

10. Fundraising Ideas from A to Z

These fundraisers are intended in the spirit of Relay - Please use them to take your Relay and team to new fundraising heights, and most of all, to make it fun, while making sure you are following fundraising guidelines! As with anything... we ask that you always keep it in mind that proper planning, communication, and understanding your audience can make sure that your activities are well received by others... Please read the fundraising watch-outs right below and keep these things in mind as you plan your fundraising activities! Thanks!

FUNDRAISER MUST-DO'S- This is a great list of "Must Do's" when fundraising:

1. **Dedicate your personal effort** to someone who has won their battle with cancer, to someone who is currently battling cancer, or to someone who lost their life to this disease.
2. **Write letters** to your friends and business associates.
3. **Aim high** - ask for \$100 and settle for \$50. Gear the amount you ask for to your audience.
4. **Personalize your letters** and be sure to thank them for last year's donation if there was one.
5. **Carry your donor envelope around 24/7** with you to collect donations you might get on the spot.
6. **Talk about Relay at your Church or Service Group** - If you belong to a service club or church group, ask if you can have a couple of minutes to talk about the Relay and ask for their support.
7. **Ask your neighbors** - Ask around in your neighborhood to obtain sponsors for your team.
8. **Ask where you shop** - Ask businesses that you frequent to donate \$100 to sponsor you or ask them to put up a poster about the event (available through your Relay staff person and planning committee members) and/or try to get them involved in Relay.
9. **Be willing to try unique activities....** You will never know what might work unless you try.
10. **Be enthusiastic** - Be enthusiastic about the event...your enthusiasm will be catching!

This great list comes from the former Region 6 for the Mid-Atlantic Division.

FUNDRAISER WATCHOUTS - With any fundraiser, you always have to be careful to do it in such a way that you do not violate fundraising guidelines (event, ACS division, or your state), it is not negative publicity and/or does not offend anyone. Certain fundraisers can sometimes be misunderstood by members of the community. Or, certain fundraisers are not truly consistent with non-profit guidelines. There are some steps you can take to make sure that fundraisers do not end up as a negative thing in people's minds or for your event and/or the American Cancer Society:

1. **Pre-approve your Fundraiser and Follow Fundraising guidelines** - The American Cancer Society is a non-profit - make sure that you are following fundraising guidelines - the best way to do this is to work with your local staff and committee to ensure that you are in compliance and that they understand and support what you are doing. **THIS IS A BIG DEAL!** Please make sure that you continue to support the American Cancer Society by doing this.
2. **Communicate what is happening** - With any fundraiser, especially one that might be more public, communicate via flyers, a newspaper ad, thru your local government, thru local businesses etc. that it is happening. This will make sure that people are not surprised.
3. **Know your audience** - There are certain people that will not love a purple toilet in their yard, no matter how much you explain it. Target your fundraiser to people who will appreciate it and even be honored to be included. For example - with the toilet fundraiser - My impression of communities where it works best is that it is more of an honor to get "toileted" than a surprise. Those who are "toileted" know it might be coming, and are excited that a friend/co-worker/etc. sent it their way as a way to raise money. They make a donation to have it sent to someone else with pride.
4. **Finally - NEVER VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF RELAY** - No matter what, there is one thing that you

can come back to - are you violating the Spirit of Relay? Relay For Life is intended to find a cure - we hurt someone, damage property, disrespect others, etc. for Relay... If you are doing something in the right spirit, it probably makes it less likely that there will be a problem

A

Art Auction - both professional & student. Have a children's art auction - have a group of kids draw some wonderful pictures of Relay, frame them, then hold an auction at the event (parents will donate money for their budding artist's work).

Art Sales: Have preschool or elementary school students produce great art and have a show. Parents and friends buy back their budding artists' masterpieces.

Ask everyone you meet: Even if you have sent out letters, be sure to carry a sponsor/donation form with you so that when you talk to people about Relay, you can ask them to donate right then. Make sure the top few donations on the form are significant; other people are apt to follow suit. Conversely, if you start with a \$2 contribution, others may follow with \$2. Don't prejudge whether people will give--just ask!

Auction (Silent or Live): Hold the event at your business, in your neighborhood, at church, or at your event. Ask for contributions of unique items such as homemade toys or art, a hand-knitted sweater, breakfast or dinner at someone's home, or a ride on someone's sailboat. Display the items (or their description) prior to the event. Hold the auction over lunch or at a convenient time. Ask for items such as:

- homemade toys or art
- hand-knitted sweater
- breakfast or dinner at someone's home
- a ride on someone's sailboat.
- a prime parking space at work
- a half or whole day off from work
- team members to work a day for someone
- a picnic lunch prepared by your team members
- other items such as collectibles or sports memorabilia.

Display the items (or their description) prior to the event. Hold the auction over lunch or at a convenient time.

Auction AT Work - Auction off a day off at work, or a prime parking space for a month or year

B

Babysitter Service: Babysitters are always a commodity!

Babysitting For A Cure - Have your team setup that when they babysit in a certain month, the proceeds go to Relay... 10 team members x \$7 per hour x 3 hours x 1 time each in a month = \$210

Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction - At your event, auction off for an evening some eligible singles - work in a few celebrities... If you can have a real auctioneer do a real auction for some cool items first, and then the bachelor/bachelorettes, that would be great! Make it so that people can buy the bachelor/bachelorettes who are auctioned, or that their friends can make a donation to buy the person for their friends. Remind everyone that it is for a cancer fundraiser and that it is in good fun - go have dinner and remember it is for a great cause!!!!

Bake Sale: Host a bake sale at work or a busy place (Lowes, Food Lion, etc.). OR, have a **No-Bake Sale**, where coworkers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

Bake-less Bake Sale - Here is a beautiful poem provided by Mitzi Fagan to do a bake-less bake sale from her RFL Auxiliary:

A bit of news we have today

A bake less bake sale is on the way

These busy days, now who could bake;
Pies or cookies or even a cake?
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of materials, heat and the time you've lost,
Cooking for a sale is extra work;
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.
So now we've thought of a plan that's grand,
And felt quite sure you'll understand.
In a little envelope, please put the price,
Of a pie or cake or something nice.
Without fuss or bother you've done your part,
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.
This is the end of our little tale;
Wishing success for our Bake-less Bake Sale.

(Dotted line to cut along.)

Please clip and send with your donation to:

(Include Name and address for the donations to be returned)

Ball Dance : Host a Ball to raise money... Sell tix to everyone and everyone, get a band and give it a creative theme - such as Texas Tuxes (tux jacket and jeans), Prom Gowns, Bridesmaids gowns, and Crazy Tuxes (Tux top and weird pants and/or weird shirts)...

Balloon Day at School: (Great for students!) Sell a Relay balloon with a message attached for \$2. Students take orders in advance and deliver the balloon messages at a later date.

Balloon Bouquets - Donations for RFL balloons can be for \$2 each and make bouquets to be delivered by volunteers.

Bank for a Year: Give everyone on your team a bank to put \$2 in each week, beginning the week after this year's Relay. In 50 weeks, each team member will have \$100!

Barbeque Lunches: Prepare and sell barbeque lunches

Bartending by Local Celebrities: Have the mayor or any other important/popular figure tend bar at a local establishment and donate all tips to the team.

Battle Of The Bands - Hold an event where high school or other local bands play - charge an admission that goes to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life... Declare a winner of the event...

Beads! - *You get a string or something durable and sell that to each Relayer for whatever you choose. Most sell for \$3 per string .. Then, for each lap you walk, you pick up a bead for free. After every 4 laps (1 mile), you get a special bead indicating it's your mile marker. Perhaps a different color bead or something. It's very simple to do. At first, I didn't think it sounded like much, but we raised nearly \$300 at the event doing this in our first year. I couldn't understand why they were so popular. I then went to another Relay that year, this one with my family, and we sold beads there as well. I figured I'd try it out, and I got swept up in Bead-Mania myself! So much so that I walked and ran a total of 28.25 miles at that Relay! Why? Because I had to have beads! It's a great way to track how far you've walked, and people started showing them off to others, sort of as a badge of honor or something. Hey, I've walked 5 miles, how many have you done? Stuff like that. I forget what we raised last year - our 2nd doing beads, but we had people asking us at team captain meetings if we were going to do it again because they loved the idea so much! Now, it's just one of our team's "things", and they're a simple fundraiser at the event to boot!"* - Sounds like this is a great way to raise some money with a great on-site activity for Relay! The steps are simple:

1. Get a good string or something - strong.
2. Sell each string for \$3 (or whatever).
3. Each time someone walks a lap around the track, they get a bead (for free).

Beef and Beer Party - Hold a Beef and Beer Fundraiser! Have both available, and people make a donation to attend... at the event, talk about Relay for Life and what it is, and maybe even have a survivor speak. Have ACS and Relay info available

Bike Rides - Hold a bike ride to raise money to fight cancer. Also see:
http://www.acsrelay.org/Darn_Good_Ideas/10-Fundraising_Sporting_Events.doc

for examples!

B-I-N-G-O: Host Bingo games. Ask participants to donate their winnings!

Birthday Party with a Purpose: Send out invitations asking that in lieu of gifts, each guest bring a check made out to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life.

Block Party: Have a neighborhood block party. Sell food and charge admission

Book Sale: Dust those bookshelves and have a sale.

Boss for a Day: Allow people to bid on being boss for the day. High bid wins!

Bosses, Attention! Charge everyone who asks you a question \$1 to be donated to the Relay.

Bounce-A-Thon: Give elementary school students a collection envelope to take home in order to collect pledges for bouncing a basketball for one-half hour. Each class in the school takes turns gathering in the school's front hall throughout the day to bounce their basket-balls.

Bouquet of Flowers: Ask a local florist to donate a bouquet of flowers in January, February and March. Have employees take a chance to win some "springtime" for their desks.

Bows For \$5 - "We have sold purple bows to go on mailboxes and doors for both residential and businesses for \$5"

Bowl-A-Thon: Bowlers get pledges for each pin they knock down, then come and participate. The money goes to your Relay... Alternatively, charge a flat fee of \$20 donation per bowler and invite your friends to come bowl. Get the bowling alley to donate the evening. Another way to do this is to have a bowling tourney in September or October, and invite the teams in your Relay to bowl against each other... Let them have 8 bowlers a piece and the team with the highest score wins a prize (thanks to lilangel1)... For detailed how-tos, flyer examples, etc. see:

<http://www.acsrelay.org/manualandDGIs.php#Bowl>

Breakfast with: Organize a Breakfast with Santa or the Easter Bunny. Work with a local restaurant or have your team prepare the food. Sell tickets. Take pictures with special guest.

Brown Bag Lunch Day: Encourage employees to bring in their own lunches and donate the money they would have spent to the team.

Buffet Lunch: Everyone on the team brings food, and guests are charged \$5 for all you can eat, \$5 for a standard take-out container, or \$10 for both.

Business Donation for A Day - Have a local business donate a portion of a day's sales to your Relay, or \$1 for each item sold.... Work with them to publicize it beforehand.

Business Raffles: Coworkers can earn money by raffling the following:

A member of management mows your yard, shovels your snow, etc.

Trade jobs with CEO for a day

Dinner at boss's home

Free lunch with the boss
Company logo apparel
Parking place(s)
A day off

Cake Walk: (Great to do onsite.) Walkers purchase tickets for the opportunity to participate in the cake walk. Numbers are placed around the track and, when the music stops, participants run to the nearest number. The emcee calls out a number; the individual closest to that number wins a cake.

Caroling For A Cure - Have people go around your town and carol for a cure- sing while collecting donations for your Relay For Life!

Cancer Control: Have a brown bag lunch seminar and invite someone from the American Cancer Society to speak on cancer prevention. Ask employees to donate what they'd normally spend on going out to lunch or charge a set fee.

Candy Bar Sales: Sell candy bars at work or through displays. Purchase box kits from wholesale warehouses or through fundraising companies.

Car Auction or Drawing: Get a local business to donate an old car, or a volunteer, and auction it off at Relay and/or have a drawing at the end of Relay (the next morning) to keep people around!

Car Bash: Secure an old car, write "CANCER" in large, bold letters across the car. For a donation, participants get to swing a sledgehammer and "Smash Cancer."

Car Washes: Good for students and adults, alike. You could also do it during a business day for friends and co-workers

Car Window Wash: Wash car windows at fast food restaurants or bank drive through windows for donations.

Carnival Fundraiser - Have a Relay Carnival with dunking booth, weight/age guessing, food, darts, balloons, or flea market.

Casino Night: Make sure that you are in compliance with your state and division and event fundraising guidelines for a non-profit (just a thought). Here's what you can do:

1. Find a space to hold your night.
2. Get any required permits for having a casino night.
3. Find a local casino table rental company - get them to donate the tables, dealer time, and chip rental or get a reduced price - blackjack, craps, etc. If you cannot afford to do this - you can setup simpler games - poker, blackjack, and have volunteer dealers.
4. Set a donation price to participate in the event (that includes a certain # of chips). Make it so that for an additional donation, they can get more chips.
5. Publicize the event; get pre-donations for the tickets. DO NOT CALL IT SELLING, AS TECHNICALLY IT IS A DONATION NOT A SALE (non-profit way of positioning it). Technically, you could have someone give a different amount; just like luminaria, it is a suggested amount.
6. Get a local supermarket to donate some food trays and drinks... Since this is the ACS, we suggest no alcohol.
7. Line up volunteers to staff setup, supporting the event (drink tables, cleanup, making announcements, etc).
8. Make sure you have an area for people to sit/talk/eat and chairs and tables.
9. Setup a silent auction at your casino night to give something for others to do (again, make sure that it is non-profit rules compliant for your event/state/division).
10. Get volunteers there early to setup.
11. Have a "chip bank" area to get chips when people arrive or want more chips.
12. Assign your drink, casino table, trash duty, etc. volunteers
13. Make sure you have cleanup volunteers who are staying after.

Casual for Cancer or Denim Days: Ask your company CEO/President to let staff dress casual or wear denim for a \$5.00 or more donation.

Celebrity Baggers: Local celebrities bag groceries for tips at a supermarket.

Celebrity Servers: Local celebrities (or your team) takes a turn at a local restaurant. The restaurant agrees to donate a percentage of the evening (and the servers' tips) to the Relay.

Challenge by the Boss: Get the boss to agree that if all team members raise their minimum \$100, that he will

kiss a pig, shave his head, get a pie in the face...

Challenges: Challenge another team to raise more money than yours. Some radio stations may put your challenge on the radio.

Change Makes a Lot of Cents: (Great for bank and credit union teams.) Donate the cents from your deposit to the bank's Relay for Life team. Place a sign at the teller line and drive through window. "We might just find the cure for cancer in your pocket." Indicate that all proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

Children's festivals/parties: "Breakfast with Santa Claus", Gigantic Easter Egg hunt, Children's Night Out, Children's Dinner Theater with a clown magician, hot dogs, and dessert.

Chili Cook off - Have a HOT-HOT-HOT Chili Cook Off. Sell tickets for samples . \$35 to enter each category, \$5 to come and taste the food!

Chocolate and Champagne Night - For one Relay, this netted \$1000!

- Find a great site to donate the evening - some things that come to mind - local lodges, a parks and rec hall, etc.
- Get chocolate donated by local merchants... At a local chocolate fundraiser we have here in Baltimore, local restaurants come in and serve chocolate deserts in return for publicity and a spot in the program... It sells out every year, i hear!!!!
- Champagne or wine donated by local merchants.
- Help from Relay volunteers - do the event a few months after Relay so that it doesn't conflict.

Christmas Tree/Wreaths: Ask a local retailer to donate \$1 for every tree and wreath sold to support your Relay team. Or, make your own wreaths to sell as a team.

Cigarette Vending Machine Demolition: Charge \$\$ for people to take a swing at it with a mallet (remove glass first): "see if you can find an old vending machine that held cigarettes in it and have people hit it for a donation. We did this last year..fun, fun"

Coin Cans - put Relay For Life Coin cans at every business you can think of - put a sticker with the local office name and # as where they can call to turn it in/get a new can.

Coin Drive: (Great for students.) Set up a jar in the cafeteria and have everyone contribute change from lunch. VARIATION: **Penny Wars**. Drop change in jars to compete against other departments, classes, bank branches. Pennies are worth positive points; silver coins and cash are worth negative points. "Sabotage" the other jars by dropping silver in them.

Coin Toss: Get permission from the local mall to collect all coins tossed in the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs stating that coins will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

Cold Turkey Subs: Encourage sub/pizza shops to donate a set amount (\$0.50) from each cold turkey sub sold during Great American Smokeout Week to benefit the Relay.

Comedy Club: Ask a local comedy club to host an evening in support of Relay for Life and invite all teams to sell tickets. Teams get credit for the tickets they sell.

Company Contribution: Solicit a specific donation from your organization above and beyond that raised by your team and apply the credit for incentives for all team members.

Computer Message: Ask your company computer expert to have a message "pop up" on employees' screens asking for a donation. It won't go away until they give.

Concession Stands: Sell concessions at a local sporting event or community event.

Contract to clean up construction sites...one fraternity I talked with would make \$300 per house to scrub and make ready the new bathrooms, remove window and appliance decals, dirty hand marks on walls and vacuum the house. For doing a good job on the inside, the contractor would pay them extra to haul off the wood, bricks, cans and debris left on site before the landscaping folks showed up. In a new subdivision, this group did about 40 homes. With about 35 members working, it spread the work out over a couple of months

and everybody had a great time. A few of the brothers ended up with jobs for the summer working for various contractors.

COOK OFFS: Chili, cookies, gumbo, bar-b-cue, any thing that can be cooked can be turned into a cook off contest. Charge an entry fee, tasting fee, judging fee, sell ads.

Cookbooks: Collect recipes from employees or team members or committee members and have them published. Sell the books with proceeds going to American Cancer Society. They often have recipes that the committee can submit - often healthy good things for survivors to eat to aid in their battle... You could also ask a local nutritionist for a introduction on good eating habits for a cancer survivor as input... And ask a cancer control person at a local hospital or from the ACS to write about eating habits and how that can both help fight and prevent cancer... Also - go to Google and search for Relay For Life cookbook - there are some really great ones out there!

County-Wide Yard Sale: Use a large parking lot on a Saturday morning and invite each team to have a booth. Have food and entertainment.

Craft Fairs: Great for year-round fundraising. Set up a booth at a local festival.

Curb painting - paint street numbers on house curbs in reflective paint

Cuss Jar at work - co-workers drop in a donation everytime they cuss.

Cutest Baby: Have a Cutest Team Member Baby Contest. Either onsite or before the event at work. Place a photo of each team member as a baby on a display board. People donate \$1 per vote. Present a creative award to the "Cutest Baby."

D

Dance for a Cure: Students hold a school dance, or adults organize a dance at a local club. Ask a DJ or band to donate services.

Day of Cleaning Raffle: Team members donate a suggested five hours to spring/fall house clean your home, with tickets selling for \$5 each.

Day Off Work Raffle - Get your Boss to sponsor a Win A Day Off raffle at work.

Day Spa: (onsite) Provide hair cuts, manicures, and massages for a fee/donation to Relay.

Decorating Service: No time to decorate for the holidays? Offer to put holiday decorations up in or on the house for a fee--a job many people would like for someone else to do!

Dedicate your effort to a special person: Choose someone who is a Survivor or someone who lost the battle.

Deliver Flyers: See what businesses distribute sales flyers in the newspaper and offer for your team to deliver them within the town (at each house) for a set fee. It costs the businesses a lot of money to insert the flyers in the paper; they can save money by letting your team deliver them.

Deliver Meals: Your team cooks and delivers breakfast, lunch or dinner to other businesses in town.

Dime-A-Dance (at event) - provide music at your campsite and other people can pay to dance with your team members.

Dinners - Pork Dinners, Pig Roasts, Spaghetti dinners, whatever you want to do... Setup a dinner at a local hall or restaurant, get as much food donated as possible, and get the word out... Team after team raises hundreds or even thousands of dollars this way!

Dinner With A Humorous Twist ☺ - Possible names: "The Wacky Dinner For A Cure" or "Funny For My Tummy Fundraiser to Cure Cancer" or "Laugh, Eat, and Drink For A Cure" - Hold a dinner where humor is the center of attention... Ask for donations per plate:

- *MC* - Get a funny MC to handle the event - a local personality etc.
- *Comedian* - Hire a comedian to do a routine during dinner (something tasteful not vulgar!!!)
- *Have purple foods* - rhubarb, purple lettuce for the salad, grape jello, and so on and so on!
- *Have gag gifts and gag door prizes* - get a local costume shop, party supply store, and so on to donate items to give away

- *Hold a Silly Silent Auction* - see if you can get a local humorist/cartoonist to donate a piece, or find a reasonably priced one on line, and ask the artist if they would consider giving it at a reduced price (for which they would get recognition) or donating it for a good cause - to cure cancer! Write a good letter to sell the idea.... Find other "silly" silent auction items - like dinner at your local Chuck E. Cheese's, tickets to a comedy improv, tickets to a funny movie that is playing at the time around your event, and so on...
- *Comedy Movie* - If you don't have a comedian, get a white screen and a VCR/projector and show a funny movie during or after dinner.
- *Wacky Dance* - Hold a wacky dance with very weird prizes... Have the top prize for the wackiest dance be the best campsite for that person's team at your Relay! Now that's incentive!
- *Costume Party* - Hold your wacky dinner around Halloween to kick off the Relay season and make it a costume party... have prizes for the best costume!

Dog Walkers: Walk the neighbors' dog for a donation. OR, **Dog Sit** while pet owners are on vacation.

Dog Wash!: Have a Dog Wash. Have other dog related activities available.

Dollar an Inch contest - Let your let friends, club members, or coworkers cut pieces off of your tie (or your hair!) for a donation.

Donut Days: Get donuts donated (or at half-price) from a local bakery and sell at work or school.

Dress Down Days: Dress down at work for a donation. Also works for parochial schools or other schools that require uniforms (with permission).

Duped by Dollars: This works well at colleges or large companies. Departments/dormitories set up a jar for change drop offs. The group with the most points wins a prize. Pennies are worth positive points; silver coins and cash are worth negative points. Sabotage the other residence halls by dropping silver coins and cash into their jar!

E

Easter Basket Drawing - Tickets \$1, 6 for \$5

E-mail - People love e-mail these days! Send an e-mail to your address book (personal and/or corporate) about why you are involved and how they can help (donate, get involved, etc.)... There are countless stories of volunteers who have raised thousands of dollars with this method, too! E-mail your friends and associates, asking them for donations

Eggstravaganza Fundraiser - This involves providing a plastic easter egg with candy for a donation to Relay For Life... In some cases, the plastic egg also contains a small slip of paper with a prize listed on it! Collect as many donations as possible for prizes to maximize the odds that people will win, and remind them that they all win because their donation gets them some tasty candy.

This is done one of two ways:

1. The first - **Eggstravaganza Egg Sale** - Put together the eggs and give volunteers baskets of eggs to sell at their places of business, etc. ☺
2. The second - **A Eggstravaganza Dinner/Dance** - This involves
 - a. Setting up a dinner/dance at a local hall you get donated
 - b. Get lots of prizes donated
 - c. Sell tickets to the dance and sell eggs for a donation (see below)
 - d. Hide more eggs all over the site of the dinner dance and let everyone in to the "egg area" at once at a specified time - let them spread out and find eggs with candy and even prizes in them.
3. The third - **the Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt** - Hold at a park or another similar site - hide eggs all over and have kids come participate... Have a separate plastic egg fundraiser sale for parents (they make a donation for an egg with candy and maybe a prize slip inside)... Ask for a donation for each kid that

participates.

Here are some additional tips that apply to either version

- *Offer discounts for getting more than one egg* - 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10, 5 for \$15 and so on
- *Have your team sponsor the fundraiser and go out and get as many donations as possible* - then put together a flyer about your fundraiser like the one below and emphasize how many prizes there are vs. eggs (tell them how great the odds are!)
- *Have a donation collection day* - Have your team get together and scour your town for donations for the Eggstravaganza...
- *Have a link to get eggs on your on-line fundraising website* - There is no better place to advertise this fundraiser on the event website!

Envelopes at Restaurant Tables: Teams generate donations by placing a Relay For Life envelope at every table, stating "Please Support Our Relay For Life Team and the American Cancer Society." Waitresses check envelopes after each seating.

Envelope, Please... - Give people an envelope marked with your name and information about Relay For Life. Ask them to contribute something each payday between now and May 1. Ask for the envelopes on two weeks before Relay

Errand Service: Run an errand service for those who don't have time to do their own.

Event Parking Spaces: Sell parking spaces for community events held near your facility.

F

Face Painting: Set up a booth at a local event, fair or festival

FAIRS & CARNIVALS: booths and activities either home grown or commercial enterprises that come in and work on a split.

Home grown or do it your self carnivals are lots of fun, gives each member an important role and if done well easily becomes one of those traditional events that everyone looks forward to each year.

Dunking Booths

Pie in the Face (safely)

Ring toss games

Dart throws

Basketball Free throw

Guess your weight & Height

Games for Kiddies

Hole in One - mini golf

Speed Throw*

*Speed throw - set up a baseball throwing area, get the local police to bring out their speed radar. Folks will stand inline just to see how fast they can throw a baseball. Set a prize for different age categories for fastest pitch, it keeps them coming back to try to beat the best.

Fall Festival - A Fall Festival can be a great way to keep the Relay momentum (and fundraising) going year around!!!! You could do any one of many themes... Here are a few ideas:

Halloween theme - run a haunted house, have a Haunted Hayride

"Falling For A Cure" - and have folks do small floats and get a picnic together

Car show - These are the craze in many parts of the country! - is that a big deal where you are?

Raking It In For A Cure - A big fundraiser where people go from door to door, offering to rake leaves for a donation to ACS, then meet at park after they are done to have a picnic

Fashion Show - Have local businesses make donations for a Relay For Life Fashion show... have them provide

Purple themed outfits you can accessorize with Relay For Life items, charge \$20 a person to attend, get food donated

Fashion Show: Work with a new or existing clothing store to hold a fashion show. Offer refreshments. Your team members can be the models.

Fetch & Favor Fee: Place a sign up sheet outside in your office, the teacher's lounge, or even your own kitchen! Approach business owners with this offer to run errands like fetching coffee or lunches, prescriptions, supplies, etc. Create a price list to match the errand and let them know their dollars go toward a CURE.

Fifty/Fifty Drawing: Everyone loves the chance to win cash. Hold these often, and it adds up!

First Friday Fundraisers - Organize a simple fundraiser at work for the first Friday each month. For example, put a coin can out and ask everyone to contribute a dime -- 10 cents in honor of the 10th Anniversary. Many will contribute more, but even 10 cents from everyone each month over a period of time adds up to more dollars for research for a CURE!

Fishing Tournament - Have people donate a set amount, and hold a fishing tournament - Whoever catches the most fish wins a great prize, and the money raised goes to your Relay For Life... see:

<http://www.seagd.com/relayforlife/index.htm>

for an example on-line flyer

Flamingo Alert: Place a pink flamingo in someone's yard. It will fly away once a donation is made to the Relay For Life. You may also sell "Flamingo Repellent" to prevent flamingoes from landing in someone's yard

NOTE: the watchout on this idea (as well as the pink toilet fundraiser which is similar) is that many people don't like having something show up in their yard.... Make sure that they are "aware" it is going on and that they are on the list of "possible" victims... You don't want to upset anyone. Also make sure your local city people are aware, if appropriate.

Flashing Pins - A great fundraiser - provide pins for a donation! Here are some places to get them:

1) Bodylighting.com-used by the Peabody Relay For Life

<http://www.bodylighting.com/default.asp?pt=2&CartID=82PH13WU87RQ85PW38MU>

- Star shaped blinkies (goes with the "Sun Moon and Stars" of Relay since we are an overnight event)

2) www.inlightens.com

http://www.inlightens.com/productcart/pc/viewCat_h.asp?idCategory=30

- flashing ribbon pins (pink for breast cancer, and so on)

3) flashingblinkylights.com - was recommended a while ago....

<http://www.flashingblinkylights.com/AcrylicStarNecklace.htm>

- A blueish star

<http://www.flashingblinkylights.com/AcrylicMoonNecklaces.htm>

- A blinking moon

(both go great with your Relay theme)

4) funflashinglights.com

has various blinky pins...

Florists - We do go to any and all the florist in the communities and ask for them to donate their services, ribbon or both. You may buy a roll of 100ft. ribbon for \$4-6 dollars and you get 20-30 bows out of each row you will be making an excellent profit. We asked for a \$10 donation per bow. We have also got a community that had a woman start making the smaller bows for \$5 for people to put them on their car antennas. One of the schools got involved with the smaller bows-- the homeroom that has the most bows

bought and placed on their door will get a pizza party.

Flower Sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler to sell bouquets, potted flowers, or individual stems at your school or place of work.

Flower Show - Hold a local flower show, where for a donation, people can go from house to house and see people's gardens. End at a local business that donates a "afternoon tea" or someone's house for tea!

Formal Dress Sale Fundraiser - Women often have tons of bridesmaid dresses, prom dresses and the like left over from formal events ☺ Plan a sale of these items and time it with a team captain's event at a local store after closing time, or at a very public area (can you reserve a high traffic outdoor space???)

G

Game Night: Everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades, etc. Sell tickets for a donation, and ask everyone to bring food to share...

Garage Sale Fundraiser: Work individually or as a team and hold a group garage sale where all the money goes to the American Cancer Society... It is a great way to raise money, and for people to get rid of things they don't need!!! Here are some success stories!:

Gas Station Oil Change Fundraiser - Submitted by Wendy Traxler, Relay For Life Coordinator, Midwest Division - Request that a local oil change garage donate their time and material for a Saturday afternoon of oil changes. 100 percent of the income goes to the local Relay. While the customer is waiting for their car you can sell luminaria and food to help pass the time. Don't forget the cancer control information! Relay states " It's like another team at our event."

Gift Wrap Booth - Run a gift wrap booth at the mall to raise \$ for Relay - have people give a donation for the wrap - the holiday time is a great time for this!

Give Up Something You Love For The American Cancer Society - Get someone to give something up they really love.

Glow Necklaces -a team brought the glow necklaces and in exchange for a donation gave them away at the event.

Glow Sticks: Sell glow in the dark sticks at the Relay.

Go Door to Door: Go door to door and ask for donations. Work as a team to canvas the town.

Golf Fundraiser at event-Hole-in-one try. Set up a portable putting green and for a donation let people try and putt the ball in. Put everyone's name in a hat that actually makes it.

Hold a Relay For Life Golf Tournament - This will get men involved more, and can kickoff the Relay For Life season: Detailed tips for planning a Golf Tourney, great ideas, and a list of the Relay For Life Golf Tournaments around America can be found at:

http://www.acsrelay.org/Darn_Good_Ideas/10-DGI-Bowl_A_Thon/10-Golf_Tourney_Tips_For_Planning.doc

Here is a quick summary:

- Line up a golf course (if you can get some or all of it donated, all the better)
- Come up with a donation per person and a slightly more attractive price per foursome, and have folks find their golfers or let you know they want to be added to a foursome
- Have the losers on each hole have to make a \$1 or \$5 donation (depending on what your community can handle), in addition to paying the needed donation/entrance fee.
- Put together publicity to get the word out
- Send out an email about the event
- Get some prizes donated for the top finishers (10 would be great)
- Line up food (depending on what rules the golf course has on catering/etc.)
- Have a post golfing reception with food and prizes... Have the chair of the event say a few words, talk about what Relay is (in case everyone isn't familiar), and award the prizes

Guess the Number - Have people guess the # of jelly beans, M&Ms, ball bearings, or whatever, in a jar, hat, or other container. Award the contents as the prize for the closest

Gutter Clean Out - **Cleaning out rain gutters in a neighborhood, and make sure you work those neighborhoods before *and* after fall!!!!**

H

Hair cuts - Have local salons sponsor a cut-a-thon with proceeds going to Relay.

Haircut or Shaved Head for A Cure - If you cut off more than 10" of hair, from what we understand, you can donate it at www.locksoflove.org. This website will allow you to search for places to have your hair cut and donated. Be prepared though -- I do believe they ask that you cut a minimum of 10 inches off. Good luck!

Hair Donations - See haircuts above also... Two organizations that take hair donation - www.locksoflove.org, www.wigsforkids.org

Halloween Related events- haunted houses: mystery cruises, who-done-it murder parties, treasure hunts, and Polaroid scavenger hunts

Hat (or Cap) Day: (Great for schools.) For a specified amount, students can wear baseball caps to school for the day.

Hat day in school - Since most schools do not allow kids to wear hats, convince yours school that kids can wear a hat on a certain day for a donation to the American Cancer Society. Invite all those that wear a hat to come to a lunch time info session about the local Relay For Life, encourage them to have a team

Haunted House: For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission.

Help A Business For A Donation Day - Ask a business to take a group of volunteers for a day to help out (a good time might be inventory, clean up etc.), and ask that they donate the "wages" for the day that would have been paid to Relay.

Holiday Cards - Send a Thanksgiving or Christmas card with a letter about your participation in Relay For Life - several volunteers using this method have raised thousands of dollars with this one letter and their holiday cards!

Holiday Cards - Have elementary school children draw cards to send to Relay supporters to thank them!

Holiday E-mail – People love e-mail these days! Send an e-mail to your address book (personal and/or corporate) about why you are involved and how they can help (donate, get involved, etc.)... There are countless stories of volunteers who have raised thousands of dollars with this method, too! E-mail your friends and associates, asking them for donations in lieu of the a gift. If your event is using on-line fundraising through acsevents.org (you have an on-line site), this is a fantastic way to jumpstart your fundraising each year, and all your friends and family can donate directy on-line – they don't even have to mail you anything.

Holiday Flower Delivery – For Valentine's day, Mother's Day, Father's Day or another holiday, deliver flowers (or something festive) for a donation (\$50 for flowers and delivery to your mother, all proceeds to Relay!)... Get the flowers donated if possible, and the delivery drivers to give their time to maximize the amount of \$\$ to Relay!

Horseshoe Tournament – Host a horseshoe tournament to raise money! Charge an entry donation for participation and get prizes donated!

Hospital Fundraiser – Have a hospital host a fundraiser at their location.

How To Raise \$500 In 10 Days – Here's a basic way to raise \$500 in just 10 days... Vary it with your own additions/changes for your event

| <u>DAY</u> | | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|------------|--|--------------|
| One | Put in your own \$25 | \$25 |
| Two | Ask your doctor and dentist for \$50 each | \$125 |
| Three | Ask four family members to donate \$25 each | \$225 |
| Four | Ask three friends to donate \$25 each | \$300 |
| Five | Ask your supervisor to donate \$25 | \$325 |
| Six | Ask two local merchants to donate \$25 each | \$375 |
| Seven | Ask three neighbors to donate \$15 each | \$420 |
| Eight | Ask two co-workers to donate \$10 each | \$440 |
| Nine | Ask three people from church to donate \$10 each | \$470 |
| Ten | Ask three senior citizens to donate \$10 each | \$500 |

I
Ice Cream Socials: Plan one at your place or work, at school, or for friends, asking for a donation to attend. Sell ice cream for dessert, have games, and social activities...

J
Jail & Bail at Work: For a donation, employees can be arrested. For an additional donation, they can post their own bail. OR, employees have a bounty posted on the heads of fellow employees, and they are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate)

Jewelry Sales: Work with a wholesale company to sell jewelry, with your team receiving a portion of the sale. OR, have an Estate Sale, where team members donate jewelry they don't wear (have cleaning donated by a local jeweler) to be sold.

K
Karaoke For A Cure – Have Karaoke at your event... let folks get up and sing for a fixed donation. Allow others to make a fixed donation to get them to STOP singing, or to SING AGAIN!

Kick-A-Thon – “The kids in my husband's karate class got people to sponsor them per kick with a maximum of 500 kicks. They did their 500 kicks and raised about \$100 per kid! If each kid gets 10 people to sponsor them for .05/per kick that would be \$250

Kinder Tent – What a great idea – Have a tent where you offer to babysit kids for a donation at Relay!

Kiss a Pig Contest: Recruit a local celebrity to kiss a swine when a certain amount of money has been raised.

Also can do this as a contest, where faces of teachers or employees are placed on jars. Whoever raises the most money must kiss the pig. OR Put a picture of 2 or 3 managers or teachers on a cutout of a pig and students/employees vote. The one who receives the most votes has to kiss a pig in front of everyone.

Kissing Contest! - Have contestants kiss a card and donate a dollar. Stick up all the "kisses" (on the cards) on a wall, and have judges pick the best kiss (based on how the kiss on the card looks! You aren't really kissing anyone!). Get a local business to donate the lipstick.

L

Lawn Service: Mow lawns for donations

Letter Writing: Send letters to friends and family explaining what you are doing and why. Tell them your personal goal and ask for help. Write a letter from your pet to your friend's pet.

Living Memorials - Sell living memorials such as rosebushes in honor and in memory of loved ones for \$15 to those who want to have them... They can bring them to the event and have them set out in a particular area much as Luminaria are set out. They can take them home in the morning

Longenberger Basket Bingo: Work with a Longenberger Basket Representative to hold a bingo party. Sell tickets ahead of time, \$15-20 per ticket for 20 games. Each game winner is awarded a Longenberger Basket.

Luminaria Form Distribution- Get a local Papa John's pizza franchise to agree to tape Relay luminaria and survivors' lap forms on all of their pizza boxes. Finally - something GOOD sticking to the top of the lid!!

Lunch with the CEO: Auction or raffle off lunch, or maybe a round of golf, with the CEO or President of your company.

M

Magical Mondays: Work out an arrangement with your employer to make flavorful Hazelnut or French Vanilla coffee in place of the regular every Monday and request a dollar donation for a steamy cup from co-workers. (Supplying real creamer works well!) Include a sign that explains Relay For Life. Of course, you can add other neat touches - donuts, bagels, etc., also for a \$1 donation

Mardi Gras party - including a mask and costume contest netted two teams who put this together \$1000

Matching Gifts: If your company has a matching gift program, that's an effective way to double your fundraising efforts. Be sure to check with the human resources department to obtain matching gift forms.

Monday Night Football Party with a Purpose: Provide refreshments and charge admission to the game. Borrow a big-screen television (or rent at a reduced rate).

Money Jars: Place jars where you work, on store counters, restaurant tables, etc.

Motorcycle Flea Market - Another great idea with a motorcycle parts flea market to raise \$\$ for Relay! -

Motorcycle Maintenance Day - Great idea! "... we did routine maintenance and installed accessories for donations."

Motorcycle Relay Ride -- Organize a motorcycle ride to raise money for Relay! For detailed instructions on how to plan such an event, and a list of events that are out there, see:

http://www.acsrelay.org/Darn_Good_Ideas/10-DGI-Motorcycle_Ride/10-Motorcycle_Ride_Planning_Tips.doc

Movie Money: Rent short videos (old classics are great) and have a movie week during lunch hour. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch

Movie Night: Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. Charge admission. Provide popcorn and soda. OR, have a movie each day during lunch at work for a week. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch.

Movies at Relay - Arrange for a tent at your campsite to seat ten or more people and set up a movie show! Bring a TV and VCR and ask a local video store to donate movies for you or a local movie theatre to donate a screen and projector! Make your own concession stand and charge admission for the movie and snacks!

N

NASCAR Raffle: Gather a variety of NASCAR promotional items, especially if you can get an autographed item from a driver, and hold a raffle.

Neighborhood Slam - Visit a neighborhood and tell them you will be back in two weeks to do chores for donations for your American Cancer Society Relay For Life Team. Sign them up, and tell them that there are only limited slots! Bring your team back, and knock out all the chores! Also done as **Rent A Youth** - Line up a group of kids, go to a neighborhood and offer to do chores for a donation of \$10 per hour to the American Cancer Society... If you line up the chores a couple of weeks in advance, you might have even more luck!

Nitrogen Ice Cream sell-a-thon - Setup a nitrogen ice cream stand... (if you don't know how to make nitrogen ice cream, just search on Google and you'll find instructions)... Have lots of different flavors to add and nuts and stuff for a Sundae... Sell a simple scoop of ice cream for \$1 or more with added stuff! - Thanks to Jamie D. and the Notre Dame Relay For Life!

Nonalcoholic Cocktail Party: Hold a nonalcoholic cocktail party at the Relay and ask for donations. Or have a moving party, where each team has different appetizers and drinks available, so people go from tent to tent. Be sure to have your donation cans near the refreshments.

O

Odd Jobs: Ask to do odd jobs for neighbors for a donation.

P

Paint the town purple - purple bows for donation placed at businesses around town

Pancake Breakfasts: Hold a pancake breakfast at work, or at a church or social hall.

Parking Cars - If your company has a parking lot near a local stadium, fair grounds or other mecca, let participants in the activity make a donation to park there.

Parking Spot Auction - Auction off a prime parking spot at work for a week...

Poker Style Scavenger Hunt - Participants pay entry fee, are given a map or clues for the route, as they check in at each periodic checkpoint, they are given a playing card. Best poker hand at the end of the race wins. Costs: party at the end, prizes (if not donated), t-shirts, several decks of cards, refreshments, and advertising. Non-participants can pay a fee for short-cut directions, tickets to the party and get their cards dealt at the door. You can have more than one category of winning hands.

Party with a Purpose: (aka Neighborhood Parties) Teams can throw a neighborhood party and put the money towards their teams.

Payroll Deduction: Employees can make their own contributions by having them deducted directly from their paychecks. A little each week can grow into a large amount!

Penny Party - Duped by Dollars: This works well at colleges or large companies. Departments/dormitories set up a jar for change drop offs. The group with the most points wins a prize. Pennies are worth positive points; silver coins and cash are worth negative points. Sabotage the other residence halls by dropping silver coins and cash into their jar!

Personal Bake Sale: Bake some extra-delicious, extra-goopy brownies and sell them for \$1 apiece (large slices). Bake a different dessert each week for your coworkers.

Pet Fashion Show: Everyone's pet has a chance to flaunt its favorite outfit! Charge admission and vote for the best outfit, matching outfits (owner and pet), wildest outfit, etc.

Pet Rabies Vaccination Clinic - Great idea for a team from a Vet Clinic

Pet Photo Day - Another great idea for those who work with animals!

Photo Contest: Hold a "stumper" photo contest! Ask employees to bring a baby or childhood photo of

themselves that they believe no one can identify. Ask for a donation to make a guess. Give winners a contributed prize.

Photos with Celebrities: Take photos with a celebrity (or a realistic cardboard stand in) for a donation to the Relay for Life. Do this at work or at a local fair or festival.

Pie Sales/Auctions: Great for the holidays! Sell for a specified price, or have a live auction. Display pies before church and have the auction after church. Be sure to get famous "pie bakers" involved.

Pink Hat Auction - this is a fundraiser that is usually linked to a "per plate" dinner.... Hold a fundraising dinner for Relay For Life and get local businesses to donate many beautiful hats to auction off... Have the auction be one of a few different ways: Live auction with an auctioneer, silent auction where people write bids on a sheet directly in front of the item until the designated closing time

Pink Toilets A very enthusiastic team, the Troy Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, at my Gateway Relay in Troy, IL came up with a really cute fundraiser. Their campsite theme was a bathroom, shower stall and all, so their fundraiser went along with their theme. This team raised more \$2500! (of course, they charged to use the toilet!)

Pizza Fest - A pizzafest is a great fundraising event! Basically there are two ways that you can set it up:

1. **High School Pizza Fest** - Have local pizzerias donate an average of 1 piece of pizza for every 3 students or so, and get enough pizza donated to feed your high school class... It's great publicity for them - declare a winner and have publicity (a donated ad in the local paper, an ad in the school magazine, a local donated radio ad, etc.) for the winner! Have students pay \$5 a piece for up to 3 slices of pizza.
2. **Community Pizza Fest** - Hold a Pizza-fest in a local downtown area and get local pizzerias to donate pizzas... Have the community provide a flat donation to participate, and have prizes for the best pizzeria as voted by the attendees!

Pizza Sales: Work with a local pizza parlor to give you a percentage of the pies that you sell. Take orders and deliver them. You can also work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price. Put flyers in the boxes!

Poker Plays Pay: Invite ten people over for a round of charity poker. Send invitations explaining that your Relay for Life participation and request everyone brings \$25- 40.00 mad money! If you can recruit a few friends to help you, try this on a larger scale and

Poker Run: With four-wheelers. \$10 entry fee per vehicle. Riders stop at five different hospitality stops and playing cards are given out. At the end of the trip, the person with the best poker hand is the winner. **Also see Motorcycle Ride.**

Pot Luck Lunches: Designate every Wednesday as Relay for Life Pot Luck Day, where team members take turns bringing food to offer to employees at a set price or donation.

Program Ad Sales: May receive partial credit for ad sales in the local Relay program.

Q

Quarters for a Cure -The "Quarters for a Cure" program consists of collecting empty film canisters and distributing them out to the students or co-workers. They, in turn, collect \$7 worth of quarters in these canisters and turn them in at registration

Questions for a buck - One team raised money by having their boss, who was constantly being asked questions, charge \$1 for each question. Word spread throughout the company about what he was doing and everyone started asking questions and paying up.

Quilts: Sell quilt squares in honor and memory of people with cancer; squares of 4x4 for \$5; 8x8 for \$15; 12x12 for \$25. Have employees make the quilts themselves. **ALSO**, raffle off a handmade quilt, made by someone on your team or donated to the team.

Quilt - Relay For Life T-Shirt Quilt & Pillows! - What an amazing idea! *"Our Relay for Life Pillow went over well, we put out an email to other teams involved in the Heartland Division and got a good response we sold over*

\$100.00 worth of pillows and even got some recognition on the local TV station the night of the Relay... [AND] The anniversary quilt we will be selling chances for the night of Heartland division's 2007 Relay for Life night. The other 2 quilts we are not sure how to do the fund raising, we may sale them outright or try our luck on ebay. If you have questions, you can e-mail ebssportsmom@yahoo.com. Thanks to Nancy S. and the St. Joseph, MO Relay For Life!



R

Raffles: Just like auctions, raffles can accommodate many items. Possible ideas include:

- Theme baskets: Summer basket - sun screen, paperback book, sunglasses, bottled water, magazines, etc.;
- Easter basket - candy, chocolate bunnies, stuffed animals, etc.;
- Night out package - gift certificates to a movie, play, sports event, and a restaurant gift certificate.
- Also, donated items from local businesses
- Hot toy items.
- beanie babies
- a very cool playhouse for children
- catered dinner for 10
- use of a condominium at the beach
- maid service for a month
- baskets full of anything, or just baskets
- decorating service. Most people would love to win the chance to have someone else put up their holiday lights around their house.
- lunch with the CEO

Read-a-thon - donations by book or minutes read - people raise money thru this

Recycle: Collect items that can be turned in for money.

Relay Friday: Employees pay to wear their Relay clothing to work.

Removal of political candidates signs following elections - In some areas that strictly enforce election-advertising laws, and sign pollution laws - some savvy organizations have contacted all the candidates in the election. Their offer: for a suggested donation, the group would remove and dispose of all the campaign signs immediately following the election. By doing a majority of the candidates and propositions, the work was very profitable. Volunteer organizations often fall apart after an election, so this provides a needed service for the community

Rent-A-Walker - Work this with your event before doing it, but have a group of runners/walkers volunteer to run or walk for a tired team, especially in the middle of the night, for a donation

Ribbons on Mailboxes - A team made purple ribbons to go on mailboxes and sold them for \$5 each, proceeds to their Relay For Life Team!

Rocking Chair Donation, or Raffle - Have 2 rocking chairs painted, signed by survivors, and donated to local hospitals for use, or auction the chairs off and donate the proceeds (the idea to have the rocking chairs signed and donated to local hospitals came from the Arnold, MD Relay For Life!)

Roll Those Pennies: And, while you're at it, roll all those coins that have been collecting.

Romance: Cater a romantic dinner for two.

Roundup At A Local Business - Have a local business ask customers for several hours to roundup for the ACS Relay For Life. Whether they pay cash, write a check or charge it, the cashier takes the change out and drops it in the jar (\$22 payment, \$21.22 bill, \$0.78 in the jar, get it?). At the end of the night, the donations go to the American Cancer Society.

Runs - Hold a run to raise money to fight cancer. Also see:

http://www.acsrelay.org/Darn_Good_Ideas/10-Fundraising_Sporting_Events.doc

S

Sabotage - Place jars in different parts of your business (different offices). Each week, the area with the most amount of money in it's jar loses), so it encourages you to fill up your competitors' jars... Add cool contests and run it for several weeks!

Scavenger Hunt! - A great idea to use as an activity and or fundraiser... Have teams pay a registration fee to participate, and have great donated prizes!!!! There are many different ways to do scavenger hunts:

- **Traditional Scavenger Hunt** - send folks to find certain items (but makes sure you aren't destructive!!!)
- **Scavenger Hunt for Easter** - \$75 per team includes food and fun! You could do this as an event for kids (find eggs), or adults.
- **Scavenger Hunt, Poker Style** - See **Poker Style Scavenger Hunt**
- **Service Scavenger Hunt** - Rather than having your teams find things, have them go out and do different services in the name of Relay - Take out the trash, mow the lawn, etc.!
- **Scavenger Hunt Snapshot** - Rather than physically taking the scavenger hunt item, have the team snap a picture with their digital camera or polaroid - the first team to return with all the pictures wins!
- **Did You Know? Scavenger Hunt** - Send your scavengers on a hunt for answers not items... For example - can they tell you what advertisements are in the window of the travel agency that is supporting Relay For Life? When was City Hall built?
- **Internet Scavenger Hunt** - this is a little different - send out the scavenger hunt to your team captains via e-mail and give them a week to get back all the info - then have a drawing for a prize for all the people who return it with the correct answers on time. Send them out for cancer info - how many people get cancer? famous people with cancer? etc. etc. etc.
- **Social Scavenger Hunt at the event** - Give participants a list of "characteristics" they must seek out - for example,
 - * find an engineer at the event
 - * Find someone at the event who is the same height as you
 - * Find someone who has the same type of car as you (e.g. Toyota Camry, Buick Regal, etc.)
 - * Find someone who is the same age as you
 - * Find someone who you went to high school with.

They must meet the person, get their name, verify they meet the 'Scavenger' criteria (are an engineer!), etc, Give them a fixed amount of time.

- **Destination Scavenger Hunts!** - Have a scavenger hunt that gives you clues to get you to a certain

location! For example, have the first question send you to a restaurant where they will have a flyer on the next place to go... That flyer would have a crossword puzzle that you must fill out to figure out the next place, and so on and so on. Use creative approaches - crossword puzzles, riddles, flyers left at restaurants, instructions to ask a certain person who is helping out who gives the answer to the team, 'the word on the sign in the window of a business', etc.!

Scrapbooking Crop - This is a great way to do a Relay Fundraiser! Buy materials for doing the scrapbooking crop (Make it part of your donation for Relay!) and have people make a donation to participate! Hold one after the event, too, so people can scrapbook Relay!

Shave Your Head: Someone agrees to shave his/her head if a certain amount is raised. "A local executive agreed to participate in an intra-office auction being held to raise funds for the company's Relay team. The highest bidder won the chance to shave the boss's head."

Shirt off of your back - Donors pay \$ to write their names on the back of the shirt that gets worn for 24 hours.

Shoe Shines: Pick a spot populated by men (and women) in need of shoe shines.

Shutter Bug Mania: Take candid photos around work or school and sell them. Or, take photos at a wedding, birthday party, etc. and donate any money you receive.

Sign Your Relay T-Shirt: For a donation of \$5 (you designate amount), a contributor can sign the name of a cancer patient to honor on your Relay T-shirt. You will walk/run representing all cancer patients whose names are on the shirt.

Silly Swim meet - \$5 to participate, \$10 to watch,

Skunk Them: Similar to the Flamingo Alert, a stuffed skunk is placed on desks at work. For a donation, the skunk will go away; also, people can pay for anti-skunk insurance.

Snow removal for sidewalks or driveways. Sell on subscription basis.

Softball Tournament - Organize an all day softball tournament, where up to 8 teams play in a single elimination tournament

"Spare Change." - A school asked the students and staff to collect their spare change and the class that raised the most money was able to "TOSS" water balloons at the Assistant Principal. Each day they announced which class was in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Spaghetti Sauce Contest: Sell the noodles and let people taste and judge different sauces.

Sports Tournaments: Set up challenge matches between individuals or departments for basketball, softball, football, golf, bowling, fishing or any sport! Ask for a donation as an entry fee and admission fee. Ask for contributions in exchange for refreshments at the event. MORE DETAILS CAN BE FOUND BY SPORT (for example, under Bowling Tournament, Baseball, Football, Fishing, Tennis, Golf, Volleyball, etc)

Stadium/coliseum clean-ups: contract with the venue to provide clean up service after big events when they need quick turn-around for their location.

Story Time Reading: Invite employees to bring their children (for a donation). Can also be done onsite.

Student/Faculty Basketball Game: Charge admission; sell concessions.

Super Bowl Party, Indy 500 Party, NCAA Championship Party, Masters Final Round: Charge admission, provide refreshments. Borrow/rent a big-screen TV.

T

T-Shirts - see

http://www.acsrelay.org/Darn_Good_Ideas/12-Creative_Uses_for_Leftover_Relay_For_Life_T-Shirts for uses for T-Shirts.. You can make a quilt, T-shirt bags, etc... to put them to good use!

Tacky Day: Wear your tackiest clothes and pay for the privilege!

Tennis Tournament - Hold a tennis tourney for your event or multiple events - have people make a \$20

donation to participate and have the money go to the overall event

Ten For Ten - Ask one person each day for 10 days for \$10 . . . \$100 toward the battle against cancer!

Thirty Dollars From Thirty Friends! - Here's an easy way to raise \$30 from 30 Friends...

Let my dollar start you off \$ _____ Name _____

A dollar won't break me \$ _____ Name _____

A dollar isn't much \$ _____ Name _____

I guess I can spare a dollar \$ _____ Name _____

Well, since it's you \$ _____ Name _____

Dollars will reach the goal \$ _____ Name _____

What's a dollar between friends? \$ _____ Name _____

It's for a good cause \$ _____ Name _____

Glad to help, here's five \$ _____ Name _____

I want to help \$ _____ Name _____

My good deed for today \$ _____ Name _____

Count on me \$ _____ Name _____

Sure, I'll give a dollar or two \$ _____ Name _____

If it will help \$ _____ Name _____

I just can't say no to a friend \$ _____ Name _____

A dollar from me to you \$ _____ Name _____

Don't leave me out \$ _____ Name _____

Me too! \$ _____ Name _____

Here you go, I'll give twenty \$ _____ Name _____

Cancer has touched someone I love ... \$ _____ Name _____

I wish I could give more \$ _____ Name _____

I can spare more than a dollar \$ _____ Name _____

Ten dollars isn't too much \$ _____ Name _____

Maybe I can do more next time \$ _____ Name _____

Why not, it may help someone I know ...\$ _____ Name _____

Five dollars will help reach your goal \$ _____ Name _____

What are friends for? \$ _____ Name _____

Don't leave without my donation \$ _____ Name _____

Please see me later \$ _____ Name _____

My donation can help people too! \$ _____ Name _____

Thank You!

Toilet Fundraiser #1 - Hot Pink Toilet Picture this: My husband created a pink and purple Relay toilet from Glynn County (Brunswick) Georgia. He "created" it based on a description from another community. It has the RFL logo on it, and even had glow-in-the-dark stars and moon. It was auctioned off at a team captain's meeting for a team to "lease" for the season to use as a fundraiser. The Brunswick Junior Women's Club paid \$300 for that privilege and then proceeded to raise another \$3,500 with the toilet Flushing Out Cancer all over the county. Their tent site carried out the bathroom theme, and each team member carried a decorated toilet brush during the parade of teams and whenever one of them was on the track walking. My husband even rigged up a way for folks to deposit money in the seat into a secured lock box. Several teams vied for the privilege to use it. I think that was the most fun—watching the bidding war. When they turned out the lights, folks went bonkers over the glow-in-the-dark stuff. **SEE TOILET FUNDRAISER WATCHOUTS ALSO BELOW**

Toilet Fundraiser #2 - Purple Toilet - We have had the purple toilet fundraiser on my college team. We placed in toilet in people's yards and had a poem on the back that was cute telling why the toilet was in their yard and how they could get it out. We had one of our team members volunteer to be the contact person for the toilet. Everyone else signed up for times to be on the "toilet-moving team". Our team charged \$20 to get it out of the yard, \$40 to get it out and get to choose who it goes to next, and \$50 to ensure all the above items and that it will never come back. Most of our people who were "hit" were very nice. One man saw us coming and paid us not to unload it! Our team was all girls, and we moved this heavy porcelain toilet, so anyone can. We earned about \$1000 doing this!

SEE TOILET FUNDRAISER WATCHOUTS ALSO BELOW

A letter came with the toilet: CONGRATULATIONS! If you are reading this note, you have received your new fashionable yard ornament. To have this new fashionable yard ornament removed, we are asking you to make a pledge to the "FLUSHING OUT CANCER FUNDRAISER" Within the next 24 hours. To do so please contact (NAMES/PHONE #'S OF CONTACTS). They will arrange for the collection of your donation and the removal of you ornament. If you would like to see this ornament in front of someone else's establishment, please inform us.

SEE TOILET FUNDRAISER WATCHOUTS ALSO BELOW

Toilet Fundraiser #4 - "[Our team was the] Porcelain Goddesses "Flushing Out Cancer All Over Town". For a price we would place, or remove, the Purple Potty in a yard or business. It can be a big money maker, but be sure to have plenty of help, that Purple Potty is heavy!" - (thanks to RelayForMom!) - **SEE TOILET FUNDRAISER WATCHOUTS ALSO BELOW**

TOILET FUNDRAISER WATCHOUTS - With any fundraiser, you always have to be careful to do it in such a way that it is not negative publicity and/or does not offend anyone. This fundraiser, while very effective and popular, can sometimes be misunderstood by members of the community. There are some steps you can take to make sure that this (or any fundraiser) does not end up as a negative thing in people's minds:

5. **Communicate what is happening** - With any fundraiser, especially one that might be more public, communicate via flyers, a newspaper ad, thru your local government, thru local businesses etc. that it is happening. This will make sure that people are not surprised.
6. **Know your audience** - There are certain people that will not love a purple toilet in their yard, no matter how much you explain it. Target your fundraiser to people who will appreciate it and even be honored to be included. For example - with the toilet fundraiser - My impression of communities where it works best is that it is more of an honor to get

"toileted" than a surprise. Those who are "toileted" know it might be coming, and are excited that a friend/co-worker/etc. sent it their way as a way to raise money. They make a donation to have it sent to someone else with pride.

7. **Finally - NEVER VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF RELAY** - No matter what, there is one thing that you can come back to - are you violating the Spirit of Relay? Relay For Life is intended to find a cure - we hurt someone, damage property, disrespect others, etc. for Relay... If you are doing something in the right spirit, it probably makes it less likely that there will be a problem

Toilet Seat Wreath - Thanks to Funny Farm! - "Another idea for an office is to make a toilet seat wreath. Just take a new toilet seat and decorate it Relay and send it around the office. For a donation you'll remove it and send it else where

Top Tent: Fundraising at the relay. Decorate ballot boxes for voting and donation collection. People enter a vote for their favorite tent site with a donation. Each site collects the vote and donation toward the total vote!

Triathlon - Participate in a triathlon to raise money to fight cancer. Also see:

http://www.acsrelay.org/Darn_Good_Ideas/10-Fundraising_Sporting_Events.doc

for examples!

Tupperware Party: Donate the proceeds from the party to your team.

Turkey Raffle: Sell \$1 chances for a Thanksgiving or Christmas turkey

U

Ugly (or beautiful) bartender contest - Get the bartenders in town to agree to be in your contest. For \$1 a vote the winner wins some type of award and becomes an honorary "server" of your team.

| |
|---|
| Umbrellas For A Cure - Rain at your event? Be enterprising, and bring Umbrellas for a donation - particularly ones that have a good color or theme (purple)? |
|---|

V

Vacation Day Drawing: Get your company to agree to let you raffle a day off with pay, with the money raised going to the Relay team.

Valentine for Relay - Buy Your Co-Worker a Valentine For Relay - Sell Relay For Life valentines, and have people make a \$5 donation to buy one for a co-worker

Vending Machine - Designate the profits from one of your vending machines to the ACS. If the company that provides the machine knows what's going on, they may give you a lower price on the supplies - or donate a certain amount.

Vending Machines: Coordinate with your vendor to add 5 cents to the price of a snack or drink, with the extra nickels going to your team.

Vendors: Solicit your vendors for items to raffle or auction off.

Video Sale: Sell those videos that you have watched a hundred times!

W

WACKY RACES - Using animals in a humane manner you might consider

- pig races,
- armadillo races,
- lobster races on a water track

run for the rodents (Kentucky Derby style)

Wait Tables: Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a particular night to benefit your Relay team. Team members serve as waiters, collecting tips and a percentage of the evening's proceeds. Pizza parlors are great for this!

Window washing - either commercial or residential, for a donation.

Wine Tasting: Team members bring bottles of wine (or get them donated). Provide cheese and crackers. Be aware of liquor liability laws.

Wishing You Well: Set up a "wishing well" at your local school, business, church, or store with a sign explaining that all proceeds go toward Relay for Life and a cure for cancer. Put an ad in your local paper announcing specific days for change drop-offs. Maybe the store or your employer would do a matching gift? You could even have this at your tent site at the relay.

Wrap Presents: During holiday time, get permission to wrap presents for donations in the mall or a busy department store. Have team members donate paper, tape, bows, etc.

X

Xylophone Concert: Hold a music concert or recital. Pass refreshments and a donation can, or sell tickets in advance.

Y

Yard Displays: Flamingos, wooden cows, even pink and purple potties! Place them in the front yards of unsuspecting donors. Request a donation to have them removed and, for an additional donation, place them in a yard requested by the donor. Also offer insurance!

Z

Zoot Suit Party: Take advantage of the popularity of Swing Music. Hold a dance and give awards for the best Zoot Suit there.