

A-Z Guide: Ideas for Fundraising

A-

Abseil

Get sponsored to abseil down a tall building. Always a good money-spinner, if you have the nerve!

Arm Wrestling

Hold an arm wrestling competition - get participants to pay to play.

Art

Do you know someone with a talent for photography, painting or sculpture? You might persuade them to auction off one of their works, or just hold an exhibition for which you charge an entrance fee. Artists will enjoy this publicity opportunity too!

As seen on TV

Get people to sponsor you to appear on TV: Big Brother, The X-Factor, Ready Steady Cook, Family Fortunes, Dragons' Den, Eggheads, Britain's Got Talent or maybe just your local news programme.

Auctions and raffles

Ask friends, family and local businesses to donate goods, which you can then raffle or auction. An auction can be a quick and easy way of raising money. Alternatively, sell some 'promises' (e.g. car washing, ironing, other household chores), and auction those, too.

B-

Bad Tie Day

Wear with pride that tie you keep in the back of the wardrobe! Charge your colleagues £1 to come to work wearing theirs.

Balloon race

Sell helium-filled balloons, tag each one with the owner's name and address, and give a prize to the balloon that travels the farthest.

Barbecue

Always popular – on a nice day! Charge for a selection of burgers, sausages etc on a roll. As it's for The Fund, a smoked mackerel roll is a tasty and appropriately 'fishy' alternative – or tuna and prawns if you want to charge a bit more!

Bath fright

Get sponsored to sit in a bath filled with something rather unpleasant – like baked beans!

Battle of the Bands

You're an aspiring Jimi Hendrix, but your friends prefer a Coldplay tune. So battle it out in front of a discerning panel in a friendly bar – £15 per band, £5 a solo artist.

Bicycle ride

Seek sponsorship to go on a challenging bike ride.

Bingo night

A fun night out and a simple way to raise money.

Black tie ball

Put on your best frock or dinner suit for a fabulous night of glitz and glamour to raise funds for the lifeboats. An added dance element may be especially popular these days!

Board gaming

Everyone brings in their favourite board game and pays £1 to take part. You can play in teams or individually.

Book sale

The office book sale is always popular. Sell or give away buns and a slice of cake to entice folk along!

Burns' Night

Host a Burns' Dinner (celebrating Scotland's Bard, Robert Burns) on or around 25 January for your friends and colleagues. Charge for a ticket, for the chance to perform the Bard's verses and songs, or invite the diners to pay to be entertained by their colleagues. This is great fun! If you want to know more about what can be involved, and what to sing and recite, have a wee look at this link:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/robertburns/burnsnight/running_order.shtml

C-

Cabaret

Entertain your guests with music, comedy, refreshments and magic – or karaoke?

Calendar

Design and sell a calendar – something nice and tasteful, mind! It could feature a colleague a month – or colleagues' photographs, colleagues' pets – or colleagues with their pets! What are you waiting for?

Cake sale

The ever-popular cake sale – a great way to raise money in offices. You don't even have to bake the cakes yourself!

Car Wash

Washing colleagues or friends' cars for a donation – especially popular if senior staff are wielding the soapy sponge!

Cocktail night

Charge your guests for making their favourite cocktails.

Coffee morning

A variation on the cake sale theme – always a winner.

Collecting tin

In communal or public areas such as the canteen – invite folk to donate their spare change in aid of a very good cause.

Come dine with me

Create your very own version of the popular TV show. You and a few friends or colleagues all take turns to host a dinner party in one week. At end of each evening, you all rate the host's performance. Ask for a donation to take part.

Climb Everest...

on an indoor climbing wall - and get people to sponsor you.

Cinema at home

Sell tickets and receive all the proceeds that you make on the screenings.

Custard pie throwing

Colleagues and bosses love volunteering to be part of this activity. Everyone feels a lot better afterwards!

D-

Dance competition

There are various forms this can take – not everyone has to be an extrovert, or even a good dancer! Get everyone to perform their very own version of a famous dance routine in front of a panel of judges. Get spectators to pay to watch and contestants to pay to enter - or get sponsored to see how long you can keep dancing!

Diet

Get sponsored – and supported - to lose those few extra pounds.

Disco-mania

Don your dancing shoes and hold a disco in a local hall or hostelry. To keep costs down, you could make your own decorations for the hall as well as prepare the party food. Every office has a budding DJ who has been waiting for this activity to be planned!

Donate

Cut your normal expenditure on public transport or indulgencies, and send us the money you would have spent.

Dragons' Den

Hold your own sporting version of Dragons' Den - contestants pitch new sporting inventions in front of a board of 'investors'. Get everyone to pay £2 per pitch, and the winner gets the admiration of everyone there!

Dress down day

Pay a small sum to come into work wearing your casual gear.

Dress up day

Pay a larger sum to come into work wearing your evening dress.

Duck race

Get a group number of people together to buy numbered ducks, and launch them into a river (remembering to collect them all afterwards!) There is a prize for the duck that finishes first. You might finish off with a barbecue – there's gratitude!

E-

Easter

Easter egg hunt...

Eating competitions

For sampling the weird and wonderful – not for over indulging!

E-mail respite!

Declare a holiday from e-mails and fine those people who can't resist a sneaky peek at their Outlook.

F-

Fancy dress

So much scope for a lot of silliness and fun! Pick a theme – film styles, cartoon characters, 1980s fashion (what was that?) - it's up to you. Be sponsored – and there have to be prizes!

Fashion show

Host a fashion show with support from local clothes shops or designers and charge entry for people to watch it. This could also provide an excuse to dress up in your own favourite outfit!

Fifties night

A themed night for dressing up and dancing to the hits of the decade – or choose another decade, it's up to you.

Film night

Invite your friends and colleagues round to watch DVDs and charge entry.

Film theme challenge

Ask your colleagues to each bring in 3 things to represent a movie - and get them guessing those films. A nice quiz with a difference, and a hamper of film-related goodies is a fitting prize!

Fishy things

A very appropriate way of raising money for The Lifeboat Fund would be a 'fish and chips' themed evening with colleagues paying to take part – or the office canteen might lift the theme for a lunch menu featuring fishy delicacies.

Flower show

Show your finest displays and specimens and sell seeds, cuttings etc. Get your friends and colleagues to join in, and organise some side stalls with leaflets about The Fund.

Football

A full match or a 'beat the goalie' penalty shoot out (see G below) – depends how energetic you are! Run it as a competition and charge for taking part – and for spectating!

G-

Games night

Raise stacks of cash in the comfort of your own home! Simply set up a games console night with your friends and family, or re-live your youth with games like Twister, Trivial Pursuits, Mastermind etc... getting a donation from everyone who wants to take part.

Goalie challenge

Pick the best football goalie in your office or team and invite colleagues and friends to try and score a goal for a prize. Each participant must pay to play.

Golf

Challenge your colleagues to a golf match.

Guest speaker

Invite a guest speaker to give a free talk to your colleagues, social group or in a local hall and charge for entry.

Guess the baby

Ask your colleagues to bring in their baby snaps and see if they can guess the identity of those cuties from their current visages (possibly not so cute).

Guess the number

Put a load of sweeties in a jar and ask colleagues to pay a small amount to guess the number – the closest gets a prize.

H-

Hair

Head-shaves or beard/moustache shaves always raise a lot of money – growing moustaches and beards is another 'colleague-pleaser'. And submitting to leg waxing is a cruel but lucrative way to get sponsorship.

Halloween Party

Charge for entry – it's another chance for games and fancy dress on or near 31 October.

Hall party

A themed hall party: celebrities, cartoon characters... you decide! Collect your colleagues' donations on the door, and let the socialising begin.

Helping hands

Get your colleagues, friends and relatives to sponsor you for helping them out - with lovely tasks like vacuuming, ironing, washing the car, walking the dog and shopping.

I-

International food evening

Enjoy a night of eating cuisines from around the world. Participants cook a dish from a country of their choice and the food is sold at this popular event. You could also cheat and use the local takeaway! Maybe your office canteen might be prepared to theme a lunch in aid of The Lifeboat Fund and make a collection from diners.

Ironing

Offer your ironing skills, at a price, to raise money for The Fund.

J-

Jumble Sale

People love a good rummage and it's always a good fundraiser.

Jewellery making

Buy your own beads and make bracelets or necklaces to sell at a craft market or fete.

K-

Karaoke

Hold a karaoke event and charge admission.

Knitting

Make and sell jumpers, scarves, hats and gloves.

L-

Lent

Give something up during Lent and donate to The Fund the amount you have saved.

Lottery

Arrange your own lottery with the winner receiving a prize. The RNLI also offers a Bonus Ball Game that you can order – have a look at their catalogue, for this and other easy-to-run games.

Look-a-like contest

Another fancy dress-based competition.

Lucky dip

Charge a small fee or seek donations to take part in a lucky dip for small presents (e.g. costing up to £5) provided by your colleagues. (A variation on 'Secret Santa'.)

M-

Marathon

Either the ultimate running challenge, or some other kind of endurance test.

Mince pie sale

Ask your colleagues etc for a donation in exchange for these or any other Christmas treats.

Musical entertainment

Host a concert, charging people to attend – or perform.

Murder Mystery Party

Host a 'Murder Mystery' evening in aid of The Fund.

N-

No vices

Get people to sponsor you to give up your favourite treats.

O-

Office Olympics

There are many events you can compete in to become an 'Office Olympic champion'!

Odd jobs

For a fee, do those little jobs or tasks no-one else wants to.

P-

Parachute Jump

Our more intrepid colleagues might dare to leap out of an aeroplane to raise money for the lifeboats. You can choose to jump from a static line, or free-fall, harnessed to an instructor.

Play DJ

Organise a 60s, 70s, 80s night.

Poetry evening

Pay a £5 entrance fee, and compete with other scribes before a (sympathetic) judging panel – haiku are popular!

Present exchange

Bring in unwanted presents and swap with colleagues for a small fee.

Pub quiz

Enter a pub quiz and split your team's winnings with The Fund – or run a quiz in the office where colleagues pay to take part.

Q-

Quad Biking

Go off-road and get to grips with a quad bike at a local centre.

Quiz night

As above, devise your own quiz or use a board game and invite teams to enter.

R-

Raffle

Get people to donate prizes and persuade friends and colleagues to part with £1 a ticket.

Rag Week

Call the week what you will – to raise funds for The Lifeboat Fund Appeal, maybe on Annual Appeal Day! Collect from colleagues and in public offices.

Ransom for a good cause

All you need are some willing VIPs (very important prisoners) and somewhere to hold them 'captive'. Then it's up to the VIPs to get their colleagues etc to stump up the cash so they can be 'released'.

Recipe Book

Collect colleagues' favourite recipes together in a booklet and sell it for The Fund.

Row the Channel

... or any waterway you fancy (it could be the distance between two lifeboat stations!). This doesn't need to involve water – there will be rowing machines at your local gym. This is a 'fun' team event.

S-

Silence

Raise money by staying silent for a long period of time – not easy!

Silent auction

Collect items to sell and collect bids for them – these are written down, placed in a sealed envelope. The winner is the person who places the highest bid.

Skills auction

Auction off your expertise to the highest bidder. Discover the secret talents of your colleagues, friends and family!

Soaking board

If you run an event with a watery theme, some 'obliging' managers might submit themselves to the dreaded 'soaking board' – tends to be a particularly popular sideshow.

Sponsored swim

Or anything else you fancy being sponsored to do.

Sports team challenge

A sporty 'team-building' event: organise a charity tournament – netball, badminton, five-a-side football etc.

Swear box

Any verbal misdemeanours can earn money for a good cause!

Sweepstakes

The RNLI provides a great 'scratch card' Sweepstake game – check out their catalogue. Play this at your coffee morning in aid of The Lifeboat Fund.

T-

Tea and buns

A good way to raise money in the office – everyone enjoys a bun or cake with their morning tea (or coffee).

Tombola

The raffle where everyone is a winner! Put numbered tickets on the prizes donated, and charge people £1 to pull a ticket out of a hat, or drum. If the numbers match, they win the prize.

Treasure hunt

Hold a treasure hunt where participants pay to take part.

U-

University Challenge

A popular quiz format for any students of life in your office! Raise money for The Fund and for a winners' prize by charging teams to take part and audience members to watch them being challenged!

V-

Valentine's Day events

A popular theme for your fundraising activity. Might link nicely with a Film Theme Challenge, featuring romantic movies (see above)!

W-

Wine & Cheese party

A popular extra-curricular activity and pleasant way to raise money while socialising with colleagues and friends.

Wine tasting

Like the previous one but with a chance to discover who has the most discerning palate!

X-

Xmas

(Excuse the spelling!) Card sales, nominating The Lifeboat Fund as your Card Aid charity for a corporate card (one third of the price is donated), hamper raffles, Secret Santa –

Christmas is always a great time to focus on giving to good causes.

Christmas Fairs (or Fayres, if your theme chimes with 'yesteryear') are also successful during the traditional giving season. Hampers – made up with items donated by colleagues – can be bid for at auction to raise donations.

Y-

Yacht Racing

Model yachts providing an appropriately nautical theme for a fundraiser – and an alternative to ducks!

Z-

Zoo Quiz

Animals are always a popular theme: you can organise this yourself, or local zoos who provide corporate events' venues may supply competitions/quiz sheets for visiting teams at Away Days etc.