



Fundraising Ideas

Ask Everyone: Ask your friends, neighbors, relatives, and coworkers to make a donation. Taking time to PRACTICE what you are going to say and telling the person about your personal connection to Relay for Life (in less than 30 seconds) is one of the most successful ways to get a donation.

BE PREPARED to explain where that person's donation is going. In addition to cancer research, go to www.cancer.org and learn about these patient services: Road to Recovery, Hope Lodge, and Look Good – Feel Better. All of these services are free for cancer patients and their families and it is important to tell your audience that their donation helps to support these programs.

Babysit: Do extra babysitting and donate your pay (or part of it) to your team's efforts. Or, babysit as a team during community events.

Bagel Sales: Talk to a local vendor and ask them for a discount on bagels if you buy a few dozen each Friday. Ask your parents to take them to work and sell them and donate the profits to Relay. This also works for soft pretzels or donuts.

Bake Sales: Hold a bake sale at a busy place like Wal-mart or your local grocery store on a Saturday morning. Be sure to sign up at least three months in advance with the store's manager.

Bowl-a-thon: Organize a bowl-a-thon, where people make pledges per pin they knock down.

Bowling Chance: \$1 gives you the chance to throw 2 balls (toy bowling set). If you throw a strike your name is entered into a drawing 2 times. If you throw a spare, your name is entered once. Your team solicits a nice prize for the drawing.

Car Wash: Book your place early, be well organized, and hope for good weather. Everyone does a car wash in the spring... consider doing yours when it is not so warm and you may make more money.

Coin Cans at Sporting Events: Use Relay coin cans during sporting events to collect donation—have the event announcer tell the crowd what you are doing and why.

Coin Drive: Put a large (empty) water jug where everyone can see it (lunchroom, conference room, reception area) and drop their spare change in (of course paper money is accepted, too!).

Coin Toss: Get permission from the local mall to collect all the coins tossed in the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs up stating that the coins will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Cookbooks: Collect recipes from employees and have them published as a book and sell them. The books can be produced for \$2-\$3 and can be sold for \$8-\$10 or more! Check with your school to see if a cookbook has already been published recently.

Craft Fairs: Have your team set up a booth at a local craft fair or festival.

Dance for the Cure: Students can hold a school dance. Entrance fee is donated to the American Cancer Society.

Day of Cleaning Raffle: Team members donate a suggested 5 hours of spring or fall cleaning. Sell tickets for \$5 per chance.

Deliver Flyers: See what businesses distribute flyers in the weekly paper or through the mail each week. Offer to have your team deliver the inserts at each house in your town for one or two weeks for a set amount. This will save them money. In Washington State the phone company paid a high school team \$2,500 to distribute the new phone books in their community.

Dog Walkers: Have your team walk the neighbors' dogs for a donation. Many pet owners would appreciate the opportunity to have someone else take their dog for a long walk. Or dog sit while the owners are on vacation. This saves them money on kennel fees and raises money for your team.

Dollar Dogs: You've been to this event at Citizens Bank Park... why not organize it in your own neighborhood? Distribute flyers to those that live in close proximity to you and advertise your own home made dollar dogs one night for dinner. People can pick up a quick and easy dinner and feel good about a donation to the Cancer Society.

Dinner for Two (or three or four or five): Create a simple menu for people to choose from. Let them know that for a donation to ACS you will fully prepare and deliver a home cooked meal to their home on a night that they choose.

E-Mail: E-mail all your friends and family for donations.

Face Painting: Set up a booth at a local event. Kids love it.

Flower Sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual flowers (carnations and roses). This is especially popular around Mothers Day and Valentines Day.

Glow Sticks: Sell glow in the dark sticks that can be worn as necklaces and carried at the event. Be careful of how many you buy – lots of other people have this same idea, too.

Get in (i)Tune(s): Have a great working or running mix that you enjoy? Encourage other people that you know to get in shape, too. Burn a copies of the CD and ask for donations for your team.

Hair Cutting: No, not you with a pair of scissors... ask a local salon if they would be interested in scheduling people on one day to get their hair done... and have all or a portion of the money go towards ACS.

Kiss a Pig Contest: Recruit a local celebrity to kiss a pig (can also be a team mascot, dog, etc.) once a certain amount of money has been raised. Or put the face of each employee or teacher on a donation jar. Whoever raises the most money has to kiss the pig.

Lawn Service: While you're mowing your lawn, offer to mow someone else's for a donation to ACS.

Letter Writing: A great way to ask for a donation without asking in person. Send letters out to friends and family (use your holiday card list) explaining what you're doing and why. Asking for a specific amount seems to work best—or leave it up to them. Tell them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people write the letter from their child or pet, adding a touch of humor.

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.

Matching Gifts: If your parents work for a large company such as Johnson & Johnson, Merck, or Prudential, they may be able to participate in a program where the company matches every dollar that you donate to Relay for Life. Ask your parents if their employer participates... it's an easy way to double money!

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

Penny Wars: This is especially good for school teams or businesses with more than one department. Send out a flyer saying "Join the Penny Wars" Put out jugs in each class or department. Team members can put money in their own jugs or the other team's jug. Each penny is worth 1 point, each nickel worth 5 points; you would put these in your own jug. Each dime is worth negative 10 points and each quarter is worth negative 25 points. You would put these into the other team's jugs. The team with the most points wins a pizza party!

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

Pizza Sale: Work with a pizzeria to give you a percentage of the pies you sell. Take orders and deliver them. Or put pizza kits together yourself. You can also work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price, donated is even better,

Sports Tournament: Teams organize hockey, bowling, volleyball, basketball etc., tournaments.

Story Time Reading: Have an organized story time reading. Hold it at your place of work where employees can bring in their children or work with your local library to have a special time. This is also a good on-site fundraiser.

Traveling Car Wash: Everyone will jump on the car wash bandwagon when the weather gets warm... why not advertise a roaming car washing team? Make appointments with people and go to their homes to wash one or maybe all of their vehicles.

"Tired" of Cancer: Have a few old tires in your garage? Spray paint them purple and put them in your neighbor's yard. Leave them a letter from your team stating that you are raising money for ACS and if they are also "tired" of Cancer, a donation to your team will make the tires go away. For example, \$10 might get the tires out of the yard, \$20 removes the tires and allows the donor to pick which house you put them at next, and \$30 gets the tires moved, the new place specified, and insurance that the tires will not come back to their house. Variations: Pink Flamingos, or Toilets "Flushing Away Cancer."

Write Letters: There is nothing like an old fashioned, hand-written letter. Download the Relay for Life letterhead from the CBSD website and use it to write a letter to friends and family asking them for a donation.

Yard Clean Up: Mulching, weed-pulling, tree-trimming... they may not be jobs that you get too excited about, but people would be happy to get some of their spring time chores out of the way by making a donation to Relay in return for your hard work.