

## ***Fundraising A-Z***

### **A**

**Ask:** The easiest way to raise money is to ask your friends, neighbors, relatives and anyone you know to make a donation to the March of Dimes's March for Babies event, which you are taking part in. Explain your commitment to the mission of March of Dimes and how meaningful their contribution is.

**Art Sales:** Have preschool and elementary students produce great art and have a show. Parents and friends buy back their budding artists' masterpieces.

**Auctions:** Many teams are putting together live or silent auctions. Teams can make a whole event out of it- work with an auctioneer who will donate his/her time and hold a live auction. A team in MA held a silent auction during their family reunion. Some teams are putting together sports auctions, which are very popular. Collectibles are hot! Auction off the boss- have the boss or department head as your assistant for the day at work.

### **B**

**Baby Sit:** Do extra baby-sitting and give your pay (or at least part of it) to your team's effort. Or baby-sit as a team during a community event.

**Bake Sales:** Hold a bake sale at work or at a busy place- a bank branch held a bake sale once a week for several months. Or have a No-Bake sale where co-workers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

**Bank For a Year:** Get everyone on your team to put in \$2 each week beginning the week after this year's March for Babies. In 50 weeks each team member will have his or her \$100. Or try this – 50 cents every day, in 50 weeks you will have collected, from yourself, \$175 – add just two more friends giving you 50 cents each per day and you will now have a total of \$525 in 50 weeks.

**Birthday Party with a Purpose:** Individuals have had birthday parties and on the invitation they state in lieu of gifts, please bring a check made out to the March of Dimes for March for Babies.

**Block Party:** Put together an old-fashioned block party in a parking lot, or close off a neighborhood street (with permission). Have a band donate a few hours, have a BBQ, do face painting, offer hay rides etc. Have fun and raise money for your team.

**Book Sales:** Do it in conjunction with a publishing house that will donate books or have everyone on your team bring in good condition used paperbacks or hard cover books. Set up a table to sell your books. Get permission to have your table set up in a local mall or plaza, or if you work for a large employer, set it up in the break or lunch room.

**Boss for the Day:** Allow people to bid on being boss for the day-high bid wins.

**Bowl-a-thon:** Some student teams have been holding bowl-a-thons, where they get pledges per pin they knock down.

**Bowling Chance:** \$1 gives you the chance to throw 2 balls (toy bowling set). If you strike your name is entered into a drawing 2 times. If you throw a spare with your second ball your name is entered into the drawing once. Team is to solicit a nice prize for the drawing.

**Breakfast With:** Put together a breakfast with Santa or the Easter bunny. Work with a local restaurant or your team can do it themselves at a hall or club. Have someone in costume and sell tickets, also have pictures taken. Could also use this as breakfast with the mayor or other high profile person.

**Brown Bag Lunch Day:** Everyone brings in their own lunch and donates the money they would have spent to the March for Babies fund.

## C

**Can and Bottle Drive:** Set up at a central location and collect cans and bottles from passerbys. Return for deposit to nearest redemption center. You will need pick up trucks to carry the cans or ask a local redemption center or local store if you can set up in their parking lot so you don't have to carry the cans to be redeemed.

**Candle Sales:** Sell scented votive candles to fellow employees and friends.

**Candy Bar Sales:** Sell candy bars at work, or have someone at a business let you set up a little display box (beauty shops, store check-out counters, etc.). You can purchase box kits from wholesale warehouses such as Sam's or ask a candy store to donate them.

**Car Washes:** This is another good idea for students as well as adults. Especially in the spring when everyone wants the mud off of their cars. Try saying "donations accepted" instead of charging a set price.

**Challenges:** Challenge another team to raise more money than you. Some radio stations may gladly put your challenge on the radio.

**Change Makes a lot of Cents:** Bank and credit union teams post this message at the teller line – Donate the cents from your deposit to the (name of bank) March for Babies team and help fight for the health of all moms and babies. If your check total is for \$187.67 your donation is just 67 cents.. All proceeds will benefit the March of Dimes.

**Chili Cook Off:** have a Hot-Hot-Hot chili cook off.

**Christmas Party:** Play carols, serve cookies, decorate a tree, have pictures with Santa and charge admission.

**Christmas Tree/Wreaths:** Ask a local retailer to donate \$1 for every tree and wreath sold to support your March for Babies team. Or make your own wreaths as a team- use princess pine you find in the woods.

**Coin Drive:** This is especially good for students to do at schools- have everyone give them their change in the lunchroom. Set up a coin jar at the beginning of the school year and see how it grows.

A college put a twist on the coin drive, which would also work at companies with different departments, or at a bank with the different tellers etc. They sent out a flyer explaining: JOIN THE PENNY WARS- drop off your change in the jars at the front of your residence hall. The residence hall or department with the most points wins a pizza party for its residents. Pennies are worth positive points, silver coins and cash are worth negative points. Sabotage the other residence halls by dropping off your silver coins into their jars! Spare some change for prematurity research.

**Coin Toss:** Get permission from the local mall to collect all the coins tossed into the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs state that the coins will be donated to the March of Dimes's March for Babies.

**Comedy Club:** Ask a local comedy club to host an evening in support of the March for Babies and invite all teams to sell tickets. The teams would get the credit for the tickets they sold.

**Concession Stands:** Set up a concession stand or booth at a community event during the year.

**Cookbooks:** Collect recipes from employees and have them published and sell them. Can be produced for approximately \$2 each and sold for \$7-\$8. You need to be sure that all recipes are healthy and follow nutritional guidelines.

**Craft Fairs:** Have your team set up a craft table or raffle at a craft fair or festival.

**Crafts:** In a holiday mood? Craft tree ornaments, stockings or decoration and sell them.

**Cut-a-thon:** Have a beauty salon or vocational school hold a cut-a-thon for you.

### **Cutest baby: Have a Cutest Team Baby Contest.**

**Host a cutest baby contest where family members or co-workers submit a photo of their baby with a donation and then once the deadline for submissions has come, they vote on the cutest baby. Solicit a small prize for a business for the winner. This could also go over well as a cutest pet contest.**

### **D**

**Day Spa:** Day of beauty for a set fee, provide haircuts, manicures and massages.

**Decorating Service:** No time to decorate?... holiday decorating service! Also can put Holiday lights up on houses for a fee- this is a job many people would like someone else to do.

**Deliver Flyers:** See what businesses distribute sales flyers in the weekly paper or through the mail and offer for your team to deliver them within the town (at each house) for a set amount. It costs these businesses a lot to mail them out and they would be able to save money by having you distribute them personally. This is another good idea for a student team. In Washington state the phone company paid a high school team \$2500 to distribute the new phone books throughout the community.

**Dog Walkers:** Have your team walk the neighborhood dogs for a donation. Many pet owners would appreciate the opportunity to let someone take their dog for a long walk.

**Dog Sit:** While the owners are on vacation, saves them from sending Fido to the kennel.

**Donut Days:** Students have done this, where they get donuts donated from a bakery every Friday, and sell them at school.

**Dress Down Days/Blue Jeans for Babies:** Many businesses have been doing this, where their employees can dress down for a day if they make a certain donation. This is also happening at parochial schools or other schools that require uniforms or at work. For a specified donation, the student/employee doesn't have to wear a uniform/can wear blue jeans for that day.

### **E**

**Email:** Email your friends and associates for donations.

**Employee bulletin board:** Post a flier on your employee bulletin board stating that you are collecting donations for the March of Dimes – don't forget to add photos or fliers!

**Envelope at Restaurant table:** Restaurant teams generate donations by placing a March for Babies envelope at every table during a designated time period, stating "Please support our March for Babies team and the March of Dimes" Waitresses check envelopes after each seating and find surprising results.

**Errand Service:** Never have time.... Run an errand service!

**Event parking spaces:** Sell parking spaces for community events near your home.

### **F**

**Facebook:** Link your fundraising page to your facebook so your friends can easily see it.

**Face Painting:** set up a booth at a local event, fair, or festival. Kids love it! Charge .50 and up.

**Fashion show:** Work with new or existing clothing stores to hold a fashion show. You could have it at the store, or use a club or church hall. Offer refreshments and your team members can be the models.

**Fast Food Restaurants:** Ask your local restaurants if they will have March for Babies day. Either a percentage of the day's take or from a certain item on the menu will go towards your team. Your team should be on hand to ask for donations from the patrons as well as be able to talk about the event.

**Fry Day Friday-** on a Friday prior to your March for Babies, a dime from every order of fries sold goes to your team total.

Flamingo Alert: Use Mike Wagner's idea and place pink flamingos in someone yard. It will fly away once a donation is made to March for Babies. Some people have expanded this idea and for a set amount you can designate the next person is should go to, as well as you can purchase flamingo repellent, so it will not land on your yard. Other lawn ornaments could be used.

Flower sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems (carnations or roses) at your place of work or school.

Flower bouquet : Ask a local florist to donate one bouquet of flowers, one for each month for a three-month period (or go to 3 different florists and get one per shop). This is a good fundraiser for corporate teams with a large staff, especially during the winter months, to take a chance to bid on some "springtime" for their desk.

## **G**

Game Night: Have a game night- much like a party with a purpose. Everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades etc. Charge an "entrance" fee.

Garage Sales: Work individually or as a team to set up garage sales- clean out your attic and raise money for the March of Dimes at the same time!

Glow Sticks: Sell glow in the dark sticks that can be worn as necklaces or carried at the event.

Go Door to Door: Go door to door and ask for donations. Canvas your neighborhood, work as a team and canvas the town.

Golf Tournament: Have your team put together a golf tournament with the proceeds benefiting your team.

## **H**

Hat (or Cap Day): This is good for schools. For a specified amount, the students can wear a baseball cap to school for the day.

Haunted House: For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission. Or as a team organize a haunted forest. You can also sell refreshments such as donut holes and hot chocolate.

Hoagie Sale: Hold a hoagie sale at work or around town, taking orders ahead of time.

Hole-in-One: set up a portable putting green and for a donation; let people try to putt it in. You can do this on site, or at a community event beforehand.

## **I**

Ice Cream Socials: Plan one at your place of work or for friends, asking for a donation to attend. Sell ice cream for dessert at your place of work.

## **J**

Jail & Bail: For a donation employees can be arrested. For an additional donation they can post their own bail, or employees have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate)

Jewelry Sales: Work with a wholesale company to sell jewelry they don't wear anymore and have a jeweler clean it up for you, then have a sale.

## **K**

Kiss a Pig Contest: Recruit a local celebrity to kiss a swine when a certain amount of money has been raised. Also has been done as a contest. Put the face of all the teachers or employees one on each jar, and who ever raised the most money must kiss the animal (could also be a team mascot, goat mule, dog etc.)

## **L**

Lawn Service: While you are mowing your lawn, mow someone else's- for a donation.

Letter Writing: A great way to ask for donations without asking in person. Send letters out to your friends and family explaining what you're doing and why, and asking for a specific amount

(more than you want) seems to work best or leave it up to them. Write them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people are writing letters on behalf of their pets or babies.

Line Dancing: Work with a local club or facility to offer a night of line dancing. Get a DJ to volunteer his/her time to play music and get someone to teach a couple dances. It's a fun way to spend a night while collecting donations.

Lunch with the CEO: Auction off lunch or maybe a round of golf with the CEO or president of your company.

## **M**

Massages: Offer massages for a donation at the event.

**Matching Gifts: Ask your company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching**

**gift policy, check to see if your does. If they don't ask them anyway.**

Money Jars: Set up money jars or coin boxes at your place of work. This is good for banks, diners/restaurants hairdressers, and stores. Check back to empty frequently.

Movie night: Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and soda and charge admission. Or have a movie week during lunch hour at work. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch.

## **N**

Nonalcoholic cocktail party: have a nonalcoholic cocktail party at your house and ask for donations. Be sure to have your donation cans next to the refreshments. You could also do this a team and move from house to house on different weekend nights.

## **O**

Odd jobs: Call on your neighbors and ask to do some odd jobs, such as fixing a rain gutter, shoveling their driveway, paint a fence, or rake their leaves.

Open House: A fitness center held an open house with a variety of toning and aerobic classes offered throughout the day. They also included a silent auction and babysitting. Ask for donations.

## **P**

Pancake Breakfasts: Hold a pancake breakfast at a hall or church or at work on specific days.

Parking Space Auction: College students can auction off the presidents parking spot, or company employees can auction off a prime spot.

Payroll Deduction: Employees can make their own contribution by having it deducted directly from their paycheck. A little each week, can grow into a large amount by event time.

Percentage of Sales: Designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds and let the public know so they will buy more.

Personal Bake Sale: Bake some extra delicious, extra gooey brownies and sell them for dollars a piece- make the slices large. Bake a different dessert each week for your co-workers.

Pet Fashion Show: Have a pet fashion show where you give everyone's pet the opportunity to flaunt its favorite outfit. Charge admission and vote for best outfit, matching outfits (owner and pet) wildest outfit etc.

Photos: Have your photo taken with a local celebrity for a specified donation. Or use one of those realistic cardboard stand-in's. Do this at work or in conjunction with a local fair or festival.

Pie Sales: Much like bake sales, these are also popular. Especially around the holidays- take orders or set up a table at a busy grocery store or shopping center.

Pizza Sales: Work with a pizzeria to give you a percentage of the pizzas you sell. Take orders

and deliver them. OR put pizza kits together yourself. Also can work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price or donated is even better.

Plant Sales: Like the flower sales, work with local florists or wholesaler and sell potted plants. A nursing home team did this and painted the flowerpots, repotted the plants and added a bow with a card. They sold a number to friends, staff and family members of the patients.

Pot Luck Lunches: Designate every Wednesday (or a day that works) as March for Babies Pot Luck Day, where team members take turns making chili, salads, desserts, etc and offer to employees at a set price or donation.

## Q

Questions for a Buck: One team raised money by having their boss, who was constantly being asked questions by everyone to start charging a buck for each question. Word spread throughout the company what he was doing, and everyone started asking questions and paying up.

Quoits Tournament: hold a quoits or horseshoe tournament.

## R

Roll those pennies: Roll those pennies sitting in a jar on your dresser. While you're at it roll the rest of your coins you have been collecting.

## S

Sell employee Services: i.e. get the best gourmet chef on your team to agree to go to someone's home and prepare a meal (for a fee of course) Get your VP to commit to wash an employee's car, or several if willing. Have the company photographer take a family photo for a certain amount etc. Could also hold a raffle for these services.

Shave your head: Have someone agree to have their hair shaved (or dye their hair purple!) once a certain amount of money has been raised.

Shoe Shines: Shine shoes for donation- enlisted men would love it.

Shutter bug mania: into photography? Take candid shots around the community, schools, etc to sell to subject. OR take photos of a friend's wedding, anniversary party, or birthday.

Skunk Them: As a hospital group did, put a stuffed skunk on a coworker's desk. They need to pay a donation to your team to have him go away or they need to pay to be de-skunked. See Flamingo Alert for other ideas.

Soup Sales: Especially during the cold winter months, take orders from your coworkers and have a soup at work, If you work in town, offer it out to the offices throughout the community take orders ahead of time and have an evening of team soup making.

Spaghetti Dinner: Have your team put together a spaghetti dinner at a local hall or club. School teams have also done this with the help of their parents. The students take the tickets wait and clear tables.

Sponsorship: Ask your company if they will sponsor the March for Babies event (or ask for a donation) work with your March of Dimes staff partner for the sponsorship proposal.

Sports Tournaments: Teams organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other sports tournaments.

Story Time Reading: Have an organized story time reading. Hold it at your place of work where employees can bring their children, work with your local library to have a special time. Also a good idea for on site fundraising.

Student/Faculty Basketball Game: Set up a benefit basketball game between students and faculty, Or put together and alumni game. Challenge a local radio or television employee team.

Super bowl party: Have a super bowl party and ask everyone for donations when they get there. It is certainly worth it after all the trouble you go to organize the party and provide the

refreshments. The same can be done for the NACC Championship basketball game, Indy 500, Masters final round etc. Great idea for the team member with a big screen TV!

## **T**

Tupperware party: Have the profits from a Tupperware party benefit your team.

## **U**

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party: Host an ugly Christmas sweater party and ask for donations for admittance or host an ugly Christmas sweater contest, everyone can vote on the best (or worst) with adollar.

## **V**

Vending machines: Coordinate with your vendor to add .05 cents to the cost of a snack or soda prior to March for Babies, with the extra nickel going to your team total.

Vendors: Solicit your vendors for cash donations or goods you can auction off.

Video Sale: Hold a video sale at work and have each team member bring in videos they don't watch anymore. Especially kid videos their children have outgrown. Other employees with younger children would appreciate this.

## **W**

Wait Tables: Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a specific night to benefit your team for the March for Babies. Pizza huts have been known to do this as well as others. Your team would be the waiters for the evening and would collect all the tips as well as possibly a percentage of that evening's receipts. Make sure all your friends and family eat at that restaurant during the March of Dimes benefit.

Wrap Presents: During holiday time (Christmas or Mothers Day) set up a booth at a local mall, plaza or busy department store. Have your team members donate the paper and tape and raise money while helping out the holiday shoppers.

## **X**

Xylophone concert: Hold a music concert or recital. Pass refreshments and ask for donations or sell tickets in advance.

## **Y**

Yard Sales: Just like the garage sales, work together as a team, or have one individually.

## **Z**

Zoot Suit Party: Swing music is in. Hold a swing dance party and give awards for the best zoot suit there.