

FUN & EASY FUNDRAISING TIPS

Here are some fun and simple fundraising tips to assist you in your efforts:

- People will match or exceed the donations already on the pledge form or on-line. Try and start off with a large donation, or make a donation to yourself!
- Set your fundraising goal high. Think of fundraising as a personal challenge. And remember, you are not asking people to give money to you personally. You are asking for money to help provide support to Canadians affected with neuromuscular disorders.
- Create your list of potential donors. Write down the names of all the people in your life. Friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, hairdressers, teachers, coaches, trainers, doctors, therapists, elected officials, etc). Everyone you talk to on a regular basis... don't leave anyone out. Next, write down next to each name on your list the method by which you will contact this person for a donation (face-to-face, email from your personal page, letter, etc.).
- Check with your employer. They may have a gift matching program or be willing to make a corporate donation.
- Hold a fundraiser (BBQ, bake sale, casual day, pizza lunch, garage sale, etc.) to raise donations.
- Send an email from your personal page. This is the easiest and most effective way to fundraise. Send a fundraising letter as an email to the people who are comfortable with computers.
- If you are unable to participate on the actual event day, collect pledges and ask someone to attend the event for you.
- Let people know how their donations will help. Provide them with a link to our website at www.muscle.ca.
- Social Networking Sites - take advantage of sites like Facebook, MySpace, and Linked In. These online communities are amazingly popular and you will find old schoolmates, friends, and previous coworkers there. Everyone is a potential donor.

A is for...

Art Sales – This one is perfect for a kids' team. Have students produce great works of 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 donation collection envelope with you so that when you talk to people about your event, you can ask them to donate right then. Take the donation collection envelope with you to meetings. When you carry a donation collection envelope with you, indicate your own contribution at the top. Make sure the top few donations on form are significant. Other people are apt to follow suit; conversely, if you start with a \$2 contribution, others may follow suit with \$2. Don't prejudge whether people will give. Let them say no or ignore your letter rather than not ask.

Auctions of All Kinds-

A prime parking space at work

A half or whole day off from work

A picnic lunch

Auction desserts, homemade creative and fun items

50/50, gift certificates, concerts or sporting events...there's lots of ideas for auctions and draws!

B is for...

A "No-Bake Sale" – Coworkers pay so they don't have to bake goodies

Book Sale – Dust those bookshelves and have a book sale

"Boss for the Day" – Allow people to bid on being boss for a day – high bid wins

Bake Sales – Hold a Friday bake sale so employees have treats for the weekend. Ask for items to be wrapped attractively so they could be given as gifts

"Brown Bag Lunch Day" – Everyone brings their lunch and donates the money they would have spent for lunch

C is for...

Carpool – for fun and profit

Clean up – with a neighbourhood car wash

Car Window Washes – Teams can wash car windows at fast food restaurant drive through windows.

Challenges – Challenge someone else to raise more than you. Some radio stations may gladly put your challenge on the radio

Challenge by the Boss/Principal – Get the boss to agree that if you raise a certain amount, that he'll dress up like a pig, shave his beard, sit in the dunking booth, or get a pie in the face, etc.

Change Jar – Keep a change jar in high traffic areas. All change is donated to your team fundraising totals.

Clean Out the Corporate Closet—ask your boss to offer employees the opportunity to purchase excess inventory items from work.

Cook Offs—for all those dedicated Food Network fans!

Christmas Trees/Wreath – Ask a local retailer to donate \$1 for every tree and wreath sold.

Cake Drawing Every Hour – Here is a fun and tasty idea. Team members bake different cakes, exchange tickets for a donation and then raffle off the cakes each hour of the day.

D is for...

Host a theme dance or party – Sock hop, beach party, disco, square dance, dance for senior citizens, etc.

Dedicate – Your personal effort to someone who is living with a neuromuscular disorder –Include that in a letter along with a self-addressed envelope.

Dress Down Day – Ask every employee to contribute to your event, and in return they will be allowed to "dress down" on a specified day at work.

Dinner – Hold a dinner. Do a theme dinner. Get a hall donated and have friends and family prepare part of the meal. Sell tickets and get some entertainment donated.

E is for...

Envelopes at Restaurant Tables – Generate donations by placing an envelope at every table, stating "Please Support Our Event."

Waitresses check envelopes after each seating.

F is for...

Flowers and Plants – Sell corsages, your donations will blossom. Sell your extra house plants or bouquets from your garden.

G is for...

Games Night—earn bragging rights at euchre, poker or other card games, with a fee for entry or per game to be donated

Gift Wrapping – During the holidays, you can set up at the local mall or in a particular store. Mother's Day is another ideal time for teams to offer a gift wrapping booth.

Garage Sales – Ask your friends and family to clean out their attics, garages and basements and bring items in for a group sale or silent auction.

H is for...

"Hot Dog Day" – Principal at an elementary school agrees that if ALL the teachers raise \$100 each, he/she would dress up like a hot dog and let the students squirt ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, and relish on him/her.

Human Jukebox – Set up a decorated cardboard box with someone that sings selected songs outside of a supermarket (after receiving permission) and ask for a donation for each song that is requested.

Handyman for a Day – Shovel snow, rake leaves or mow your neighbour's lawn and donate your "fee" to your event.

I is for...

Ice Cream Social – You can raise funds by collecting donations for delicious ice cream delights. Get creative and decorate your location as an old fashioned 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 is for...

Joke Marathon – Get people to donate \$ to contribute per joke they send to you; collect them all and share them via email with everyone who has contributed

K is for...

Kiss The Pig – Select three to five well-known and well-liked employees. Have the employees choose the individual they would like to see kiss the pig by purchasing a jelly bean(s) for 50 cents each. The jelly bean(s) will be placed in a jar for that individual. The individual with the most beans will have to Kiss The Pig.

L is for...

Lawn Service – While you are mowing your lawn, mow someone else's too.

M is for...

Matching Funds – Ask your CEO/President to match the total raised by event. (In order for it to count toward incentives, you must turn in written confirmation prior to the event.)

Mini Golf – Have a putt off at work. Build simple mini-putt holes in the office) and charge a green fee for participation.

Movie Night – Watch a newly released DVD or an old favourite after work and ask for a “ticket donation” (what they would spend on movie tickets and refreshments). Microwave popcorn and pop is a lot less expensive at home!

N is for...

Name Bead Bonanza – Take orders for personalized bracelets, keychains, necklaces, etc. for a donation.

O is for...

October Festival – Celebrate autumn by raising funds for your event. Have pumpkins, straw bales, dried corn stalks, colourful 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.

P is for...

Pancake Breakfast – pancakes are not just for Pancake Tuesday!

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

Pet Service – Walk someone's dog!

Pies – Find which fruit is in season, make and sell your delicious pies.

Pot Luck Lunches at the Workplace. – Name every Wednesday “Event Pot Luck Day.” You can prepare foods, salads, desserts, etc. and offer to employees at the workplace at a set price or donation.
Publicity – Publicize your event in the company newsletter or local paper.

Q is for...

Quilts – Sell quilt squares made by a group of quilters. The squares can be sold in honour and in memory of people with neuromuscular disorders.

Quarter Canister Campaign – Old film canisters hold \$7 worth of quarters. Challenge co-workers or students to fill as many canisters as possible. Have a reward for the team that collects the most canisters filled with quarters!

R is for...

Romance – Cater a romantic dinner for two, highest donation wins the dinner.

S is for...

“Stay at Home Tea” – On Valentine's Day donate \$1 for the pleasure of having your cup of tea at home.

Smile Day Give Away – Each time you catch someone at your office smiling, they donate a designated amount to your event. Give the smiling donor a smiley face sticker or button to wear.

T is for...

Team Spirit Days – have a fee paid to wear your favourite team jersey to work

Turkey Drawing – Offer a dollar to win your Thanksgiving/Holiday turkey.

U is for...

Unique Boutique – Collect or make unique one-of-a kind items for raising funds via a silent or live auction.

V is for...

Video Sale – How many times can you watch Forrest Gump?

Vacation Day – If you are holding your event with your co-workers, ask your boss if they can offer a bonus day off for the team member that raises the most money.

W is for...

Water Balloons – have a water balloon throwing contest or a target volunteer (maybe a boss?) and charge a fee per water balloons.

Wine Tasting – as with any fundraiser, but especially with this one - the wine must be donated and all liquor liability laws must be followed.

X is for...

X-Mas Tidings – Make fresh evergreen wreaths and yule logs to sell adorned with festive holiday bows, berries and pinecones.

Y is for...

Yard Sale – Hold the ultimate Yard Sale.

Z is for...

Zzzz – Sleep when the event ends.