

## **Free or Low-Cost Fundraising Ideas**

### ***SHOE DRIVE FUNDRAISER***

Funds2Orgs helps nonprofits raise money by collecting unwanted, gently used, or even new shoes. Funds2Orgs will pick up the shoes that you collect and will pay your nonprofit a certain amount per pound of shoes within 48 hours of processing.

It's incredibly easy. And Funds2Orgs doesn't just help nonprofits in the U.S.; they also use their organization to help developing countries! Market your drive and start collecting the shoes. Once you've collected enough, package them up, and Funds2Orgs will come and pick them up. Your non-profit will receive a check within 48 hours of the shoes being processed!

---

### ***CAR WASH***

A carwash fundraiser usually works better during warm-weather months. Carwash fundraisers are a tried and true way to raise money for a project or cause. All you need are cleaning supplies and people who want their dirty vehicles cleaned for a small fee.

Charge a nominal fee in exchange for the wash (\$5-\$10) and consider providing food and drinks for people to purchase while they're waiting. Advertise well in advance for your carwash and heavily promote it the day of the event.

---

### ***USED BOOK SALE***

If you have some bookworms in your community, try hosting a used book sale as your next quick and easy fundraiser! All you'll need is a "bookstore" for the day. This can be a common space like a gymnasium, community center, church, or school.

Advertise well in advance for individuals and local businesses to bring their gently used books to the sale. Categorize them anyway you would like. You could separate them by subject matter, author, or age appropriateness. Then start selling the gently used books to your supporters.

## ***YARD SALE***

Get in touch with people and gauge their interest in a Yard Sale. If your supporters want to clear out their closets and garages for a good cause, then inform them of the time and location of your Yard Sale fundraiser. Set up tables for each individual.

Promote your Yard Sale fundraiser. You can go the traditional route and make signs, but you can also advertise on social media and send out emails to donors who live in the area. Then, you'll need to find a way to accept donations and pledges. You can collect cash or checks or set up an online donation page. Your organization simply takes all or a portion of the sales made during a yard sale.

---

## ***RESTAURANT FUNDRAISERS***

Panera Bread, Chili's, TGIF, Zaxby's, Krispy Kreme and other restaurants all offer fundraising nights for organizations to raise money. All you have to do is bring your friends and family as well as a customized flyer.

Find a restaurant location and make sure that they participate in fundraising nights. If they do, you'll need to provide 501(c)(3) documentation before moving forward. A printed or electronic version of the flyer must also be presented upon ordering during fundraising nights.

---

## ***FIELD DAY***

If you want to bring your community together and raise some extra money, you can roll a ton of fundraising contests into one huge event and hold a field day! Pick a date and location and plan well in advance. Make sure you have a back-up location, too! Plan the games you'll include during field day, like the egg toss and a three-legged race!

Then start promoting your event. Once the big day arrives, make sure that you have volunteers running the games and selling the tickets.

## ***WALKATHON***

A walkathon is an event where participants raise funds for their cause by collecting money or pledges for walking a predetermined distance. Determine a walking route and set a date. Ask about a peer-to-peer fundraising platform and social media and email templates to promote the event.

---

## ***DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT***

Dodge ball tournaments can get extremely competitive, but they can also be a lot of fun for the community. Individuals form teams and compete in friendly games of dodge ball.

First, have groups sign up and pay a registration fee. Next, make a bracket for your teams, March Madness style. Invite friends, family members, and other people from the community to come and watch the tournament. Charge spectators a dollar or two at the door and offer concessions for a price.

---

## ***GOLF TOURNAMENT***

Like galas, golf tournaments require lots of planning, but a carefully executed golf tournament on a beautiful day will help encourage supporters to give their best game and their best donations. If you can also encourage participants to obtain sponsorships beforehand and encourage giving the day of the event, you'll be set!

You'll first need to find a golf course that will allow you to host your fundraiser and that is convenient for all of your supporters.

---

## ***SCAVENGER HUNT***

A scavenger hunt is one of the most enjoyable group activities there is. You can ask each participant to donate \$5 and place them into groups of five. Determine the route of your scavenger hunt. You'll also need to choose a theme and decide what items or tasks are going to be at each checkpoint. You can also include info about the organization and its mission there too.

Recruit participants and promote your event. Make sure to obtain a small prize, for the winning team.