

# Funding Ideas

Below is a sample list of fundraising sites and ideas to help you get started! Some offer products that small groups can sell and others offer great ideas on do-it-yourself fundraisers you can organize!

- <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/> List of DIY fundraising ideas
- <http://www.fasttrackfundraising.com/>  
Pizza sales, Donations, Fundraising Cards, Fundraising Tools and Tips
- <http://www.buyforcharity.com/> Offers ideas for small groups and schools. Fundraising Cards, Candy Sales, Brochures, Other unique products.
- <http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/> Lots of ideas and tips.
  
- <http://fundraiser-finder.com/fundraising-cat/college-fundraisers.php>  
Fundraisers tailored to college communities.

## Raising Funds with Small Groups

- Bake Sales - get family and friends to help bake goods to donate to your sale. Be creative with your goodies to attract more customers!
- Car Washes – set up in a central location. Ask local gas stations if you can use their parking lots. More info: <http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/free-fundraisers.htm>
- Topless Car Washes – Set up in a location close to main roads, but a little hidden from view. Advertise with “Topless Car Wash” signs to attract customers. The catch? 1) the bottom of the car is washed free but a donation of \$X is required if they want the top washed; 2) the entire car is washed except for the roof for \$X and for an additional \$Y you wash the top; or 3) convertibles with the top down (topless) get a free wash! Pick the option you like best. Folks are generally pretty good natured and appreciate the ingenuity.
- “Thons” - Organize a bowl-a-thon, basket-a-thon, swim-a-thon, sing-a-thon, dance-a-thon, etc. Recruit friends to sign up donors.
- Mega Yard Sale – Easy fundraiser to pull off. Short in duration, usually just a Saturday sale with some prep time the night before. Choose a nice high-visibility location like a school or church parking lot. Advertise in the local paper, school listservs, and put up signs for those who troll around on Saturday mornings looking for bargains.  
<http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/yardsale.htm>

## Raising Funds Yourself

- Employment – part time jobs, babysitting, lawn care/cleanup, car-washing, house painting, housekeeping. Setting aside portions of each paycheck into a separate account for study abroad expenses is a good idea.
- Yard/Community Cleanup - extremely fast and easy to put together. Simply create a set of instructions for your group detailing what to offer, what to say, and how much to charge. More info: <http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/free-fundraisers.htm>
- Bake Sales – get family and friends to help bake goods to donate to your sale. Be creative with your goodies to attract more customers!
- Personal Shopper – collect donations from friends and family in exchange for sending them or bringing back small souvenirs from your study abroad country.
- Letter Writing Campaign – Write a donation letter to family, friends of family, local businesses, stores, Chamber of Commerce, etc. Explain that you are raising funds to participate in a cultural and academic exchange program. Follow up with a polite phone call. Intrax provides students with letter templates, tips, and other resources. <http://www.intraxstudyabroad.com/program-fees/fundraising>
- Recycling Program – a program collecting used printer cartridges costs nothing to put together. All collection boxes and shipping needs are covered by the supplier. A used cartridge is worth between \$1 and \$20, depending on the popularity of the printer and the cost of a new cartridge. Set up donation boxes in at least a dozen businesses around your community. Fundingfactory is the recommended organization for this type of program. <http://www.fundingfactory.com/>
- Online Yard Sale – Sell unwanted items online! The best place to sell large quantities of lower-priced items is on eBay. Another good site to check out is Amazon.com You'll get more for books, music, and consumer electronics that way. You'll need to spend some time creating the listings. Having online pictures posted seems to help with higher-priced items. All in all, it's an easy fundraiser that produces results. <http://www.ebay.com>  
<http://www.amazon.com>
- Paid Surveys – Many sites offer payment if you agree to complete consumer review surveys. Be cautious when signing up as far as giving out personal information. Never pay to sign up for a site. May require some research to find a credible site, but possibly worth the effort.

## Fall Fundraisers

- Sell **hot potatoes** at sporting events, community events, or even on campus. It is an inexpensive item to purchase and always welcome on chilly fall days.
- Sell **hot chocolate/cocoa** on campus for students for their chilly walk to class.
- Sell **hand-painted gloves**. Purchase different sizes and colors of gloves in bulk. Decorate with fabric paints and sell on campus during cold Winter days.
- **S'mores** – Better than your average bake sale goodies! Have a toaster oven and lot's of graham crackers, marshmallows, and chocolate bars. Sell fresh, gooey smores for a dollar a piece, or more if you choose! You can also decorate the back side of the oven to look like a campfire and add flames to the top with wire.
- **Citrus Fruit & Poinsettias** - Late fall is a great time to do an order-taker fundraiser for fresh citrus fruit and holiday flowers. Potted holiday plants like poinsettias have huge profit margins and while the margins aren't as good on citrus fruit, the large order size means good profits from every customer. Extra profit tip: Save on freight with a full truckload order and buy poinsettias from wholesale nurseries.

## Spring Fundraisers

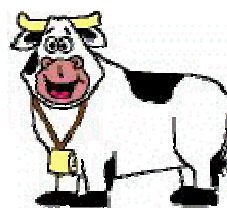
- **Valentines Day Roses** - This holiday is all about showing appreciation for loved ones and roses are a great product to offer. They can be chocolate roses, boxes of gourmet candy, or the traditional dozen roses in various colors. Extra profit tip: Line up a wholesale supplier and lock in your pricing before taking orders because prices on fresh flowers can skyrocket at the last minute.
- **Spring Flowers** - Another great seasonal fundraiser is selling flower bulbs in the early Spring. Several suppliers offer pre-order brochures with colorful pictures and exotic choices. Extra profit tip: Offer discounts on orders above \$50 because people will then buy more than they planned just to get the discount.
- More Ideas: <http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/seasonal-fundraisers.htm>

## Fundraising with Discount Cards

- Easy, little up front costs, and big profits (up to 90%)! Most companies will set up deals and agreements with businesses in your area for the discount cards. Be sure to check several sites to determine which company's offer is best for your size group and fundraising goal.
- **Pizza cards**
  - <http://www.buyforcharity.com/pizza-card>
  - <http://www.fasttrackfundraising.com/pizza-card-fundraiser.php>
- **Online Savings Cards**
  - <http://www.buyforcharity.com/online-savings-card>
- **Subway "buy one get one free sub" Cards**
  - <http://www.buyforcharity.com/subway-card>
- **Holiday Fundraising Cards**
  - offer discounts to online stores such as Amazon, Overstock, etc.  
<http://www.buyforcharity.com/holiday-fundraising-card>

## Raising Funds with Large Groups

- **Scrabble Tournament Fundraising** - Individuals pay \$35 to participate. Players can sneak a peek at a dictionary for an additional \$10 donation. Make extra fundraising money selling refreshments, raffle, auction, etc. <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/scrabble.htm>
- **Dinner for Two Raffle** – Get a dinner for two donated by a local restaurant. Or, purchase a gift card ~ \$35-50, depending on the restaurant. Sell raffle tickets for the prize!
- **Dinner For a Week** - Get 7 restaurants to donate a dinner for 2. Raffle off a week of eating out. Set your raffle ticket price based on your ultimate fundraising goal. <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/dinnerweek.htm>
- **Sitting Pretty Party** - the group auctions off hand-painted chairs. Those who want to paint a chair for the fund raiser can simply make it colorful or choose a theme. Some chairs can have a Halloween or Christmas theme - others decorate in a garden motif. The minimum bid should be \$30. (Or, find another item the group would love to purchase for cheap(at places like salvation army, antique stores) and decorate) <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/sittingpretty.htm>
- **Sticky Fly Fundraising** - Find a popular teacher(s) willing to participate. You'll also need lots of duct tape. Post flyers around the school a week ahead of time advertising your fundraiser. On the appointed day, find a spot where students and faculty pass by regularly. Set a chair up against a wall so that the side of the chair (NOT the back or front, otherwise it won't work right) is firmly against the wall. Place a couple of gym mats or cushions in front of the chair as a precaution. Have the teacher stand up on the chair with his/her back against the wall. For fifty cents per yard of duct tape, students and faculty can tape the teacher to the wall. When the teacher is firmly taped to the wall, stop selling tape. Announce that you will now remove the chair to see just how long the "fly" can stick to the wall. Creative, Easy, and Fun Idea! <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/StickyFly.htm>
- **Cow Pie Bingo** - Experience the "sweet smell of success" while hosting a cow pie fundraising event. A cow is turned loose on a fenced-in area which has been marked off in 500 three-foot, numbered squares. The cow determines the winner by making the first "deposit" on one of the squares. Chances on each square are sold for \$5. The winner receives \$500 or 20% of the sales, whichever is less (\$1 for every square sold.) Kids and adults will both love this fun event. More info - <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/cowpie.htm>. There are lots of variations of this fundraiser. "Google" it to find other alternatives and ways to set the fundraiser up.
- **Alternative to Cow Pie Bingo – Poop Pool** - Set up a large pen, put a dog in after he has just eaten, and sell 12 inch X 12 inch squares of the territory for \$20 a square. The winning square gets \$500, the fundraising group gets the rest. One group had 196 total squares, and made \$3500!! (There were pre-defined rules about pooping on the lines, pooping while walking etc.!) More Info - <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/cowpie.htm>



- **Speed Dating** – Have local singles get together and mingle for a good cause! Admission/registration fee is set for the event (possibly \$20 per person). Set up tables for the participants to sit, and set rules on when a whistle will be blown to let them know when to switch tables. Unique and fun fundraiser, especially for a college campus!  
<http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/speeddating.htm>
- **Care Packages** - Student care packages fundraising is especially popular during the first week of classes or during major exam periods. Packages could include candy, chips, hot chocolate, cookies, mug, fruit, magazine, stuffed animal, joke item, etc. that would be appropriate for male or female students at colleges. Parents are always looking for ideas on things to send their kids when they are away from home. Send order forms to the parents who can order the packages as a surprise gift. You will make the most money preparing the packages yourself but it will take more work. Commercial companies (just search for 'care packages' on the Internet) offer a wide variety of options - look for their affiliate option. Since you will be paid in advance, you have no risk and can budget your expenses. Care packages can also be sold on campus to students mingling in between classes. <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/carepackages.htm>
- **Money Tree Fundraising** - Give every person in your group a plain unmarked envelope. The envelopes must be identical. Ask them to place a coin or note inside the envelope, seal it, and hand the unmarked envelope to the organizer who staples a corner to a cardboard tree. To play the game a paying customer (supporter) chooses an envelope (but is not allowed to feel before choosing). They win whatever is in the envelope. It could be a note, a penny, a dollar, or more!! Give it a go, its always a sell out. Easy fundraising idea! <http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/moneytree.htm>
- **Balloon Bust** - Fill a couple hundred balloons with helium and slips of paper redeemable for prizes or cash, or (10 percent) 'Thank You Please Try Again'. Fill a room with these balloons, so patrons walk in and find them-selves in a latex obstacle course. They can pull one balloon outside, you write their name on it with magic marker. Then they put it back until the end of the night. During the day, have patrons guess how many balloons are in the room. The closest wins a prize at the end of the day.  
<http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/balloonbust.htm>
- **Balloon Bust Variation** - Put money into 100 helium-filled balloons and sell them for \$10 each. Denominations: One balloon contains \$100, two-\$50.00, two-\$20, two-\$10, two-\$5.00 and the rest \$2.00. Sell all 100 and make a total of \$548.00.  
<http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/DIY/balloonbust.htm>