

There are tons of creative and easy ways that you and your team members can raise money to support your efforts to save lives through the American Cancer Society's Over the Edge program. In fact, we've got ideas for every letter of the alphabet to help you reach your goals!

#### A

**Art sale:** Hold an art sale at your office, in your neighborhood, or at a local fair or festival and ask friends and coworkers who make jewelry, take photographs, or paint/draw to donate their works to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

**Ask everyone you meet:** Did you know the number one reason people say they don't give to a charitable organization is because no one ever asked? So be sure to ask friends, neighbors, relatives, and anyone you know to support you. You will find sample emails to send in your Participant Center online. Also, be sure to carry information about Over the Edge with you everywhere you go so you can talk to people about your efforts and ask for donations.

**Auctions of all kinds:** Hold silent or live auctions to raise money. Some creative ideas you might consider are auctioning off a prime parking space at work, a half or whole day off from work, a picnic lunch, desserts, homemade dinners, local art work, gift certificates to local restaurants, etc.

#### B

**Bake sales:** Hold a Friday bake sale so fellow training buddies, friends, or coworkers have treats for the weekend. Ask for items to be wrapped attractively so they can be given as gifts.

**Birthday party with a purpose:** Encourage friends and family to ask people to make a donation to the American Cancer Society in support of your efforts for their birthday this year, instead of giving gifts. Be sure to explain to donors that they are helping create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

**Block party:** Organize a block party on your neighborhood street or in a nearby

parking lot (with permission). Ask a band or DJ to donate their services, as well as a local restaurant to donate the food. Encourage everyone who attends to make a donation to the American Cancer Society in support of your efforts, and hold a raffle drawing to raise extra cash.

**Book sale:** Dust those bookshelves and sell used books to support your efforts.

**Boss for the Day:** Allow people to bid on being boss for a day. The highest bidder wins.

**Bowl-a-thon:** As a break from training, host a bowling event where participants ask for pledges for every pin they knock down.

**Breakfast:** Host a breakfast with a local celebrity, such as a news anchor, well-known athlete in the community, city official, etc. Work with a local restaurant or venue to sell tickets.

**Brown bag lunch day:** Encourage coworkers to bring their lunch to work one day and donate the money they would have spent going out to lunch to support your efforts to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

#### C

**Candy bar sales:** Sell candy bars at work, or ask a local business to let you set up a display box. You can purchase box kits from wholesale warehouses such as Sam's Club or ask a candy store to donate them.

**Car wash:** Don't underestimate tried and true fundraisers like a neighborhood car wash. Instead of charging a price per car, consider saying "donations accepted."

**Change jars:** Keep change jars in high traffic areas, including local businesses, restaurants, etc. All change is donated to your fundraising efforts. Ask local banks to encourage customers to donate the cents from their deposits to the American

Cancer Society to help save lives. You'll be amazed at how quickly it can add up.

**Comedy club:** Ask a local comedy club to host an evening in support of the American Cancer Society.

**Concession stands:** Set up a concession stand or booth at a community event or local race during the event season.

**Cookbooks:** Collect recipes from people you know and create your own cookbook. Be sure that the recipes are healthy and follow the American Cancer Society's nutrition guidelines. Then, sell the cookbooks to support your fundraising efforts.

#### D

**Dinner:** Hold a themed dinner. Get the location, food, and entertainment donated, and charge a fee for tickets that will benefit your efforts.

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

**Dress down day:** Ask every employee at work to contribute to your efforts, and in return they will be allowed to "dress down" on a specified day at work. Wear your Over the Edge shirt to raise extra awareness.

#### E

**Email:** Be sure to email everyone you know asking for a donation. Use our sample email messages in your Participant Center online.

**Errand service:** Run errands for neighbors and friends to in exchange for a donation.

#### F

**Fanatic on Facebook:** Use Facebook and other social networking sites to get the word out. Send a message to all your friends, update your status, upload

pictures during your fundraising, and post the link to your personal Web page so friends can support you. You can also use our Facebook application to raise money from your Facebook page.

#### G

**Game night:** Host a game night where everyone makes a donation to come to your house to play board games.

**Garage sales:** Clean out your attic, garage, and basement and hold a garage sale, with all proceeds to benefit your fundraising efforts.

#### H

**Handyman or woman for a day:** Shovel snow, rake leaves, or mow your neighbor's lawn and donate your "fee" to the American Cancer Society.

**Holiday parties:** Host a party for various holidays – from Cinco de Mayo or St. Patrick's Day to Halloween or Hanukah. Encourage guests to make a donation to support your efforts to attend.

#### I

**Ice cream social:** Raise funds by collecting donations for ice cream treats at an old fashioned ice cream social. Get creative and decorate your location as an ice cream parlor and soda fountain. Set up tables with a variety of board games for patrons. Play oldies on a jukebox and charge for song requests.

#### J

**Jail and bail:** An old American Cancer Society fundraiser, employees can be arrested for a donation, and for an additional donation, can post their own bail. Consider doing this at workplace get-togethers and events.

#### K

**Kiss the pig:** Select three to five well-known and well-liked employees. Have the other employees choose the individual they would like to see kiss a pig by purchasing jelly beans for 50 cents each and placing them in a jar for that individual. The individual with the most beans will have to kiss the pig.

**Knock:** Take a walk around your neighborhood and knock on doors asking your neighbors for their support. Be sure

to wear your Over the Edge shirt to raise awareness!

#### L

**Lawn service:** While you are mowing your lawn, mow someone else's too for a donation.

**Lose the latte:** Set up an Over the Edge collection jar at work and ask your coworkers to drop in the price of their favorite coffee drink every time they have the urge to buy one that week.

**Lunch with the CEO:** Auction off lunch or maybe a round of golf with the CEO or president of your company.

#### M

**Matching funds:** Did you know you can double your donations? Many employers will match charitable gifts made by their employees. Your \$50 donation could turn into \$100 just by asking your human resources department for their matching gift form and reminding friends and family who support you to do the same.

**Movie night:** Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and drinks 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. Scheduling a movie night the night before a long training day is ideal.

#### N

**Name bead bonanza:** Take orders for personalized bracelets, key chains, necklaces, etc. for a donation.

#### O

**October festival:** Celebrate the fall by hosting an autumn festival to benefit the American Cancer Society. Have pumpkins, straw bales, dried corn stalks, colorful gourds, and bright flowers for your decor. For the main attractions you may want to consider the following activities: a dance, pumpkin carving contest, apple bobbing, face painting, petting zoo, pony rides, bake sale, and a scarecrow decorating contest. Charge an admission fee and sell other goods and services at your festival.

**Odd jobs:** Charge a fee to do odd jobs for neighbors, family members, and friends.

#### P

**Pancake breakfast:** Host a pancake breakfast to benefit your fundraising efforts.

**Park cars:** If your company has a parking lot near a local stadium, fairground, or other venue, let people park there for a donation.

**Percentage of sales:** Ask local businesses to designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds to the American Cancer Society in your honor and let the public know so they will buy more.

**Photo contest:** Ask employees or club members to bring a baby or childhood photo of them that they believe no one can identify. Ask for a donation to make a guess. Give winners a contributed prize.

**Poker plays pay:** Invite 10 people over for a round of charity poker. Send invitations explaining that you are participating in the American Cancer Society Over the Edge program and request everyone bring \$25. Provide refreshments.

**Potluck lunches at work:** Name every Wednesday "Over the Edge Potluck Day" for a month. Ask coworkers to take turns preparing foods, salads, desserts, etc. and offer to employees for a donation.

#### Q

**Quilts:** Make quilt squares in honor and in memory of people with cancer. Ask for a contribution for different sizes: a 4" square for \$5, an 8" square for \$15, and a 12" square for \$25. Display the quilt at a public location.

**Quarter campaign:** Old film canisters hold \$7 worth of quarters. Challenge coworkers or students to fill as many canisters as possible. Have a reward for the team that collects the most canisters filled with quarters!

#### R

**Restaurants to the rescue:** Ask a local restaurant or cafe to contribute a portion of the proceeds for a day to support your efforts. It could be for a certain menu item or ask the owner if a special Over the Edge item can be on the daily special.

**Romance:** Offer to make a romantic dinner for two your highest donor.

S

**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 a donation.

T

**Talk it up:** Ask for a few minutes on the agenda of your local parent-teacher organization, weekly department meeting at work, or any other meeting you may attend. Tell the group about your participation in and commitment to the American Cancer Society's Over the Edge program. Share with them the reason you're dedicating your efforts to save lives from cancer, and ask them to support you.

U

**Unique boutique:** Collect or make unique one-of-a kind items for raising funds via a silent or live auction. Consider holding a fashion show too.

V

**Video sale:** How many times can you watch Forrest Gump? Sell all your gently used DVDs.

**Vacation day:** Ask your boss to offer a bonus day off for the person who donates the most money to your fundraising efforts.

W

**Water bottles:** Sell bottles of water for a donation of \$1 at local events, races, etc. to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

X

**eXercise your fundraising muscles**

**without moving an inch:** Send emails to 10 of your friends asking them for \$10 and voila! You've just raised \$100.

**eXercise for the cure:** Talk with your local gym to organize a Spin-a-thon or Zumba event.

**arrange a clothing eXchange with ticket sales.**

Y

**Yard sale:** Hold the ultimate yard sale. Ask your neighbors to join you and see if they will also donate their proceeds to your fundraising efforts.

Z

**Zzzz:** Get some rest after Over the Edge!