

Holiday Fundraising Ideas

Gingerbread Competition

Maybe it's building a gingerbread house or decorating a gingerbread man or woman. Hold a competition at your office, school or with friends and family. The one who gets the most donation vote's wins and all the money goes towards your team fundraising efforts!



Christmas Cookie Baking

Most people have already been rushing around for more than a month, first getting ready for Thanksgiving, and now preparing for Christmas. There's shopping to do, decorating, possibly travel to plan, or preparing their homes for guests, and they have to do it all while still keeping up with the day-to-day tasks and activities. It's a miracle if anyone has any time left over to bake anything from scratch. That's where your group comes in. Offer baked holiday cookies that members of the community can buy by the dozen. Decide on a few varieties to make, and they don't have to be complicated. Simple sugar cookies or gingerbread will do. You can get fancier if you like, and offer premium cookies at a slightly higher price. If your volunteers have the time, inclination, and skill, you can also offer larger baked goods like cakes and pies. Ask people to place their orders a week or two in advance so there's plenty of time for preparation and and baking. And for that inevitable emergency request, add on a small last-minute fee. This way, families still get homemade treats rather than store-bought, and your organization raises money for its cause. Everyone has a happy holiday!



Homemade Christmas Cards

Visit a craft store for holiday stencils and colors for a holiday card made with love. Sell them individually or in a collection.



Homemade Gift Tags

This can be directly tied into the gift-wrapping fundraiser above. Make your own gift tags from stencils or stickers and charge \$1 per tag. Paint them with nice, but simple holiday scenes.



Vintage Christmas Decoration

Most families with young children have a box or two of old Christmas ornaments tucked away in the attic. Have group of volunteers collect donated decorations, then fix them up and resell them at a Christmas craft show.



Holiday Card Fundraiser

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays! Even though electronic methods have replaced a lot of day-to-day communications, many people still like to send paper cards for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Most of the people who enjoy doing that don't want to leave anyone out, so they give holiday cards to everyone—family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and their kids' teachers. They may even give cards to their service providers such as doctors, dentists, and mail carriers. In other words, they need a lot of holiday cards! Your organization can take advantage of this tradition with a holiday card fundraiser. Find a company that sells holiday cards by the box. The company will provide your group with catalogs and order forms. You can either go door to door, or distribute catalogs and order forms at church, school, and work. Once you've collected all the orders, the card company will either ship the cards directly to your customers, or send them all to you to distribute. Don't forget to talk to local businesses, too. They often send cards to their customers, so you can become their one-stop shop for all the cards they'll need!



Paint a Holiday Scene

Take your group of willing and amateur artists around the neighborhood to offer window painting. Holiday phrases or scenes look great on a neighbor's house or a local business window during the winter season.



Poinsettias, Candles and Treats – Oh My!

Do some research into companies that promote Christmas or holiday products—especially for fundraisers! It won't be hard to find catalogs full of holiday plants, , foods, candles or gift ideas which can be used as fundraisers. Then all your volunteers have to do is knock on doors, drop off catalogs, take phone orders, and deliver the goods. Companies that have fundraising products give good deals to non-profits for a good cause.



Christmas trees, wreaths and garland...oh my!

Set up shop, with the help of a local garden center and sell Christmas trees, wreaths, and holiday garland. If you are borrowing space from a local garden center, farm, or supermarket, you can work out a deal so that 50% of the sales go to the establishment, and 50% goes to your charity organization. If you don't want to deal with the selling and maintaining of trees, you can look to many local farms that already have fundraising deals in place for nonprofit organizations. Simply do an online search and you will get a list of companies that provide Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland for charity sales. All you have to do is take orders, submit the order form to the farm, and the trees will be delivered to one central location. Your buyers can pick up their Christmas trees, wreaths, and garlands, or you can offer a delivery service for an extra charge.



Christmas Tree Ornaments Fundraiser

No need to wait until December to plan a Christmas tree ornament fundraiser. Plan this event early enough to allow people to order and receive their ornaments in time for the holidays. Find a company that offers personalized ornaments for fundraising events. You can either get your organization's logo printed on them, or choose a fun or inspiring message that will appeal to a large number of people. Or, if someone in your group is artistically inclined, create a cute character and include your group's motto or message below it. Ornament customizing companies offer several options so you can find what will work best for your group, and your community. Ornaments also make great gifts, so encourage your customers to order several for family and friends. Bear in mind that not everyone puts up a Christmas tree, so consider offering an alternative to those who celebrate other holidays, like cookie dough or popcorn. This way, they're not left out, and you don't miss out on fundraising opportunities.



Christmas Decorating

Offer your crafty side to local businesses that need help with holiday decorations. Many businesses don't have time to decorate themselves, and the good thing about that is they don't mind paying a little extra money for your help. Enlist a group of volunteers to canvass the neighborhood and sign up local businesses for decorating. Then send in your décor group for the main event, and you can even offer to return and clean up when holiday season is over.



Christmas Carolers

The Holidays are jolly and nothing sets the mood better than singing. This fundraiser is perfect for a school choir or glee club and will make you feel good as well as raise money. Split your club into smaller groups of 4 or 5. You may want to have an adult with each group for safety. Print a flyer that talks about your group and what you are raising money for. Have a song book of all the popular Christmas and Holiday carols for everyone in your group. Dress in Santa or elf hats. Go around your local neighborhood, knock on doors and begin singing. Be respectful of those who ask you to leave. Take requests from those that ask you to stay. Hand them your flyer and say that donations are optional. You just want to spread Holiday cheer, but if they would like to help it is very much appreciated. The closer you run this fundraiser to the holidays the better.



In-Home Shopping

Holiday gift shopping can be an absolute nightmare. Many people plan to do their holiday shopping online every year, only to remember about it mid-December when it's too late. A Christmas shopping party is the next best thing! Welcome friends and neighbors to a holiday shopping party where they can finish their entire gift buying in one night! This type of event can easily turn into a fundraiser if you can find vendors who are willing to give a percentage of their sales to charity. Many large, online retailers such as Mary Kay, Avon, Tupperware, Partylite and Epicure have representatives who do home parties all over the country. Just make sure there a variety of products is available for men, children, women, grandparents, teachers, and even pets. You can pass out catalogs so guests can pick their favorites ahead of time, and come to the party ready to buy. Keep guests comfortable by serving hot apple cider, eggnog, or punch, and provide a few light snacks. Your guests will appreciate being able to get all of their shopping done in one evening, in one place.



Holiday Shopping in One Night

Holiday gift shopping can be time consuming and hectic. Host a “holiday shopping in one night” event for your next fundraiser. Find vendors willing to set up a booth, either for a set fee or a percentage of their sales for the evening. Contact representatives from popular companies such as Avon, Mary Kay, Tupperware, and Watkins. Most companies have online directories to find representatives in your area, or ask around to find them. Send home flyers, advertise with posters, and contact your local newspapers. Offer a free grab bag or raffle ticket to the first fifty shoppers. See if the vendors will donate gift baskets or product samples to give away. Have a bake sale and concession stand to feed your hungry shoppers and make extra money. Consider having craft vendors as well, but do not make the show bigger than one shopper can get through in one evening. Your shoppers will appreciate being able to get all their shopping done in one place.



Holiday Flower Sale

Spring tulips, Easter lilies, fall mums, and poinsettias are all seasonal flowers that could be a great fundraiser for your group. Find a local nursery that will wholesale flowers to your group so that you take advantage of lower prices. This fundraiser works best as a pre-order, but you should have some extras on hand to take advantage of last-minute sales. This is a fundraiser that can be run multiple times a year to take advantage of the seasons. You will need to work out with the nursery if they will deliver the flowers to you or if you will need to pick them up. Make sure you pick them up in a heated vehicle so that the cold does not shock the plants. Advertise your sale with flyers sent home with students and in your local newspapers. Have a pickup day and time for everyone to get their flowers. Send each plant home with a thank you note and a care sheet.



Breakfast with Santa

It's better than Breakfast at Tiffany's when it comes to some face-time with the man in the red suit. Offer a few group breakfast with Santa opportunities at local diners, then sell \$5 to \$10 entry fees (plus a kid's breakfast). The kiddies get to have breakfast with Santa, and get their seasonal photo taken in one shot!



Santa Claus Portraits

Parents may not enjoy paying for a photo of their child with Santa, especially when it involves standing in a busy line of noisy children for over an hour. Mall photos with Santa are typically haphazardly taken, so junior ends up either crying or not even looking at the camera. Fundraising organizations can take the bustle out of this fun event by hosting a more intimate photo opportunity with Santa. Ask an avid photographer in your group to volunteer to take photos with their digital camera. This way, you don't have to pay for film. Have another member of your organization dress up as Santa Claus, and maybe a few more who wouldn't mind becoming elves for the day. Rent or use hand-me-down costumes, a tree, some garland, and some artificial deer. Wrap some empty boxes to look like gifts, and voila, you have turned your local community center or school cafeteria into a winter wonderland. Offer photos for a flat fee. The main market will be children, but if Santa is game, offer photos with pets as well!



Holiday Wrapping Paper

It's usually the last thing on most people's lists every single year—gift wrapping. Many people get stuck with whatever is left at the store because they waited until the last minute to wrap gifts. This is where [gift wrap fundraisers](#) are successful—especially during the holidays! Go door to door selling wrapping paper, ribbon, holiday cards, stickers, and gift tags to last-minute shoppers. This is a surefire way to raise funds for your organization because it's super convenient for the buyers. There are many gift wrapping suppliers online that provide all the paper and order forms. Simply have buyers look at the catalog, fill out the order forms, and submit them to the supplier to be filled. The paper goods will typically be delivered to you in a few weeks. You simply deliver the goods to your buyers and collect the cash.



Wrap It Up!

Selling gift wrapping is one thing, but how about wrapping the gifts as well—now that's convenience! Let's face it, the holidays are busy and people are willing to pay for gift wrapping to save time. Ask your local mall about setting up a booth with several different wrapping paper choices, colored ribbon, gift tags, tape, and scissors. All you need to do is supply the volunteers willing to wrap. You can charge a set amount per box wrapped, or accept any donation people are willing to give. You'd be surprised at the generosity this time of year. Oftentimes, it's the shoppers at busy malls, bookstores, music stores, and bath and candle shops who would like fancy gift wrapping to showcase their lovely gift.



Christmas Light Removal

How many times have you driven through a neighborhood weeks, or even months after Christmas, and seen several houses that still have lights dangling from the eaves? There's usually at least one on every street. Sometimes people forget, or honestly, they just don't feel like climbing a ladder to take something down that they're going to have to put back up a few months later. Still others are unable to take their lights down because they're elderly. Why not help these people out by offering to take their lights down for them? You can either charge a flat fee, or ask for fair donations. If you decide to go with a flat fee, you can offer discounts to elderly neighbors. Ask your organization for volunteers, and then ask those volunteers whether they're willing to provide ladders and other tools that may be needed to remove the lights. At least two people should work together per house so one person can hold the ladder, safety first. Then when it starts getting close to the holidays again, your group can offer to put lights up!



Santa's Little Helper

Someone needs to watch the little one's while Mom and Dad are out buying gifts. Offer your baby sitting services so they can shop. You can even hold a designated babysitting evening at your church, business or home!

