

## A TO Z FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

Still looking for ways to raise money for the Lupus Foundation of America? No problem! The following ideas are really here to get your creative juices flowing. You can raise money doing just about anything you like. The key is to identify something that would be meaningful for your network of friends, family and colleagues. What will show them that you are “in it” to find cures and create a world without lupus?

### **A!**

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**ASK:** The easiest way to raise money is to ask your friends, neighbors, relatives and colleagues to make a donation to the Lupus Foundation of America. Explain your commitment, why you are involved and what you are doing —maybe because of a loved one battling lupus.

**ART SALES:** Have preschool and elementary students produce great art and have a show. Parents and friends buy back their budding artists' masterpieces.

**AUCTIONS:** Put together a live or silent auction. Make an event out of it - work with an auctioneer who will donate his/her time and hold a live auction. A fundraiser in MA held a silent auction during their family reunion. Some people put together sports auctions, which are very popular. Collectibles are hot! Auction off the boss - have the boss or department head as your assistant for the day at work.

**AWARD SHOW PARTY:** Are you a movie, TV, music or theater buff? Invite your friends over to enjoy treats while watching the Emmy Awards®, Grammy Awards®, Tony Awards®, or Academy Awards® with a suggested donation to attend.

### **B!**

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**BABYSIT:** Do extra babysitting and give your pay (or at least part of it) to your team or babysit as a team during a community event.

**BAKE SALES:** Hold a bake sale (focus on healthy treats!) at work or a busy place - a bank branch held a bake sale once a week for several months. Or have a no-bake sale where co-workers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

**BALLOON DAY:** This is good for students. Sell a balloon with a message attached for \$2 each. The students take orders in advance and then deliver the balloon messages at a later date.

**BANK FOR A YEAR:** Get a team together and have everyone save \$2 per week beginning the week after you register. In 50 weeks each team member will have raised \$100. Or donate 50 cents every day and in 50 weeks you'll have collected \$175 from yourself. Add just two more friends giving you 50 cents each per day and you will now have a total of \$525 in 50 weeks.

**BINGO:** Host a Bingo night - an easy game to play at any age! Your community recreation center, senior center, or school might already host a bingo night,

## A TO Z FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

so do your research and collaborate to host a bingo night to fight lupus.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH A PURPOSE:** Individuals have had birthday parties to end lupus and on the invitation ask that in lieu of gifts, guests bring a check made out to the Lupus Foundation of America.

**BLOCK PARTY:** Put together an old-fashioned block party in a parking lot, or close off a neighborhood street (with permission). Have a band or DJ donate a few hours, have a BBQ, do face painting, offer hay rides etc. Have fun and raise money for your team.

**BOOK SALES:** Do it in conjunction with a publishing house that will donate books, or have everyone on your team bring in good condition, used books. Set up a table to sell your books. Get permission to have your table set up in a local mall or plaza, or if you work for a large employer, set it up in the break or lunch room.

**BOSS FOR THE DAY:** Allow people to bid on being boss for the day. High bid wins!

**BOUNCE-A-THON:** Elementary students take a collection envelope home to collect pledges for bouncing a basketball for half an hour. Each class in the school takes turns gathering in the school's front hall throughout the day to bounce their basketballs.

**BOWL-A-THON:** Some student teams have been holding bowl-a-thons, where they get pledges per pin they knock down.

**BOWLING CHANCE:** \$1 gives you the chance to throw 2 balls (toy bowling set). If you strike your name is entered into a drawing 2 times. If you throw a spare with your second ball your name is entered into the drawing once. Solicit a nice prize for the drawing.

**BREAKFAST WITH A VIP:** Put together a breakfast with Santa, the Easter Bunny, the Mayor, or another local celebrity or favorite character. Work with a local

restaurant, hall or club for space and catering. Sell tickets and take pictures.

**BROWN BAG LUNCH DAY:** Have everyone bring in their lunch and donate the money they would have spent to the Lupus Foundation of America.



**CANDLE SALES:** Sell scented votive candles to fellow employees and friends.

**CANDY BAR SALES:** Sell candy bars at work, or have someone at a business let you set up a little display box (beauty shops, store check-out counters, etc.). You can purchase box kits from wholesale warehouses or ask a candy store to donate them.

**CAR WASHES:** This is another good idea for students as well as adults--especially in the spring when everyone wants the mud off of their cars. Try saying "donations accepted" instead of charging a set price (people tend to give more).

**CAR SMASH:** Secure an old car and write in large bold letters LUPUS across the car. For a dollar donation you get to "smash lupus" three times with a sledgehammer.

**CHILI COOK OFF:** Host a chili cook off and either sell tickets or have people vote on their favorite batch by making a donation.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Play carols, serve cookies, decorate a tree, have pictures with Santa and charge admission – no matter what time of year it is!

**CHRISTMAS TREE/WREATHS:** Ask a local retailer to donate \$1 for every tree and wreath sold to support the Lupus Foundation of America. Or make your own wreaths!

**COIN DRIVE:** This is especially good for students to do at school. Have everyone give their change in the

lunchroom. Set up a coin jar at the beginning of the school year and see how it grows. A college twist on the coin drive, which would also work at companies with different departments, are Penny Wars. The residence hall or department with the most points wins a pizza party for its members. Pennies are worth positive points, silver coins and cash are worth negative points. Sabotage the other jars by dropping your silver coins into them! Spare some change for lupus research.

**COIN TOSS:** Get permission from the local mall to collect all the coins tossed into the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs state that the coins will be donated to the Lupus Foundation of America.

**COMEDY CLUB:** Ask a local comedy club to host an evening in support of the Lupus Foundation of America and invite your friends and family to help sell tickets.

**CONCESSION STANDS:** Set up a concession stand or booth at a community event during the year.

**COOKBOOKS:** Collect recipes from employees, have them published as a collection and sell them. They can be produced for approximately \$2 each and sold for \$7-\$8. Be sure that the recipes are healthy and follow nutritional guidelines.

**CRAFT FAIRS:** Set up a craft table at a craft fair or festival.

**CRAFTS:** In a holiday mood? Craft tree ornaments, stockings or decoration and sell them.

**CUT-A-THON:** Have a beauty salon or vocational school hold a cut-a-thon for you.

**CUTEST BABY:** Have a Cutest Team Baby Contest, either on site or beforehand at your place of work. Place a photo of each team member as a baby on the bulletin board or on a display board. People donate \$1 per vote. You decide on the appropriate reward.

## D!

**DANCES FOR A CURE:** Students can hold a school dance. Adults can put together a dance at a local club or hall. Get a band or DJ to donate their services.

**DAY OF CLEANING DRAWING:** Donate for a chance to win a day of professional house cleaning, with tickets selling for \$5 each.

**DAY SPA:** Have a drawing for a day of beauty or, for a set fee, provide haircuts, manicures, and massages.

**DECORATING SERVICE:** No time to decorate? Try a holiday decorating service! You can put holiday lights up on houses for a fee- this is a job many people would like someone else to do.

**DOG WALKERS:** Have your team walk the neighborhood dogs for a donation. Many pet owners would appreciate the opportunity to let someone take their dog for a long walk.

**DOG SIT:** While the owners are on vacation, saves them from sending Fido to the kennel.

**DRESS DOWN DAYS:** Many businesses have days when employees can dress down for a day if they make a donation to a certain cause. This is also happening at parochial schools or other schools that require uniforms. For a specified donation, the student doesn't have to wear a uniform to school that day.

**DUNKING BOOTH:** Set up a dunking booth at a local event festival, fair, picnic etc. and recruit local celebrities to sit for you.

## E!

**EMAIL:** Email your friends and associates for donations and change your email signature line to include a link to your fundraising page, including why you're joining the fight against lupus.

## A TO Z FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

**ERRAND SERVICE:** Never have time... Run an errand service!

**EVENT PARKING SPACES:** Sell parking spaces for community events near your home.

## F!

**FACE PAINTING:** Set up a booth at a local event, fair or festival. Kids love it! Charge 50 cents and up.

**FASHION SHOW:** Work with clothing stores to hold a fashion show. Your team members can be the models, and you could have it at the store, or use a club or hall. Don't forget to offer refreshments to draw a crowd!

**FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS:** Ask your local restaurants if they will have a fundraising day. Either a percentage of the day's profits or from a certain item on the menu will go towards your fundraising efforts. You should be on hand to ask for donations from the patrons as well as be able to talk about the event and the Lupus Foundation of America.

**FIFTY/FIFTY DRAWING:** Everyone loves the chance to win cash.

**FLAMINGO ALERT:** Place a pink flamingo in someone's yard. It will fly away once a donation is made to the Lupus Foundation of America. Some people have expanded this idea and for a set amount you can designate the next person it should go to, as well as purchase flamingo repellent so it will not land on your yard. Other lawn ornaments could be used.

**FLOWER SALES:** Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems (carnations or roses) at your place of work or school.

**FLOWER BOUQUET DRAWING:** Ask a local florist to donate a bouquet of flowers, one for each month for a three-month period (or go to 3 different florists and get one per shop).

## G!

**GAME NIGHT:** Have a game night- much like a party with a purpose. Everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades etc. Charge an "entrance" fee.

**GARAGE SALES:** Clean out your attic and raise money for the Lupus Foundation of America at the same time! You can also ask friends, family and neighbors to donate goods to the sale.

**GO DOOR TO DOOR:** Go door to door and ask for donations.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT:** Put together a golf tournament with the proceeds benefiting your team goal.

## H!

**HAPPY HOUR/ DINNER:** Partner with a local bar or restaurant to host a cocktail, mocktail, or dinner where the establishment donates the proceeds from the evening, or a portion of sales, to fight lupus.

**HAT (OR CAP DAY):** This is good for schools. For a specified amount, the students can wear a baseball cap to school for the day.

**HAUNTED HOUSE:** For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission. You can also sell refreshments or bob for apples.

**HOAGIE SALE:** Hold a hoagie sale at work or around town, taking orders ahead of time.

**HOLE-IN-ONE:** Set up a portable putting green and for a donation; let people try to put it in. You can do this on site, or at a community event beforehand.

**HOT DOG FOR LUPUS:** A principal at an elementary school agreed that if ALL the teachers raised \$100 each he would dress up like a hot dog and let the students squirt ketchup, mustard, and relish on him.

**I!**

**ICE CREAM SOCIALS:** Plan one at your place of work or for friends, asking for a donation to attend. Sell ice cream, low-fat yogurt and other frozen treats for dessert at your place of work.

**J!**

**JAIL & BAIL:** For a donation, employees can be arrested. For an additional donation they can post their own bail, or employees have a bounty placed on their head, are arrested and are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate). This activity can also be done on site.

**JEWELRY SALES:** Group comes together to sell jewelry/accessories they don't wear anymore.

**K!**

**KISS A PIG CONTEST:** Recruit a local celebrity to kiss a swine when a certain amount of money has been raised. This has also been done as a contest. Put the face of all the teachers or employees one on each jar, and who ever raised the most money must kiss the animal (could also be a team mascot, goat mule, dog etc.)

**L!**

**LAWN SERVICE:** While you are mowing your lawn, mow someone else's - for a donation.

**LETTER WRITING:** A great way to ask for donations without asking in person. Send letters out to your friends and family explaining what you're doing and why, and ask for a specific amount or leave it up to them. Write them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people write letters on behalf of their pets or babies, adding a little humor.

**LUNCH WITH THE CEO:** Auction off lunch or maybe a round of golf with the CEO or president of your company.

**M!**

**MASSAGES:** Offer massages for a donation at the event.

**MATCHING GIFTS:** Ask your company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching gift policy, check to see if your does. If they don't, ask them anyway.

**MONEY JARS:** Set up money jars or coin boxes at your place of work. This is good for banks, diners/ restaurants hairdressers, and stores. Check back to empty frequently.

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and soda and charge admission. Or have a movie week during lunch hour at work. Charge admission and invite employees to eat their lunch while they watch.

**N!**

**NATURE TRAIL HIKE:** Host a guided trail hike at a nearby park.

**O!**

**ODD JOBS:** Call on your neighbors and ask to do some odd jobs, such as fixing a rain gutter, shoveling their driveway, paint a fence, or rake their leaves.

**OPEN HOUSE:** A fitness center held an open house with a variety of toning and aerobic classes offered throughout the day. They also included babysitting. Ask for donations.

**P!**

**PANCAKE BREAKFASTS:** Hold a pancake breakfast at a hall, church or at work on specific days.

## A TO Z FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

**PARKING SPACE AUCTION:** College students can auction off the president's parking spot, or company employees can auction off a prime spot.

**PERCENTAGE OF SALES:** Designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds and let the public know so they will buy more.

**PET FASHION SHOW:** Have a pet fashion show where you give everyone's pet the opportunity to flaunt its favorite outfit. Charge admission and vote for best outfit, matching outfits (owner and pet) wildest outfit, etc.

**PHOTOS:** Have your photo taken with a local celebrity for a specified donation. Or use one of those realistic cardboard stand-ins. Do this at work or in conjunction with a local fair or festival.

**PIZZA SALES:** Work with a pizzeria to give you a percentage of the pizzas you sell. Take orders and deliver them. OR put pizza kits together yourself. Also can work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price or donated is even better.

**PLACE A "PLEA" IN YOUR EMPLOYEE BULLETIN OR NEWSLETTER:** Place a plea in your employee newsletter letting them know that you are contributing dollars to the Lupus Foundation of America.

**PLANT SALES:** Like the flower sales, work with local florists or wholesaler and sell potted plants. A nursing home group did this and painted the flowerpots, repotted the plants and added a bow with a card. They sold a number to friends, staff and family members of the patients.



**QUESTIONS FOR A BUCK:** One team raised money by having their boss, who was constantly being asked questions by everyone to start charging a buck for

each question. Word spread throughout the company what he was doing, and everyone started asking questions and paying up.



**RAFFLE:** Set up a 50/50 Raffle, where the winner wins half and half is donated, or collect an in-kind gift to raffle off.

**ROLL THOSE PENNIES:** Roll those pennies sitting in a jar on your dresser. While you're at it roll the rest of your coins you have been collecting.



**SELL EMPLOYEE SERVICES:** Donate the services of your team members, i.e. get the best gourmet chef on your team to agree to go to someone's home and prepare a meal (for a fee of course). Get your VP to commit to wash an employee's car, or several, if willing. Have the company photographer take a family photo for a certain amount, etc.

**SHAVE YOUR HEAD:** Have someone agree to have their hair shaved once a certain amount of money has been raised.

**SHOE SHINES:** Shine shoes for donation - enlisted men and women would love it.

**SKUNK THEM:** As a hospital group did, put a stuffed skunk on a co-worker's desk. They need to pay a donation to the Lupus Foundation of America to have him go away or they need to pay to be de-skunked. See Flamingo Alert for other ideas.

**SOUP SALES:** Especially during the cold winter months, take orders from your co-workers and have a soup sale at work. If you work in town, offer it to the offices throughout the community. Take orders ahead of time and have an evening of team soup making.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER:** Put together a spaghetti dinner at a local hall or club. School teams have also done this with the help of their parents. The students take the tickets and clear tables.

**SPORTS TOURNAMENTS:** Teams organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other sports tournaments.

**STORY TIME READING:** Have an organized story time reading. Hold it at your place of work where employees can bring their children, work with your local library to have a special time.

**STUDENT/FACULTY BASKETBALL GAME:** Set up a benefit basketball game between students and faculty, or put together an alumni game. Challenge a local radio or television employee team.

**SUPER BOWL PARTY:** Have a super bowl party and ask everyone for donations when they get there. The same can be done for the NCAA Championship basketball game, Indy 500, Masters final round etc. Great idea for the team member with a big screen TV!

## T!

**TALENT SHOW:** Host a classic talent show. Make it fun and creative by asking friends and family to showcase a hidden talent and collect donations through ticket sales.

**TUPPERWARE PARTY:** Have the profits from a Tupperware party benefit your efforts.

**TURKEY DRAWING:** Great way to raise money at Walk! Get a grocery store to donate a certificate for a turkey or ham to be picked up just in time for Thanksgiving, Easter, Christmas or a BBQ package for Labor Day or Memorial Day. Food is always a good item to chance off.

## U!

**UGLY BARTENDER CONTEST:** Get all the bartenders in town to agree to be in your “Ugly Bartender Contest” At \$1 per vote, a lot of money can be raised for your efforts with the winner getting some sort of reward.

## V!

**VACATION DAY AWARD:** Have your employer award a free day off to the team member who raises the most money. Post the standings for the weeks leading up to the Walk.

**VENDING MACHINES:** Coordinate with your vendor to add .05 cents to the cost of a snack or soda with the extra nickel going to your efforts.

**VENDORS:** Solicit your vendors for cash donations or goods you can use for a drawing or auction.

**VOICEMAIL:** Change your voicemail outgoing message to a fact about lupus, why you are raising funds for lupus research and education and how to make a donation.

## W!

**WAIT TABLES:** Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a specific night to benefit the Lupus Foundation of America. Pizza Huts have been known to do this as well as others. Your team would be the waiters for the evening and would collect all the tips as well as possibly a percentage of that evening’s receipts. Make sure all your friends and family eat at that restaurant during the benefit.

**WEAR COMPANY LOGOS:** Tell companies that you will walk around wearing their hat or t-shirt for half an hour for a \$25 dollar donation.

**WEED:** Offer to weed gardens or pull dandelions from the lawns of friends and neighbors for a donation.

## A TO Z FUNDRAISING IDEAS!

**X!**

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**XYLOPHONE CONCERT:** Hold a music concert or recital. Pass refreshments and ask for donations or sell tickets in advance.

**Y!**

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**YARD SALES:** Just like the garage sales, work together with friends, family and neighbors, or have one individually.

**Z!**

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**ZUMBA-THON:** Get a local Zumba instructor to donate their services and charge admission with proceeds going to the Lupus Foundation of America!

### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT FUNDRAISING, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Make Your Mark Team at [makeyourmark@lupus.org](mailto:makeyourmark@lupus.org)