

101 Fundraising Ideas

- 1. “Fill-in-the-blank” Parties:** Host a fun event using a creative name to catch attention. Who couldn't resist attending one of these: Cocktails for Cancer, Blockparty for Babies, Pub Crawl for Pediatric Intensive Care Unit?
- 2. “Sit” for Donations:** Baby-sit, pet-sit, house-sit. Offer services to the neighbors to get them involved.
- 3. Ask your auto mechanic or dry cleaner** for a donation, or for coupons that you can use at a fundraising party or raffle.
- 4. Ask your chiropractor and therapist** for a donation.
- 5. Ask your doctor(s), dentist and veterinarian** for a donation.
- 6. Ask your hair stylist:** If not a donation in the form of a check, then perhaps in the form of haircuts! See if he/she will host a hair-cut-a-thon in the salon (or in your garage!). You can probably raise more donations in two hours of haircutting than you can imagine — be sure to get the word out!
- 7. Ask your lawyer and insurance agent** for a donation.
- 8. Ask your neighbors:** Write a note to all of the neighbors on your block or in your apartment building to ask for donations. Include an update on your fundraising progress.
- 9. Ask your travel agency** for a plane ticket to raffle off, a night in a hotel, or a weekend getaway.
- 10. Ask your yoga instructor or personal trainer for a donated class:** Invite your friends to attend a special yoga/aerobics/step class donated by a trainer. Their admission fee of \$20 becomes a donation, and the trainer gets the chance to build their client base. It's a win-win for all.
- 11. Ask your yoga instructor or personal trainer** for a donation.
- 12. BakeLESS Bake Sale:** Ask your co-workers and friends to participate in your BakeLESS sale by NOT having to find a recipe, not having to purchase ingredients, not having to mix, and not having to bake.
- 13. Bartender:** Ask your favorite bar if you can guest bartend for a night and keep all of your tips. Make sure you invite all of you friends to come in that night.
- 14. Beat the Goalie:** Pick the best hockey or soccer goalie you know and invite people to try to score a goal for a prize. Every participant has to pay to play.
- 15. Benefit night at a local restaurant:** Check in with your favorite local hangouts. Many restaurants already have programs in place to help you fundraise at their establishment. Be a guest bartender? A guest griller? Or hand out coupons to their establishment for a percentage of profits for that evening.

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- 16. Benefit Night:** Throw a fundraising party at a local establishment. Charge your guests an entrance fee (donation). But also make sure to ask that local restaurant, ice cream parlor or teacher's supply store, to support you with a donation of 10% (or more!) of the night's sales — don't be too shy to ask. Also, check with your local restaurant to see if they are willing to support you with a donation of 10% (or more!) on an evening even without a fundraising party — again, don't be too shy to ask. Many local restaurants will support walkers by donating a portion of an evening's profits. You can offer to generate a flyer to promote patrons coming to their establishment to help increase their business, and thus your percentage.
- 17. Birthday:** In lieu of a gift for your birthday, ask your friends and family to make a donation on your fundraising page.
- 18. Bowling Party:** Ask your local bowling alley to donate some lanes for a fundraising party. Invite your office-mates as a team-building experience, your neighbors, your family or a group of old friends. Charge at the door.
- 19. Car Wash — Take Two:** Go to your local car wash and talk with the owner/manager about doing a fundraising event there. Many people go to the same car wash every week. Post flyers a week in advance and then spend a few hours talking with people about what you are doing at the cashier stand. Hand people a flyer, accept donations!
- 20. Car Wash:** Hold a car wash — either in your neighborhood, at your place of worship, or at your place of business. Ask local businesses to donate the supplies you will need and ask your friends to help wash. Add a bake sale; sell chilled bottles of water (that have been donated). If you have enough help, consider adding a dog wash!
- 21. Change It:** Start a competition between classes or families by giving them each a coin jar to collect change for a designated amount of time. The one with the most collected wins a prize.
- 22. Check-Out Donation:** Make up Race donation cards for your desk at work. Co-workers can sign their name or purchase the card in someone else's honor. Hang the donation cards around your office in recognition to those that have donated.
- 23. Children's Birthday Party:** Post signs at local schools and child care centers offering your party planning services for a sizeable donation. Plan a theme party and get supplies, favors, food and beverages donated. If you are crafty, you could even make costumes. Some ideas are a Princess Party or a Harry Potter Party.
- 24. Chocolate Ban:** Ask your co-workers and friends to give up chocolate for a day, a week or a month and give the cash they saved.
- 25. Choose the Torture:** Have donors pay \$1 a vote to decide which form of "torture" to inflict on your company's boss or teacher (i.e. dye hair, dress as a clown, trade a job for a day). Make sure you have your boss or teacher's permission first.
- 26. Coins:** Go to your local mall or shopping center and ask what they do with the coins in the fountain.
- 27. Corporate Matching:** Take advantage of corporate matching gifts programs. Many of your donors may work for companies that have a program like this — their donation could double simply by filling out a form from their Human Resources department and following the steps to submit a matching gift.

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- 28. Corporate Sponsor Shirt:** Identify one corporate sponsor that you can ask for a large donation. Offer to wear their hat or put their company name/logo on your customized event t-shirt.
- 29. Creative Friends:** Ask a local artist or creative friend to donate a piece of art or jewelry that you can auction off.
- 30. Delegate:** Give your close friends donation forms and ask them to get donations for you.
- 31. Dog Show:** Invite your neighbors and friends to show off their dogs in a show. Make it a competition where attendees can vote with money for the dogs that are the cutest, best groomed, most-obedient, etc.
- 32. Dog walking for donations:** Send out a flyer to your neighborhood offering your services to dog walk or dog-sit while the owners are out of town.
- 33. Donation location at work or other highly visible location:** Set up a table in front of your local grocery store. Get permission first, and then ask everyone who enters to support you. While this doesn't sound very glamorous, it's very effective. Remember that in addition to raising much-needed funds, you are also playing an important role in raising awareness. Some walkers give a token (like a sticker) as a thank you to strangers who donate.
- 34. Door to Door for Pennies:** Go door to door asking for pennies. If they try to give you any coins other than a penny, refuse but say that you will gladly take paper money. Most people are confused at the fact that you will only take pennies, but then smile and usually give you some form of paper money.
- 35. Dress-down day:** Co-workers that donate \$10 can have a causal day. Make certain that you ask permission of Human Resources, first.
- 36. Duck Race:** Sell numbered plastic ducks. Set all the ducks afloat in your pool or bring a kiddie pool to school. The person who bought the duck that wins the race gets a prize.
- 37. Egg 'Em On:** Go door to door negotiating with each neighbor for how much they will pay to see you do a crazy stunt with a raw egg (i.e. juggle, crack it on your head, throw it up and catch it).
- 38. For the Birds:** Deliver a group of fake pink flamingos to a neighbor's yard and leave a note asking for a donation to "replant" the flamingos in the yard of the next "victim" the first neighbor designates.
- 39. Fore!** Hold a tournament at a miniature golf course (or set up a fun course in your backyard or park) where people pay to play and the winner gets a prize.
- 40. Forget-me-knots:** Tie a ribbon on your potential donors' fingers and ask them not to remove it until they've made a donation. This is a great way to turn the, "yeah, I promise I'll donate" into action.
- 41. Free Rent:** Get your apartment complex to donate one month's rent to sponsor you.
- 42. Game Night:** Host a game night — Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Poker, Bridge, Bingo. Serve donated food and drinks. Charge at the door.

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- 43. Garage Sale:** Ask all of your friends and neighbors to participate by donating items for sale. Make signs that indicate all proceeds are going to Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. Ask your local paper to run an ad as their contribution. Add a bake sale and/or lemonade stand, and have a straight donation jar visibly displayed. Don't forget to have plenty of donation forms on hand!
- 44. Garden Tour:** Hold a garden tour at your home or at a local historical home. Have the tour promoted through your local newspaper.
- 45. Gardening:** Tend the garden of a neighbor, a local store, or community park for a donation.
- 46. Gold Party:** Ask your pals to bring their old/broken gold then deliver to a gold dealer and donate what they give you for the gold.
- 47. Gym:** Ask your gym if you, or they, can teach an aerobics, yoga or spinning class as a benefit for you.
- 48. Hair Salon:** Ask your hair salon if they will donate \$2 from each haircut over the course of a weekend to the event you are participating in benefiting Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach.
- 49. Holiday Ornament Sale:** Create special ornaments and sell to your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.
- 50. Host a coffee get-together** at your home or at a local coffee shop. Ask your favorite coffee shop to donate the coffee (and maybe even some goodies!). Invite your neighbors and friends. Get creative and have them sign your shirt or sign pieces of fabric to attach to your shirt, etc. You'll have the coolest shirt on event day! Suggest a donation of \$20 (or more!).
- 51. House Party:** Host a fundraising party at your home for friends, family, co-workers, neighbors. Share your experience at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach and your reasons for walking; then ask them to support you.
- 52. House-Warming:** In lieu of a house-warming gift, ask your friends and family to make a donation on your fundraising page.
- 53. Ice Cream Bar:** Everyone loves a little mid-week treat. Just stock up on popsicles and charge people for them.
- 54. It's a Bust:** Sell balloons for \$10 each and insert a number in each that corresponds to a raffle ticket given to the purchaser. Mix the inflated balloons and pop one - that person will win a prize.
- 55. Jellybean count:** Fill a jar with jellybeans and have people pay to guess how many there are in the jar.
- 56. Karaoke Bar:** Ask your local karaoke bar to host a benefit night. Invite all of your friends; charge at the door.
- 57. Kids' Game Day:** Invite your kid's friends, nieces and nephews, the neighborhood kids, the soccer team, to a game day at a local park. Like a drop-off party, you coordinate a couple of hours of fun activities and ask the parents for a donation in exchange. Tetherball, Four Square, Jump Rope, Potato Sack races, Yo-Yo contests, you name it! Have donated snack food and juice boxes available to round out the fun.

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- 58. Lemonade Stand:** Make lemonade, post signs, and sell it on a hot day.
- 59. Make it Up:** Send out invitations to a made up event and offer invitees tickets to support Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach without having to leave home.
- 60. Movie Party:** Host a movie party at your house. Every time the word "walk" is said in the movie, everyone antes up \$1 in a donation bowl. Have pizza donated and charge at the door.
- 61. Movie/TV Marathon:** Host a movie or TV series marathon. Choose a theme (Hitchcock, I Love Lucy, Gilligan's Island, Seinfeld) and start the popcorn! Charge at the door. Enhance the theme with a suggested \$1 donation every time a specific word or phrase is spoken, every time Hitchcock himself appears, or every time Jerry has an "aside" with Elaine.
- 62. National Holidays:** Don't forget about Fourth of July and Labor Day weekend and all of those picnics. Bring your donation forms and a donation jar — ask everyone in attendance.
- 63. Pancake Breakfast:** Host a pancake breakfast at a school, park or place of worship. Charge a fee. Get the pancake mix and other food items donated by local stores. Make it an annual event.
- 64. Pet Birthday Party:** Have a fun birthday party for your pet — or a friend's pet. Serve dog biscuits and ask everyone to wear ears! Charge at the door. Take photos of your guests with the guest of honor.
- 65. Poker Tournament Party:** Set up some tables and snacks and let the bluffing begin. Charge a fee to join the tournament and winner takes the rest or donates a portion to the "house." Make it an annual event.
- 66. Pub Trivia:** Hold or find a pub that already has a trivia night where players pay to participate and the winner gets a prize.
- 67. Pump it Up:** Coordinate with a local gas station for you and your team to serve as gas station attendants who pump gas and clean windshields for donations for a day.
- 68. Rappin Teacher:** Put the names of your teacher on jars (teachers that say they want to participate) and sell tickets to your classmates for a dollar a ticket. Count up the totals and the teacher that had the most tickets must lip-sync to "Rapper's Delight" in front of the whole school.
- 69. Reserved Parking:** Sell raffle tickets to your teachers or co-workers for \$1 a piece. The ticket that get's pulled gets to park in the closest parking spot for a week. Be sure to get permission from your school or workplace first.
- 70. Retirement Gift:** In lieu of a retirement party gift, ask your office to support you on your donation page. What an incredible way to kick off your new life!
- 71. Reverse Raffle:** All friends, family members, classmates, neighbors get a raffle ticket and sell it back for \$10 to avoid getting their name drawn to do something embarrassing.

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- 72. Rock On!** If you know musicians, ask them to perform a benefit concert at a backyard BBQ, block party or local club. The admission ticket becomes a donation.
- 73. Save a "Pear":** Get a grocery store to donate some pears and set up a table outside with a sign that says "Save a 'pear' — make a donation to Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach today".
- 74. Scrapbooking Party:** Host a scrapbooking party at your house, or at the local store. Ask a pro to lead an inspirational idea exchange and have some great samples on display, some special supplies and/or discounts for attendees. Serve donated food and drinks and charge at the door.
- 75. Secret Word Jar:** Keep a jar on your desk at work or at home and ask your colleagues and family to drop in \$1 every time they say a bad word or say a secret work like "banana."
- 76. September:** Back-to-School supplies sale. See if you can get your local store to help out.
- 77. Servers:** Ask the servers or bartenders at your favorite hangout to donate a portion of their tips for a week.
- 78. Silent Auction:** Ask some local businesses to donate items or gift certificates and hold a silent auction at your fundraising event, or on a payday at work. Things like a book of car wash certificates, \$10 off dry-cleaning, movie passes, play tickets, restaurant gift certificates, pet-grooming, a week of free coffee; the list is endless! Set minimum donation limits and allow people to bid them up. Some walkers even get their place of business to agree to set up a silent auction for one item every Friday at work. They get something donated and the office has fun bidding on something new each week.
- 79. Skip the Starbucks:** Ask your co-workers and friends to give up their Starbucks coffee for one week and donate what they normally spend.
- 80. Social Media Call:** Post the link to your fundraising page on your Facebook and Twitter page WEEKLY.
- 81. Spa Night:** Ask your local nail salon to donate a portion of their sales for manicures and pedicures on a certain day. Get all of your friends and family to go and have fun.
- 82. Spaghetti Dinner:** Encourage your place of worship, work, school or other organization to host a spaghetti dinner to benefit Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. Have all of your friends help with the cooking to make an event where families are welcome and are charged a donation entrance fee to join in the fun. Or organize a potluck party along the same lines where everyone brings a dish to pass and gets to socialize with friends and neighbors. The entrance fee to the party becomes your donation.
- 83. Spare Change:** Ask your favorite restaurant or local pub to put out a jar for donations of spare change. Decorate it with pictures and maybe a balloon. Anything to get someone's attention.
- 84. Speak at a place of worship:** Ask your local place of worship if you can speak to their congregation about Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach and your commitment to the cause after a service. Set up a table to collect donations afterwards.
- 85. Special Screening:** Ask your local movie theatre to donate a special screening of a new release. Invite everyone you know and make flyers to get the word out. Charge at the door. Ask if the theatre will also donate a percentage of the concession sales for your event!

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- 86. Spinning Class:** Hit up your spinning class instructor and classmates. Set a goal at the beginning of the class, and if it's met, everyone donates \$1 per mile — or \$1 per minute.
- 87. Squeegee Day:** Set up a window cleaning station at a local drive thru and ask people to donate money to have their windshields washed.
- 88. Super Change Jar:** Ask all of your friends and family to put aside their spare change to be added to the super change jar. Every month or so, empty it out and let everyone know how much “a little at a time” adds up! This is a great idea to put into action at work, too. Decorate the jar with inspirational quotes and photos.
- 89. Sweets Party:** Have a dessert auction at work! Ask local restaurants, bakeries and grocery stores to donate yummy desserts. Post signs at work well in advance and then bring all of the desserts in to work on Friday.
- 90. Tea Party:** Host a traditional High Tea, or ask a local hotel to do so on your behalf. Charge at the door.
- 91. The Power of 10:** Ask 10 friends to donate \$10 each to reach a fundraising milestone of 100 dollars!
- 92. Theme Dinner:** Hold a theme dinner party for at least 10 of your friends with a donation of \$50 a person. Spend just \$20 per person on food and you've raised \$300 in donations. Better yet, have all of the food donated!
- 93. Themed Music/Dance Party:** Host a music/dance night — 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's style. Play all of the old favorites. Ask people to come dressed in costume and dance the night away. Serve donated drinks and food. Charge at the door. You can even ask a DJ if they'd donate an evening for you, so you can have a complete selection of tunes!
- 94. Trendy Bracelets:** Make bracelets or jewelry to sell.
- 95. Tribute Donations:** Encourage your donors to make their donations in “honor of”, “support of”, or “in memory of” someone they know who has treated at MCWHLB. This is a great way to let them feel very much a part of your experience.
- 96. TV Show Party:** Host a party in celebration of the premiere or finale of a favorite TV show. Serve donated hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Charge at the door. This idea is great for inviting friends over to watch your favorite awards shows like the Oscars®, Emmy® Awards, Grammy® Awards, etc. Or, ask a local bar that has a big-screen television to allow you to have the party there and donate a portion of the food and beverage sales.
- 97. Use Your Talent:** Offer any talent or skill that you have for a minimum donation; graphic design, massage, hair stylist, make-up stylist, photography, computer skills, sewing, music, baking, cake
- 98. Used Book Sale:** A more focused and versatile version of a garage sale. Ask everyone you know (co-workers, neighbors, family and friends) to donate any books they have read and are finished with. Choose a time and place to have a used book sale — maybe your local farmer's market, school carnival or community fair.

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- 99. Walk in Public:** Set up a treadmill outside of a store and walk for donations. Set out a donation can for people to drop donations in.
- 100. Wedding Gift:** In lieu of a gift for your wedding, ask your friends and family to make a donation on your fundraising page.
- 101. Wine-Tasting Party:** Have a wine and cheese-tasting party. If you know anyone (who knows anyone!) who owns, manages, or works in a winery — ask if they will host it! Charge at the door. Blind tastings are fun — or dress up the event with some very special vintages.

For questions or assistance, contact Kari Cho at 562.933.1670 or kcho@memorialcare.org