

Fundraising Ideas

Ideas to inspire and assist your fundraising efforts!

Create and manage your personal fundraising webpage.

You can create your own personal fundraising page through SADS. You can customize the page with a personal message, photo, and goal amount. Then send emails to family and friends and direct people here to make online donations. It really is that easy!

Using your network of supporters.

Raising money can be a breeze with the help of your family and friends. Ask a few people to help you brainstorm some ways they can help you fundraise. Know someone who is a gourmet cook, seamstress, or jewelry maker? Host a social function that includes a silent auction and include a homemade dinner for two, tailoring or a specially designed necklace. Other fundraisers such as a car wash, 5K fun run, theme party or yard sale won't be as overwhelming with the help of your friends.

At Work. Put up a sign or poster in the break or lunch room where you work and encourage your coworkers to make a donation. Put up a graph or donations thermometer that shows your progress. Challenge your boss or the company to match what employees give. Post an "Honor Role" with the list of your coworkers who make contributions.

Your Skills-Use either your work or hobby skills to do special things for people in exchange for a donation. Cooking, sewing, carpentry, artistic skills all can turn into donations. You don't have to be an artist, offer to clean houses, wash windows or weed gardens. You can either do work in exchange for donations directly, or leverage your time by raffling or auctioning off your time and skill.

Auctions and Raffles. Many merchants and retail business people find it easier to give merchandise or services in place of cash. These donations can be turned into cash by auctioning or raffling them. It's also possible to auction or raffle your own time and talents.

Look for local business support.

Ask local businesses to donate a portion of proceeds from their sales on a particular day to support your charity. They may also donate goods or services such as certificates, a hotel stay, dog grooming services, spa day, etc. for a silent auction. Or they may simply put out a donation canister next to their cash register.

Sales. Anyone who has had a garage sale knows it's amazing what people will buy. Ask friends and neighbors for donations of items they don't need or baked goods and have a sale. Use **EBay** to auction items.

Parties. Use donated food and door prizes and invite friends (to invite friends) to a pledge party. Make it fun, but also make it educational by making a presentation on SADS programs and ask for donations and pledges. One way of leveraging your own contact list is to ask a small set of your close friends to commit to bringing ten friends each or something like that. Create teams and give prizes to the team that pledges the most.

Additional suggestions and fundraising ideas:

If you have children, see if their class, girl/boy scout troop, youth group might operate a car wash, shovel snow/rake leaves as a service learning project.

Hold a benefit party at a local restaurant, bar, or nightclub where the business is willing to donate the cover charge for the evening to your organization. It's a win-win situation since the business benefits from the sales of food and drink.

Ask auto dealerships to donate \$10-25 to your beneficiary every time someone takes a test drive over the course of a day or week.

Chocolate. You can purchase candy bars at Costco, take them to work, wrapped in a letter and pledge form. Put them out in the lunchroom and let your coworkers' chocolate addictions and guilt work their magic.

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Fund Raising Event Ideas

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas! These are just to get you started. Once you have an event in mind, SADS can put you in touch with others who have done similar things, lend a voice of experience, and give you any of the financial details you need to get started!

Silent or Live Auction

Contact local merchants and businesses about donating goods or services to be auctioned off to raise funds for the SADS Foundation. Remind them that all donations are tax deductible and great advertising. SADS Foundation staff can help with solicitation and tax receipt letters. The auction can be held in conjunction with many of the event ideas listed here.

Choice Event

Do you like to go to the theater? Are you a fan of the local professional sports team? Do you like to ski, boat, snowmobile, or rock climb? Do you enjoy a night at the symphony? Most of venues will donate tickets to charitable organizations. You could get sets of tickets donated, sell them to family and friends, and the money normally paying for a night or day adventure is then donated to the SADS Foundation.

School Fundraising Event

Find out how many kids at your children's school would like to help raise awareness as well as funding for the Foundation. The kids collect sponsorships for participating in specific school sports (jumping rope, track, team sports), events (school dances, bake sales), or community services projects.

Current Professional Sports Event

Hey sports fans, this one's for you. Why not host a sports party with all the fixings and send the money you would have spent out at a sports bar, grill or restaurant to the SADS Foundation? One family in Maryland does this every year by charging an "entrance fee" to their family and friends to watch the Super Bowl together. Everyone has a great time and the SADS Foundation is the beneficiary!

Spa Day

Service providers donate massages, manicures, pedicures, and facials. Participants pay for the services and the service providers get free advertising. The event can be hosted at a house and include neighborhood friends and family, or at a community center and accommodate a larger crowd.

Movie Night

Most movie theaters will rent out a theater for group events on weeknights. Many will also include donated passes that can be sold at regular or discounted ticket prices to all those in attendance. Families and high school kids love this event!

Tournaments: Golf, Tennis, Bowling

Many community and private courses, courts or lanes will assist in arranging for a tournament with as few as 24 players and as many as 100. You could decide the mode of play, the prizes (which could be donated or purchased) and charge an entrance fee. After expenses, the proceeds can be sent to the Foundation.

Fashion Show

Some local merchants will sponsor 'fashion shows' of their merchandise. The models can be community leaders, politicians, or your family! These events are usually held at community centers or hotels and a small entrance fee is charged. The merchant then donates 10% or 15% of any sales that come from the event.

Dinner Party

You can host a dinner evening inviting friends and acquaintances to hear your story and learn more about SADS. This is a wonderful opportunity gather with friends, raise awareness and funds for the SADS Foundation.

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