

## **A to Z Library of 100+ Fundraising Ideas**

**Activities of all kinds:** everything helps! Even spreading the word and encourage people to participate financially. Activities like *garage sale*, or *auctions*, or anything else that your community and you enjoy doing.

**Anything-A-Thon:** Whether it is walking, dancing, jump roping, reading, skipping, biking, aerobics, or you name it...if you can organize a group of people to do it for an extended time, you've got yourself a fundraiser! Participants will collect pledges for each minute they are able to do the activity. The more creative the higher chances of getting media coverage so put on your thinking cap!

**Auction:** Gather up auction items around your home that you no longer use and ask friends to donate any unwanted items. An auction can be either online (Ebay) or in-person. It usually takes a couple interesting or highly desired items to ensure a high attendance.

**Art Show/Sale:** Ask talented friends to donate works of art for an art show or sale. Find a great location for the show or sale and you've got it made!!

**Benefit Band Night:** Host live music while charging a cover fee.

**Balloon Burst:** Put coupons inside balloons and hang them from the ceiling. Charge \$1 to burst a balloon and win a prize.

**Bake Sale:** the key is to sell baked goodies to a large number of people (your office, school, or church will be a hit)!

**BBQ:** Host a BBQ in a great location where people can't resist the aroma! Local butchers, church groups, or auxiliary clubs (Lion's Club, Knights of Columbus, etc.) frequently host charity BBQs so joining forces with them is key!!

**Beer Tasting:** Most of us have attended a wine tasting event, but beer tasting events have become the latest craze. Partner with a local microbrewery and host a beer tasting where an entry fee per person covers beer tastings, appetizers, music, and fun (NMSS recommends that only trained bar professionals serve the drinks and that a system is in place to prevent over-consumption).

**Bingo:** Everyone loves a great game of Bingo! Rent a Bingo game set from a party store and have guests bring their favorite snack to share. Charge for each Bingo card played (pull tab Bingo cards are available online relatively cheap). Raffles or silent auction items will do great and give everyone a chance to get up and wander in between the rounds.

**Book Sale:** organize a fun day with your community to sell books.

**Bowling Night:** Organize a crazy bowl, glow bowl, or 80's bowling party to help strike out MS. Many local bowling alleys are willing to share the proceeds of a designated day or evening with a charity. Include auctions and raffles and your event will be a hit!

**Birthday Celebration:** Instead of gifts, ask friends and family to make a donation towards your fundraising efforts!! Send an email from your personal web page to let all of your friends and family know about your fundraising goal.

**Bunco for a Cure:** Invite your neighborhood Bunco friends over for a Bunco tournament! Are you or someone you know already part of a Bunco group? Ask the group to donate their “pot” to the National MS Society.

**Casino Night:** Get friends, family, and neighbors together for a fun night where they can bet with “funny money”.

**Car Wash:** Host a car wash at a place that gets a lot of traffic but has plenty of space and an accessible water source. Advertise the car wash ahead of time and pick a location, such as an ice-cream stand, where people can sit and eat ice cream while their car is being washed (you can also then ask for a % of sales for the day). Don't want to do the washing yourself, contact a local car wash and ask that a % or \$ amount is donated for each customer that you can bring in. Your only job then would be to get the word out and distribute as many flyers or coupons as possible so customers know to mention your charity's name.

**Christmas in July:** You could have a sweater contest with MS prizes, charge small price to give/receive a kiss under mistletoe.

**Christmas Tree Pick-Up:** For a donation, offer curbside pick-up and delivery to a local recycler!

**Clean Sweep:** Raise money by offering personal “spring” cleaning services to neighbors, friends, or families for a donation. As an added bonus, you could directly collect any unwanted items that could be sold at a yard sale to collect additional donations.

**Candy Fundraiser:** Everybody likes sweets! Challenge another team to raise more than you!

**Canvas Bags sale:** It's a great way to sell bags for a purpose while being earth friendly! Bags can be homemade, bought online, or from a store.

**Change\Donation Jar (at home, on your desk, in the lunchroom, at your favorite restaurant, etc.):** Everything helps to fight MS!

**Concession Sales:** Ask your local sports or concert arenas if they'd be willing to donate a portion of concession proceeds to your cause. In return, you are usually asked to help staff the stand with volunteer family or friends.

**Corporate Matching Gift:** Ask your company to match the amount of donations collected from co-workers.

**Dance Competition:** Host an upscale ballroom dancing competition or organize a fun casual competition at your favorite bar or at your home. Dancers pay a fee to enter and prizes are awarded to the best or funniest dance moves.

**Dart Tournament:** The event could be a large tournament or a friendly competition among friends and family at a bar.

**Dinner (in):** Organize a dinner for a cause! Ask friends, family, and neighbors to cook a meal, sell tickets around your community, and organize some other activity like an auction!

**Dinner (Out):** Have a favorite restaurant? Ask if they'd be willing to donate a portion of the profit generated on a specific day(s) if you to help increase their revenue by marketing the event. Some national food chains already have charity benefit dinner programs in place.

**Dog Walking:** Offer dog walking services to friends, family, and neighbors for donations...that is if you are a dog person!

**Dress Down Day:** Host a dress down day at your work where co-workers can dress down for the day for a specified donation amount. Dress down stickers are available through the Gateway Area Chapter.

**Duck Races:** For a set donation, people are able to adopt a rubber duckie. Each duck has a number on it and if your numbered duck crosses the body of water first, you win!! Great for all ages.

**EBAY:** Collect unwanted items from family and friends and post on Ebay. Ebay offers a tool to let bidders know that your proceeds are going to the National MS Society.

**Eighties Party:** Dig out your Aqua Net hairspray, stirrup pants, Flock of Seagulls cassette, and host a party that your friends will not forget. Guests make a donation and are then able to dance the night away to 80's music, play a few rounds of trivia and a costume contest!

**Extra Change:** Provide friends and family with small boxes that they can use to collect and donate change leftover at the end of the day. They can keep the boxes on their dresser, dryer, etc.

**Face Painting:** Offer face painting at a local community event and make sure to advertise that all proceeds will benefit the National MS Society.

**Farmers Market:** Host your own farmer's market or utilize a well-known local market! Ask neighboring farmers or gardeners to donate fruits, vegetables, or flowers. Crafts are also popular at the markets.

**Fashion Show:** Do your friends tell you that you have a great eye for fashion? Charge an admission fee and attendees can view upcoming fashions, enjoy a few cocktails & appetizers, and maybe even bid on the outfits! If fashion interests you, but you don't have the world's best taste, partner with a local department store. Chances are that they already have a fashion show planned that you could potentially benefit from.

**Fun Games:** Think of any fun game that can raise money anywhere, even at the office!

**Fundraising Items:** Think of anything that can be attractive and useful to people that you can sell.

**Game Night:** Offer a special night of classic games. Charge an entry fee and if there is enough participants, make it into a tournament style event with teams.

**Garden/House Tours:** Check with the local historical society to see if they would sponsor a garden or house tour of one or several homes in your area. Promote the event in local newspapers.

**Golf Tournament:** Partner with a local golf course for a great event that will “drive” us closer to a world free of MS. Marketing is key for this kind of event so get the word out early!

**Gift Wrapping:** Team up and wrap the gifts for a good cause during the holidays! Many shopping malls already offer this service with tips going to registered charities.

**Garage/Yard Sales:** Set up a day to sell items that you, family, friends, and neighbors don't need any more.

**Greeting Cards:** Homemade greeting cards are the latest craze and are sold at a premium! Design them yourself or reach out to a friend or local craft group to help make and sell them.

**Happy Hour Party:** Invite friends and family to a happy hour party for food and drink at your home or favorite watering hole. Get food and drink donated to maximize proceeds!!

**Head Shaving:** Find someone who is passionate about finding a cure for MS and talk them into letting you shave their head for donations! Works great if the person is a local celebrity or even a higher up at your work or school.

**Holiday Home Tour:** Do you have a couple of neighbors who really like to deck the halls for the holidays? Organize a holiday home tour!

**Holiday Party:** Pull out those ugly holiday sweaters and host a holiday party where everyone can be jolly!!

**House Party:** Invite friends, family, and neighbors over for a good ole fashioned House Party! Let them know that it is for a good cause and that donations are appreciated. You will probably get a few people who will want to chip in and help you with food!

**Hats off to a Cure:** Encourage your workplace or school to allow people to wear hats in exchange for a small donation. Stickers are available through the Gateway Area Chapter office.

**Hair Salon:** Ask a local hair salon or spa to donate for every haircut or manicure they give.

**Indoor Golf Tournament:** Turn an indoor area into a mini golf course, set up challenges along the way, and be creative!

**International Food Evening:** Host a fun-filled night where guests can tour the world through various international dishes and drinks. Have the decorations and music coincide with the dishes!

**Iron Chef Tournament:** Contestants bring their signature dishes for attendees to judge. Offer restaurant or cooking school gift certificates as prizes.

**Jail-N-Bail:** Toss friends/co-workers in "jail" and make them post bail to get out. Another twist is to have friends/co-workers pay to have someone else put in jail. Charge by the minute or in blocks of time (\$.25/minute; \$3.00 for 15 minutes; \$12 for an hour).

**Jewelry Party:** Many in-home jewelry parties will offer a charitable donation in lieu of hostess gifts...or use your hostess gifts as auction items during the party!

**Jeans Day:** Partner with your employer to allow co-workers to wear jeans instead of their normal work attire if they make a minimum donation. Dress down day stickers are available through the Gateway Area Chapter office.

**Karaoke:** Organize a party and have guests pay to sing or have their friends pay to have them sing. Add in a judge or two and make it like American Idol.

**Ladies' Night / Day:** Organize a ladies night or day out!

**Leg Waxing (for man):** Similar to Head Shaving...find a man who is committed to ending MS forever and talk him into waxing his leg(s) or chest for donations.

**Letter Writing:** Write a personal letter asking friends or family to support your fundraising efforts. Make sure to include your personal story and motivation!

**Musical/Concert Tickets:** Ask a local venue to donate a pair of tickets to a musical, concert, or dance performance and then auction them off.

**Make a Tea Party:** Invite your community members to a tea party sending them an envelope with the information. For guests who decide to attend, ask them to pledge in return.

**Movie Night:** For a donation, guests can come enjoy a movie with snacks and drinks. Get an outdoor projector and make it a picnic movie night!

**Make it a Monopoly® Night:** charge an admission fee, and make it a fun night!

**Murder Mystery Dinner:** Host a dinner where your guests will be providing most of the entertainment. Tips to hosting murder mystery dinners can be found online, in addition to complete kits that can be purchased for a small fee. Know someone who already hosts mystery dinners, partner with them to host a benefit mystery dinner!

**Miniature Golf Tournament:** Want to organize an event for the young and old? Organize a miniature golf tournament at a nearby course with an auction and raffle.

**October activities:** consider a dance, pumpkin carving, bake sales, scarecrow decorating contest. Anything fun! Charge an admission fee.

**Orange-themed Day:** Since orange is the official color of the National MS Society, organize an orange-themed day at your work or school. Encourage everyone to wear orange and award a prize to the person sporting the most orange. Organize other fun contests or activities that involve orange items. Stickers are available through the Gateway Area Chapter office.

**Office Fundraising Challenge:** Talk with everyone in your office and get them to challenge each other to raise the highest amount. The strongest competition is typically between departments. Give the “winner” a prize. Maybe some movie passes? Gift certificate to dinner?

**Personal Assistant:** Offer to be your friends’ and coworkers’ personal assistant for a day (or maybe a few hours) in exchange for a large donation.

**Picnic:** Get friends, family, and neighbors together for a friendly picnic. Ask local merchants for food donations and find a location with a large, outdoor area.

**Poker Run:** A classic!

**Professional Services:** Do you have a special skill or expertise (shopping, scrapbooking, photography)? Offer your services to friends, family, and neighbors in exchange for a donation.

**Personal Web Page:** Create your own personal fundraising page through [www.gatewaymssociety.org](http://www.gatewaymssociety.org) and raise money for a cure. Photos, your story, a blog, and donor names will appear on your page for friends and family to look at and share. You can also reach out to others by sending emails to your contact list so then visitors can make a donation directly through your page. Your web page can also be linked to Facebook! Of all of the fundraising ideas, this is the easiest, quickest, cheapest, and most effective tool to raising awareness & funds for a cure!

**Penny War:** Get the departments or branches at your work to compete against one another in a Penny War. Containers are placed in a lunch or break room and are labeled with each team’s name. Then the competition begins...each team earns one point for every penny in their container. However, a point will be deducted for every non-penny found in their container (ex: 2,000 points would be deducted for a \$20 bill). The goal is to get as much silver and paper bills into the other teams’ containers while collecting as many pennies as possible in yours. The team with the highest score receives a prize!

**Pet Birthday Party:** This may sound a little dorky, BUT, people love their pets. And they love other people’s pets...even yours. Get the word out that if they were thinking about buying “Sparky” a new toy, maybe they should be thinking about writing a check out the National MS Society instead.

**Quesadilla Night:** Host a fiesta with a taco, nacho, or quesadilla bar!!

**Quilt Sale:** Are you or someone you know part of a quilting group? Ask for a few quilts to be donated for a benefit sale!!

**Raffle Tickets:** Get a few highly desired items donated (vacations, electronics, etc.) and sell raffle tickets in the community for a chance to win those items, in addition to other smaller items.

**Races:** You name it...if it can be raced, you can use it to raise money for a cure. From turtles to mice, from tractors to soap box derby cars, races are a great way to get the community involved in your cause while raising money. Each participant pays an entrance fee to race whatever it is that you decide (sponsors are usually pretty easier to find for races). The funnier the race, the larger the turnout so be creative and make sure to market, market, market the race!

**Restaurant Cards:** Partner with several local restaurants to organize a restaurant punch-card program. You can sell punch-cards in the community to patrons who can then visit those restaurants listed and receive a discount. Make sure to let the restaurants know that all proceeds will benefit the National MS Society.

**Salsa Night:** Similar to Quesadilla Night...invite your amigos over for a fiesta!! Throw in a homemade Salsa or jalapeño eating contest!

**Scrapbooking:** Get friends and family together for a scrapbooking workshop where they can learn how to turn pictures into memorable and personal works of art. Scrapbooking supplies can be expensive, so make sure to charge an adequate fee to participate.

**Sports Tournaments:** Borrow a field in your community and host a benefit tournament for softball, kickball, dodgeball, soccer, football, etc.

**Trivia Night:** Charge a fee per team to play. You can ask questions about sports, pop culture, music, local history, geography, etc. Raffles and auction items will earn you additional donations.

**Theme Night:** Choose your own theme to raise some money. Be creative!!

**Taste Test Fundraiser:** Organize a taste test event. After all who doesn't like food?

**Tips:** Ask local salons, waitresses or bartenders to donate a portion of their tips on a designated day(s). Make sure to hang flyers letting everyone know that all tips will be donated to the National MS Society and additional donations are welcome.

**Television Show Finale Party:** Are you an American Idol or Survivor fan? Host a finale party and ask guests to come dressed as their favorite contestant. Ask trivia questions about the series or have a competition to see who predicts the winner!

**Under-the-Sea Themed Dance:** Bring back those old high school dance memories by organizing a dance!!

**Used Book Sale:** Ask co-workers, friends, and neighbors for unwanted books and have a sale!

**Valentine's Ball:** Are you a hopeless romantic? Organize a Valentine's ball and share your sappy romantic side with others to help end MS. Have guests come dressed as famous couples!

**Video Sale:** Sell old DVD's or CD's.

**Vintage Car Rally:** Organize a rally where car fanatics can come out and check out some of the coolest cars in town! Charge an entry fee for each car to be displayed. Get a local vendor to donate proceeds from concession stands and you've got it made!

**Wine Tasting:** Find a local winery that is willing to participate or host your own and charge a fee for guests.

**Wall of Fame:** Designate a wall as the "Wall of Fame." Anyone who donates money or prizes, get his / her name on the wall via business cards, napkins, posters, pictures, or whatever. The bigger the donation, the bigger the sign.

**Wii Competition:** Host a Wii competition where the adults have a chance to play like kids. The event could focus on sports, singing, or musical competitions! Charge a fee for those who wish to pay, in addition to a small spectators fee.

**Your Own Idea:** Almost any hobby or interest can be used to create a charity fundraiser event. Chances are that if you are involved in it, others in your community are too.

**Zumba Night:** find a trainer for the dance fitness program, charge a fee, and learn some moves!