

# CREATIVE FUNDRAISING TIPS FROM A TO Z

There are many great ways you and your team can raise funds for the Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism & Expo, brought to you by Walgreens, presented by Badia Spices! Here are some fun, creative tips to increase your fundraising efforts and generate awareness of this great cause:

## A

**ASK EVERYONE YOU MEET:** Always carry information on the Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism & Expo so when you talk to people about the event you can tell them how to register to participate or donate through the website. They can also donate on the spot. Make sure the top few donations on the form are significant; other people are apt to follow suit. Conversely, if you start with a \$2 contribution, others may follow with \$2. Don't pre-judge whether people will give—just ask! While you're at it, ask them to join your team!

**AUCTIONS:** Hold a live or silent auction for various items. **BE CREATIVE!** For example, a prime parking space at work, a half or whole day off from work, team members to work a day for someone, a picnic lunch prepared by your team members.

## B

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

**BROWN BAG LUNCH WEEK:** Encourage employees to bring in their own lunches for a week and donate the money they would have spent to the team.

## C

**CHALLENGES:** Challenge another team from your school or workplace to raise more money than yours.

**COIN DRIVE:** (Great for students) Place a large jar in the cafeteria and ask students and staff to contribute their leftover change from lunch. **VARIATION:** Penny Wars: Drop change in jars to compete against other departments, classes, and other branches. Pennies are worth positive points; silver coins and cash are worth negative points. "Sabotage" the other jars by dropping silver coins or dollars in them.

**COIN TOSS:** Get permission from the local mall to collect all coins tossed in the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs stating that the coins will be donated to the "Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism & Expo."

**CRAFT FAIRS:** Great for year-round fundraising. Set up a booth at a local festival and sell crafts made by team members.

**CONCESSION STANDS:** Get permission to sell concessions at a local sporting or community event.

## D

**DANCE:** Students hold a school dance, or adults organize a dance at a local club. Ask a DJ or band to donate services. Sell refreshments.

**DOG WALKERS:** Walk the neighbors' dogs for a donation or dog sit while pet owners are on vacation.

**DONUT DAYS:** Get donuts donated from a local bakery and sell them at work or school.

**DRESS DOWN DAYS:** Have employees pay to dress down at work. This can also work with schools that require uniforms (with permission).

## E

**E-MAIL:** Send E-mails to your friends, family and co-workers asking them for donations.

## F

**FISH FRY:** Hold a fish fry at your church or community center and charge per plate.

**FLOWER SALES:** Work with local florist or wholesaler to sell bouquets, potted flowers, or individual stems at your school or place of work.

## G

**GAME NIGHT:** Invite friends to your house to play board games, charades, etc. Sell tickets.

**GARAGE SALES:** Work individually or as a team.

## H

**HAT (OR CAP) DAY:** (Great for schools) Students can make a donation to wear baseball caps to school for the day.

**HAUNTED HOUSE:** For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission.

## I

**ICE CREAM SOCIALS:** Plan one at your place of work or with friends or children. Ask for a donation to attend. Sell ice cream and tell them that the proceeds are going to your Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism & Expo team.



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## 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 posted on the heads of fellow employees and they are not set free until the entire bounty is raised (\$100 or more per inmate).

**JEWELRY SALES:** Work with a wholesale company to sell jewelry, with your team receiving a portion of the sales or host a jewelry party at your home with a portion of the sales benefiting your team. Sales will benefit your team.

## K

**KARAOKE:** Host a karaoke event and invite all of your family and friends to join you in the fun! Have each participant give you a donation to sign a song.

## L

**LAWN SERVICE:** Mow your neighbors' or your family's lawns for donations.

**LETTER WRITING:** Send letters to friends and family explaining what you are doing and why. Tell them your personal goal and ask for help.

## M

**MATCHING GIFTS:** This is a great way to double your donations. Ask your company to match what you raise.

**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PARTY WITH A PURPOSE:** The men will love this one! Provide refreshments and charge admission to a watch party at your house.

## N

**NIGHT AT THE MOVIES: INVITE YOUR FRIENDS OVER FOR A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES.** Charge admission. Have popcorn, candy, and drinks to sell too.

## O

**ORNAMENT SALE:** Get together with your team and make holiday ornaments. Sell them for a donation.

## P

**PAYROLL DEDUCTION:** Employees can make their own contributions by having them deducted directly from their paychecks. A little each week can grow into a large amount!

**PIZZA SALES:** Work with a local pizza parlor to give you a percentage of the pies that you sell.

**PARTY WITH A PURPOSE: (AKA NEIGHBORHOOD PARTIES)** Throw a neighborhood party and put the money toward your team.

## Q

**QUILTS:** Sell quilt squares in honor of people with autism; squares of 4X4 for \$5; 8X8 for \$15; 12X12 for \$25. Have your team make the quilts themselves. Also, you can raffle off a handmade quilt that was made by someone on your team or donated to the team.

## R

**ROLL THOSE PENNIES:** Break open the piggy bank and start rolling all of those coins that you have been collecting.

## S

**SPORTS TOURNAMENT:** Organize a sports tournament at a local school gym or community center and charge an entry fee.

**STUDENT/FACULTY GAME:** Organize a student vs. faculty sports game (basketball, softball, etc.) and charge admission. You can even sell concessions.

## T

**TOURNAMENT:** Host a tournament of any kind! Get participants to pay an entry fee and award fun, creative prizes.

## U

**U-CAN-WIN-A-TURKEY RAFFLE:** Ask a local grocery store to donate a turkey and sell raffle tickets for \$1 for a chance to win a Holiday turkey.

## V

**VACATION DAY DRAWING:** Get your employer to agree to raffle off a vacation day with pay. The raffle money raised will go to your team.

**VENDORS:** Solicit the vendors that you use for items to raffle or auction off.

## W

**WII PARTY:** Invite your friends to a Wii competition.

## X

**XTRA CENTS:** (Great for bank and credit union teams.) Donate the extra cents from your deposit to the bank's team. Ask to place a sign at the teller line and drive-thru window. Indicate that all proceeds benefit the Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism & Expo.

## Y

**YARD SALES:** Clean out those closets and have a yard sale. You can do this individually or with your team. The money raised will go to your team.

## Z

**ZOO, ZIPPER, ZEBRA:** We challenge you to think of a creative way to incorporate a Zoo, Zipper or Zebra into your fundraising plan!

For additional fundraising tips visit [WWW.DMFALKABOUTAUTISM.ORG](http://WWW.DMFALKABOUTAUTISM.ORG)