

## Thinking Outside the Fundraising Box: Brainstorming Ideas to Raise Funds for Children’s Medical Center Foundation

The events and fundraisers listed in this booklet are a great way to get started raising funds for Children’s Medical Center Foundation. These ideas are for you to adapt, create and utilize for your students, teachers and parents. Do they fit with your school? If not, you can adapt these ideas or combine them with a current fundraiser. It’s time to put on your thinking hat and start creating!

To help, we have created a legend to provide more information:

★ **Star ICON** = Ranked from 1 to 3 stars, indicating the amount of time and difficulty in planning the event.

☺ **MORALE ICON** = Morale-building events that will help motivate students and build team spirit.

**S ICON** = An event where your sponsors can get involved by providing product, services, or money, or by participating in event.

**H ICON** = Events that can be held during or around the holidays. Whether it is Valentine’s Day or Spring Break, these events are a fun way to celebrate the holidays.

**BLUE** = This event would be best suited for students.

**PURPLE** = This event would be best suited for adults.

**GREEN** = This event would be best suited for both students AND adults.

There are several ways to make your fundraisers more successful and more fun. Utilize raffles and prizes as incentives – or ask a local celebrity to get involved with your event. Consider also asking for matching funds, event underwriting, or procuring financial or in-kind donations of goods or services. The possibilities are endless, but one thing remains the same—every dollar you raise impacts the patients at Children’s Health. You are making a difference in the lives of children, one dollar at a time. Thank you for your commitment to Children’s Health!

## MULTI-DAY EVENTS

### Add a dollar ★ ★

Ask students/parents/teachers if they would like to add a dollar to items they purchase during Spirit Week.

### Buck-a-Pound ★ 😊

Have teachers/parents sign up to make a donation for every pound lost and double that for every pound gained in weekly weigh-ins over a set period of time. Award prizes for the greatest weight loss overall or as a percentage of body weight.

### Chain of Hearts ★ ★ H

During the month of February sell paper chain links and hearts to students. Attach the links together to make a paper chain and use the hearts to decorate the chain.

### KIDS and ADULTS - Change for Children's ★ H

Have the school conduct a "Change for Children's" coin collection campaign. Distribute plastic zip lock bags (or other containers) labeled with stickers for students/parents to fill with change. Create a goal chart poster with a thermometer and ask PlainsCapital Bank to count the coins. ***\*\*Please see the "Change for Children's" instructions on page 15 for additional information.***

### Coloring Contest ★ ★

Hold a coloring contest, using images that represent your school. Ask an administrator or teacher to nominate the top five pictures. Ask students to vote for the best using donation canisters. The canister that gets the most money is the grand prize winner. The second highest amount of money is the 2nd place winner and so forth.

### KIDS and ADULTS - Counting on You ★

Fill a large container with jellybeans, Lifesavers, paper clips, marbles, coins, M&Ms, or other small items. Advertise the grand prize and have students/teachers/parents guess (for a set donation) how many are in the container.

### Employee Calendars ★ ★ ★ S 😊

Sell calendars featuring humorous student/teacher photos. Or use students' personal patient stories. Ask sponsors to donate production costs or underwrite the calendar.

### Fence Fundraising ★ ★ S

Use space inside your building or outside fences and sell spaces for sponsors to place promotional banners/advertisements.

### KIDS and ADULTS - Flamingo Alert ★ ★

Place a pink flamingo in the grass outside the building. It will fly away once the fundraising goal has been reached. Google "Flamingo Flocking" or "Flamingo Alert" for more information.

### **Holiday Baskets ★★ H**

Create baskets full of food or other prizes and auction or raffle them to students/teachers.

### **Holiday Tree Festival ★★★ S H**

Have community groups or other local businesses donate decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday decorations to sell. Display the trees in a public hall on specified days and support the event with holiday music, food booths and other vendor items. Have students/participants vote using donation canisters. Trees then stay on display through most of December and are either given to the bidder or donated for the hospital to keep or raffle off.

### **Holiday Wrap ★★ H**

Contact a local mall or shopping center for permission to wrap holiday presents for a donation, or offer a special gift-wrap service at your location.

### **Hot Chocolate/Coffee on Cold Days ★**

Sell a cup of hot chocolate on a cold day for a quarter, or ask your local Starbucks or coffee shop to help with your fundraiser.

### **Light up a Child's Life ★★★ S H**

Set up a holiday tree with 1,000 lights on it, but leave the bulbs slightly unscrewed. With every donation, a student turns a bulb on.

### **Mustache Growing Challenge ★ ☺**

Collect donations from students and have a teacher grow his mustache. He must grow his mustache one day for every \$10 raised by the students.

### **One Million Pennies ★★**

Create donation canisters advertising the 'one million pennies' goal. One million pennies = \$10,000.

### **Online Auction ★★**

Use eBay Giving Works or Charityfolks.com (dedicated online programs for charity listings) to create online auctions.

### **Parking Spot Auction ★**

Auction premier parking spots to students for a week/month/year. Make it special by creating signs or painting the parking spots with the student's name.

### **Pennies from Heaven ★★**

Hang upside down umbrellas from the ceiling, a wire, a tent, etc. Hang "Pennies from Heaven" signs with instructions to "Throw your coins in the umbrella to help kids at Children's Health.

### **Photo Contest ★★ S**

Create photo contest with entry fees as donations. Students/teachers/parents vote using donation canisters.

### Scavenger Hunt ★★😊

Create a scavenger hunt with clues for students who meet certain fundraising goals. The first person to find the final clue wins the grand prize.

### Silent Auction ★★★S

Gather donations of signed memorabilia, gift certificates, spa or golf packages and other prizes and host a silent auction for the community. Create an online silent auction and then email the link out to all your contacts.

### Yard Sale ★★

Host a yard sale, advertising it in advance, and encouraging school-wide participation.

## SINGLE DAY EVENTS

### Art Auction ★★★

Auction professional art, student art, or art from children at the hospital, to students/teachers through a silent or live auction.

### Bake Sale ★

Invite participants to create and sample favorite recipes. Design an entry form and determine a fee for participation. Arrange for a variety of prize categories such as most extravagant, most creative, or most healthy.

### Battle of the Bands ★★★😊

Host a “Battle of the Bands” competition for students. Collect entry fees for a donation, and host raffles and auctions at the event.

### Battle of the Sexes ★★

Have girls and boys compete against each other in contests such as cooking, changing a tire, fingernail painting, sports, etc.

### “Bite Of...” Event ★★★S

Get local restaurants to donate food samples and invite the community out for a “Bite Of...” night. Charge an entry fee, sell raffle tickets or host an auction to add to the fundraising. Add flavor by including ethnic restaurants.

### Black Tie Affair ★★★S

Plan a formal gala evening and sell tables or individual tickets appropriate to the menu and entertainment that will be provided. Include entertainment, and live or silent auctions to increase fundraising and interest.

### Book club ★★★

Get an author to do a signing and donate profits of book sales. Ask a local bookstore to host a bookclub with an author and a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books and all food and beverage sales that day benefit your cause of choice, Children’s Health.

### **“Breakfast at Tiffany’s” ★★ ★**

Hold a “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” raffle. Charge per plate at the breakfast and then hold a raffle for select Tiffany’s jewelry (or other brand) locked in a box. The person with the key that fits the lock wins.

### **Breakfast with Characters ★★ H ☺**

Sponsor a seasonal community breakfast and photo session where children can spend time with Santa, the Easter Bunny, etc.

### **Brown Bag Lunch Day ★ ☺**

Ask everyone in the school to bring lunch from home, and donate money that would have been spent for lunch.

### **Car Wash ★★ ★**

Select a location and time for maximum exposure for a community car wash. Invite mascots from local schools, popular radio DJs, or other identifiable community figures to participate.

### **Craft Fair/Flea Market ★★**

Students/teachers provide homemade or gently used items or collectibles to sell. Select a convenient location that will encourage drop-in traffic, and advertise in community newspapers, bulletin boards or other sources a few days prior to the event.

### **“Don’t Come” Event ★★ ★ S**

This event will never actually happen, so go as grand as you want on the invitation. Promise a scrumptious dinner, celebrity entertainment, etc. This is a great way to ask for donations. Many people want to help support an event, but don’t have the time to come. Or advertise a fundraiser as a ‘No Fundraiser Fundraiser’— just ask for donations instead of organizing activities.

### **Food or Treat Sales ★ S**

Host an event and collect donations for food. Ideas include: chili cook-off, BBQ cook-off, taco bar, popcorn, hotdogs, hamburgers, sandwich bar, pancake breakfast or lunch, etc.

### **Fruit/Pumpkin Carving Contests ★ H ☺**

Host a competition for the strangest design carved into a fruit. Have students/teachers vote for their favorite using spare change. Examples include pumpkins, watermelons, etc.

### **Halloween Costume Contest ★ H ☺**

Students dress up for Halloween and compete for prizes for the most creative, funniest, most kid-friendly, etc. Take photos of the participants at the beginning of the day and have students/teachers vote with spare change in designated canisters.

### **Miniature Golf Marathon ★★ ★ S**

Set up a small miniature golf course for students/teachers to pay to play. Ask sponsors or local businesses to donate prizes.

### **Student Idol ★★ ★ ☺**

Host a singing competition for students. Invite local celebrities to judge the competition and have students vote using spare change.

### Relay ★★★

Challenge the school to walk (or bike, bowl, ski, skate, or read) for 24 hours straight. Create teams within grade levels/classes, with 1 hour “turns.” Collect pledges for each lap or hour around the building.

### Mother’s Day ★★ H S

Assemble baskets, gift certificates, or services (massages, pedicure/manicure) for Mother’s Day gift donations.

### Plant or Produce Sale ★★

Ask a wholesale plant distributor to donate plants or flowers and host a plant sale for students/teachers/parents. Invite students/parents to bring in home-grown produce to sell.

### Raffles ★★★ S

Items include things like sponsor donated items, gas cards (convenience stores), free meal once a week for a month or free meal every month for a year (restaurants), bake goods (restaurants), barbeque if summer, surf board, ski passes, snowboard, etc.

### Restaurant Fundraisers ★★ S

Servers donate their tips for a day; cashier/server asks customer to round up the bill for the change.

### Roof Sit ★★ 😊

Invite a teacher to camp out on the roof of a building until your fundraising goal is reached. Can’t camp out on the roof? Try shrink wrapping the person to a flag pole or locking them in a bus or car. Also raise funds by hanging a bucket over the edge of the building requesting donations.

### Sock Hop or Country Dance ★★★ 😊

Sponsor a sock hop or a country dance to benefit Children’s Medical Center. Refreshments, dress-up contests and door prizes can add to the fun. Get creative and host other types of dances.

### Ugly Tie Contest ★ 😊

Have willing participants submit their ugliest tie (or other attire or accessory) for a specified donation. Students/teachers can vote for “ugliest tie” and award the winner with a brand-new tie. Arrange for a local tie store or vendor to sponsor the event.

### Window Washers ★

Have teachers wash windows of students’ cars for donations.

## ONE HOUR EVENTS

### Banana-eating Contest 😊

Host a banana-eating contest for students and collect pledges for the number of bananas consumed within a set time frame. Or use hot dogs, corn, etc.

### Car Bashing ★★ 😊

Get an old car donated from a junk yard. Ask students/teachers to donate for an opportunity to “bash” the car.

### Dunk Tank ★★ 😊

Rent a dunk tank and give students a chance to dunk their favorite teacher for a donation.

### Golf Ball Drop/Baseball Drop ★★★ S

Individuals have the opportunity to purchase a ball for a donation. The ball dropped from a helicopter that lands closest to the pin/base wins a prize.

### Ice Cream Social ★ 😊

Plan a day for ice cream, games and music to bring students/teachers and their families together. Partner with an ice cream vendor, and charge participants for ice cream.

### Karaoke Threat ★ 😊

Have students make a donation to force a student/teacher to sing. They must sing or double the donation to pass the challenge to another.

### Marshmallow Putting Contest ★★

Using a golf green, have participants try to putt a marshmallow into the hole. A participant makes a donation for every try. Reward hole-in-ones with special prizes or a raffle for a larger prize. Try putting with other tools found around the school such as a ruler, broom stick, etc.

### Training Day ★★★ S

Host a workshop or training session with a donation in lieu of a fee (e.g. IHOP teaching the art of pancake making; Ace Hardware teaching basic home maintenance).

### Pie Toss ★ 😊

Charge students a predetermined fee for the opportunity to throw a pie at their favorite teacher.

### Pizza-eating Contest ★★★ S

Contestants pay an entry fee for the chance to win prizes. Consider using a specialty product (e.g. heart shaped pizza).

### Potluck Meals ★ S H 😊

Students/teachers prepare and bring potluck dishes for a breakfast or lunch event before or during class, donating a specified amount to eat. This could be a one-day or a weekly event held over a set period.

### Shaved Head Challenge ★ 😊

A teacher challenges students to set a fundraising goal. If the goal is met, the teacher shaves (or dyes) his/her head. The top fundraising student can then have the honor to help shave, dye or cut the teacher's hair.

### Tennis Ball Race ★ ★ S

For a set donation, a student can "adopt" a tennis ball and decorate it. On race day, place all of the tennis balls in a large bin atop a hill. Dump the contents down the hill to start the race. The first tennis ball to reach the bottom wins its owner a prize.



# Change for Children's

## *It is easy and fun for kids of all ages*

### **The Big Picture**

Change for Children's is a fun and easy way to help raise money to help sick and injured kids who are being cared for at Children's Health. With your parent's permission, this fundraising program can easily be implemented at school, in your classroom, at an after-school activity or with your sports team. Simply collect change from around your house, from your locker and backpack. Then, bring the monies to school or practice and place it in the collection jar. Go ahead, it is your fund raiser, be creative and ask your neighbors to give you their loose change too, or offer to do extra projects around your house and earn extra money that you can add to the collection jar.

To ensure success, try to set a short window of time to collect the money – several days to one week. You'll be surprised how quickly the change will add up. Watch it build in the jar, day by day. Mark your progress on the side of the jar. To help build friendly rivalry, try having a competition with your friends or with different classes at school to see who can raise the most money in the shortest amount of time. If participating in a contest, ask your teachers or parents if you can have a celebration party for the class that collects the most money!

### **Getting Started**

- Ask your parents if you can help raise money to help sick and injured kids who are in the hospital.
- Set a goal for how much money you want to raise.
- Have your parents call your school principal, counselor, teacher, coach, or troupe leader to obtain permission.
- Decide how many days you want to do the project.
- Have your parents register your program with Children's Medical Center Foundation by calling Kyra Barnett at: 214-456-8384 or emailing: kyra.barnett@childrens.com.
- Ask your parents to help you gather all the supplies you'll need for the project.
- Create your own flier or poster to tell your friends, family, neighbors and schoolmates what you are doing and how they can join with you and help kids in the hospital.
- Ask your parents/teacher/coach/activity leader if they'll help you get the word out by sending an email that asks people to support you and give you their spare change.

### **The Supplies**

- A "pickle jar" style container or other container.
- The "Change for Children's" logo glued or applied to the container.
- A fun and colorful flyer for the kids and a promotional email for the adults.

### **Now that you've started the project**

- Keep telling people about it. Consider daily coin counts! Tell your friends what they've helped you accomplish. Ask them if they can help you find more supporters.
- Ask your parents to keep in touch with your teacher or designated representative. The change can collect very quickly and frequent coin collections may be needed.
- Ask your parents to help you find a safe way to store the money until it is turned in to the hospital.

- Ask your teacher if you can have contests and special coin days to challenge your friends (ex: Bring in \$.25 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.)

### **The Project is almost complete**

- Be sure to let everyone know the last day that they can give their change.
- Remind everyone of how much you are trying to raise and how much you have left to raise if you are going to reach your goal.
- Once the campaign is done, ask your parents to help you collect all money and supplies from the school, team or activity group.
- If your parents or teachers will allow a prize or a party for the most money raised, ask them to help you begin planning for the fun!

### **Congratulations, your project is complete**

- Have your parents/teacher/coach contact Kyra Barnett with Children's Medical Center Foundation to let her know that your event is complete. She will give instructions for how to deposit your money/turn in your monies.

### **Brief recap of things your parents can help you with...**

- 1) Set date of drive
- 2) Decide number of containers needed (school wide collection, contest between classes, etc.)
- 3) Place containers at school
- 4) Determine a safe place to leave money at night
- 5) Count change by schedule selected (i.e. every day, every other day, at end of event)
- 6) Present Change to Kyra Barnett at Children's Medical Center Foundation

### **YES, IT IS THAT SIMPLE!**

*Questions? Please contact Kyra Barnett at: 214-456-8384 or [kyra.barnett@childrens.com](mailto:kyra.barnett@childrens.com).*