

Fundraising Ideas A-Z

A

Art Show: Hold an art contest where artists (your friends or family) enter pieces of art at a specified amount per entry. Charge an entrance fee to raise additional funds. Try to get a local gallery owner to donate space for the event and recruit local celebrities as judges. You could also sell this artwork and donate the proceeds to IRSF.

Auction: Ask families, friends and community businesses to donate their specialties, including skills, to be auctioned off. Some teachers and students have had themselves auctioned off for a day of baby sitting or a day of museum-gazing with a small child, etc. Teachers have made videos of their classroom over the course of the year and auctioned them off. Restaurant and theatre owners can donate dinners and seats to shows. This takes time organizing but can raise a lot of money.

Awful Tie or Hat Competition: This is a simple activity. Everyone is encouraged to pay a certain amount for the privilege of wearing a truly awful tie or hat to school or work.

B

Bake Sale: This is a delicious way to raise money! Include baked goods from around the world. Ask everyone you know to participate!

Birthday Donations: On your birthday ask your family and friends to make a donation instead of giving a gift. Have a party to celebrate as well as educate others! (You can do the same for someone else's birthday. You can make up a card saying that a donation was sent to IRSF in honor of his/her birthday instead of sending a gift.)

Barbeque: Ask your neighbors, friends and family to come over for a barbeque. Ask them to bring something to throw on the grill. You can provide the salad and bread...charge an entrance fee.

Bowling Tournament: Participants pay to enter and the winner gets a prize!

Book Sale: Gather friends and family together to exchange used books. Charge a certain amount for each book as well as an entrance fee.

Board Game Party: Charge an entrance fee for an evening of board games. Perhaps hold competitions in each event and provide prizes!

C

Carwash: Recruit a team of willing helpers. Set up a neighborhood carwash!

Christmas Plant Sale: Christmas is an ideal time to sell dried flowers or hyacinth bulbs in attractive containers.

Concert: Some suggestions include carol concerts, choral works, operas, pantomimes, jazz evenings, outdoor summer concerts, and talent shows....and more! Charge an entrance fee.

Costume Ball: Hold this event around Halloween! Or, give it an international theme! Charge an entrance fee.

D

Dance: Social dance events are very popular and can take a number of forms. Consider having a theme such as ballroom dancing, barn dance, line dancing, a 70s disco...and more!

Dinner Party: Have a dinner party or lunch party, but ask those you invite to give a donation.

Dress Down Day: Have students pay to wear jeans to school. Or get your entire company involved!

F

Fulfill a Lifetime Ambition: Challenge events can, if well supported, raise serious amounts of sponsorship as individuals really get enthusiastic about doing something that has been a lifetime ambition: from whitewater rafting to parasailing, and from balloon trips to walking the Great Wall of China.

Fundraising Race: Challenge other families, groups or teams to a race to see who can be the first to raise \$100 or \$500 or more!

G

Gardening Competition: Choose the best time of year and hold a gardening competition for the most imaginative window box, tub or cut flower display.

Garage Sale: Have friends and family donate items to your garage sale – a great way to get some spring cleaning done and raise money for Rett syndrome!

K

Karaoke Night: Try to get a room donated to hold your event. Ask an independent supplier for a good deal to rent a karaoke machine. Charge an entrance fee.

M

Mile Challenge: Team up with friends and collect money from each to travel a mile in a conventional or unusual way. How about walking in fancy dress, walking the dog, roller skating, or dancing?

Mile of Coins: Gather friends and family to make a mile of coins. Even a mile of pennies is over \$6,000!

O

On Your Bike: Ask your friends and family to join you on a sponsored bike ride. Make it an interesting route!

P

Poetry Reading: Hold a poetry reading in your favorite café. Get students and family members to volunteer to read various poems. Pass the hat and ask people to contribute.

Play-Off Between Teachers and Students: Compete for the benefit of others! Choose a sport and invite the rest of the school as well as parents to watch and cheer! Sell tickets or charge an admission at the door.

Q

Quizzes: Quizzes are a sure winner because everyone loves the chance to show off their knowledge. Make it a fun event! Charge an admission fee and award prizes. Some ideas include: Trivial Pursuit, Local Knowledge, Pop Music Quiz...be creative!

S

Sponsored “Anything”: Sponsored events are always useful fundraising activities and they don’t have to involve walking or running marathons! In fact, a sponsored event can involve almost any activity you can think of!

Seasonal Celebration: Hold a themed seasonal pot-luck dinner. Organize simple games and activities related to the theme. Charge an admission.

T

Talent Show: Hold student-teacher talent show at school. There are always people who will pay to display their talents while everyone else will pay to have a laugh at them in action!

Teddy Bears’ Picnic: Charge an admission, invite neighborhood children and teddies! Give a prize for the best dressed teddy!

Touch a Truck: If you like trucks and vehicles you may want to think about this! Arrange for the following to be on display: local fire trucks, ambulances, garbage trucks, postal service trucks, plows, cement trucks....and so many more! Children can get up close and personal with some of their favorite big rigs! Charge an admission!

U

Ugly Tie Contest: Encourage guys and girls at school or church to participate in an ugly tie contest! Each person pays a fee to take part.

Used Book Sale: Organize a committee to gather as many used books as possible. Have a used book sale!

W

Walkathon: Instead of the typical walkathon, ask IRSF about a Strollathon to raise money!

Y

Yard Sale: Have a neighborhood yard sale. People love to clean out their attics and basements. Suggest this to everyone you know and sell the items to raise money!

Yogathon: Do you know a yoga instructor? Would he or she want to help you plan a day of yoga to raise money for Rett?

Z

Zany Clothes Day: Have students at your school pay to participate in a “zany” dress up day!