



CHILDREN'S CANCER RESEARCH FUND

**raise. walk. cure.**

## 101 Fundraising Ideas

Join us in our fight against childhood cancer!

Join us in our fight against childhood cancer! Questions about the event? Need support or fundraising advice? Please contact us at 952-224-8497.

TIME TO FLY PRESENTED BY:



**Brooklyn, age 3**  
**Leukemia survivor**



Use this document to help jump start your fundraising brainstorming. Feel free to modify any of these fun ideas to fit your fundraising style and personality! Remember - we're here to help! All you have to do is ask.

### **Children's Cancer Research Fund can provide you with:**

Children's Cancer Research Fund's 501c3 Documentation *\*This is helpful for making donation requests to businesses.*

Time to Fly Logos and Graphics

Time to Fly Flyers and Posters

Customized Fliers for your Fundraiser

Customized Thank You cards

Children's Cancer Research Fund informational pamphlets

To request any of the above, or anything else that might help you in your fundraising efforts, please contact Jessica Ruth at [jruth@childrenscancer.org](mailto:jruth@childrenscancer.org).

## **101 Fundraising Ideas Easy Summer Fundraising Ideas**

### **Back Yard BBQ**

Invite your friends and family over for some backyard food, fun and games. Charge a small fee for a plate and a cup. You can help offset costs by requesting a donation of food from your local grocery store. Children's Cancer Research Fund can help by sending you logos and graphics to include for handouts at your event. Contact Jessica Ruth at [jruth@childrenscancer.org](mailto:jruth@childrenscancer.org) for more information.

### **Garage Sale**

Ask all of your friends and neighbors to participate by donating items to a garage sale. Make signs that indicate all proceeds are going to Time to Fly and Children's Cancer Research Fund. Ask your community paper to run an ad as their contribution. Add a bake sale or lemonade stand for the kids to run and have a donation jar visibly displayed.

### **Block Party**

Is there an annual block party in your neighborhood or community? This is the perfect opportunity to share your story with neighbors. Be ready with childhood cancer fact sheets and your fundraising link on your mobile phone to text to your neighbors.

### **National Night Out**

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 1. Use this opportunity to chat with neighbors about why you're fundraising to find a cure for childhood cancer. Rent a bouncy house or set up yard games and charge a small donation for entrance!



### **Car, Dog or Bike Wash**

Ask local businesses to donate the supplies you will need, and ask your friends to help wash. Add a bake sale, sell chilled bottles of water (which have been donated), bake dog treats and decorate doggie dishes with Time to Fly logos. Ask local high school clubs that need volunteer hours to help out!

### **Swim Party**

Ask a local public pool to donate (or rent at a reduced rate) a couple of hours for a private party. This is a great way to get teenagers involved in the fundraising effort. You can have donated snacks on hand to sell in exchange for donations. Or, if the pool has a concessions stand, you could take it over for the day. Ask for a donation at the pool entrance and put ample donation jars around the pool deck.

### **"Christmas in July" Party**

Host a "Christmas in July" ugly sweater party. Hold a "best ugly sweater" contest, and organize prizes for a donation incentive. Charge an admission fee at the door and place ample donation jars around your home.

## **At Work**

### **Corporate Matching**

Take advantage of corporate matching gifts programs. Many of your donors may work for companies that have a program like this. Their donation could double simply by filling out a form from their human resources department and by following the steps to submit a matching gift. If you have questions about Time to Fly and matching corporate gifts, contact Jessica Ruth at [jruth@childrenscancer.org](mailto:jruth@childrenscancer.org).

### **Partner with a Vendor or Business**

Work with a vendor (Mary Kay, Stella & Dot Jewelry, Tastefully Simple, etc.) to set up shop in your office lobby for the day or host a party at your home. Ask for 20 percent or more of the sales to come back as a donation. Contact a local café, boutique, restaurant, bar or a friend's business and ask them to donate a portion of their profit for a day.

### **Advertise While You Walk, Run, Raise and Train for Time to Fly**

Ask your workplace to sponsor your efforts. In return, give them logo or name representation on a t-shirt you wear to the event. For a larger donation, offer to wear a shirt with their branding on it while training for and at Time to Fly.

### **Silent and Live Auctions**

Ask local businesses to donate items or gift certificates and hold a silent auction at your fundraising event or work. Gas and car wash certificates, \$10-off dry cleaning, movie passes, play tickets, restaurant gift certificates, pet grooming, a week of free coffee are all great ideas. Ask your place of work to agree to set up a silent auction for one item every Friday for a month at work. Your office will have fun bidding on something new each week. Use an energetic friend as a live auctioneer for a large crowd and some big-ticket items: a trip for two, a special bottle of wine or landscape, pool or housecleaning service.

### **Bowling Party**

Ask your local bowling alley to host a few lanes for a fundraising party. Invite your coworkers as a team-building experience, neighbors, family or a group of old friends. Ask for a minimum donation at the door to play.



### **Office "Gopher"**

Offer to run errands for a week, or pick up lunch, coffee, copies for others for a donation.

### **Pie Toss Day**

With permission from human resources, employees make a donation for each whipped cream pie tossed at management. Tie it in with an employee's retirement or another office milestone!

### **"Spirit Day"**

With permission from human resources, for a donation of \$5+, employees can wear their favorite team's jersey, t-shirt, jeans or sweatshirt to work.

### **Pedometer Challenge**

Host a "steps" challenge week at work where your coworkers register for the challenge with a donation to your Time to Fly fundraising efforts. Ask a local business, gym or yoga studio to donate a gift card or gift basket to the winner who has the most steps at the end of the week.

### **Balloon-o-Gram**

Sell balloons to employees to give to their co-workers. Employees can buy a balloon, include a brief note and have it sent to a colleague. Helium and balloons can easily be purchased at party stores. Balloon recipients get affirmation, your office gets decorated with navy and orange Time to Fly colored balloons and you earn donations for Children's Cancer Research Fund!

### **Win a Day Off From Work**

With permission from human resources, ask for donations to your Time to Fly fundraising efforts in exchange for an opportunity to win a paid day off from work.

### **Best Worst Tie, Sweater or Costume Contest**

With permission from human resources, ask your colleagues to make a donation to enter into a best or worst tie or sweater competition. Ask a local business to donate a gift card as a prize for the winner. For extra fun, make it a small fashion show and charge a donation for a chance to attend the show.

### **Personal Vending Machine**

With permission from human resources, purchase some office favorites in bulk from Costco or Sam's Club (or better yet have them donated). Mark them up and sell them from your desk for \$1 or \$2. If you have a way to keep them cold, do the same with bottled water and soda.

### **Change Wars**

Host a change war at a school or place of work, a friendly competition where teams collect change in jars. Ask a restaurant to donate a gift card as a donation incentive for the winning department. Pro-tip: a 2-liter bottle filled with dimes is \$700!

### **Lunch Room Display**

With permission from your human resources department, put up a display in the lunch room at work with a sign with your picture and a note about why you are fundraising for childhood cancer research. Be sure to include a jar for donations.

### **Dress Down Friday**

Ask your boss if you can host a "Dress Down Friday." Set a donation amount for your colleagues, and make buttons or use stickers for those who have met your donation amount and earned a casual day.



## Email Signature

Customize your personal email signature with information about your participation in Time to Fly. Don't forget to include the link to your personal fundraising page. Ask human resources if you can add it to your work email, too! Anyone clicking on the link could lead to an additional participant or even an event sponsor.

## Voicemail

Change your voicemail messages to announce the fact that you fundraising for Time to Fly and Children's Cancer Research Fund! Ask your human resources department if you can do this on your work voicemail, too. This will be news to some and a reminder for all to support you in your fundraising efforts.

# At Home

## "Thons"

Haircut-a-thon, mow-a-thon, shovel-a-thon, rake-a-thon, weed-a-thon, paint-a-thon –You name it, you can "marathon" do it for donations. You can even ask local Girl Scout, Boy Scout troops or church youth groups to be your manpower for this fun activity. Many school groups and clubs also require volunteer hours.

## Used Book Sale

This is a more focused version of a garage sale. Ask everyone you know (coworkers, neighbors, family and friends) to donate any old books. Choose a time and place to have a used book sale— maybe your local farmer's market, school carnival, community fair or senior living community.

## Movie Party

Host a movie party for adults or kids at your house. Every time the word "fly" is said in the movie, everyone antes up \$1 in a donation bowl. Have pizza donated and ask for a donation at the door to join the fun. Back to the Future (Marty McFly), Space Jam and The Fly are great options!

## Wine Tasting Party

Have a wine and cheese tasting or a beer and brat party. If you know anyone (who knows anyone!) who owns, manages or works in a winery, brewery or restaurant, ask if they will host it. Ask for a donation at the door.

## Season Finale Party

Host a party in celebration of the premiere or finale of a favorite TV show. Serve donated hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Ask for a donation at the door. This is great for inviting friends over to watch your favorite awards shows. Ask a local restaurant that has a big screen television to allow you to host the party there and donate a portion of the food and beverage sales.

## Movie, TV or Netflix Binge

Host a movie or TV series marathon. Choose a theme and start the popcorn! Ask for a donation at the door and sell snacks and drinks. Enhance the theme with a \$1 donation every time a specific word or phrase is spoken.

## Watch the Big Game

Invite ten friends over to watch the Vikings home opener, All-Star Game, Stanley Cup (or whatever sport you love). Ask for a \$10 donation and for everyone to bring one food or beverage item. You'll easily get \$100 for your fundraising and get food covered too!



### **Sweets Party**

Who doesn't need a dessert for the weekend? Ask local restaurants, bakeries and groceries to donate yummy desserts. Post signs at work in advance, then bring all of the desserts into work on Friday. Hold a silent or live auction. Add onto the event by securing one pound coffee bags and auction those off too!

### **Poker or Game Tournament Party**

Set up tables and snacks and let the bluffing begin. Ask for a donation at the door to join the fun. Ask a local restaurant or business to donate food for your game night or a gift basket or gift card for additional donation incentive.

### **Classic Game Night**

Play Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble, Poker, Bridge or Bingo. Serve donated food and drinks. Ask for a donation at the door, or charge \$1+ per round of classic competitive fun!

### **Gala Night-In**

Host an elegant or formal party at your home. Request to have food and beverages donated by a local grocery store or restaurant. Charge admission with all proceeds going to your Time to Fly fundraising efforts.

### **National Holidays**

Don't forget about Arbor Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends and all of those get-togethers. Bring your donation jar! Ask everyone in attendance for their spare change. Bake and sell holiday-themed treats!

### **House Party**

Host a fundraising—or better yet – a THEMED fundraising party at your home for friends, family, coworkers or neighbors. Share your story and why it's important to you to support Children's Cancer Research Fund and the fight against childhood cancer. Sell a cup for beverages or plate for food. Ask your friends to contribute potluck style to keep expenses low, or ask restaurants and grocery stores to donate food to the cause. Ask local restaurants and businesses to donate gift baskets or gift certificates to use as an incentive for donors.

### **Donate Your Day**

In lieu of a gift for your birthday, anniversary, retirement, housewarming party or another gift-centric day, ask your friends and family to make a donation to Time to Fly. Use one of our kids' stories or your story to emphasize the donation in honor of a child who has been affected by childhood cancer.

## **With Your Kids**

### **Loose Change Day**

Ask your child's school to have a "Loose Change Day." Make a flier encouraging each child to bring in loose change from their house to be donated. Encourage the math classes to assist with counting and rolling the change. This is a great way to involve the entire school. You can hold this event multiple times at many schools in your district and surrounding areas.



### **Kids' Game Day**

Invite your nieces and nephews, kid's friends, the neighborhood kids or the soccer team to a game day at a local park or donated indoor location. Like a drop-off party, coordinate a couple of hours of fun activities and ask the parents for a donation in exchange for care. Parents get some kid-free time and kids get tetherball, four square, jump rope, potato sack races, yo-yo contests—you name it! Have donated snack food and juice boxes available to round out the fun. Ask local high school groups who need volunteer hours to assist in keeping the group active and safe.

### **Children's "Un-Birthday" Party**

Contact popular birthday party locations (trampoline park, Chuck E. Cheese, Brunswick Zone) and ask if they will host a party in exchange for promoting their business with your child's school, class or team (with permission). Post signs at local schools and childcare centers with details of the "un-birthday" party. Request a per-family donation at the door. Ask local restaurants or sandwich shops for donated food or for the facility to donate a portion of concessions or food sales.

### **Pancake Breakfast**

Host a pancake breakfast at a school, recreation center or place of worship. Ask for a donation at the door from your guests. Ask a local grocery store to donate the pancake mix and other food items to help cover costs.

### **Carnival**

Ask about the carnival at your local school. See if some of the proceeds from their event could benefit your Time to Fly efforts. Host a dunk tank, duck pond or cake walk. Proceeds from your efforts go to your team!

## **In Your Community**

### **Ask your Neighbors**

Write a letter to your neighbors telling them why you are fundraising to fight childhood cancer and request a donation. As you see them throughout the summer, update them on your fundraising progress.

### **Never Miss an Opportunity or Leave Money on the Table**

Don't be shy. Let everyone know that you are involved with Time to Fly and the fight against childhood cancer. When they ask why, let them know your hope for ending childhood cancer and tell them why it's important to you. Then, let them know what your fundraising goal is and ask for a donation. This is a great opportunity to educate your community and fundraise at the same time.

### **Tribute Donations**

Encourage your donors to make their donations "in honor of," "in support of" or "in memory of" someone they know who has been affected by cancer. This will help them feel like they are part of your experience. Suggest a donation amount in exchange for their signature on a shirt or flag that you will carry with you during Time to Fly.

### **"Sit" for Donations**

Babysit, pet sit, house sit. Offer services to the neighbors to get them involved.



### **Coins at the Mall**

Go to your local mall or shopping center and ask what they do with the coins in the fountain. See if you can get a month's worth or more donated to your Time to Fly fundraising efforts.

### **Cash Register Donation**

Ask a local store to host a coin jar at their checkout and provide them with donation cards so customers can make a donation as they make their purchases, sign their name or purchase the card in someone else's honor. The store then hangs the donation cards around the registers.

### **Dog Walking for Donations**

Send out a flier to your neighborhood offering your services to dog walk or dog sit while the owners are out of town. Get the whole family or team involved by wearing a Time to Fly t-shirt while you are walking the pups.

### **Donation Location at High Traffic Areas**

With permission from management, set up a table in front of your local grocery store. Ask everyone who enters to support you and the fight against childhood cancer. While this doesn't sound very glamorous, it's very effective. Download childhood cancer statistics from your fundraising center and hand them out. Remember that in addition to raising much-needed funds, you are also playing an important role in raising awareness. Give a gold ribbon that signifies childhood cancer awareness, as a thank you to strangers who donate.

### **Benefit Night at a Local Restaurant**

Check in with your favorite local hangouts about how they can help. Many restaurants already have programs in place to help you fundraise at their establishment. Ask for food to be donated to a benefit party, and ask for a portion of profits to be donated. Give the restaurant postcards or business cards to slip into the bill folders to spread awareness about childhood cancer and Time to Fly. Ask for a donation at the door from your guests. Check with your local restaurant to see if they are willing to support you with a donation on an evening without a fundraising party. It's less work on their end!

### **Calendar, Candle, Cookie Dough, Wrapping Paper or Wreath Sale**

Use a company that offers discounted items in bulk for sale in nonprofit fundraisers, or get crafting and make a unique item to sell yourself. People enjoy these types of sales because it offers a wide selection of things at low prices. Consider reaching out to senior living communities to set up a table for afternoon coffee or tea.

### **Recycled Bottle Drive**

Ask your local school for support in beautifying your neighborhood for to support your fight against childhood cancer. Put fliers around your neighborhood, school, gym, recreation center, bar, restaurant, asking managers to put their bottles out on a certain day. You do the collecting and handing into the recycling center and the dollars raised go towards your fundraising efforts.

### **Spaghetti Dinner**

Ask your place of worship, work, school or other organization to host a spaghetti dinner to benefit Children's Cancer Research Fund. Have all of your friends and Time to Fly teammates help with the cooking to keep overhead low. Ask for a donation to join in the fun.





## **Spare Change**

Ask your favorite restaurant or local pub to put out a jar for donations of spare change. Decorate it with quotes, pictures, and personal messages. Put these out somewhere obvious. Don't forget to delegate fundraising efforts to your teammates. Give ten friends ten coin jars and ask them to get donations for you at their place of work, school, place of worship, gym – anywhere! Ask all of your friends and family to put aside their spare change to be added to the "super change jar." Every month or so, empty it out and let everyone know through social media how much "a little at a time" adds up! This is a great idea to put into action at work, too. Decorate a jar at your desk with inspirational quotes, photos and stories from children fighting cancer.

## **Charity Golf or Mini-Golf Tournament**

Work with a local golf course or mini-golf course to plan a charity golf tournament. Ask for a donation amount to participate, and get prizes donated for the winner of each hole or the whole course.

## **Special Screening**

Ask your local movie theater to donate a special screening of a new release. Invite everyone you know and make fliers or create a Facebook Event to get the word out. Ask for a donation at the door to participate, and ask if the theater will also donate a percentage of the concession sales for your fundraising efforts!

## **Professional Sporting Events**

Buy a section of tickets at a group rate and ask your family and friends for a donation of twice the price in exchange for a ticket. Host a tailgate party with donated or pot-luck style food and charge a fee per plate or cup. Contact the group sales manager in the ticket office to hear about special pricing!

## **Concession Stand Takeover**

Many sports, concert venues and high school stadiums allow groups to work the concession stand to raise funds for a charitable organization. Look into the arenas near you. If your child's little league does not have a concession stand, ask if you can sell water and treats!

## **Laser Tag – Adult and Kid Fun!**

Ask a local laser tag arena to host a 'kids at heart' grown-ups party. Charge a fee at the door or charge for each game of laser tag played. Some local trampoline parks also have laser tag arenas for the ultimate adult throw-back party fun!

## **Comedy Night**

Ask a local comedy club or high school improv club to host an evening of laughter in support of Children's Cancer Research Fund. A portion of tickets sales can be donated.

## **Say It with Color**

Temporarily color your hair pink, blue, green or gold. Become a human conversation starter and see how much attention you can draw to your dedication to the cause. Plan ahead with your fundraising and tie this in with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September.

## **Dig Out the Old Stuff**

Dig out those old t-shirts, pins and ribbons that you earned in past Time to Fly events. Your memorabilia is a great conversation starter and an excuse to request donations. Be a walking billboard for the cause.



## Meet the Press

Contact the editor of your local paper, your company newsletter or both! Ask them to interview you about what you've undertaken and why, and include a request for support. Be sure they include instructions in the story for readers to make a donation. Better yet, write a quick press release to your community paper about who you are and why you're fundraising for childhood cancer in advance of your garage sale or another fundraising event!

## Speak at your Professional Organization or Place of Worship

Ask your professional organization or local place of worship if you can speak to their congregation about Time to Fly and your commitment to joining the fight against childhood cancer and set up a table to collect donations afterward.

## Ask your Yoga Instructor or Personal Trainer for a Donated Class

Invite your friends to attend a special yoga/aerobics/step class donated by a trainer. Ask for a donation at the door. You make progress towards your fundraising goal and the trainer gets the chance to build their client base. It's a win-win for all.

## Pub Quiz or Karaoke Night

Ask your local pub quiz or karaoke place to host a benefit night on behalf of your behalf. Invite all of your friends, and charge a donation fee at the door. Ask the restaurant or pub to donate a portion of their proceeds on the night to your Time to Fly fundraising efforts.

## Tickets

Ask your local theater or playhouse, or your professional or amateur sports team to donate tickets and auction them off. Better yet, ask them to donate season passes or tickets! Contact the group sales manager of your favorite theater or team to hear about special pricing.

## Creative Friends

Ask a local artist or creative friend to donate a piece of art or jewelry that you can sell or include in an auction.

## Ask your Travel Agency

Ask your travel agency for a plane ticket, a night in a hotel, a weekend getaway or a staycation to use as donation incentive at one of your fundraising events.

## Hair Salon

Ask your hair salon if they will donate \$2+ from each haircut over a weekend. Provide fliers to display at each haircut station and a donation jar at the register. Ask if the salon will donate a free haircut or service to use as a donation incentive.

## Gym

Ask your gym if you or they can teach an aerobics, yoga or spinning class as a benefit for you. Ask to put fliers at the check-in desk or in lockers so your gym buddies can learn more about Time to Fly. Host a table on a busy Saturday and ask for donations or for folks to join the team!

## Change the Song

Find a bar or restaurant that offers live music or a jukebox. Request that a band or jukebox take over – if someone in the audience wants a new or different song, they have to donate! Great fun for a parent vs. teenager music-off!



### **Use your Talent**

Offer any talent or skill that you have for a donation: graphic design, massage, hair styling, make-up styling, photography, computer skills, sewing, music, baking, cake decorating, etc. Or, ask talented friends to donate their skills to your fundraising effort. Tie in ideas with holidays, celebrations and party themes like weddings, makeovers, baking party or holiday card portraits.

### **Sell Space**

Sell small blocks of space on a shirt, banner or flag you plan to wear or bring on the course at Time to Fly. Encourage donors to write a tribute to you, a friend or a loved one. The more you can make your donors feel a part of your experience, and part of the journey to a cure, the more they are likely to give on your behalf in the future.

### **Ask for a Donation in Return for Promoting a Business**

Ask your doctor, dentist, grocer, veterinarian, chiropractor or coffee shop for donations in exchange for promoting their business on social media and at the event on a banner or flag. Better yet, ask them for gift certificates to use as incentive prizes for your other fundraising events.