

Fundraising Ideas

Does fundraising make you feel daunted? You are not the only one who feels like this. This toolkit will make fundraising much easier than you thought. It does take some time, some effort and some planning, and the more you put in the more you will raise.

Getting started

All you need to do is choose how you want to fundraise and how much you would like to raise. This toolkit provides an A to Z of examples of different ways of fundraising. All you need to do is choose which one you feel most comfortable with, or which you think will help you to be most successful. We can also provide everything that you need to support your fundraising and events. These can include posters, leaflets, presentations, and videos, as well as support to set up online fundraising pages. Contact us to let us know what you need.

Whatever method of fundraising you choose, you will need to promote it among your friends and relatives, so here are some tips to think about.

Top tips

Keep it brief – people don't want to read too much information.

Be clear – What are you going to be doing? Where and when?

The need – be clear about the issues that Mission Direct works with.

The organisation – be clear that you are raising funds for Mission Direct.

Images – use images of you and of the needs that Mission Direct serves.

Who to ask?

Family and friends – ask those closest to you to support your fundraising.

Church – ask your ministry leaders if you can talk to the church during a Sunday Service. Use the presentation resources that we provide. If you are not comfortable to talk up front, let us know and one of us will be happy to deliver the presentation at your church.

Church small group – why not start a conversation with your small group and see if anybody would be willing to fundraise with you.

Colleagues – can you post something on a noticeboard or company intranet, or could you ask to talk to your team?

Community – your street, your neighbours, your local shop or local radio.

Social media – post about your fundraising on social media and provide a link to your online fundraising page.

As easy as A, B, C...

A

Afternoon Tea

Invite friends to come round for a real afternoon tea and ask them for a donation.

Antiques Roadshow

Enlist the help of local experts and sell tickets to an event. You could even ask for donations for valuations.

Auction

Approach local businesses to donate a product or service for a fundraising auction - it's free publicity for their brand and many are usually happy to help. Or ask people/businesses to promise their time or an experience and hold an Auction of Promises online or at an event.

B

Ball

Hold a formal fundraising ball, gowns and all. Use any musical friends for entertainment and see if local businesses will provide the bar/drinks and refreshments for free.

BBQ

Hold this event in your garden and ask for donations and contributions to attend.

Be British

Hold an everything British event - bunting, tea and scones, the Royals, marmite, Colin Firth, The Spice Girls, Wimbledon...the list goes on!

Bingo

Hold your own Bingo - traditional or your own rules!

Breakfast for the world

Host a breakfast with short presentation and ask for donations for entry.

Bungee Jump

Get sponsored to do something brave - though the cost of the jump needs to be covered too.

C

Cake Sale

At home or at work this is always popular ask family and friends to help supply home-baked goods to sell too.

Car Boot Sale

Take a pitch and sell unwanted items at your local Car Boot Sale.

Car Wash

Get donations to wash cars for friends and neighbours.

Cards

Are you creative? Make and sell your own cards.

Card Game Evening

Set up tables with all different card games, serve drinks and refreshments and ask for a donation for entry or to play each game.

Clothes Swap

Hold an event for people to bring their unwanted clothes, where they can swap what they bring for something else and pay a donation for entry or per swap.

Coffee Mornings

Always popular, add your own spark to it!

Collections

Gather a group of helpers to collect donations at your local store, along a sea front or in a town Centre. You might need permission to do this from the store or from the local council.

Comedy Show

Are you funny? Do you have funny friends or associates? Hold a comedy show and charge for entry/tickets.

Curry Night

Organise a dinner party with a difference and sell tickets to attend.

D

Danceathon

Get sponsored by the minute or hour!

Dinner Dance

Good food, a good band and a raffle will help this event go well.

Dinner Party

Utilise a night with your friends to gain some donations!

Disco

Take everyone back to school or to a certain era with a disco.

Dress Down

Would your work or school let you get donations for a dress down day?

Driving

Offer lifts to friends, colleagues and family and ask for a donation.

E

Easter Egg Hunt

If it's that time of year, organise this in your garden or a local park and charge people to take part.

Eating Competition

There's so much that can be done with food and everyone loves healthy competition. See if you can set a record-breaker - local press would have interest in that.

eBay

Register on eBay.co.uk and have fun auctioning off unwanted items.

Exhibition

Invite and charge local crafts-people to exhibit their work and products at an exhibition hosted by you. You could also ask for a donation on entry from visitors.

F

Fancy dress

Everyone loves to dress up, hold a ticketed party or event with a dress up theme such as celebrity couples, things beginning with 'T', cartoon characters etc. with a prize for the best costume.

Fashion Show

Speak to a local shop or boutique and ask them to stage a fashion show in aid of Mission Direct. They will get to showcase their clothing whilst you can ask for donations to attend.

Fasting

Do a sponsored fast and ask for sponsorship per hour or day.

Football Matches

Speak to local clubs about organising a half-time collection or organise your own charity match between local teams.

G

Games Event

All you need is a game and a place to hold it. It could be traditional board games like Monopoly; it could be charades or pictionary, or if you have a console and screen you could charge people to play against each other. Set it up as an evening or use a room at lunch time at work and charge people per play.

Garage Sale

An American favourite, get your community together and use your front garden to sell items you no longer want, and anything donated by your community.

Gents' Night In

Think black tuxes, card games and James Bond type mysteries. Ask your mates to donate what they'd normally spend on a night out.

Girls' Night In

Get your girls together and ask for a donation of what they'd normally spend on a night out. Get a movie, treats and maybe even a bit of pampering.

Golf Tournament

Ask a local club to sponsor this event and help you publicise it to club members and local business people.

H

Hat-making

If you're talented in knitting, crochet or textiles, why not make some hats and use your community, church and online presence to sell them?

Hat Show

Same as a fashion show but with hats!

Head Shave

Find a brave person to raise money by having their head shaved! Or do your own and hold an event to come and watch the big shave, whilst asking for donations!

I

Ikea Builder

Offer to build people's furniture for a donation!

International Day/Evening

A dinner party with a difference with each course from a different country. You could theme it to your mission destination. Think about dress code too as well as music and traditional games.

Irish Event

Celebrate the culture with a jig and some Irish music. A party with a difference!

J

Jazz Event

If you're a musician you could play for donations, or create an event centered around the music and give your attendees a taste of New Orleans.

Jewellery Sale or Evening

One for the ladies – Invite a local jeweller along to talk about their craft and take a percentage of anything they sell. Or make your own and sell online and at craft fairs, in your church and within your community/school.

Jumble Sale

Easy to organise and always popular.

K

Karaoke Night

One for all ages! Ask a local hotel or pub for help organising this.

Keep fit

Hold an exercise class in the park, an exercise challenge or a sponsored fitness goal like going to a class or running 5K everyday for a month.

Kings

Hold a themed event for people to dress as and guess kings in history. Or let someone win a competition and treat them as King for the day!

Knitting

Hold a knitathon, a knitting morning with coffee or just lend your hand to the needles and sell what you make.

L

Leap Year

If you're fundraising in a leap year, speak to your employer about using that day to match funds or hold an event.

Line-dancing Evening

Keep fit and raise vital funds at the same time. This is a dance for all ages!

Lunchathon

Ask work or school if you could cook and provide lunch for a day and ask for donations or charge a fee.

M

Mad Hatters Tea Party

A fun theme for a daytime or evening do.

Marathon

And this doesn't have to be of the running kind - though they're great too! Have a marathon of films, music sets, hair styling, massage...a marathon of anything!

Matched giving

Ask your employer and/or other local businesses if they'll match what you raise. The worst they can say is no!

Mile of Pennies

Ask pupils at local schools and workplaces to collect coins in a Smarties tube and on a set day try to make a mile of pennies around the playground, workplace or town.

Moveable Supper Party

Starters in one house, mains in another etc., etc.!

Murder Mystery Party

Not for the faint hearted!

Mulled wine

If it's that time of year, hold an evening of mulled wine or cider and music.

N

Happy New Year

Even if it's not that time of year, create a NYE party and celebrate at midnight!

Name the...

Create a competition to name something and give a small prize for the winning entry or guess

Nature week

Spend a week not using anything manmade and eating only organic - can you do it?

Nearly New Sale

Organise a sale of clothes, unwanted presents or children's toys.

No make-up day

Get donations to do a day without makeup and take a selfie wherever you go. Or go even further and do a 'Natural week'

Non-Uniform day

An easy fundraiser for schools to organise. Pay £1 to come to school in your own clothes.

O

Obstacle course

Set up your own and ask for donations for a go - it could be a challenge for adults, or a fun one for kids - or both!

Office collection day/fundraising day

Could you hold a cake sale, collection box, Olympics or such in your office for a day?

Open house day

Open up your home and offer tea, coffee and refreshments for anyone passing or in the community for a donation

Orienteering

Organise a family challenge day

P

Pamper day

Treat the ladies and gents in your community to a bit of pampering or just have your friends over. If you have a skill, use it, or see if a local business would donate their time to get their name out there.

Pancakes!

People love an excuse to make and eat pancakes! Sell them, have a flipping competition or have a competition for the best filling.

Parachuting

Research local centres and organise a leap into the unknown! Go to www.skylineparachuting.co.uk for more information.

Plant sale

Sell cuttings of all your favourite plants to family, friends and colleagues.

Products

What can you make and sell?

Pub Games Evening

Teams pay to enter for skittles, dominoes, pool, darts etc.

Q

Queens

Hold a themed event for people to dress and guess queens in history. Or let someone win a competition and treat them as Queen for the day!

Quiz Events

Always popular, organise an interdepartmental quiz at work or get together in a local hotel for a quiz night.

Quit it

What would you give up for a certain amount of time to raise money? People need to know it's something that is hard for you to give up

R

Raffle

Raffle tickets should not be sold externally from the event unless a local authority licence is arranged by the organisers. Cloakroom tickets sold at the event are fine but should be drawn as individual numbers and not as strips of numbers. Our fundraising team would be delighted to help you organise an appropriate raffle for your event.

Recipe Book

Ask friends, family and colleagues for their favourite recipes and put them together in a book. Sell it in Schools, Companies or at local events.

Running

Get sponsored for a running event or create your own challenge.

S

Scrabble marathon

How many games can you get going at once?

Silence!

Could you be quiet for a day, a week?

Skydive

Factor in the cost of doing it, but the fear factor involved in this is always a good fundraiser!

Sponsored Events

Run, swim, slim or sit in a bath of beans! Ask friends and colleagues to find a fun way to raise sponsorship.

Sunday Brunch

The ideal way to get together with friends after a brisk walk – ask for donations.

Sweepstakes

Think ‘how many sweets in the jar?’ and suchlike, charge per guess and give a prize for the closest answer.

T

Tea party

As Brits, we know that tea is the answer to everything, so why not hold tea mornings or events - theme them, bake cakes, find as many different types of tea as you can and do it however you like!

Ten Pin Bowling Tournament

Easy to organise and great fun for families.

Theatre Preview

Persuade your local theatre or amateur dramatics society to do and sell tickets in your local community to attend. a preview in aid of Mission Direct.

Three Peaks Challenge

Get sponsored to do it. See www.threepeakschallenge.uk for help with this, or organise it yourself with some friends.

Tombola

Ask family, friends and colleagues to donate a prize for this firm favourite.

Treasure Hunt

Arrange a route with clues leading to the treasure.

Tuck shop

Bake up some goodies and be the tuck shop at work or school for a day!

Tug-of-War

Organise your own event and ask for donations to attend. You could also auction off guesses for the winning time!

U

Uniform free day

Swap your uniform for dress down or fancy dress for a day if your employer/school will allow it. If you're dressing up, get sponsored to dress up in something no one would ever want to wear or that's funny, you'll get more sponsorship for it!

University Challenge

Get together teams who attended different universities and hold a challenge to see which university comes top.

V

Valentines Day Ball

A great excuse to get dressed up and raise money - even if it's not the actual day. Celebrate love! Or hold a day for all the singletons you know to get together and party - speed-dating, a ball, a sponsored dance...

Variety Concert

Seek out talented friends and colleagues and put on a show, charging for admission of course.

Vintage

Organise a vintage sale and see what you have in the loft and what people in the community may donate to sell. Or hold a themed event - think Downton Abbey!

W

Walk

How far will you walk to raise money? You could do it in fancy dress, climb it, do it blindfolded, or just do an incredible distance.

White Water Rafting

Get a team together and find your nearest Centre.

Wine tasting evening

Invite a local wine merchant to bring along a range of wines and charge people to attend the tasting.

X

X Factor

Organise your own version of the TV hit show.

Y

Year challenge

What would you do everyday for a year?

Yes Day

Ask people to sponsor you to say 'yes' to peoples' (reasonable) demands for a day!

Yoda

Could you speak like Yoda for a day?

Z

Zumba marathon

Ask your local council if you could hold a Zumba marathon in the town hall or square - get people to sponsor you beforehand for each minute or hour and also have a collection bucket at the event.