



Fundraising Ideas from A-Z

**There are lots of things you can do that don't cost much (if anything!)
and can be a lot of fun !!!**

Some ideas to get your creative juices flowing

A

Ask: The easiest way to raise money is to ask your friends, neighbors, relatives and anyone you know to make a donation to the American Cancer Society's Race to Beat Cancer event, which you are taking part in. Explain your commitment to participate and why you are involved – maybe because of a loved one battling cancer. Use the online fundraising tool at on the event's Web site, which you can get to through www.cancer.org/racetobeatcancer.

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

Auctions: Many teams are putting together live or silent auctions. Teams can make a whole event out of it - work with an auctioneer who will donate his/her time and hold a live auction. One team held a silent auction during their family reunion. Some teams are putting together sports auctions, which are very popular. Collectibles are hot! Auction off the boss- have the boss or department head as your assistant for the day at work.

B

Baby Sit: Do extra baby-sitting and give your pay (or at least part of it) to your team's effort. Or baby-sit as a team during a community event.

Bake Sales: Hold a bake sale at work or at a busy place- a bank branch held a bake sale once a week for several months. Or have a No-Bake sale where co-workers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

Balloon Day: This is good for students. Sell a balloon with a message attached for \$2 each. The students take orders in advance and then deliver the balloon messages at a later date.

Birthday Party with a Purpose: Individuals have had birthday parties and on the invitation they state in lieu of gifts, please bring a check made out to the American Cancer Society for Race to Beat Cancer.

Book Sales: Do it in conjunction with a publishing house that will donate books or have people you know give you used good condition paperbacks or hard-cover books. Set up a table to sell your books. Get permission to have your table set up in a local mall or plaza, or if you work for a large employer, set it up in the break or lunch room.

Boss for the Day: Allow people to bid on being boss for the day-high bid wins.

Bounce-a-thon: Elementary students take a collection envelope home to collect pledges for bouncing a basketball for half an hour. Each class in the school takes turns gathering in the school's front hall throughout the day to bounce their basketballs.

Breakfast With: Put together a breakfast with Santa or the Easter bunny or other children's character. Work with a local restaurant or your team can do it themselves at a hall or club. Have someone in costume and sell tickets, also have pictures taken. This could also be breakfast with the mayor or other high profile person.

Brown Bag Lunch Day: Everyone brings in their own lunch and donates the money they would have spent to Race to Beat Cancer.

C

Can and Bottle Drive: Set up at a central location and collect cans and bottles from passersby. Bring to a local recycling company for payment for scrap metal.

Candle Sales: Sell scented votive candles to fellow employees and friends.

Candy Bar Sales: Sell candy bars at work, or have someone at a business let you set up a little display box (beauty shops, store check-out counters, etc.). You can purchase box kits from wholesale warehouses such as Sam's or ask a candy store to donate them.

Car Washes: This is another good idea for students as well as adults, especially in the winter when everyone wants the salt off of their cars. Try saying "donations accepted" instead of charging a set price.

Car Smash: Secure an old car and write in large bold letters CANCER across the car. For a dollar donation you get to "smash cancer" three times with a sledgehammer. This is great at a mall or other public place.

Celebrity Bagger: Enlist local community celebrities (mayor, board of selectmen, school principals, coaches, etc.) to bag groceries at a local store for a few hours at a busy time. Then publicize that they are working for tips which are donations to Race to Beat Cancer.

Chili Cook Off: have a Hot-Hot-Hot chili cook off.

Christmas Party: Play carols, serve cookies, decorate a tree, have pictures with Santa and charge admission.

Christmas Tree/Wreaths: Ask a local retailer to donate \$1 for every tree and wreath sold to support your Race to Beat Cancer.

Coin Drive: This is especially good for students to do at schools. Collect change in the lunchroom. Set up a coin jar at the beginning of the school year and see how it grows. A college put a twist on the coin drive, which would also work at companies with different departments, or at a bank with the different tellers, etc. They sent out a flyer explaining: JOIN THE PENNY WARS- drop off your change in the jars at the front of your residence hall. The residence hall with the most points wins a pizza party for its residents. Pennies are worth positive points, silver coins and cash are worth negative points. Sabotage the other residence halls by dropping off your silver coins into their jars! "Spare some change for cancer research."

Coin Toss: Get permission from the local mall to collect all the coins tossed into the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs state that the coins will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Race to Beat Cancer.

Concession Stands: Set up a concession stand or booth at a community event during the year.

Cookbooks: Collect recipes from employees and have them published and sell them. Can be produced for approximately \$2 each and sold for \$7-\$8. You need to be sure that all recipes are healthy and follow nutritional guidelines (check at www.cancer.org).

Craft Fairs: Have your team set up a craft table at a craft fair or festival.

Crafts: In a holiday mood? Craft tree ornaments, stockings or decoration and sell them.

Cut-a-thon: Have a beauty salon or vocational school hold a cut-a-thon for you.

D

Dances for a Cure: Students can hold a school dance. Adults can put together a dance at a local club or hall. Get a band or DJ to donate their services.

Dance Lessons: Ask a local dance studio to have an evening of introductory lessons with at least a portion of the proceeds (if not all) benefiting Race to Beat Cancer. Ballroom dancing is hot right now!

Day Spa: Enlist the services of a professional that, for a set fee, will provide haircuts, manicures, and massages and donate a portion.

Decorating Service: No time to decorate?... holiday decorating service! Also can put holiday lights up on houses for a fee. This is a job many people would like someone else to do.

Dog Walkers: Walk the neighborhood dogs for a donation. Many pet owners would appreciate the opportunity to let someone take their dog for a long walk.

Dog Sit: While the owners are on vacation, saves them from sending Fido to the kennel.

Donut Days: Get donuts donated from a bakery (before they are thrown away), and sell them at school.

Dunking Booth: Set up a dunking booth at a local event festival, fair, picnic etc. and recruit local celebrities to sit for you. Charge a fee to throw a ball and let everyone know where the money is going.

E

Email: Email your friends and associates, asking for donations. Use the email tools you get when you register on the event's Web site.

Errand Service: Never have time.... Run an errand service!

Event parking spaces: Sell parking spaces for community events near your home.

F

Face Painting: Set up a booth at a local event, fair, or festival. Kids love it! Charge .50 and up.

Fashion show: Work with new or existing clothing stores to hold a fashion show. You could have it at the store, or use a club or church hall. Offer refreshments and your team members can be the models.

Fast Food Restaurants: Ask your local restaurants if they will have a Race to Beat Cancer day. Either a percentage of the day's sales or from a certain item on the menu will go toward the event.

Fifty/Fifty Drawing: Everyone loves the chance to win cash. Hold 50/50's at your place of work, weekly or monthly. An individual did this at his annual birthday party and raised a lot of money.

Flamingo Alert: Place pink flamingos in someone yard. It will fly away once a donation is made to Race to Beat Cancer. Some people have expanded this idea and for a set amount you can designate the next person is should go to, as well as you can purchase flamingo repellent, so it will not land on your yard. Other lawn ornaments could be used.

Flower sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems (carnations or roses) at your place of work or school.

Flower bouquet: Ask a local florist to donate one bouquet of flowers, one for each month for a three-month period (or go to 3 different florists and get one per shop). This is a good fundraiser for corporate teams with a large staff, especially during the winter months, to take a chance to win some "springtime" for their desk.

G

Game Night: Have a game night- much like a party with a purpose. Everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades etc. Charge an "entrance" fee.

Garage Sales: Work individually or as a team to set up garage sales. Clean out your attic and raise money for the American Cancer Society at the same time!

Go Door to Door: Go door to door and ask for donations. Canvas your neighborhood, work as a team, and canvas the town.

H

Hat (or Cap Day): This is good for schools. For a specified amount, the students can wear a baseball cap to school for the day.

Haunted House: For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission. Or with other racers, organize a haunted forest. You can also sell refreshments such as donut holes and hot chocolate.

Hoagie Sale: Hold a hoagie (sub sandwich) sale at work or around town, taking orders ahead of time.

Hole-in-One: Set up a portable putting green and for a donation; let people try to putt it in. You can do this on site, or at a community event beforehand.

Hot Dog For Cancer: A principal at an elementary school agreed that if ALL the teachers would raise \$100 each he would dress up like a hot dog and let the students squirt ketchup, mustard, and relish on him. This would also be fun at a company!

I

Ice Cream Socials: Plan one at your place of work or for friends, asking for a donation to attend. Sell ice cream for dessert at your place of work.

J

Jail & Bail: For a donation employees can be arrested. For an additional donation they can post their own bail, or employees have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested and 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 they sell anymore and have a jeweler clean it up for you, then have a sale.

K

Kiss a Pig Contest: Recruit a local celebrity to kiss a swine when a certain amount of money has been raised. This has also been done as a contest. Put the face of all the teachers or employees on each jar, and who ever raised the most money must kiss the animal (could also be a team mascot, goat mule, dog etc.)

L

Letter Writing: A great way to ask for donations without asking in person. Send letters out to your friends and family explaining what you're doing and why, and asking for a specific amount (more than you want) seems to work best or leave it up to them. Write them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people are writing letters on behalf of their pets or babies adding a little humor.

Line Dancing: Work with a local club or facility to offer a night of line dancing. Get a DJ to volunteer his/her time to play music and get someone to teach a couple dances. It's a fun way to spend a night while collecting donations.

Lunch with the CEO: Auction 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 office coffee every Monday and request a dollar donation for a steamy cup from co-workers. (Supplying real creamer works well!) Include a sign that explains Making Strides.

Massages: Offer massages for a donation at your office, club, or house of worship.

Matching Gifts: Ask your company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching gift policy. Check to see if your does. If they don't, ask them anyway.

Money Jars: Set up money jars or coin boxes at your place of work. This is good for banks, diners/restaurants hairdressers, and stores. Check back to empty frequently.

Movie night: Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and soda and charge admission. Or have a movie week during lunch hour at work. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch.

N

Nonalcoholic cocktail party: have a nonalcoholic cocktail party and ask for donations. Or have a moving one, where each team member has different appetizers and drinks available so people go from house to house on different weekend nights.

O

Odd jobs: Call on your neighbors and ask to do some odd jobs, such as fixing a rain gutter, shoveling their driveway, paint a fence, weed their garden or rake their leaves.

Online Fundraising Tool: Go to www.cancer.org/racetobeat cancer and click the link to the event's Web site. Use this great online fundraising tool!

Open House: A fitness center held an open house with a variety of toning and aerobic classes offered throughout the day. They also included a silent auction and babysitting, with proceeds going to the event.

P

Pancake Breakfasts: Hold a pancake breakfast at a hall or church or at work on specific days.

Payroll Deduction: Employees can make their own contribution by having it deducted directly from their paycheck. A little each week, can grow into a large amount.

Percentage of Sales: Designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds and let the public know so they will buy more.

Personal Bake Sale: Bake some extra delicious, extra gooey brownies and sell them for dollars a piece- make the slices large. Bake a different dessert each week for your co-workers.

Pet Fashion Show: Have a pet fashion show where you give everyone's pet the opportunity to flaunt its favorite outfit. Charge admission and vote for best outfit, matching outfits (owner and pet) wildest outfit etc.

Photos: Have your photo taken with a local celebrity for a specified donation. Or use one of those realistic cardboard stand-ups (available at party stores). Do this at work or in conjunction with a local fair or festival.

Pie Sales: Much like bake sales, these are also popular. Especially around the holidays- take orders or set up a table at a busy grocery store or shopping center.

Pizza Sales: Work with a pizzeria to give you a percentage of the pizzas you sell. Take orders and deliver them, or put pizza kits together yourself. You could work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price or donated is even better.

Place a "Plea" in your employee bulletin or newsletter: Place a plea in your employee newsletter letting them know that you are raising money to fight cancer by participating in the American Cancer Society's Race to Beat Cancer.

Pot Luck Lunches: Designate every Wednesday as Race to Beat Cancer Pot Luck Day. Have everyone bring in something and charge folks a certain amount per spoonful or per cookie.

Q

Quilt: Quilting is the new hot hobby for all ages! Hold a quilting class or just a quilting night. Quilters like to sew in groups. Make a night out of it and ask for donations.

Quoits Tournament: Hold a quoits or horseshoe tournament. Charge an entrance fee

R

Roll those pennies: Roll those pennies sitting in a jar on your dresser. While you're at it, roll the rest of your coins you have been collecting.

Rummage Sale: Work together as a team, or have one individually. Ask a local church or business to let you use a pubic room so you can hold it inside.

S

Sell employee Services: i.e. get the best gourmet chef on your team to agree to go to someone's home and prepare a meal (for a fee of course). Get your VP to commit to wash an employee's car, or several if willing. Have the company photographer take a family photo for a certain amount, etc.

Shave your head: Have someone agree to have their hair shaved once a certain amount of money has been raised.

Shoe Shines: Shine shoes for donation- enlisted men would love it.

Shovel out: Go door-to-door in your neighborhood and offer to shovel or snow blow them out or a donation to Race to Beat Cancer.

Shutter bug mania: Are you into photography? Take candid shots around the community, schools, etc to sell to subject. OR take photos of a friends wedding, anniversary party, or birthday.

Soup Sales: Especially during the cold winter months, take orders from your coworkers and have a soup day at work. Ask for a donation per bowl.

Spaghetti Dinner: Put together a spaghetti dinner at a local hall or club. You'll need lots of help but it could be profitable if all the food is donated.

Sports Tournaments: Organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other sports tournaments.

Story Time Reading: Have an organized story time reading. Hold it at your place of work where employees can bring their children, work with your local library to have a special time.

Student/Faculty Basketball Game: Set up a benefit basketball game between students and faculty, or put together and alumni game. Challenge a local radio or television employee team.

Super bowl party: Have a Super Bowl party and ask everyone for donations when they get there. It is certainly worth it after all the trouble you go to organize the party and provide the refreshments. The same can be done for the NACC Championship basketball game, Indy 500, Masters final round, World Series etc. Great idea for the team member with a big screen TV!

T

Tupperware party: Have the profits from a Tupperware party benefit your team. Other home party sales companies are also possibilities.

“Cold Turkey” Subs: Encourage sub/pizza shops to donate a set amount (50 cents) from each cold turkey sub sold to benefit Race for a Cure. This would be a great idea to get all sub shops to participate in during the Great American Smoke Out on the third Thursday in November.

U

Ugly Bartender Contest: Get all the bartenders in town to agree to be in your “Ugly Bartender Contest.” At \$1 per vote, a lot of money can be raised for your team with the winner getting some sort of reward and being asked to become an honorary team member.

V

Vacation Day Drawing: Have a drawing for an extra vacation day or day off with pay. Get your company to agree to let you have a drawing with the money raised from the chances to go to your team.

Vending machines: Coordinate with your vendor to add .05 cents to the cost of a snack or soda prior to Race to Beat Cancer, with the extra nickel going to your team total.

Vendors: Solicit your company vendors for cash donations or goods you can auction off.

Video Sale: Hold a video or DVD sale at work and have others bring in videos they don’t watch anymore, especially kid videos their children have outgrown. Other employees with younger children would appreciate this.

W

Wait Tables: Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a specific night to benefit Race to Beat Cancer. Pizza Huts have been known to do this, as well as others. You and other racers and event organizers would be the waiters for the evening and would collect all the tips, as well as possibly a percentage of that evening’s receipts. Make sure all your friends and family eat at that restaurant.

Wear Company Logos: Tell companies that you will walk the route wearing their hat or t-shirt for a \$25 dollar donation.

Wishing You Well: Set up a wishing well at your local school, business, church, or store with a sign explaining that all proceeds go to Race to Beat Cancer. (Hannaford Supermarkets have these.) Put an announcement in your local paper stating specific days for change drop-offs. Maybe the store or your employer would do a matching gift?

Wrap Presents: During holiday time set up a booth at a local mall, plaza, or busy department store. Get someone to donate the paper and tape and raise money while helping out the holiday shoppers.

X

Xylophone concert: Hold a music concert or recital. Pass refreshments and ask for donations or sell tickets in advance.

Y

Yard Sales: Just like the garage sales, work together as a team, or have one individually.

Z

Zoot Suit Party: Dance music is in. Hold a swing dance party and give awards for the best zoot suit there.

Thank you for joining our fight against cancer!