



Fundraising A-Z

We are encouraging each captain to be creative with their fundraising efforts. Here are a few ideas that can help boost your fundraising efforts leading up to the 4th Annual Mitzvah Circle Run.

A

ASK: The easiest way to raise money is to ask your friends, neighbors, relatives, and colleagues to donate. Explain your commitment, why you are involved & how Mitzvah impacts the community.

AUCTIONS: Teams can put together live or silent auctions by working with an auctioneer who might donate their time. It can be a sports auction, an auction for collectibles – you could also auction off your boss! The winning bid would get the boss as their assistant for the day!

B

BABYSIT: Do some (or extra) babysitting and give a portion or all of your earnings to your team. Also, think about babysitting as a team during an event.

BAKE SALES: Hold a bake sale at work or at a busy place – a bank branch held a bake sale once a week for a number of months. Co-workers can also pay to NOT have to bake goodies in a “no-bake” sale.

BINGO: Host a bingo night. It's an easy game to play, and it's for all ages! Your community recreation center, senior center, or local firehouse might already host a bingo night. Find out where/when and ask to collaborate to host a bingo night.

BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH A PURPOSE: Have a birthday party, and in lieu of gifts, ask party goers to bring a check made out to Mitzvah Circle Foundation.

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

BOSS FOR THE DAY: Allow people to bid on being the boss for the day – the highest bid wins.

BOWL-A-THON: Each pin that gets knocked down earns a donation (\$1 for example).

BROWN BAG LUNCH DAY: Everyone at work brings in their own lunch and donates the money they would've spent to Mitzvah Circle.

C

CANDY BAR SALES: Sell candy bars at work or have someone at a business let you set up a display box. Check wholesale warehouses (Sam's, BJ's, Costco, etc.) or ask a candy store to donate the bars.

CAR WASHES: Have a car wash to raise money. Instead of charging, try saying that donations are accepted; people might donate more.

CHALLENGES: Challenge another team to raise more money than your team.

COIN DRIVE: Set up a coin jar at work/school and have people donate their change.

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 stating that the coins will be donated to Mitzvah Circle.

CRAFT FAIRS: Have your team set up a craft table at a craft fair or festival.

D

DAY OF CLEANING DRAWING: Team members donate a suggested 3 hours to clean homes, with tickets selling for \$5-\$10 each.

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 walk.

DOG SIT: While the owners are vacationing, give their pet an alternative to the kennel.

DOOR-TO-DOOR: Go door-to-door and ask your neighbors for donations. Be sure to explain to them what the donations are for.

DRESS DOWN DAYS: For a specific donation, give colleagues/students a day to dress down.

E

EMAIL: Send emails to your friends/family for donations. You can use the Participant Center on the website or send a custom message yourself. Include the link to your fundraising page and the reason you're doing so.

ENVELOPE AT RESTAURANT TABLES: Teams can generate donations by placing your donor envelopes at every table during a designated time period, asking for support. Have servers or team members check after each seating for donations.

F

FASHION SHOW: Work with new or existing clothing stores to hold a fashion show. Your team members can be the models and the event can be held at the store or another venue. Offer refreshments to draw a crowd and make signs asking for donations for the Walk/run

FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS: Ask your local eateries if they will have a Walk Day. The manager can have a percentage of a day's sales, or a certain menu item, go towards your team. Team members should be present to ask for donations from other patrons, as well as be able to talk about the walk.

FLAMINGO ALERT: Place pink flamingos in someone's yard. They will fly away once a donation is made to our walk/run. Some people have expanded this idea and for a set donation, you can designate the next person to host the flock.

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

G

GAME NIGHT: Have a game night where everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades, etc. Charge an entrance fee that will go toward your team donations.

GARAGE SALE: Work individually or as a team to host garage sales – clean out your storage space and raise money for a good cause at the same time!

H

HAPPY HOUR: Partner with a local bar or restaurant to host a cocktail or mocktail hour where the business donates the proceeds from the evening, or a portion of sales, are donated to your team for the Walk.

I

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: 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 at work.

J

JEWELRY SALES: Come together as a team and sell jewelry/accessories you no longer wear.

K

KISS A PIG CONTEST: Recruit someone to kiss a pig when you raise a certain amount of money. You can also make it a contest by having the faces of team members on jars. Whichever team member has the most amount of money in their jar has to kiss the pig.

L

LAWN SERVICE: While you are mowing your lawn, mow someone else's, accepting a donation as payment.

LETTERS: You can send letters to friends/family, especially those who may not be local, and ask them to

support you/your team. Explain what you're doing and why, tell them your goal, and ask for help.

M

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

MOVIE NIGHT: Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the snacks & drinks and charge admission.

N

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

NONALCOHOLIC COCKTAIL PARTY: Have a "mocktail" party and ask for donations toward your team.

O

ODD JOBS: Call on your neighbors and ask to do some odd jobs, such as fixing a rain gutter, painting a fence, or gardening.

OPEN HOUSE: Find out if your local fitness center will hold an open house. They can host a variety of classes throughout a specific day while you or your team asks for donations for the Walk.

P

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Hold a pancake breakfast at a hall, church, or another gathering place.

PAYROLL DEDUCTION: Colleagues can make their own contribution by having it deducted directly from their paycheck. Even a small amount can make a difference by Walk time.

PIZZA SALES: Ask a pizzeria to give your/your team a percentage of the pizzas you sell. Take orders from colleagues, coworkers, family members, neighbors, etc. OR make the pizza kits yourself.

POTLUCK LUNCHES: Designate a specific weekday as Mitzvah Potluck Day, where team members take turns making chili, salads, desserts, etc. and offer to colleagues at a set price or donation.

Q

QUILT DRAWING: Have your team make a quilt to be raffled off. Quilters like to sew in groups, so make a night of it and ask for donations. You can also have someone make the quilt for your fundraising drawing.

R

RAFFLE: Set up a 50/50 raffle, where the winner wins half the prize money with the other half being donated. You can also 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!

S

SHAVE YOUR HEAD: Have someone agree to shave their head once a certain amount of money has been raised.

SILENT AUCTION: Have a silent auction at work/school using items donated by area businesses (goods, services, gift certificates) or new items from family or team members.

SKUNKED: Put a stuffed skunk on a colleague's desk. Have them pay a donation to your team to make the skunk go away. See the Flamingo Alert for other ideas.

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 wait and clear tables.

SPORTS TOURNAMENTS: Have your team organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, or another sports tournament.

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.

U

UGLY BARTENDER CONTEST: Get all the bartenders in your area to participate in a contest. \$1 = 1 vote and you can make the "winner" an honorary member of your team.

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.

VIDEO SALE: Hold a video sale at work and have each team member bring in videos they don't watch anymore. This will be great to clear out any kids videos your children have outgrown, and colleagues with children might appreciate this.

W

WAIT TABLES: Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a specific night to benefit your team for the Walk. Your team members 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 Walk benefit.

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

X

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

Y

YARD SALES: Just like the garage sales, work together as a team, or have one individually.

Z

ZUMBA-THON: Get a local Zumba instructor to donate their services and charge admission with proceeds going to your team.

