

Thinking Outside the Fundraising Box:

101 Brainstorming Ideas to Raise Funds for Children's Miracle Network



Building Bridges



LEGEND:

★ = RANKING THE AMOUNT OF TIME AND DIFFICULTY IN PLANNING

☺ = PRIMARY FUNCTION IS MORALE BUILDER

H = HOLIDAY EVENT

V = VENDOR SUPPORT POSSIBLE

Thinking Outside the Fundraising Box: 101 Brainstorming Ideas to Raise Funds for Children's Miracle Network

The events and fundraisers listed in this booklet are a great way to get started raising funds for your Children's Miracle Network hospital. These ideas are for you to adapt, create and utilize for your employees and customers. Do they fit with your company? If not, you can adapt these ideas or combine them with a current fundraiser. It's time to put on your thinking hat and start creating!

To help, we have created a legend to provide more information:

- ★ **Star ICON** = Ranked from 1 to 3 stars, indicating the amount of time and difficulty in planning the event.
- ☺ **MORALE ICON** = Morale-building events that will help motivate employees and build team spirit.
- V ICON** = An event where your vendors can get involved by providing product, services, or money, or by participating in event.
- H ICON** = Events that can be held during or around the holidays. Whether it is Valentine's Day or Spring Break, these events are a fun way to celebrate the holidays.

There are a number of ways to make your fundraisers more successful and more fun. Utilize raffles and prizes as incentives – or ask a local celebrity to get involved with your event. Consider also asking for matching funds, event underwriting, or procuring financial or in-kind donations of goods or services.

The possibilities are endless, but one thing remains the same—every dollar you raise impacts children at your local Children's Miracle Network hospital. You are making a difference in the lives of children, one dollar at a time.

Thank you for your commitment to Children's Miracle Network and the 17 million children treated each year at children's hospitals!

MULTI-DAY EVENTS

50/50 Raffle ★

Raffle a chance to win cash with your employees/customers. For every dollar raised, half of the pot goes to the winner and the other half goes to the local Children's Miracle Network hospital.

Add a dollar ★ ★

Ask customers if they would like to add a dollar to their bill. This works with online checkouts too.

Baby Pageant ★ ☺

Plan a company-wide baby contest with a variety of age and other categories (e.g. most photogenic, happiest, or most entertaining). Place change canisters under each of the photographs, and have employees/customers vote using spare change. Contact vendors that supply baby products for possible prizes.

Balloon Battles ★ ☺

Create teams to compete against each other to see who can raise more money from customers. This can be done with balloon sales, merchandise sales, canisters, etc.

Buck-a-Pound ★ ☺

Have employees sign up to make a donation for every pound lost and double that for every pound gained in weekly weigh-ins over a set period of time. Award prizes for the greatest weight loss overall or as a percentage of body weight.

Canister Decorations ★ ★

Have employees decorate their own coin canister and ask customers to vote for their favorite using spare change. The box with the most money at the end wins.



Cards for Cash ★ ★

For every gift card purchased during the campaign period, the company makes a percentage donation

Care Packages for Kids ★ ★ V

Create care packages for students or troops living away from home and sell them to customers and employees. Or create packages for kids in the hospital for a donation.

Chain of Hearts ★ ★ H

During the month of February sell paper chain links and hearts to customers. Attach the links together to make a paper chain and use the hearts to decorate the chain.



Change a Child's Life ★ H

Have the company conduct a "Change a Child's Life" coin collection campaign. Distribute plastic zip lock bags (or other containers) labeled with stickers for employees to fill with change. Create a goal chart poster with a thermometer and ask a local credit union to count the coins.

Change Roundup ★ ★

At the register or when delivering the bill, ask a customer to round up their purchase to the nearest whole dollar amount.

Change Wars ★ ★

Provide a prize for whichever department or group collects the most change. Create fun by subtracting funds from another department by placing pennies in other teams' buckets. (Silver adds up and pennies deduct.)

Chocolates ★ ★ V

Sell chocolates to customers for a donation. Customizable wrappers are available. Ask vendors to place coupons inside as an incentive.

Coat Check for Charity ★

Offer a coat check service during the winter months for donations.

Coin Rolls for Kids ★ ★

Work with your bank to make customized coin rolls. Ask customers to fill and return them to the store by a specified date. Consider rewarding returned rolls with a small gift.

Coloring Contest ★ ★

Hold a coloring contest, using images that represent your company. Ask an employee or celebrity to nominate the top five pictures. Ask customers to vote for the best using donation canisters. The canister that gets the most money is the grand prize winner. The second highest amount of money is the 2nd place winner and so forth.

Computer Message ★ ★ †

Ask your company computer expert to have a message "pop up" on employees' screens asking for a donation.

Cookbook Sales ★ ★ †

Compile and sell a cookbook of employees' recipes. Combine this with a bake sale or other culinary event.

Counting on You ★

Fill a large container with jellybeans, Lifesavers, paper clips, marbles, coins, M&Ms, or other small items. Advertise the grand prize and have employees/customers guess (for a set donation) how many are in the container.

Cups of Coin ★ ★ ★ V

Provide a take-home kiddie cup for children to take home and return full of change.

Discount Card ★ ★ ★ V

Sell a discount card to customers for a donation.

Donation per Transaction ★ ★ ★

Create a one-time or ongoing promotion during which a donation will be made for every transaction processed (e.g. hair cut, home sale, etc.).

Employee Calendars ★ ★ † V ☺

Sell calendars featuring humorous employee photos. Or use employees' personal Miracle Stories. Ask vendors to donate production costs or underwrite the calendar.

Employee Payroll Giving ★ ★

Conduct an employee giving campaign through automatic paycheck deductions. Children's Miracle Network's national staff can help host a campaign and kickoff meeting. Contact your Account Director for more information.



Fence Fundraising ★ † V

Use space inside your building or outside fences sell spaces for vendors and customers to place promotional banners/advertisements.

Finders Keepers ★ ★ V

Tape fake money in different denominations to the floor, shelves, displays, or furniture, in your building. Post signs identifying your Children's Miracle Network hospital. Customers can pick up a bill and return it to a cashier, where the dollar amount of the donation will be added to the total purchase.

Fish Tank ★

Rent or purchase a fish tank to collect donations of loose change. Position the tank in a visible location with a sign that identifies Children's Miracle Network and your children's hospital.

Flamingo Alert ★ ★

Place a pink flamingo in the grass outside the building. It will fly away once the fundraising goal has been reached. Google "Flamingo Flocking" or "Flamingo Alert" for more information.

Go Green ★ ★

Help the environment and children by donating used cell phones, DVDs, laptops or ink cartridges for recycling through Cartridges For Kids or other programs.

Grab Bags ★ ★

Sell small, inexpensive grab bags to little kids for a \$1 donation.

Holiday Baskets ★ † H

Using damaged or overstock goods, create baskets full of food or other prizes and auction or raffle them to employees/customers.

Holiday Spirit ★ ★ ★ V H

Sell packs of greeting cards and ask customers to write one card for a child in the hospital. See if your Children's Miracle Network hospital already has cards that you can use for this project.

Holiday Tree Festival ★ ★ ★ V H

Have community groups or other local businesses donate decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and other holiday decorations to sell. Display the trees in a public hall on specified days and support the event with holiday music, food booths and other vendor items. Have customers/participants vote using donation canisters. Trees then stay on display through most of December and are either given to the bidder or donated for the hospital to keep or raffle off.

Holiday Wrap ★ ★ H

Contact a local mall or shopping center for permission to wrap holiday presents for a donation, or offer a special gift-wrap service at your location

Hot Chocolate/Coffee on Cold Days ★

Sell a cup of hot chocolate on a cold day for a quarter, or ask your local Starbucks or coffee shop to help with your fundraiser.

Incubator Change Campaign ★

Ask the local hospital for a piece of medical equipment that can act as a change collector. Have employees/customers fill the incubator or other piece until it is full.

Light up a Child's Life ★ ★ ★ V H

Set up a holiday tree with 1,000 lights on it, but leave the bulbs slightly unscrewed. With every donation a customer turns a bulb on.

Local Sports Team ★ ★

Work with a local sports team to sell their merchandise to benefit Children's Miracle Network.

Media Exchange ★

Have employees donate old books, magazines, CDs, videos or DVDs and host a resale event.

Merchandise ★ ★ V

Get Children's Miracle Network or hospital merchandise and sell to customers for donations. Ideas include: stickers, stencils, bookmarks, key chains, pins, or pens.

Miles for Miracles ★ ★

Have the company donate \$.01 for every mile traveled by employees without a wreck, or for every hour without an accident.

Miracle Icons ★ ★

Sell paper Miracle Balloon icons for a dollar or more. Customers write their name on the icons, which then decorate the store. Icons can include Miracle Balloons, snowmen, ghosts, footballs, flags, etc.



Miracle Balloon Display Contest ★ ☺

Set up a contest between locations to encourage creative displays of Miracle Balloons that also generate interest and excitement for your fundraising campaign.



The More You Buy, the More You Help ★ ★ V

Offer a free frequent-visit card that customers show on each visit to earn a donation and/or incentives for a free gift.

Motorcycle/Car Raffle ★ ★ ★ V

Owner buys a motorcycle/car and sells tickets. If you do not sell enough tickets to cover the cost of the motorcycle/car it becomes a 50/50 raffle and the dealer takes the car back.

Mustache Growing Challenge ★ ☺

Collect donations from employees and have a manager grow his mustache. He must grow his mustache one day for every \$10 raised by the company. An employee grows a mustache in return for donations for each day of growth.

One Million Pennies ★ ★

Create donation canisters advertising the 'one million pennies' goal. One million pennies = \$10,000.

Online Auction ★ ★

Use eBay Giving Works or Charityfolks.com (dedicated online programs for charity listings) to create online auctions.

Online Giving ★ ★

Have Children's Miracle Network set up an online giving page where fundraising participants can email family and friends to make donations online.

Virtual Festival of Trees ★

This is an online application with an interactive Christmas tree that web visitors can purchase and/or decorate by making online donations. Demo and learn more about the Miracle Festival of Trees widget at www.childrensmiraclenetwork.org/festivaldemo.

Packaged Goods ★ ★ ★ V

Add the Children's Miracle Network logo to a packaged product and for every item sold donate a set amount to Children's Miracle Network



Paper Chain of Bills ★ ★

Use fake money or strips of colored paper to represent donations and make a paper chain and use it as a decoration and to show how close you are to your goal.

Parking Spot Auction ★

Auction premier parking spots to employees for a week/month/year. Make it special by creating signs or painting the parking spots with the employee's name.

Parking Spot Yard Sale ★ ★ ★

Rent parking spaces to customers for a yard sale/swap meet. Revenue is generated by 'rent' and percentage of profits from items sold.

Penalty Chart ★

Set up penalty rules for transgressions: late to work/meeting = \$1.
Forget to turn out the lights = \$1, etc

Pennies from Heaven ★ †

Hang upside down umbrellas from the ceiling, a wire, a tent, etc.
Hang "Pennies from Heaven" signs with instructions to "Throw your coins in the umbrella to help kids at our Children's Miracle Network hospital"



Photo Contest ★ ★ V

Create photo contest with entry fees as donations. Customers/employees vote using donation canisters.

Piggy Banks for Kids ★ ★

Every child who comes into store with a full "piggy bank" (can be any container) gets a free gift.

Quarters by the Mile ★ †

Collect quarters by attaching pieces of paper end to end throughout your store or office. The paper trail can be placed up and down aisles, at check stands, in a lobby, or wherever money can be collected and displayed securely. Circles the size of quarters are copied on to the paper so kids can easily attach quarters to the paper. 70,400 quarters placed side by side will make one mile.

Raffles ★ ★ V

Ask vendors to donate goods or services for an employee raffle. Sell tickets to employees/customers or use for employees as a reward for meeting goals. Can be used as an enhancement to other events.

Scavenger Hunt ★ ★ ☺

Create a scavenger hunt with clues for employees/customers who meet certain fundraising goals (e.g., one clue for every 25 Miracle Balloons sold). The first person to find the final clue wins the grand prize.

Scratch-off Tickets ★ ★ ★ ★V

Sell custom scratch-off tickets with discounts off your products/services.

Services ★ † ☺

Ask a local company or vendor to provide free or discounted services to your employees/customers for a donation at your location or theirs. Examples include chair, foot or chair massages, car detailing or washing, manicures, pedicures, paraffin waxes, etc.

Shopping Spree ★ ★ V

Sell entries into a drawing to win a shopping spree.

Silent Auction ★ ★ ☆ V

Gather donations of signed memorabilia, gift certificates, spa or golf packages and other prizes and host a silent auction for employees/customers. Get creative and auction off a free vacation day, food for a week, lunch with the CEO, etc. Create an online silent auction and then email the link out to all your contacts.



Skip Payment ★ ★ ★ H

For a donation (usually \$25 or more) customers can skip a payment. Terms and conditions usually apply.

Spin Wheel or Dart Contest ★ ★ V

Customers make a donation to spin the wheel or throw a dart to win discounts or prizes.



Sporting Event Concessions ★ ★

Volunteer at a local sporting event in the concession stands and collect tips for donations.

Tootsie Pops for Dollars ★ ★ V

Display Tootsie Pops (or other candy) in large canisters for donations.

Yard Sale ★ ★

Host a yard sale, advertising it in advance, and encouraging organization-wide participation.

Well Wishes Make Miracles ★ ★ ☺

Create a giant get-well card and for a donation customers can sign it. At the end of campaign, have the highest fundraising employee deliver it to the hospital.



Wishing Wells ★ ★

Have vendors/groups create a wishing well, using product or creative ideas. Award a prize to the one raising the most funds (e.g., Coke vs. Pepsi, cooks vs. servers, etc).

SINGLE DAY EVENTS

36-Hole Golf Challenge ★ ★ ★

Teams play (best ball) 36 holes in one day, getting pledges for the number of holes their team can play in par or less. If team gets par on a hole the donor pays the pledge for that hole. If they Birdie the hole, the donor pays twice the pledge, etc. If a team Bogies or worse, the team has to pay. Bogie is \$10, double bogie is \$20, etc. The team with the best score wins a prize.

5K Run/Walk ★ ★ ★

Host a community 5K fun run or walk for customers, vendors, employees, friends and families. Invite local celebrities.



Art Auction ★ ★ †

Auction professional art, or art from children at the hospital, to employees/customers through a silent or live auction.

Bad Pants Open ★ ☺

Have employees show up to work in their “baddest” pants (or other item of clothing or accessory). Have employees/customers pay to vote for the worst pants.

Bagging for Bucks ★ ★

Ask community volunteers (police officers, fire fighters, youth or church groups, etc.) to bag groceries for a day and accept donations as tips.

Bake Sale ★

Invite participants to create and sample favorite recipes. Design an entry form and determine a fee for participation. Arrange for a variety of prize categories such as most extravagant, most creative, or most healthy.



Balloon Festivals ★ ★ ★ V

Sell hot-air balloon rides as a fundraiser.

Bargain Basement Evening Gowns ★ ★

Collect and sell used evening gowns, prom dresses, tuxedos, etc.

Battle of the Bands ★ ★ ★ ☺

Host a “Battle of the Bands” competition for employees. Collect entry fees for a donation, and host raffles and auctions at the event.

Battle of the Sexes ★ ★

Have men and women compete against each other in contests such as cooking, changing a tire, fingernail painting, sports, etc.

BINGO ★ ★ V

Sell bingo cards as customers come in. Have an ongoing Bingo game. Get fun prizes or free food/product for winners.

Bike Rides ★ ★ ★

Participants collect pledges for miles ridden. Or host a bike parade for kids to decorate and parade their bike. Ask parents to donate per bike entered into parade and give prizes for best decorated bike.

“Bite Of...” Event ★ ★ ★ V

Get local restaurants to donate food samples and invite the community out for a “Bite Of...” night. Charge an entry fee, sell raffle tickets or host an auction to add to the fundraising. Add flavor by including ethnic restaurants.

Black Tie Affair ★ ★ ★ V

Plan a formal gala evening and sell tables or individual tickets appropriate to the menu and entertainment that will be provided. Include celebrities, entertainment, and live or silent auctions to increase fundraising and interest.

Book club ★ ★ ★

Get an author to do a signing and donate profits of book sales.

“Breakfast at Tiffany’s” ★ ★ †

Hold a “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” raffle. Charge per plate at the breakfast and then hold a raffle for select Tiffany’s jewelry locked in a box. The person with the key that fits the lock wins.

Breakfast with Characters ★ ★ H ☺

Sponsor a seasonal community breakfast and photo session where children can spend time with Santa, the Easter Bunny, etc.



Brown Bag Lunch Day ★ ☺

Ask everyone in the company to bring lunch from home, and donate money that would have been spent for lunch.

Butler Auction ★ †

Auction willing employees to another employee for a day. The “butler” will have to serve the employee. Service ideas could include, wash cars, clean house, make meals, do job for a day, etc.

Car Show ★ ★

Plan a car show with a variety of categories such as 50s, 60s, trucks, or classic automobiles. Plan for vendor booths, activities, and food as well as prizes for each category. Entry fees can be charged to exhibitors and spectators.

Car Wash ★ ★ ★

Select a location and time for maximum exposure for a community car wash. Invite mascots from local schools, popular radio DJs, or other identifiable community figures to participate.

Change Bandits ★ ★ ☺

Have associates pick a special day to dress up in western garb as Bandits, incorporating a coin collection device into their costume.

Sports Tournament “Children Helping Children” ★ ★ † ☺

Invite employees’ and customers’ children and their friends to participate in a sports tournament (tennis, bowling, etc. sports tournaments for an entry fee).

Commodity Sales ★

Collect t-shirts, lanyards, or other materials from the local Children’s Miracle Network hospital and sell to your employees/customers for a fee. All funds raised will benefit the local hospital.

Community Business Fair ★ ★ ★

Charge community businesses a fee to set up a booth in your parking lot or facility to promote their business and/or sell their product to your customers.

Concert ★ ★ ★ V ☺

Sell tickets to a concert by local musicians. Sell concessions/food, or merchandise for donations. Invite participating artists to donate a percentage of their merchandise sold.

Craft Fair/Flea Market ★ ★

Employees provide homemade or gently used items or collectibles to sell. Select a convenient location that will encourage drop-in traffic, and advertise in community newspapers, bulletin boards or other sources a few days prior to the event.

Crazy Hat Contest ★ ☺

Employees design wild hats to wear to work on a specific day. For a specified donation, each participant will be entered into prize categories. Winners can be determined by vote, by committee, or by a selected manager.

Day of Miracles: Services ★ ★ ★ V

Find ways to take what your specialty is (haircuts, pet grooming, pedicures, fitness classes) and offer it to the public for donations.

Day of Miracles: Products ★ ★ ★ V ☺

Pick one day and donate a set amount for every specific product sold. Or provide the item free for a donation. Examples are Miracle Treat Day and National Pancake Day.

Do My Job ★ ☺

For a donation, challenge a manager to switch job responsibilities for an hour.

“Don’t Come” Event ★ ★ ★ V

This event will never actually happen, so go as grand as you want on the invitation. Promise a scrumptious dinner, celebrity entertainment, etc. This is a great way to ask for donations. Many people want to help support an event, but don’t have the time to come. Or advertise a fundraiser as a ‘No Fundraiser Fundraiser’—just ask for donations instead of organizing activities.

Dress-Down Day (or Week, or Month) ★

Select a day in which employees can wear jeans, T-shirts or other attire that differs from your company’s dress code in return for a donation.

Early Paychecks ★ ★ ☺

Ask if your company allows for paychecks to be handed out earlier than the scheduled day. Make arrangements for employees who donate a set amount to receive their paychecks early.

Economics and Philanthropy for Kids ★ ★

Involve a local teacher/school in an economics project where students operate a business, selling items, then calculating and donating profits to their Children's Miracle Network hospital.

Event Parking Spaces ★ ★

Sell parking spaces for community events held near your facility.

First Friday Fundraisers ★

Organize a simple fundraiser at work for the first Friday each month: coin canisters, dress-down days, bake sales, etc.

Food or Treat Sales ★ V

Host an event and collect donations for food. Ideas include: chili cook-off, BBQ cook-off, taco bar, popcorn, hotdogs, hamburgers, sandwich bar, pancake breakfast or lunch, etc.



Fruit/Pumpkin Carving Contests ★ H ☺

Host a competition for the strangest design carved into a fruit. Have employees/customers vote for their favorite using spare change. Examples include pumpkins, watermelons, etc.

Go Fish! ★

Stock a children's wading pool with goldfish and let employees/customers catch and keep the fish for a donation.

Golf Marathon ★ ★ † V ☺

Host a golf marathon for your employees and play as many holes as possible in a 12-hour period. Collect pledges from friends and family number of holes played, hole-in-one, par, etc. Have Integrity Golf Solutions or other similar organization create the event for you.

Golf Tournament ★ ★ ★ V

Host a golf tournament for your customers and vendors at a local course. Solicit food, prizes, auction items or raffle sponsorship from vendors.

Holiday Character Lock Up ★ ★ H

Put Santa or Easter Bunny in jail until they fill their basket or bag with money.

Halloween Costume Contest ★ H ☺

Employees dress up for Halloween and compete for prizes for the most creative, funniest, most kid-friendly, etc. Take photos of the participants at the beginning of the day and have employees/customers vote with spare change in designated canisters.

Holiday Cookies & Cakes ★ H

Employees/customers decorate pre-made cookies or cakes for a specified donation.

Holiday Flower Sale ★ H

A holiday flower sale is a great opportunity to team with a local florist to help hospitalized kids in your community. Sell poinsettias for Christmas, roses for Valentine's Day, spring bouquets for Mother's Day, etc. Providing a flower delivery service could generate additional funds during holiday periods.

Jell-O Jump ★ ★ ★ V

For a donation you can jump into a swimming pool of Jell-O and grab one of many vehicle keys at the bottom. If your key starts the scooter you win. (Or use a car, motorcycle, or scooter).

Jail or Bail ★ ★ †

Place a manager or employee in a makeshift jail until a set amount of funds is released for "bail." Be creative and host different types of events – manager in a diaper, in a dunking booth, etc.

Kiddie Carnival ★ ★ ★

Set up a full-blown carnival, with dunk tank, bouncy castle, or keep it simple with activities such as ring toss, spin art, face painting, hopscotch, jacks, etc. Add food stations or small prizes.

Magical Mondays ★ ☺

Work out an arrangement to make gourmet coffee or hot chocolate in place of the regular hot drinks and request a dollar donation for a steamy cup from co-workers.

Miniature Golf Marathon ★ ★ ★ V

Set up a small miniature golf course for customers or employees to pay to play. Ask vendors or local businesses to donate prizes.

Miracle Idol ★ ★ ★ ☺

Host a singing competition for employees. Invite local celebrities to judge the competition and have employees vote using spare change.

Miracles to Go and Miles to Row ★ ★ †

Host a rowing/kayaking/canoe race for employees/customers. Collect pledges from friends and family for each minute rowing consecutively.

Miracle Relay ★ ★ ★

Challenge the company to walk (or bike, bowl, ski, skate, or read) for 24 hours straight. Create teams within departments, with 1 hour "turns." Collect pledges for each lap or hour around the building.



Mother's Day ★ ★ H V

Assemble baskets, gift certificates, or services (massages, pedicure/manicure) for Mother's Day gift donations.

Motorcycle /ATV Rides ★ ★ ★

Set up a fun but safe course and charge for participation.

Pet Wash ★ ★

Have employees/customers bring their pets to the office for a pet wash.

Pictures with Characters ★ ★ ☺

Rent a fun costume for an associate to wear or invite a "professional" character to donate time. Employees/customers can have their children's pictures taken with the character for a donation.

Plant or Produce Sale ★ ★

Ask a wholesale plant distributor to donate plants or flowers and host a plant sale for employees/customers. Invite employees to bring in home-grown produce to sell.

Prints for Kids ★ ★ V

For stores with photo labs, pick a day and offer to make free digital prints or process one roll of film per customer or employee for a donation. Work with photo paper vendor to get it donated.

Raffles ★ ★ ★ V

Items include things like vendor donated items, gas cards (convenience stores), free meal once a week for a month or free meal every month for a year (restaurants), bake goods (restaurants), barbeque if summer, surf board, ski passes, snowboard, etc.

Restaurant Fundraisers ★ ★ V

Servers donate their tips for a day; cashier/server asks customer to round up the bill for the change. Host weekend raffles of cakes, chocolate strawberries, etc.



Roof Sit ★ ★ ☺

Invite a manager or local celebrity to camp out on the roof of a building until your fundraising goal is reached. Can't camp out on the roof? Try shrink wrapping the person to a flag pole or locking them in a bus or car. Also raise funds by hanging a bucket over the edge of the building requesting donations.

Sponsor a Miracle ★

During a live auction, give people the opportunity to sponsor a miracle. For each donation, children at the local children's hospital will be helped.

Sock Hop or Country Dance ★ ★ ★ ☺

Sponsor a sock hop or a country dance to benefit Children's Miracle Network. Refreshments, dress-up contests and door prizes can add to the fun. Get creative and host other types of dances.

Sports Tournaments ★ ★ ↗ V

Set up a traditional-style tournament such as golf, bowling, or basketball, complete with an entry fee, teams, and prizes. Or, select a less traditional tournament such as broom hockey, darts, horseshoe, ultimate Frisbee, or fishing. Invite employees'/customers' children and their friends to participate in a sports tournament (tennis, bowling, etc.) for an entry fee.



Talent Show ★ ★ ↗ ☺

Let employees share their hidden talents. Choose a location, organize an agenda of acts and select a panel of judges. Charge an entrance fee for each act and a separate fee for spectators.

Torch Relay ★ ↗ V

The Torch Relay is an exciting event format for participants to either walk, run or performance cycle to raise funds for the children's hospitals in their communities. Events are held in multiple cities around the United States. Visit www.torch-relay.org for more information.



Trick or Treat for Cash ★ ★

Instead of trick or treating for candies, trick or treat for cash by asking for a donation.

Truck Pull ★ ★ V ☺

Host a semi-truck pull competition between different departments. Charge a fee to add a pound to a team's truck or charge double that amount to take off a pound. Collect pledges for every foot pulled. Ask vendors and local community businesses to sponsor the event. Ask the mayor or local celebrities to join in or judge.

Ugly Knees Contest ★ ☺

Take photos of willing employees' or managers' knees and display them in a break area, lunchroom, or other highly visible area. Have employees/customers vote and award a prize for the most votes or for matching knees to 'owners.'

Ugly Tie Contest ★ ☺

Have willing participants submit their ugliest tie (or other attire or accessory) for a specified donation. Employees/customers can vote for "ugliest tie" and award the winner with a brand-new tie. Arrange for a local tie store or vendor to sponsor the event.

Window Washers ★

Ask managers to wash windows of employees' cars for donations.

ONE HOUR

Banana-eating Contest ☺

Host a banana-eating contest for employees, and collect pledges for the number of bananas consumed within a set time frame.
Or use hot dogs, corn, etc.

Bowl-a-Thon ★ ★ ★ V

Customers and vendors can sponsor your store for a bowl-a-thon. Customers can either pledge a fixed amount or donate per pin. Once the bowl-a-thon is complete, store associates collect money from those who sponsored them.

Car Bashing ★ ★ ☺

Get an old car donated from a junk yard. Ask employees/customers to donate for an opportunity to “bash” the car.



Chicken Soup Swim ★ ★ † ☺

For a donation, participants can jump into a pool of warm chicken soup for prizes.

Ducks for Bucks ★ ★ ★ V

Race ducks across a pool using powerful fans; or around a ‘lazy river.’
For a donation, sponsor a winning duck.



Dunk Tank ★ ★ ☺

Rent a dunk tank and give employees a chance to dunk their favorite manager or co-worker for a donation.

Easter Bunny Hidden Eggs ★ ★ ★ V H

Parents pay for their children to participate, but the kids get to keep all the eggs and candy they find. Or fill plastic Easter Eggs with candy and sell for a donation.

Forklift Obstacle Course ★ ★ ☺

Create a fun obstacle course for forklift operators and have employees make donations for their favorite driver. Those employees who pick the winner can win prizes or a raffle ticket for a larger prize. Or charge employees to make the course more difficult for competitors (e.g. \$5 for small obstacles and \$10 for larger obstructions).

Gaming Contest ★ ★ ★ V

Set up a video game contest like Guitar Hero, Rock Band or Nintendo Wii sports game. Pay to enter and win prizes.



Golf Ball Drop/Baseball Drop ★ ★ ★ V

Individuals have the opportunity to purchase a ball for a donation. The ball dropped from a helicopter that lands closest to the pin/base wins a prize.

Ice Cream Social ★ ☺

Plan a day for ice cream, games and music to bring employees/customers and their families together. Partner with an ice cream vendor, and charge participants for ice cream.

Karaoke Threat ★ ☺

Have employees make a donation to force a co-worker to sing. They must sing or double the donation to pass the challenge to another co-worker.

Kiss a Pig ★ ★ ☺

The person who raises the least amount in a fundraising drive has to kiss a pig. Or ask customers/employees to donate to force the manager to kiss a pig.



Ladies' Night ★ ★ ★ V H

Mall or stores are open after hours for ladies only. A cover charge includes silent auction, training and/or wine tasting.

Marshmallow Putting Contest ★ ↴

Using a golf green, have employees/customers try to putt a marshmallow into the hole. An employee makes a donation for every try. Reward hole-in-ones with special prizes or a raffle for a larger prize. Try putting with other tools found around the office/store such as a plunger, a broom stick, etc.

Miracles in Training ★ ★ ★ V

Host a workshop or training session with a donation in lieu of a fee (e.g. IHOP teaching the art of pancake making; Ace Hardware teaching basic home maintenance).

Pie Toss ★ ☺

Charge employees a predetermined fee for the opportunity to throw a pie at their favorite manager or coworker.

Pint-sized Prom ★ ★ ★

Host a prom for little kids in your location. Charge for entry and have a fun drawing or auction that kids could afford.

Pizza-eating Contest ★ ★ ★ V

Contestants pay an entry fee for the chance to win prizes. Consider using a specialty product (e.g. heart shaped pizza).



Potluck Meals ★ V H ☺

Employees prepare and bring potluck dishes for a breakfast or lunch event before or during work, donating a specified amount to eat. This could be a one-day or a weekly event held over a set period.

Potluck Theme Party ★ V H ☺

Have a manager host a dinner party and assign a theme such as ‘the 1950s,’ the Wild West, or TV Sitcoms.’ Each guest pays to attend, dresses to suit the theme and brings a potluck dish. Funds can be raised by charging a participation fee.

Remote Control Car Race ★ ☺

Host a remote-control race in your office for employees. Make a donation to participate, or to challenge a manager to a race.

Sandwiches for Miracles ★ V ☺

Arrange for a vendor to supply sandwich ingredients at or below cost. Set up a table where employees and customers can build their own sandwiches. Charge by sandwich weight or determine a per-sandwich price. Use other food ideas such as hot dog sales, taco bar, etc.

Shaved Head Challenge ★ ☺

A manager challenges employees to set a fundraising goal. If the goal is met, the manager shaves (or dyes) his/her head. The top fundraising employee can then have the honor to help shave, dye or cut the manager’s hair.

Stuff the Bag Contest ★ V ☺

Challenge customers and associates to make a donation for a chance to stuff a sleeping bag to capacity with tennis balls, rolls of paper, balloons, etc. Award a new sleeping bag to the person/team with the fastest time. Ask for additional donations for the chance to guess the maximum number of items stuffed and award a prize to the winner.

Tennis Ball Race ★ ★ V

For a set donation, a customer or an employee can “adopt” a tennis ball and decorate it. On race day, place all of the tennis balls in a large bin atop a hill. Dump the contents down the hill to start the race. The first tennis ball to reach the bottom wins its owner a prize.

Trivia Night ★ ★ V ☺

Host a trivia night using a board game such as “Scene It” or “Trivial Pursuit.” Charge admission to the event or pair the evening with a silent auction.

Veggie Basketball ★ ☺

Host a basketball free-throw competition with strange fruits or vegetables such as lettuce, cantaloupe, melon, etc., in place of a basketball. Or challenge other employees to a game of “H.O.R.S.E.”

