host a fundraising competition where the winning team gets that sponsorship.
- 30) Giant "HOPE": Have you seen the HOPE \$100 fundraising sheet? Make a giant version of that that equals \$500.
- 31) Trash Bags: It's the latest trend is fundraising. Selling things that everyone buys! Sell trash bags through any of these websites: frontier bag, bags for bucks, or resource funder). Some even have specially colored bags to choose from!
- 32) Tape the Mayor to the Wall: Charge \$1 per strip of tape until he/she can stick without standing. Please get your mayors permission before attempting.
- 33) "Smash Cancer": Ask a junk yard to donate an old junker, write all the different types of cancer on it and charge \$1 per swing with a sledge hammer. For safety, remove all glass and loose pieces first.
- 34) Shirts: They are always a great way to raise money but the cost can be prohibitive. Use one of these sites (Booster.com or BonFireFunds.com) to sell shirts without ordering in bulk. They're mailed directly to the donor!
- 35) Home & Garden Tours: If you have a participant or sponsor who is willing to open up their beautiful home or garden for tours, charge \$10 to enter and provide weekend tours.
- 36) Brewery Tours: Ask a local brewery or winery to provide tours and donate the proceeds to your team.
- 37) Peg Me!: Walk around the track with a bucket of water balloons. Charge to let walkers peg any of your team members with the water balloons.
- 38) Voting Fundraiser: Ask a local celebrity or TV/Radio personality to participate in a voting fundraiser. Make the voting options desirable and undesirable and charge \$1 per vote and make the finale a public spectacle.
- 39) Thirteen Ounces or Less: The postal service will let you mail some surprising things as long as they're 13 ounces or less. Examples: flip flops, Easter eggs, lip gloss wrapped in a note, plastic shovel or bucket. Who could say no to a donation request from a flip flop?!
- 40) Inner Artist: sell pre-decorated luminaria bags painted with elaborate art. Ask a local art school, retirement home or club group with artistic ability to decorate the bags and then sell them for \$5 more than regular bags.
- 41) Craft Party!: Charge admission and provide supplies for 2-3 specific projects that are easy to learn. Participants can take home their creations or use them to recognize their team members for hard work.
- 42) Puppy Kissing Booth: Great for community fairs or doggy themed events, recruit an affectionate four legged volunteer to give kisses to strangers as they pass by for \$1.
- 43) Hunger Games Challenge: Contestants compete in four events to become the grand champion. This unique fundraising event combines an archery competition, shooting range, obstacle course and a willingness to eat weird foods.
- 44) European Tombola Raffle: Create a wall of "tumbling" presents hanging from the ceiling. During your event, sell the presents off the wall for \$100 a ticket. This once yielded \$20,000 for the Children's Museum of Manhattan Gala.
- 45) Luminaria Block Party: Ask a survivor in your neighborhood to be the honored guest at their own private luminaria ceremony. Sell bags to your neighbors and line the block with bags.
- 46) Boot Drive: Whether or not you have fire fighters involved in your event, boot drives work for everyone! Paint them purple and hit the streets. This is a great addition for Paint the Town Purple!
- 47) Stay at Home Tea Time: Mail your friends and family a tea bag and a note asking for a donation in return.
- 48) Food Fight: Host a food fight in your back yard and charge admission. For a real fun time, make it a pot luck!
- 49) Spaghetti Dinner to Go: Pre-make spaghetti dinners and take pre-orders. Create a make-shift drive through in a local parking lot and hand out dinners as people drive home from work.
- 50) Fast Food Discount Cards: Fast food chains offer fundraising opportunities just like restaurants. They also offer fundraising discount cards that are inexpensive to start selling, have a good return on investment and great benefits to your donors.