

## Fundraising / Friend-raising Events

- 5K – nice weather is crucial to success – most sign-ups will be day-of / Businesses pay for ad along course or item in runner gift bag or purchase food (bananas, water, bagels) / Find local celebrity to shoot starting gun / Worth hiring timing company / Work with city-village in facility use if school facilities don't suffice / Have local cheerleaders attend / Have kid's "fun run" before or after 5K for little ones
- Alumni dinner (combine with hall of fame induction) (combine with current student awards to bring alumni and students together) (celebrating Excellence)
- Alumni directory
- Anniversary Dinner – If your district is celebrating an anniversary, combine with a dinner and invite alumni. Sell tickets individually or by table – seat guests by class year
- Art fair – partner with local shopping center or local library
- Baking or BBQ or Chili cooking contest
- Baseball (or other sport) with Celebrities (former MLB players vs. guests who pay to play, you pay appearance fees, has raised \$30,000)
- Battle of the Bands – student bands perform, must be family-friendly music, you sell tickets and ad book, bands required to sell minimum # of tickets, prize could be chance to make a record – work with local college, business)
- Board game tournament
- Book (Create a book of student artwork or stories, could feature town/businesses) get a good deal on printing and sell for profit
- Bowl-a-thon – Teachers may be willing to host this event.
- Breakfast with Santa – Sell tickets (\$5 was too cheap for one org.) Pictures with Santa (emailed immediately) plus crafts, breakfast, and raffle
- Brick / Stone – This works well for a new school or addition. Sell bricks that people can engrave with a message (anniversary, baby, commemorative, class of 1970, etc.) that are placed on site. (You should provide them a map so they know where the brick is.)
- Broadway in Chicago – sell tickets to a major production before tix are available for public – 200 tickets made organization \$12K - took very little work (call company for more information)
- Calendar with advertisements
- Casino Night
- Circus – Kelly Miller Circus (they charge flat fee or percentage – your choice) (one day, two shows) – most tickets are sold once tent goes up – only need to provide dumpsters and water source – can sell box seats for large groups

- Circus – Gary Carson ([www.carsonentertainment.com](http://www.carsonentertainment.com)) This performer will come to the District and do a circus act with animals for free. His fee is only based upon a program/ad book you create. You sell ad space; you keep anything the book makes over \$5000. (He can only make \$5000; he will accept less if you can't sell all the ads.)
- City stickers – If your town requires a city sticker, work with them. Have a contest for students to design an alternate city sticker. Residents can purchase regular sticker for regular fee or pay \$15 extra for student sticker. All proceeds go to foundation. (City may pay for printing of student sticker if you work with them.)
- Comedy night (Second City) – Bring group in to you or sell discounted tickets to their event
- Cookbook
- Coupon book – Create a coupon book for restaurants or other businesses in your area. ([www.checkawards.com](http://www.checkawards.com)) is a site that creates a coupon book that looks like a checkbook) Sell the book for a profit; businesses get additional traffic.
- Dance-a-thon (or just regular dance for adults)
- Department store volunteer appreciation – have lunch inside a department store (i.e. Bloomingdale's). Guests get discount off purchases made that day, store gets business.
- Desk Auction (decorate then sell) (could work with other items) – Solicit local artists or artists from all over state / have a big unveiling and live auction that night / work with District in transportation of desks for online auction winners / allow voting for favorite desk / have desks sponsored and don't pay artists – they would ideally donate the time and materials for publicity
- Dinner with dance, art auction or talent show (i.e. pasta-palooza) (money from ticket sales)
- Direct mail and phone call over-saturation campaign – “*Sick of hearing from us? Donate!*”
- Dog wash
- Duck Race (rubber duck race down river, stream – ducks sponsored)
- E-Scrip ([www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)) This site allows non-profits to register themselves. Users can then register their Dominick's card, store purchases and more with your organization, so anytime they shop, e-scrip donates a percentage to the org. (Target does this, too!)
- Eating contest (pies, watermelon, etc.) (invite a record speed eater)
- Fantasy baseball or football
- Fashion show
- Gas Station fill up (fill up tank for visitors / donations while you fill)
- Giving tree – Displayed in main entry in district or school – engraved leaves
- Golf Outing (9 or 18 holes, or random number for fun) – Work with other groups to donate course, dinner, raffle prizes) (evening golf may be cheaper than daytime or weekend)

- Hall of Fame (Athletics / Service / Professional Success)
- Head shaving (get favorite teachers to offer to shave their heads for donations)
- Holiday cards – have students create holiday cards (choose winners in a contest) and get them printed at a discount and sell for profit
- Ice cream social (with live music)
- Magic show
- Paint the curb (paint address on curb for a fee – helpful for emergency services)
- Pet art show (pets paint canvas with feet, auction art, vote for favorite by putting \$ in jar)
- Polar bear plunge
- Pumpkin carving contest
- Read-a-thon – students get pledges and maintain logs signed off by parents – work with school staff in organizing – have a prize for every reader
- Registration form for District (check box on the bottom of the form to donate set amount)
- Snow/Sand sculpture contest
- Talent Show (best of the best in District – use students and staff)
- Taste of (District Name) – sell tickets, hold raffles, charge table fee for vendors (restaurants), and have some entertainment (comedy night, talent show, live band, DJ) (“Food for Thought” was one organization’s event name)
- Staff payroll deduction – work with your business office to set up automatic deduction of set amount each payday or one amount in beginning of year)
- Stupor bowl – 32 teams of 5 competing in academic competition (day before super bowl)
- Tailgate party prior to football game
- Track and field follies night (teachers vs. students)
- Ugly dog contest
- Ultimate Shopping – Tastefully Simple, Lia Sophia, Avon, Candelight, etc. all have representative vendor. Charge vendor fee and require donation of gift basket for raffle. Sell tickets at low price. Have concessions. (First come, first serve for vendors from same company) (Have questions about this event? Contact Lori from Lyons Township HS District 205 Foundation)
- Volleyball (or other sport) game with students vs. faculty – charge ticket fee sell concessions
- Wine and cheese event

### Advertising Idea

- Put a question on every event registration/ticket form – Question asks who told the registrant about the program. Tally the number per individual mentioned; the person who has the most references wins a prize. This can be an effective tool to encourage Committee members to step up their advertising efforts!

#### Event Raffle/Gift Prize Ideas

- For students – a ride in a fire truck, lock-in overnight in the school, lunch on the stage, swim or rec. department pass, free mini golf, free book from local book store (foundation pays for book, but at a deep discount)
- For parents – student artwork, gourmet dinner made by the Principal

#### Event Idea Websites:

- [www.fasttrackfundraising.com](http://www.fasttrackfundraising.com) – Search by product or organization type, read reviews
- [www.fundraising-ideas.org/](http://www.fundraising-ideas.org/) - a plethora of great ideas and promotions
- [www.fundraiserhelp.com/](http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/) - a true master list of many possibilities
- [www.easy-fundraising-ideas.com/](http://www.easy-fundraising-ideas.com/) - one of the best sites out there, very well organized
- <http://stepbystepfundraising.com/> - a grass roots-type site designed with non-profits in mind