

50 ways to “FUN” in FUNDRAISING

1

Make a self-donation to jump-start your fundraising.



5

Get casual at work. Ask your company to allow a dress-down day. For a \$5 donation, employees may dress casual on a designated day. Or, sell a year's worth of casual days.

8

Set up a car wash in your local neighborhood and take donations for each car you wash.

10

Hold a garage sale. Turn your unused items into donations. You can hold a physical garage sale or sell items through sites like OfferUp or Facebook Marketplace. Be sure to advertise that the proceeds are going to NAMIWalks and your reasons for fundraising!



11

Collect loose change! You won't believe how quickly it can add up. Check your car, purse, etc. Or start filling a 16 oz. water bottle with dimes. When it's full, you've raised \$100!

2

Write about it! Send emails or physical letters to supporters to let them know why you're participating in NAMIWalks.



3

Get social.

Start a Facebook Fundraiser through your Fundraising Dashboard to solicit your social network.



4

Match your funds. Take advantage of corporate matching gifts and watch your donations double.

6

Create a cookbook of family recipes. You can have copies printed or email digital copies in exchange for a donation.



7

Skip days! Skip eating out or getting coffee from the coffee shop for a day and donate the savings to your team. Challenge co-workers or friends to join you.



12

Silent Auction. Ask local businesses to donate items for use in a silent auction. Free sites like 32Auctions or eBay make it easy to list your items online and collect bids.

13

Karaoke Night.

Show off your karaoke skills (or lack of) through a fun night of karaoke. Invite friends to your house or partner with a local karaoke business to host. Charge an admission fee or donation per song.



14

Birthday Fundraiser.

In lieu of a gift for your birthday, ask your friends and family to make a donation through your personal NAMIWalks page.



15

Wedding Gifts. Much like a birthday fundraiser, you can ask for donations to your NAMIWalks page in lieu of wedding gifts.



16

Give-Back Night. Many local businesses and restaurants have charity programs already in place where they'll donate a portion of proceeds from sales during a set timeframe. Set a date and invite your friends, family and community to join you!

17

Exercise for a Cause. Partner with a local gym and ask them to donate a class. Charge a donation for anyone to attend the class.



18

Concession Sales. Did you know that professional sports teams often let volunteer groups run a concession stand at a home game as a fundraiser? Contact your professional home team and then get a group of friends together for a great time at the game — for a worthy cause!

19

Mow-a-thon. Host a day where you and your family members will mow lawns in your neighborhood in exchange for a donation!

20

Reach out to your neighbors! Let your neighbors know you're fundraising for NAMIWalks by decorating your yard, giving them notecards or posting on sites like NextDoor.

21

Use Your Talents! Utilize and sell any talent or skill that you have: graphic design, computer skills, sewing, baking, cake decorating, etc.



22

Babysit, house sit or pet sit for a donation.

23

Meet the Press. Contact the editor of your local newspaper or 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 how readers can make donations to you.

24

Host a concert for a cause. Work with a local event venue to plan a benefit night or ask a musician if they'll host a live-stream concert on social media and ask for donations as they play.



25

Escape Room. Host an escape room online and ask people to donate to join in. There are many free escape rooms available online. Quizbreaker lists a few!

26

Cookie Tasting. Invite your friends and family to a cookie tasting party where everyone brings their favorite cookie. Charge an entrance fee and provide a prize to the favorite recipe. Serve milk and hot cocoa to complement the treats!



Holiday Ornament Sale. Make holiday ornaments and sell them for a donation. Get even more festive and ask for a donation in exchange for putting up holiday decorations!

28



Read-a-thon. This is a great fundraiser to get the whole family involved! Ask for pledges from friends and family. You can track by the number of pages, chapters or even hours that you spend reading.

29

Ugly Sweater Contest. Host a fun holiday party and ask friends to come wearing their ugliest holiday sweaters. Charge an entrance fee for the contest and crown winners!

30

Pet Birthday Party. Similar to a birthday fundraiser for yourself, you can host an online birthday fundraiser for your pet. Or take it up a notch and host an in-person party and ask for donations in lieu of gifts!



31

Game Night. Ask your friends and family to join you for a game night, playing your favorite board games. You can also host game nights virtually on sites like Tabletopia. Ask for a donation to join.



32

Scrapbooking Party. Host a scrapbooking or Cricut-ing party at your house or at a local store. Ask a professional to lead an inspirational idea exchange and have samples on display and some special supplies. Serve donated food and drinks and charge a donation at the door.

33

Bowling. Ask your local bowling alley to donate some lanes for a fundraising party. Invite your coworkers, your neighbors, your family or a group of old friends. Charge at the door.



34

Ticket Sales. Buy a section of tickets at a group rate and charge your family and friends twice the price. Get food donated and host a tailgate party.



35

Calling all gamers! Use your video game skills for a good cause. Livestream while you play your favorite game using platforms like Twitch or Facebook and ask for donations when you hit certain milestones.

36

Golf Outing. Work with a local golf course to plan a charity golf outing. Charge a fee to participate and see if you can get prizes donated for the winner of each hole or the whole course.



37

Step Pledges. Start walking prior to event day! Ask friends and family to make pledges for every mile you walk or run.

38 Bake Sale. Are you famous for any baked goods? Host a bake sale or take orders for your famous pie, cookies, cobbler, etc.



39 Advertise at work! Put up a display in the lunch room at work (a sign with your picture and a note about what you are doing); be sure to include a jar for donations.



40 "Breakfast with..." Have a connection to someone famous locally? Maybe a holiday character like Santa? Perhaps the CEO of your company? Sell tickets to a group breakfast or auction off a 1:1 experience with someone special.



41 Chili Cook-Off. Host a chili cook off and charge an admission fee. Offer prizes to the top voted entries.

42 Pet Fashion Show/ Cutest Pet. Host an in-person or virtual pet contest. Charge admission fees and let people vote for their favorite pet!

43 Dance Class. Work with a local dance studio to donate a dance class. Invite people to join for a donation.



44 Errands. Take advantage of those chores people don't want to do! Help people complete their to-do list in exchange for a donation.



45 Cooking Class. Are you a great cook or do you know one? Offer an in-person cooking class or stream live from Facebook and take donations!



46 Ice Cream Social. Host an ice cream social at work, place of worship or a local community center.

47 Comedy Night. Ask a local comedy club to host a benefit night. Know a local comedian? They can livestream a show on social media and ask for a donation.



48

Block Party. Host an old-fashioned block party in your neighborhood. Invite a band to play, have a BBQ, make crafts and games for kids, etc. Take donations for each activity.



49

Trivia Night. Host a fun themed trivia night! Harry Potter? Disney? Friends? Music? Whatever you're most interested in! Invite your friends to join in the fun.

50

Adventure Challenge. Utilize social media to host an "adventure challenge." Challenge your followers that you'll do something adventurous (pie in the face, eat a spicy pepper) if you raise a certain amount.