



**Determi*Nation***®

**Giant List of Fundraising Ideas**

## **GIANT LIST OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

1. **Spare Change:** Place a bucket with a DetermiNation sign on it at your local Laundromat, pizza joint, lunch room at work, etc. Stop by and pick up the \$ weekly. (Make sure to ask the manager for permission!)
2. **Sell stuff:** (contact your local representative for help)
  - Cookie Lee Jewelry
  - Silpada Jewelry
  - Mary Kay Cosmetics
  - Pampered Chef
  - Party Lite
  - Tupperware
  - [www.auntieannes.com/fundraising.aspx](http://www.auntieannes.com/fundraising.aspx)
  - [www.thepizzapail.com](http://www.thepizzapail.com) (Looks REALLY easy, and profits are 40% of sales!)
  - [www.classiccookie.com/html/fund.htm](http://www.classiccookie.com/html/fund.htm) (YUM.. profit is \$5/tub)
  - [www.thepromotionsource.com/fundraising](http://www.thepromotionsource.com/fundraising)
  - [www.fundraising.com](http://www.fundraising.com) (want to sell candles? t-shirts? candy? chances are you'll find it here)
3. **Ya Gotta Eat:** Restaurants that will donate a portion of the night's profits to your fundraising: Baja Fresh, Chevy's, El Torito, Applebee's, Jamba Juice, Souplantation, Rubio's, Longboard's, Pat & Oscar's, Cold Stone, Islands, Ruby's, Hot Dog on a Stick (check with your favorite restaurant to see if they have a fundraising program).
4. Friends with your local bartender? Ask him/her to put a sign up one night that says that all tips get donated to DetermiNation. Or ask if you can be "guest bartender" for a night for a cut of the profits or cover charge (as long as you help promote the night!)
5. Collect old "stuff " from friends and family. Auction the "stuff" on Ebay. Collect books from friends and family and sell them at [www.halfpricebooks.com](http://www.halfpricebooks.com).
6. **Garage Sale:** Gather up your old things and ask your neighbors, family and friends to donate their old items to the cause. Have DetermiNation signs displayed so buyers know the proceeds are going to charity. Sell doughnuts and coffee for increased profits.
7. **Follow up on your letter.** Call or send a postcard to the people who haven't donated yet. Or, send a postcard to everyone who got the letter with a note on how your training is going and a reminder that "it's not too late to donate!" Postcard idea: go to [www.cardstore.com](http://www.cardstore.com) and download your favorite training picture and create a postcard to send to everyone with your update. You can create an address book online and use the same list to send thank-you notes and event follow-ups. You just type in the info and pay for postage online.. they take care of the rest!
8. **Send a follow up email** to everyone to whom you sent your initial e-mail! Let them know what's going on. (Example: UPDATE! On July 7, I will run 11 miles!!! ) People often intend to support your fundraising efforts, but forgot that your e-mail was in their inbox... send them another one!

9. **Raffle and silent auction** hints: Get the prizes donated. Have at least 5 items in the raffle. Charge \$5-\$10 for tickets.
10. Go to your local mall and ask them what they do with the **coins in the fountain**. Chances are, you can have it!
11. Throw a party – summer BBQ, holiday party, costume party (work with the season) - charge an entrance fee, have a raffle or silent auction. See if you can get grocery stores or restaurants to donate the supplies you need.
12. Have a local newspaper? How about a work/apartment complex/housing association newsletter? Contact the writer/editor and ask them to put your story in. It can be as simple as one line: "One of our residents is doing a half marathon for the American Cancer Society, here's how you can donate..." to a full story on you and your event. Reporters and editors for small papers love doing these easy "filler" stories!
13. Get your high school or college alma mater involved in your fundraising. Ask them to do a "spare change" drive for you, placing buckets at sporting events or concession stands. Collect the change and start rolling! Ask them to sell candy, purchase or sell raffle tickets, plan a fundraising event or come to your fundraising event.
14. **Treadmill marathon**: ask your local health club if you can set up a treadmill or bike trainer in the lobby. Grab a friend and take turns running for as long as you can with a bucket in front for people to throw change (and bills!). One group of DetermiNation participants set up in front of a local 24 hour convenience store and ran/walked in shifts for 24 hours.
15. Create an obstacle course at a playground, charge an entry fee and give trophies to the winners.
16. Contact your local high school's Student Council or other "do-good" club and ask them if they would fundraise for you (holding their own event to profit your cause). Many high schoolers just need "a cause" and they are more than happy to throw a car wash or whatever (looks good on college apps!)
17. Work for a large company? Send around a big manila envelope with your letter taped to one side and a donor form on the other. Send the envelope in rotation and have people place the checks right in the envelope. OR, place a display in the lunch room (a little sign with your picture and a note about what you are doing) next to a bucket for donations or a pile of donor slips.
18. **Create a DetermiNation-related item**: jewelry, hat, t-shirt, beanie baby, picture frame, calendar - to sell.
19. Holiday, birthday or anniversary coming up? Ask for donations instead of gifts.
20. Go door to door in your neighborhood (better yet.. go door to door in someone else's neighborhood.. it's less embarrassing). No need to knock, just place a flyer with all your info on their door (not in/on the mailbox, that's illegal!)

21. Host a tournament (tennis/bowling/basketball 3 on 3): For bowling, you pay a flat fee for the night, you provide lanes and snacks. Charge per person or team, and set the round robin going. Give prizes for the winner or worst bowler.
22. **Dodge Ball Tourney:** Advertise, reserve space at local gym, buy an official red dodge ball, sign up teams, charge \$10 per participant, ask for \$5 from spectators (it's cheaper and more entertaining than a movie), get food donated from a restaurant or grocery store.
23. **Very Basic:** Wear a DetermiNation t-shirt or singlet. Hold a DetermiNation sign. Stand on a street corner with a bucket. Get \$. (This works well at sporting events.) Give people a lollipop (buy a box at Costco) for their donation.
24. Ask your boss if you can put in some overtime. Make a mental note that the money earned for those hours goes toward your goal.
25. Host a "Mutt Strutt" in your neighborhood. For \$30, people bring their dog and go on an organized "walk" together. Host pet contest and offer prizes.
26. **Sell Candy.** Put the PROFIT towards your goal. Sell them in the teachers' lounge, office lunchroom, reception desk, at the park on a Saturday ... anywhere.
27. **Host a bachelor/bachelorette auction** at a local bar. Get "dates" donated from local restaurants, sporting teams, movie theaters, etc. The highest bidder gets a date with the bachelor/bachelorette. Add a silent auction or raffle to the evening. Charge an entrance fee and provide drinks and/or food.
28. Start a monthly newsletter on your progress. Recognize your supporters in it and include a donor form. Ask your friends to pass it around.
29. Ask your boss if you can host a "Dress Down Friday." Employees pay (\$10-\$25) to dress down on an assigned day.
30. Hold a **car wash or a dog wash.** Get some kids to help. Place DetermiNation signs all over. Sell food to raise more money.
31. Gift wrap during the holidays at Borders, Barnes & Noble or the mall.
32. Speak Spanish? Know how to fix computers? Can you teach tennis? Are you certified to teach CPR? **Offer your services for a donation to the American Cancer Society** (tutoring, coaching, cleaning, accounting, whatever!). An alternative to this would be to hold a skills auction. Ask your friends, family or coworkers if they could donate their skills for your auction.
33. Make cookies or candy bags. Sell them at church/synagogue events, work or around the soccer field on game day. An alternative would be to sell tamales or enchiladas.
34. Know a local band? Host a fundraising concert. Charge an entrance fee. Include a raffle, silent auction or sell stuff to raise more money.

35. Kiss a pig: One teacher challenged her students to help her fundraise. If they brought in over \$2,000, she'd kiss a pig. They did, and she brought in a little pig to kiss in front of her students. (Obviously you don't have to do this exact thing, but it might help you start to think outside the box. Anything can be a fundraiser!)
36. One doctor offered to take over her colleagues shifts so they could get a paid day off... in return for a nice donation! Works for teachers' sub days too!
37. Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Linked In - Many participants post a shortened version of their fundraising letter on their facebook page with a link to their personal fundraising page. This is a very lucrative way to receive donations from friends, as well as people you don't even know.
38. **Create a “business card” with your name and fundraising website link.** When people ask you about DetermiNation, give them your card! Carry them with you on your bike, on a walk, out running errands.
39. DVD Night. Show a DVD on a big screen television or a projector screen. There can be a theme to the night, a speaker and perhaps a discussion after the movie. Charge an admission for seating, popcorn (or a small bag of chips) and a drink (maybe about \$5 or \$6 per person for the show with a snack included). It's just a fun night, and depending on the subject, people really get into the discussion, too.
40. Hold a murder mystery dinner.
41. Sell balloon-o-grams or candy grams. Good for college organizations, school teams, big offices. Sell balloons and/or candy bags with cards during holidays to be delivered to others in school, office or organization. For example, Valentine's Day cards with candy and/or balloons, Halloween cards, Xmas cards, just to say thanks or recognize someone. Another example is lollipop bouquets wrapped in tissue paper to look like flowers.
42. Brown bag lunch day – Ask your coworkers to bring their lunches and donate what they would have spent eating out. A variation is you could make sack lunches (Have your coworkers preorder them) and charge \$10 each.
43. **Bridesmaid Ball** – Everyone wears their old bridesmaid dresses that have been sitting in the closet forever and they never thought they would use again. An alternative to this would be to sell old prom or bridesmaid dresses. Collect them from everyone you know. All profits go to your fundraising.
44. **Pub Crawl** – go to a few bars in the same area and tell them you will bring x amount of people if they can give you drink specials. Pre-sell wristbands so you know how many people will go and the bartenders know who to give the drink specials to. Ask bars if you can post a flyer to promote the pub crawl and carry extra wristbands to sell to anyone interested in joining that night.
45. Hold an art auction!

46. Make a cookbook highlighting your team. Use pictures of those you are running for, participants at practice, at the event, quotes from team members, meaningful quotes from anywhere, stories about DetermiNation, etc. Write participants' names and roles on team with their recipe. Get as many sponsors and/or donations as possible so most of the money can go to your fundraising.
47. "Wedding Crasher" fundraiser: Hold a mock wedding sans the ceremony. Invite your guests to join you for the reception. Give people the opportunity to wear their wedding clothes again. Guests can come dressed as brides, grooms, bridesmaids, groomsmen or guests. Find a DJ, provide some food – including a wedding cake - and request that people make donations in lieu of gifts.
48. Hold a progressive dinner, either at friends' houses or restaurants. Start at one place for appetizers, go to another for the main course and then another for dessert. Set a price and try to get food donated if you do it with friends or work something out with the restaurants that you go to.
49. **Hold a laser tag event.** Ask the place if you can have a percentage of the profits from the people you bring to their place for the event.
50. **Poker Run** – (for walkers, runners or bikers). Participants pay an entry fee and are given a map or clues for the route. As participants check in at each periodic check point, they are given a playing card. Best poker hand at the end of the race wins. Potential costs: party at the end, prizes (if not donated), decks of cards, refreshments and advertising. Non-participants can pay a fee for short-cut directions, tickets to the party and have their cards dealt at the door. You can have more than one category of winning hands.
51. **Poker tournament.** Charge a fee to "buy in." After an hour of play, allow another "buy in." Winner wins a percentage of the pot or a prize that was donated. Get food donated from restaurant or grocery store.
52. **Wine and cheese party** – Charge a set price at the door. Ask everyone to bring a bottle of wine or an interesting type of cheese to lower your costs. Try to get as much as you can donated.
53. **Fundraising breakfast or lunch at work.** Have a local restaurant or grocery store donate the food and charge \$5-\$10 person.
54. **A great addition to your letter writing campaign:** Put tiny ribbons in your fundraising letters and ask donors to write the name of their family or friends with cancer and mail it back with their donation so that you can wear the ribbons on your jersey during your event. Or, team up with the person who inspired you to join DetermiNation. Ask your inspiration to write an introduction to your fundraising letter and send your fundraising letter to your inspiration's mailing list.
55. Offer something to your top donors: A duffle bag for anyone who donates more than \$250, a home cooked meal for your top donor, anything that will help drive donations! Then, write your donors names on your shirt and wear it in the event.
56. Work at a florist shop on Valentine's Day or Mother's Day.

57. Ask a local restaurant if you can be a “celebrity waiter” in exchange for a percentage of the sales and the tips you make.
58. **Make a stand:** Stand on top of the roof (or in front) of a visible restaurant and do not come down (or leave) until you raise your money. Make sure to get the restaurant’s approval before doing this.
59. **Shave your head for \$.** People will donate \$\_ per inch of hair coming off, or a flat donation for shaving entire head. People can pay extra to help with the shaving or to be in the room at the time of shaving.
60. **Organize a GIANT Determination Raffle:** To join, participants must contribute at least one item worth \$25. The more items in the raffle, the more tickets you will sell. Buy a roll of raffle tickets (or get it donated). Sell tickets - \$5/each or 10 for \$45 – for a month. Pick winners at a training session.
61. **Bake Sale:** at school, church, office, car wash or garage sale. Ask family, friends and co-workers to donate baked goods. Make sure people know where the donations are going.
62. Create a team calendar with pictures of your coaches, teammates and those you are running for.
63. Sell Beanie Babies. Go to [www.plushland.com](http://www.plushland.com).
64. Dessert-a-thon: Make some desserts, charge some money (\$26.20) and offer all you can eat desserts. One participant raised \$2000 through this event.
65. **Consignment Shops:** Take your old business suits, clothes and accessories to a Consignment Shop. Ask the owner or manager if you can put tags on each item indicating that all funds for the item will go to the American Cancer Society. Mention the idea to friends and they might give you their old items still in good shape, rather than donating them to another organization. A real win-win ... your friends get rid of their old items and you get the funds.
66. **Wear money pinned to your lapel or an “Ask Me About Determination” sticker:** When someone asks you what it is there for, you have your 15 seconds to tell them what you are doing and get their donation.
67. **Book/DVD sale:** Have your co-workers donate their used books and DVD to your cause, then sell or “rent” them to other co-workers to make a profit! (You can set up your own Determination Lending Library or Video Store!)
68. **Have your co-workers guess your half marathon or marathon time:** Have a pool in your office to guess your finish time! Have each co-worker pay (\$1 or \$2 or \$5...) to enter an estimate for your time! The person whose guess comes closest to your actual time wins a percentage of the pool. The remaining money goes toward your fundraising. Publicizing the pool may even inspire colleagues to donate a check towards the cause!

69. Answering machine message or auto-signature on email: “I can’t come to the phone right now. I’m training for the \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in event) and raising money for the American Cancer Society. If you haven’t made your contribution yet, it’s not too late! Leave your name and phone number after the tone and I’ll call you back!”... or “300 miles of training, 17 gallons of Gatorade, 10 blisters, etc. For what? I’m training for the \_\_\_\_\_ half marathon ...etc. If you’re interested in making a contribution, email me at...” You get the idea!
70. Recycle: Help the environment and your fundraising. Collect recyclables from your neighbors and co-workers over a specified period of time (your whole training season, if you can). Turn the recyclables in for money to put towards your fundraising.
71. Make 10 copies of this list: Send the copies to friends and family and ask them to choose one thing on the list to help you fundraise.