



## Community Event Fundraising Ideas

**Matching Gifts:** Double your money with matching gifts! Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees.

**Customize** your personal webpage with a photo and your personal story, for help contact [info@takeabreakfromcancer.org](mailto:info@takeabreakfromcancer.org). Personalizing your page has proven to increase fundraising **two and half times** than those that do not take that time.

**Network:** Are you on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any other social networking site? Use it to let your friends and family across the country know about your fundraising efforts for the FPS Walk! Include links to your event webpage.

**Ask** all your supporters to forward your email to 10 of their friends with a request for a donation, and to post about their support of your event on their Facebook pages.

**Meet the Press:** Contact the editor of your local paper, 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 FPS through your page.

**Ask** your barista to sell paper icons or donate a day's tips to FPS.

**Ask** your hair stylist for a donation; if not in the form of a check, then perhaps in the form of haircuts! See if he/she will host a hair-cut-a-thon in the salon, you can probably raise more donations in two hours of haircutting than you imagine – be sure to get the word out!

**Ask** your yoga, spinning, aerobics instructor or personal trainer for a donation or a donated class. Invite your friends to attend a special class/yoga/aerobics/step donated by the trainer or lead the class yourself and their admission fee (\$20 or more) becomes a donation. The instructor also gets the chance to build their client base. It's a win-win!

**Auctions:** Be creative with what you auction off... some things may be more valuable than you think! Some things to auction off are: prime parking space at work, desserts, homemade dinners, local art work, etc.

**Bake Sales:** Hold a bake sale on a Friday, so your co-workers have a weekend treat!

**Bartender:** Ask your favorite bar if you can guest bartend for a night and keep all of your tips. Make sure you invite all of your friends to come in that night!



**Birthday party:** Instead of gifts, ask for donations for the FPS Walk and support your team!

**Book/CD/DVD Sale:** Ask your family, friends, colleagues or classmates to bring in all their gently used books and reach out to local publishing houses, bookstores and libraries to donate overstocked books, cds or dvds. Spread the word, set up a table (at a mall or in an office/School lobby) and sell! Include a thank you bookmark with a photo and a link to your personal fundraising webpage.

**Bowling Fundraiser:** Have a bowling fundraiser after work. Invite all family and friends to participate. Ask the bowling alley to donate or discount the rates but charge full prices to play, with the proceeds going to your team.

**Car Wash:** Get your team together for a local town car wash. This works great for elementary and high school teams too. Hold a car wash – either in your neighborhood, at your place of worship, or at your place of business. Ask local businesses to donate the supplies you will need and ask your friends to help wash the cars. Add a bake sale; sell chilled bottles of water (that have been donated).

**Casual Days:** Ask your employer if they will allow employees to dress down or wear their favorite flip flops, sports jersey or hat on Fridays for a \$5-\$10 donation.

**Change is Good: Change Jar:** Did you know that one milk jug of pennies is equal to about \$60? Each department/division takes a jar and the first person to fill it up gets a prize. Start off with small jars and increase in size each round. Prizes get better each round. You can also ask your child's school to place milk jugs in their classrooms to collect pennies.

**Clean House:** Have team members band together by donating items for one huge garage sale. Advertise the sale wherever you can and make sure everyone knows where their donations are going! Make signs that advertise that all the proceeds are going to support FPS. Ask your local paper to run an ad as their contribution. Add a bake sale and/or lemonade stand and have an FPS donation jar visibly displayed.

**Coins:** Go to your local mall or shopping center and ask what they do with the coins in the fountain.

**Concert:** Are you in a band or other music group? Why not host a concert to benefit FPS? Charge attendees an entry fee, donate a flat amount per ticket, or set up donation jar.

**Concession Sales with your Favorite Team!** 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!

**Cook-off:** Who makes the tastiest chili in your office or in your neighborhood? Which team member bakes the best cupcakes? Tasting judges are charged for each voting ballot. Whoever gets the most votes is crowned “Master Chef.”

**Date Night:** Offer to babysit your family, friends and coworkers’ children for one night, in exchange for a donation, and allow them to enjoy a date night together while you host a slumber party at your home.

**Designer Handbag Bingo:** The all-in-good-fun event combines ladie’s night, adult beverages and a chance to take home a designer handbag, all while raising funds for FPS. For an entry fee of \$25-\$30, guests will play 10-15 games of bingo for the opportunity to win a Coach, Kate Spade, Tory Burch designer bag to name a few.

**Duct Tape Challenge:** Get your child’s school or your employer involved and sell strips of duct tape for \$1-\$5 and select a day to duct tape your principal or boss to a wall, door or window.

**Game Night:** Host a party and have every team member bring their favorite game. \$10 to get in the door!

**Golf-a-thon:** Are you an avid golfer? Then set a goal to golf 50 holes in a day and collect donations from your family, friends and coworkers to support your efforts. Ask team members to join you and increase your odds!

**Happy Hour:** Wear your team shirt to Happy Hour and ask people to sign it for a \$5 donation. Ask the DJ to announce that you are in the bar.

**Holiday Decorator:** Offer to put up your neighbors outdoor Christmas lights or Easter decorations in exchange for a donation. It’s a job no one wants to do and they might be delighted to have it done for them, especially if it’s a donation to FPS.

**Host a House Party:** Ask family, friends, coworkers and neighbors to join you at your home for a party (luncheon/Tea Party/Dinner). Ask each guest to make a \$10 donation and provide delectable food and drinks. You could even make it a themed party and ask your guest to dress up in appropriate theme attire.

**Host a Consultant Party:** Ask a local consultant for your favorite products to donate a portion of their sales from a party you host at your home or online. Whether you prefer Tastefully Simple, LuLuRoe, Stella & Dot, Silpada, Usborne or Tupperware the options are endless.



**Lemonade Stand:** It's classic and effective. Let the kids help out and make the lemonade with a twist – add fresh fruit, serve as a slushy or add an adult beverage.

**Mow-a-thon:** Hold a neighborhood mow-a-thon weekend where you and your family will mow everyone's lawn for a minimum donation.

**Night Out:** Work with a local establishment to host a "Night Out" for the adults. Have a minimal cover associated with the event, all of which will go towards your team's total. In addition, you can raffle off some donated prizes.

**Office Olympics:** Have a fun day at work. Hold events like typing competitions, swivel chair races, staple pull contests, stress ball toss, water cooler drinking game, etc. Ask all athletes to pay an entry fee. Get something donated to award the "winner".

**Pancake Breakfast:** This is a perfect event to host before work or worship service. Create a mouthwatering hot breakfast menu with coffee and juice. Charge \$10 a plate! Or partner with a local Applebee's who also provide these opportunities to support charities.

**Penny Wars:** Get your company or school involved, each department/division/class/homeroom compete to win as many points as possible. Remember other coins and dollars added to a jar reduce your points to win!

**Quiz Bowl:** Hold a trivia night at a local establishment. See if the restaurant will donate a gift card to the winner and a portion of the night's proceeds to FPS.

**Restaurant Night Out:** Restaurant night fundraisers are a simple way to raise money for your team. Events can be run by a few volunteers, and they don't require a big investment of time or money. There are numerous restaurants that provide these opportunities; Applebee's, Bruster's, California Pizza Kitchen, Chipotle and Panera to name a few.

**School Dance-**You already have school dances, and you're already paying to go to them. Why not see if a portion of the ticket sales can go to FPS? If your school won't allow a portion of the sales to go to a charity, perhaps you can set up a snack table and sell snacks, giving the proceeds to FPS. If you don't have a dance...plan one!

**Service Clubs:** If you are a member of a service club or civic group, such as Key Club or Kiwanis Club, you can work as a group to host a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to FPS. We would be privileged to come speak with the club or group too!

**Skate Night:** Host a skate night at a local rink. Great night for families to come out and enjoy time with their kids.



**Special Screening:** Ask your local movie theatre to donate a special screening of a new release. Invite everyone you know and post flyers, charge at the door. Ask if the theatre will also donate a percentage of the concession sales for your event! Consider hosting a backyard screening at your house as another option.

**Sports Tournament:** If you enjoy competition, sports and fun, a great fundraising idea is to organize a tournament in your area. Family, friends, neighbor, and coworkers/classmates can organize into teams and pay an entry fee to donate to FPS. Some examples are kickball, softball/baseball, basketball, tennis, racket ball, volleyball, just to name a few.

**Sweets Party:** Have a dessert auction at work! Ask local restaurants, bakeries and grocery stores to donate yummy desserts. Post signs at work well in advance, and then bring all of the desserts into work on Friday.

**Swim Party:** Ask a local public pool to donate (or rent at a reduced rate) a couple of hours for a private party or at your home. This is a great way to get teenagers involved in the fundraising effort. Have donated snacks on hand, and be sure to include a lifeguard. Turn on fun music and charge at the door.

**Talent Show:** Gather the local neighborhood kids and host a talent show at your school or church. Charge a small entrance fee for everyone to come and see the local talent.

**Themed Dance Party:** Determine your theme, venue, secure a DJ and refreshments and dance the night away! Whether it be a 80's throwback party, or a 90's Prom to a Halloween Dance Party it will be fun to see the creative outfits/costumes while raising funds for FPS.

**Walkathon or 5K Run:** Your school or company could host a walkathon on your school track or on your company's grounds. Map out a route and participants can get family, friends, neighbors and classmates/coworkers to sponsor them per lap/mile. Get local businesses involved by asking them to donate refreshments.

**Wedding Gift and Favors:** In lieu of wedding gifts, ask your friends and family to make a donation to FPS. Or in lieu of buying wedding favors for your guests, make a donation to FPS and make place cards at each place setting to announce your gift.

**Wine Tasting Party:** Have a wine and cheese-tasting party. If you know anyone (who knows anyone!) who owns, manages or works in a winery, ask if they will host it. Charge at the door and ask if a portion of proceeds of all bottles sold can benefit FPS. Blind tastings are fun. Think about dressing up the event with some very special vintages.