

50 Ways to Fundraise!

1. Online Fundraising - This is a quick and easy way to fundraise! Set up your account and send “sponsor me e-mails” to your list of potential sponsors.

2. Letter Campaign - Use our pre-written letters, or create one of your own, and send them to all of your friends, family, and co-workers.

3. Corporate Matching Gift - Ask your company to match the amount of pledges you receive from your fellow co-workers.

4. Your own personal friend Matching Gift - Ask a friend if they can investigate getting their company to match pledges.

5. Corporate Sponsorship - Identify one or several large companies and contact them directly (they may be willing to sponsor you completely).

6. Product Parties - Everyone's heard of Tupperware parties, but did you know that there's also Pampered Chef, Dove Chocolate, Yankee Candle Company, Mary Kay Jewelry and more? Host a party at your house and invite all your friends and family to join you. The presenter will donate a percentage of profits or sales from the night to your account.

7. Bucketing for Donations- Find a store near you that will allow you to stand outside the front door on a Saturday morning asking patrons to make a donation of their spare change or even a couple bucks. Make sure you get permission first.

8. Dress Down Day - This is usually a successful fundraising tool! Ask your company if they will allow those who donate to wear jeans on a designated day (usually Fridays). Send out an email to your staff notifying them. Have everyone pay \$5 to dress down and put all of the money towards your fundraising.

9. Desk Drop - Get a box of assorted cookies (usually 36 bags per box from Costco or BJ's). Make up little business cards with your team information on it and directions on how to sponsor you. Attach the card to the cookies and drop one on each desk of your co-workers that you want to sponsor you. It is even better when you see them personally so you can tell about your efforts and what you are doing

10. Web Site - Create your own personal page about your journey. Send an email to everyone on your contact list and invite them to visit the website.

11. Garage Sale - Know all that stuff that's been hanging out in your garage...in your attic....in your basement? Gather it up and ask your friends to do the same. Put it in your front yard and sell, sell, sell! Put all the money raised toward your pledge minimum!

12. Bake Sale - Become Julia Child (and ask your friends to do the same) and host a bake sale. You can even have it in conjunction with your garage sale. It's a fact that people will buy more stuff on a full stomach!

13. House Party - This is a sure-fire way to fundraise. The MS Staff will be happy to give you some tidbits.

14. Extra Change In My Pocket Box - Create these little boxes for your friends and family and have them place it on their dressers. At the end of the day, they can drop that spare change in the box.

15. Start your own Extra Change Box - Keep a jar near your door and put all your extra coins in it everyday. It adds up. Or put it on your desk at work - others will join you.

16. Office Fundraising Challenge - Speak with everyone in your office and get them to challenge each other to raise the highest amount. Give the "winner" a prize. Maybe some movie passes? Gift certificate to dinner? Day off?

17. Answering Machine Message - Change the message on your cell phone or answering machine to mention your fund-raising campaign and participation in the Chesapeake Challenge. Let them know you need their help!!

18. Return Address Labels - Create return mailing address labels that read, "I'm raising donations to fight MS in the Chesapeake Challenge. Will you join me in the fight against MS?"

19. Bag groceries - Ask a local store if you can bag people's groceries for donations (you can have your kids, nieces or nephews do it for you). Let everyone know that donations benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

20. Solicit Tips - Ask your local bartender to donate a portion of one day's tips. Same goes for the waiters and waitresses. Ask them to donate tips from one night. You can create a sign for the bartender to place on the bar stating that "All tips collected tonight will go directly to "your name or team name". If the patrons see the sign they may be willing to dig a little deeper in their pocket!

21. Carry Copies of your Fundraising Letter in your purse - Have one with you at all times and pass them along to people you meet.

22. Ask local restaurants to place a money jar at the front of the restaurant - Check with the restaurant manager. They may be willing to place the jar in a high traffic area so lots of patrons can see it.

23. Happy Hour Party - Invite all of your friends (and their friends!) to a happy hour party. You can charge per head or just hold a raffle. (It can be cheap raffle items, bottles of wine, movie tics, etc.)

24. Facebook – Post frequent status updates informing all of your friends on your participation in Chesapeake Challenge. Through your participant center, download our facebook application. This will allow your fundraising to be shared with all friends and be posted directly on your facebook page. You'll even receive donations from people you are least expecting and would have never thought to resend a donation request to! Feel free to contact the chapter for more details.

25. Movie ticket donation - Ask your local movie house to donate several movie tickets. Sell them (or use them for raffle items) and put the money toward your pledges.

26. Local entertainment companies donate tickets - Raffle donated tickets to an upcoming event, such as a concert or play.

27. Birthday gift pledge - This is a very simple way to raise money and it'll be a lot easier for your friends and family to write you a check instead of spending hours trying to shop for you!

28. Delegate - Give 10 of your friends 10 pledge forms each and ask them to help raise money for you.

29. Creative Friends - Find a local artist or ask a creative friend if he/she would donate a piece of art or some jewelry that you can auction off.

30. House Warming Party - Are you moving soon? If so, ask your friends to make a pledge instead of purchasing a gift for your new place.

31. Color Pledge Forms - These can be very eye-catching. Send them in colored envelopes, too. These will stand out among friends' bills and stuff.

32. Signature Lines - Change the signature line of your outgoing e-mails to mention your involvement in the Chesapeake Challenge.

33. Travel Agency - Do you always make your travel plans through the same agency? Ask them to donate a travel voucher. You can auction it off at one of your parties.

34. Doctor/Therapist/Dentist/Insurance Agent - Ask him/her to make a check out for you instead of the other way around!

35. Restaurant Nights - Ask your favorite restaurants about having give-back nights. You bring in customers (and prove it by giving our vouchers or flyers that they hand in with checks) and the restaurant donates a portion of the sales from those customers back to your fundraising account.

36. Penny Wars - Put out a jar for each department at your office. For every penny that is in there, you have to subtract one point. For all silver coins you get one point. Do this

for a week or so and reward the department with the highest total. Put all of the money toward your fundraising.

37. Chinese Auction - Ask friends and local businesses to donate items. Save them all and have one big Chinese auction. You can do this at a party that you hold or at your work.

38. Radio Station - Call your favorite radio station and ask them to make an announcement on the air (they may even interview you). Pledges can be sent directly to our office.

39. Gym - Ask your gym to place a Pledge Jar at the front desk! Leave a stack of pledge forms at the counter, too.

40. Spinning Class - Have a stack of pledge forms with you and ask your spinning instructor to make an announcement in class.

41. Hair Salon - Ask your barber or hairdresser to donate \$2 from every haircut they complete over one weekend.

42. Picnics - National Holiday Picnics are a great place to raise some pledges!

43. Donate your services - Get your kids involved in this weekend activity. Have them perform a free service for donations, such as raking leaves or mowing lawns.

44. Neighbor - Write to all your neighbors on your block (or in your building). Attach a letter stating what you're training for and ask them to make a donation.

45. Good Karma Tipping Jar - Ask local businesses to put one of those jars near the register or on their front counter. Tape a picture of yourself on the jar and a short explanation of why you're raising money.

46. Car Wash - Hold a themed car wash and ask businesses to donate items. Get family and friends involved.

47. Meet the Press - Does your company distribute a newsletter? Does your company have interoffice email? Take advantage of these! It's a perfect way to get the word out.

48. Baby Sitting - Offer up your services and let your friends have a nice, quiet night out of the house!

49. House Sit - Friends going out of town for awhile? Maybe they need a warm body to stay in their place!

50. Ebay.com - Remember the garage sale idea? How 'bout rounding up the goods from your friends and putting it all on Ebay.com to be auctioned off?