



The "A to Z" Fundraising Idea Guide

- A. Auction** off a prime parking space at work, a half or whole vacation day or something else you and your colleagues desire (after receiving the boss' permission – of course)
- B. Bartend** - Ask your favorite hangout if you can guest bartend for an evening – bring Bike to the Beach flyers to display and all your tips can go to your fundraising goal!
- C. Cook Out** – fire-up the grill and invite all your friends and neighbors to a BBQ. Charge an entrance fee rather than having folks bring sides. Put flyers and donation jars near the food, drinks and door.
- D. Dress Down for Donations** – have employees pay to wear jeans, shorts, flip-flops whatever would appeal to your company
- E. Email** all your friends, family, neighbors, and community members for donations. Use both your Bike to the Beach web page and your personal email account, and be sure to share your personal story about why raising money to support local non profits providing services to our friends in the autism & disABILITIES community!
- F. Fantasy Leagues** – Include a donation as part of your fantasy football, baseball, etc. league. Make part of the entrance fee or proceeds a donation. Or ask everyone to make a donation, with the highest bidder receiving a free trade.
- G. Garage Sale/Yard Sale** – Arrange a neighborhood garage sale. Ask everyone to donate items. Get the local paper to place a small ad on your behalf. Don't forget to put out donations jar – for those folks who don't purchase anything.
- H. Happy Hour** – Wear your Bike to the Beach swag to Happy Hour and ask people to sign your shirt for \$10. Ask the DJ to announce that you are in the bar.
- I. "In Honor"** – Ride "In Honor" of someone. Create your own Honor Role list that you can pin to your shirt and wear on RIDE DAY. On event-day have someone take a photograph that you can circulate to your donors.
- J. Jokes on you** – ask a local comedy club to host an evening to support Bike to the Beach, and get all your friends and family members to buy tickets and attend.
- K. Kick-off Party** - Invite friends over for the first NFL game, MLB Playoff game or the premiere of your favorite television show. Provide snacks and drinks and ask everyone to throw some money into the "pot."
- L. Letters** – send letters to business associates and vendors asking for support and donations. Also utilize a letter campaign to friends and family members who might respond more generously to a letter than an email communication.
- M. Matching Funds** – check to see if our company provides matching funds for donations AND ask your supporters if their company can match funds as well. It's a quick and easy way to double your fund-raising efforts!

- N. Newspaper/Newsletter** – Get an article in your local newspaper, neighborhood magazine or corporate newsletter about you and your Bike to the Beach campaign, and request support.
- O. Oktoberfest Party** (typically held at the end of September). Cook up some bratwurst and potato salad. Ask folks to bring their beverage of choice and \$10 for your fundraising efforts.
- P. Percentage of Sales** – Negotiate a percentage of sales from your favorite hair salon, coffee shop, pizza place, etc. Ask them to donate \$1 or \$2 from each transaction over the course of a weekend or a few week days. Alert the local press to get your sponsor some positive media attention.
- Q. Quarter jar** – Pick a bad habit and assign a 25-cent penalty for every time you are caught doing it, think of how quickly the change would add up and you might break your habit of biting your nails, cursing or interrupting people...
- R. Request donations** from your friends in lieu of birthday or anniversary gifts. Instead of cards and gifts ask instead they make a donation to your Bike to the Beach fundraising page.
- S. Silent Auction** – Ask some local businesses to donate items (i.e., \$10 worth of dry cleaning, book of car washes, free sandwiches and drink, a week of free coffee). Set minimum pledge limits. Hold the auction over a week and notify the winners.
- T. Texas Hold'em** – Host a poker night, charge a playing fee (that you keep for your Bike to the Beach fundraising), and have the winner take the "pot." Who knows...the winner may even donate ½ back to the "house" for your fundraising goal!
- U. Use your passion!** Host a clothing or comic book swap. Baby sit. Pet sit. Proofread and edit resumes. Mend clothes. Food shop or run errands. Anything goes!
- V. Vino and Cheese** – see if your local wine store will donate wine and/or send someone to share fun & interesting wine facts at your wine tasting party. Ask your local grocer to donate cheese and crackers too.
- W. Wii Party or Tournament** – Host a night of fun and Wii games – have Wii bowling, baseball, or boxing competitions with your friends or have a Rock Band tournament. Ask for donations for attending.
- X. Xerox** copies of flyer with your team fundraising info – pass them out and encourage people to support you.
- Y. Yard Displays** – Place plastic pink flamingos, wooden cows, or even a purple and pink port-a-potties in the front yard of unsuspecting donors... request a donation for them to be removed, an additional donation for the homeowner to pick whose yard they are to be placed next, and another donation as "insurance" that they don't wind up back in their yard again.
- Z. Zodiac Party** – arrange to have a fortune teller predict your friends' futures. See if the teller will donate or reduce her services and charge your friends with all the proceeds going to Bike to the Beach.