

St Mary's Hospice

A-Z of Fundraising

If you are stuck for ideas why not take a look at this A-Z of Fundraising guide to discover some fun ways to help us raise funds!

A

- **Abseil:** Scale the dizzy heights of a local landmark or office block.
- **Aerobics:** Organise a sponsored aerobathon with the help of gyms, leisure centres and sports shops.
- **Afternoon tea:** Put the kettle on and get baking. Entertain guests with raffles, auctions, tombolas & live music
- **Air miles:** Collect your own, then raffle them off.
- **Arts/crafts stall:** Make jewellery, greetings cards, cakes etc. to sell on a stall.
- **Art exhibition:** Stage an exhibition for local artists. Charge entrance fee and commission.
- **'As New' sale:** AKA posh jumble sale. Ask everyone you know for unwanted belongings & hold a sale evening.
- **Auction:** Auction off original items, taking a percentage of sales.
- **Auction of services:** Auction services of people and businesses - anything from singing lessons to dinner for two.

B

- **Bad tie day:** Charge your colleagues a pound to come in wearing their loudest tie. Award the winner.
- **Baked bean bath:** Get sponsored to spend the day in a bath/jacuzzi of baked beans. Charge friends to join you.
- **Balloon race:** Sell balloons that are filled with helium; the purchasers' name and address are written on a tag fixed to the balloon. The balloon that travels the furthest wins a prize.
- **Balloon rides:** Offer as a prize for raffle/auction, or sell trips in a chartered balloon.
- **Barbecue:** Add stereo, football and rounders bats and make it a whole day's event.
- **Barn dance:** Swing into action by hiring a caller and traditional country band. Serve food & plenty of cider.
- **Battle of the bands:** Contest for unsigned bands, where audience votes on the winner. Charge bands to enter, offer cash prizes and invite record producers. Sell tickets and set up a paying bar.
- **Beat the goalie:** Score a goal and win a prize. Footballers pay to enter.
- **Beer festival:** Stock up on international beers, food and music. Remember to check licensing laws.
- **Bingo:** Hold a one-off evening or regular morning sessions.
- **Board games evening:** Invite friends over to play Scrabble, Monopoly, Cluedo and more. Charge entrance or game fee.
- **Boat race:** Teams build model boats and race them. Alternatively, use real yachts, dinghies or canoes.
- **Boat trips:** Organise a cruise down a nearby river or canal. Include refreshments & entertainment.
- **Book sale:** Sell old books, collected from everyone you know. Book dealers may buy leftover stock.
- **Bouncy castle:** A great way to keep kids entertained at bigger family events. Bouncing fee.
- **Bungee jump:** Raise sponsorship by flying in the face of fear.
- **Burns Night:** Theme evening with Scottish dancing, Haggis, Nepes and Tatties. Admission fee.
- **Bus pull:** Gather a team & get sponsored to heave a bus through town. More teams? Make it a race.

C

- **Cake stall:** Hold a traditional cake stand at fetes or fairs. Check health and safety regulations.
- **Calendars:** Design & sell a pictorial calendar for your company. Departments/suppliers may sponsor pages.
- **Candle making:** Make and sell candles at craft fairs or coffee mornings.
- **Car boot sale:** Cash in your old belongings, or sell pitches. Raise more with bouncy castles, raffles, etc.
- **Car treasure hunt:** Drive from clue to clue in search of the 'treasure'. Teams pay to enter.
- **Car wash:** Wash cars at shopping centre or office car parks.
- **Carnival:** Arrange a colourful carnival for your town, charging for each float entered.
- **Carol concert:** Host a festive concert for your community. Earn extra by selling minced pies & mulled wine.
- **Carol singing:** Get a group to go door-to-door singing. Bigger public displays may require a licence.
- **Casino evening:** Hire gaming tables and a hall for the evening.
- **Chariot race:** Teams race decorated 'chariots' - anything from a horse and cart to a sedan chair.
- **Charity ball:** Raise sponsorship the sophisticated way. Organise a themed ball with DJ or live music at a hotel or nightclub. Charge for tickets, but boost your earnings with games and raffles.
- **Charity push:** Get sponsored to cover a set distance in a bed, shopping trolley, bathtub, wheelie bin...

- **Children's party:** Organise children's parties or activities, but be sure to check relevant childcare practices.
- **Christmas draw:** Sell tickets and ask local firms to supply prizes. Check regulations about public draws & raffles.
- **Classic car show:** Well-organised classic car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.
- **Coach trips:** Coach trips to London, Blackpool, flower shows, etc, are popular. Sell tickets and hold a raffle.
- **Coconut shy:** Easily arranged game for traditional fairs. All you need are a few coconuts and wooden balls.
- **Coffee morning:** It's open house for the morning. Make extra with raffles, bring and buy sales and cake stalls.
- **Collecting tins:** Trusted fundraiser for busy pedestrian areas. St Mary's will supply tins, stickers and leaflets.
- **Concerts:** Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.
- **Cookery demo:** Invite well-known chefs to share the recipe of their success with a ticket-paying audience.
- **Copper collection:** Ask people to donate their collections of one and two pence pieces.
- **Cricket match:** Assemble a team and challenge your county team to a match. Charge spectators.
- **Crossword contest:** Compile a huge crossword, so punters pay per clue. Each number hides a ticket for prize draw.

D

- **Dance:** Barn dances, tea dances, disco dances, salsa dances - whatever rocks your boat.
- **Darts tournament:** Challenge all the pub teams in the area to compete for cash prizes, or a barrel of beer.
- **Dinner and cabaret:** Hire a popular and spacious restaurant. Entertain ticket holders with music, comedy & magic.
- **Disco:** Spin the decks or hire a DJ to stage a themed disco night.
- **Dog show:** Charge proud pet-owners to show off their pooches. Ask pet shops to sponsor the event.
- **Duck race:** Sell numbered plastic ducks and launch them from a bridge. The duck to finish first wins.

E

- **Easter egg hunt:** Edible hide and seek. Charge entry fee and ask confectioners to provide the eggs.
- **Eating marathon:** Get sponsored to stuff your face with as many baked beans/grapes/pies etc. as possible.
- **Eyebrows:** Get sponsored to shave them off - they grow back eventually!

F

- **Face painting:** Get creative with face paints at fetes, fairs and children's parties.
- **Fancy dress:** Jazz up your event with a fancy dress contest. Charge entrance fee.
- **Fashion show:** Ask businesses to sponsor venue, outfits or catwalk. Charge admission and sales commission.
- **Fete:** Reach the whole community by holding a fete, or team up with organisers of an annual event.
- **Film evening:** Recreate an evening of vintage cinema by showing classic films and musicals.
- **Fireworks:** Weather permitting, firework displays are massive fundraisers. Check out safety precautions.
- **Flower arranging:** Make your own fresh, dried or silk arrangements to sell at craft fairs or fetes.
- **Flower show:** Always popular. Boost funds with competitions, advice corners & side stalls.
- **Football tournament:** Schedule fixtures and charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.
- **Foreign coins:** Ask people to donate their leftover holiday coins. Change into sterling once you have enough.
- **Fun day:** Arrange games, music, competitions and stalls at a nearby hall or sports club.
- **Furniture sale:** Hire a large hall to sell donated furniture and old office equipment. Take sales commission.

G

- **Game show:** Host mock version of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire or The Weakest Link. Otherwise adapt board games for big audiences, and get prizes donated.
- **Garage sale:** Sell off all your unwanted belongings.
- **Garden party:** Sell tickets or invite guests to make a donation.
- **Gardening:** Offer your gardening services to friends and family.
- **Glamorous gran:** Go in search of your area's most glamorous gran. Charge contestants to enter, and ask local hair and beauty salons to donate prizes. Invite the local press.
- **Go kart grand prix:** Hold a Go Kart Grand Prix at the nearest track. Drivers pay entrance fee.
- **Greeting cards:** Make and sell cards for every occasion. Find out about selling Christmas cards for your charity.
- **Guess the ???:** Competitors guess how many sweets in the jar, a cake's weight, etc. The closest answer wins.
- **Guest speaker:** Invite a guest speaker and sell admission tickets. Boost funds with raffle & refreshments.
- **Guided tours:** Take tourists and visitors on locally guided walks or trips.
- **Gunge tank:** Charge fairgoers to drop their relatives, friends or enemies in tank of last week's leftovers.

H

- **Halloween party:** Another excuse to dress up and party. Charge entrance fees and raise money trick or treating.
- **Head shave:** Sick of bad hair days? Go bald for charity.
- **Hook-a-duck:** Fete and fair game. Ask local companies to donate prizes.
- **Hoopla:** Fete and fair game. Ask local companies to donate prizes.
- **Household sale:** Sell off all your unwanted belongings.

I

- **Inflatable:** Put a bounce into your summer fete with an inflatable fly wall, boxing ring or gladiator court.
- **Ironing:** Offer your ironing services - at a cost.
- **It's a Knockout:** Revive the 80s game show by inviting teams to compete in silly games in silly costumes.

J

- **Jailbreak:** Dump teams in the middle of nowhere. With no money or transport, see who gets back to base first. Charge entrance fees and offer prizes.
- **Jazz festival:** Play your own brand of jazz, or stage a show for local musicians. Sell tickets and refreshments.
- **Jewellery making:** Buy your own beads and get threading. Sell your products at markets and craft fairs.

K

- **Karaoke:** Arrange your own Pop Idol contest. All you need is a machine, a room and a well-stocked bar.

L

- **Left-handed day:** Try doing everything with your left hand for the day.
- **Line dancing:** It's all the rage. Just make sure you have a caller and plenty of drink!

M

- **Marathons:** Get sponsored to run a traditional 26-mile race.
- **Medieval evening:** Themed evening of medieval food, jousting and entertainment.
- **Mile of pennies:** Make a mile of pennies in your town centre. Ask shoppers to help by donating their coins.
- **Mini-Olympics:** Invite everyone you know to compete in traditional & silly sports. Charge entry.

N

- **Nature trail:** Offer guided walks to natural beauty spots.
- **New Year resolutions:** Get sponsored to stick to your new year's resolutions.

O

- **Open Garden:** Open your garden to visitors. Sell tickets, refreshments, plants and vegetables.
- **Opera night:** Stage an opera evening in your area, or arrange a trip to see a big London production.
- **Ornament sale:** Set up a market/fair stall. Alternatively, plan your own event and charge for pitches.
- **Outward bound:** Go climbing, hiking, camping, etc. Seek sponsorship.

P

- **Paintballing:** Organise paintballing challenges at locally run centres. Players pay to enter.
- **Pancake race:** Get flipping on Shrove Tuesday. Charge teams to enter, and spectators to eat.
- **Pantomime:** Your chance to play the ugly sister. Stage a production with friends, family and colleagues.
- **Parachute jump:** Daredevils only. Get sponsored to take the plunge.
- **Parties:** Pick a venue, a date, a theme... and party on. Sell tickets and charge for extras like food.
- **Personalised gifts:** Sell uniquely personalised gifts for special occasions.
- **Petrol tokens:** Trade in petrol tokens for gifts, which can be used as raffle or competition prizes.
- **Pick a cork:** Fair game. Pick a numbered cork out of a board. If the number's a winner, claim a prize.
- **Pick a ticket:** Fair game. Pick a numbered ticket from a bucket. If the number's a winner, claim a prize.
- **Picture framing:** Frame and sell prints of local scenes, or pictures relevant to your charity.
- **Plant a tree:** Seek sponsors for a "plant a tree" scheme.
- **Plant sale:** Sell donated plants or rent out pitches to traders.
- **Playstation play-off:** Organise a league of players and compete on a certain game. Charge entrants.
- **Play your cards right:** Fair game made famous by Bruce Forsyth. Guess higher or lower 6 times running & win a prize.
- **Pledges:** Gather pledges of support, donations and services. These could be auctioned or raffled off.

- **Pop concert:** Hire a venue and invite local bands to play. Sell tickets and set up stalls.
- **Postage stamps:** Collect and sell foreign and unusual stamps to dealers.
- **Private tuition:** Whether it's French or Flamenco, sell your skills with private lessons.
- **Programmes:** Get businesses to advertise in event programmes. Number programmes & use as raffle tickets.
- **Promotional gifts:** Sell promotional gifts with your charity/organisation logo on.
- **Pub games night:** Stage a championship of traditional pub games - darts, skittles, dominoes, cards, etc.
- **Puppet show:** Pull in the crowds with a traditional Punch & Judy show, or something more innovative.

Q

- **Quizzes:** If your local doesn't run a pub quiz, set one up. Test the regulars on pop, trivia or sport.

R

- **Race night:** The race is run on a large screen after all bets have been taken. A typical evening consists of eight races. Props (and film) are supplied by race operators. Some gaming regulations apply.
- **Raffle:** Ask local firms to donate prizes and sell tickets. Check raffle laws with charity.
- **Raft race:** Teams compete by building their rafts and racing over a set distance. Teams pay to compete.
- **Ramble:** Take to the countryside for a mass walkabout. Throw in a theme (fancy dress, singles, three legged, Easter), and charge for entry and refreshments.
- **Recipe book:** Publish favourite recipes from local restaurants and chefs.
- **Recycling collections:** Collect paper, aluminium, glass, etc, and sell on to recycling companies.
- **Refreshments:** Sell teas, coffees, sandwiches, biscuits, cakes, etc. at any fundraising event.
- **Roll-a-ball:** Fair game where player rolls a ball through a hole at the end of a bowling-type alley.
- **Roll-a-coin:** Fair game where player rolls a coin down a chute aiming to land on a playing card.
- **Roll the dice:** Roll six sixes and win a car! You need a big event... and car sponsor to make this worthwhile.

S

- **Safari supper:** Travel from restaurant to restaurant, having a different course at each stop. Ask restaurants to support your efforts, but set cover charge to include all food and your cut.
- **Sale of Xmas gifts:** Sell Christmas cards, wrapping, gifts, food and drink.
- **Santa's Grotto:** Pull on your white beard and brush up your "ho, ho, ho".
- **Scavenger hunt:** Variation on the treasure hunt where participants have a list of items to collect.
- **Scrap metal:** Collect scrap metal and sell it to a scrap metal dealer or re-cycling plant.
- **Shoe shine:** Get down on your knees at your nearest train station or shopping centre.
- **Shopping coupons:** Trade in loyalty points for money or goods (to be used as prizes).
- **Silver collections:** Ask supporters to donate their loose change collections.
- **Skittles:** Make an evening event out of this traditional pub game.
- **Slimming contest:** Arrange with local slimming clubs. Participants get sponsored £1 for every pound lost.
- **Sponge throwing:** Players pay to chuck sopping wet sponges at whoever's in the stocks.
- **Sponsored silence:** Mum's the word. Stay silent for as long as you can.
- **Sports competition:** Whatever your game, organise a tournament. Sell tickets, and organise stalls, raffles, etc.
- **Stage play:** Raise the curtain on a local Am Dram production.
- **Stationary cycle:** Don't fancy the map reading? Forget cycling to Paris, but cover the same distance at the gym.
- **Street entertaining:** Get juggling, tight rope walking, unicycling...
- **Swap shop:** Put unwanted items in touch with loving homes. Charge swappers to participate.
- **Swear box:** Spend a £1 for every \$@*£\$! uttered. Put a box at home, at work and at the pub.
- **Swimathon:** Get sponsored per length, mile, minute, hour...

T

- **Tabletop sale:** Indoor variation on the car boot sale. Charge for table hire.
- **Talent competition:** Discover Britain's next big thing with your own talent show. Charge entry and offer prizes.
- **Ten-pin bowling:** Bowling alleys often have special rates for big groups & charity evenings.
- **Tin can alley:** Traditional fair game. Knock down the stack of tin cans and win a prize.
- **Tombola:** Pick a raffle ticket out of a barrel and match it with a ticketed prize. Fair & fete favourite.
- **Toy sale:** In the run up to Christmas, toy sales can be big fundraisers.
- **Treasure hunt:** Sniffing out the clues, teams compete against each other to discover the 'hidden treasure'.
- **T-shirts & clothing:** Market your charity, club, company by producing a range of promotional clothing.
- **Tuck shop:** Sell sweets, crisps, cake, drinks, etc. at a children's event.

U

- **Underwear party:** One for the adults! Charge guests to come wearing it, or take commission for selling it.
- **Unwanted presents:** Arrange a post-Christmas sale of unwanted gifts. Ask traders to donate a cut of their takings.

V

- **Variety show:** Comedians, magicians, singers, dancers & musicians all under one roof.
- **Vehicle rally:** Well-organised car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.
- **Visits:** Organising visits to local places or tourist destinations.

W

- **Walks:** Lead organised walks to historical spots and places of interest. Ghost walks are also popular.
- **Water sports:** Let others splash out as you splash in. Teach water sports or get sponsored to take part.
- **Waxing:** A hair-raising experience for the boys. Get sponsored to wax your legs or chest.
- **Weight of the cake:** Fair game. Pay to guess the weight - and win the cake if you're right.
- **Welly throwing:** Fun for every fete and fair. Throwers compete to see whose welly goes furthest.
- **Whisky raffle:** Charge a pound a ticket, and pick a winner for every 25 sold. Check licensing and raffle laws.
- **Windscreen wash:** Charge to wash windscreens at service and petrol stations. Ask permission first.
- **Wine & cheese:** Ask supermarkets to donate the wine and cheese. Sell tickets, and produce to take away.
- **Wine tasting:** Hold tasting sessions for wine companies. Charge commission on wine sold. Arrange a raffle.
- **Woodcutting:** Offer to prune trees or chop firewood for friends and family.
- **Wood working:** Make and sell your own woodcrafts, or give woodturning/woodcarving demonstrations.

X

- **Xmas evening:** Stock up on crackers, pudding and mince pies.
- **Xmas hampers:** Make up and sell your own Xmas hampers. Include food, drink, toys and gifts.

Y

- **Yacht racing:** Participate in regional or national events. Seek sponsorship from local clubs and businesses.
- **Yard of ale:** Challenge yourself and others to a lengthy drinking contest. Charge entry fee.

Z

- **Zodiac evening:** Invite a guest astrologer for a star-studded fundraiser. Charge for entry and horoscopes.

Making that extra £1!

Here are a few ideas on how to make that little bit extra, whatever event you stage:

- Collect loose change in buckets, not tins.
- Get guests to empty their pockets as they leave your event.
- Fine people for not participating or donating enough.
- Stop all proceedings until you hit your target.
- Pass around a pint glass to be filled with pound coins.
- Seek out sponsorship for the food, music or events.
- Produce a souvenir programme (funded by advertising), as well as raffles, draws and auctions.
- Auction off all unclaimed prizes.
- Hire a photographer to take and sell photos of your guests!

Good luck and happy fundraising!

If you would like to find out more about organising your own event, please contact our Fundraising Team on 01229 580305 or email events@stmaryshospice.org.uk

