



HEARTest Yard Fundraising Ideas

Easy, fun ways to raise funds at work or at home!

1. Activity Workshop

This fundraising idea is not only quick to put together but is also incredibly versatile and customizable. It's also very appropriate to host seasonally. For example, you could organize a flower arrangement workshop in spring, a chocolate making workshop for Valentine's, or a wreath arranging class for Christmas. These are guaranteed to attract a crowd, especially if you can get in an expert to host them. You can adapt them to all the different ages as well. Host a class and charge an entry fee to cover supplies and collect donations. *COVID-19 friendly option: host the classes virtually using ZOOM!*

2. Board Game Tournament

A board game tournament is a simple, cost-effective and easy-to-plan fundraiser that can get your friends' or coworkers' competitive juices flowing. Team fundraising is a great way to build on the friendly competition — choose your games, have players register for the tournament by joining your team, and get their friends, family and work buddies to donate to their page! Impose a fundraising minimum to compete in the tournament. *COVID-19 friendly option: host virtual game nights using online game platforms like Kahoot, QuizUp or Online Jeopardy!*

3. Embarrass the Boss!

It goes without saying that you'll need to get the executive or team leader on board beforehand but competing with your coworkers to plunge the CEO into a dunk tank or throw a pie in your supervisor's face are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities ... and even better, it's all for a good cause! After getting approval from HR and getting your leader signed on, the person who raises the most gets the honor of embarrassing the boss! *COVID-19 friendly option: your boss must their head or dye their hair the color of the winner's choosing.*

4. Casual / Jeans Days

You'd be amazed by the lengths folks bound to a professional dress code will go to just for the chance to ditch their slacks and wear jeans to the office. Use "Jean Days" or "Casual Days" as an incentive to raise money for charity! Give the top fundraiser a month of Casual Days or offer the top five fundraisers an extra Casual Day each week for a month.

5. Singing Valentines

Valentine's Day is often a workplace *event* with nonstop deliveries of flowers, candy, and stuffed animals. Embrace the loss of productivity on Valentine's Day and ramp it up a notch by getting your workplace's wannabe-Mariah Careys on board for singing Valentines! Collect donations for the HEARTest Yard in exchange for a Valentine's Day serenade for a coworker. *COVID-19 friendly option: make a donation to your teammate's fundraiser and they must send a singing/dancing video to your valentine!*

6. Donation jars

Donation jars are simple and effective. They can be used in a variety of situations. You could partner with local cafes or businesses (especially those whose values match yours) – and have them place the donations jar at their check out registers to collect donations for the HEARTest Yard!



7. Parking Spot Fundraiser

Much like the privilege of wearing jeans to work, many employees will do pretty much anything under the sun for a prime parking spot. Finding a nice parking spot in the shade that's close to the door is the true Holy Grail for people working in a big office — and you can offer a reserved spot as an incentive for your employees and colleagues to raise money for a good cause! Start a team and offer a month (or even a full quarter) of reserved parking for the top fundraiser.

8. Car Wash

A car wash fundraiser is a proven and quick money maker. All you need is a team of volunteers, a location, bold signs, and cleaning supplies. Car washes are also a great way to involve everyone, have fun, and build a community. Increase revenue by selling doughnuts and warm beverages! *COVID-19 friendly.*

9. Game Night

Game nights are a great way to get people together, have fun, and raise funds for a good cause. Select five to ten different games that require at least four players – and set them up at different stations. Some ideas are: Cards Against Humanities, Jenga, Pictionary, Candyland, Poker, Trouble, Wii golf or tennis, Monopoly, and more. Charge per game per participant to raise funds. *COVID-19 friendly option: host virtual game nights using online game platforms like Kahoot, QuizUp or Online Jeopardy!*

10. Envelope Fundraiser

This fundraiser is a classic and for a reason. It takes no time to organize, and it's a perfect way to bring in additional funds. This works best if you have a physical location that gets a lot of visits or partner with local business that could put the envelopes up for you. Write dollar amounts from \$1 and higher on the envelopes. Go as high as you want. Put envelopes on a board or a wall and put up messages that will encourage people to give – sharing the HEARTest Yard mission and how to help congenital heart families in our community. People take an envelope and put the corresponding amount of money in it to donate (e.g. \$50 inside an envelope with the number 50 on it). This allows people to give as much as they are able to at the moment, as one can donate a \$1 or \$200 (whatever range you select).

11. HEARTest Yard Bake-off

Bring out your neighborhood or office's star bakers by holding a HEARTest Yard Bake-Off! Create teams and require participants to raise a minimum amount to have their baked goods judged in the competition. Choose categories (the possibilities are endless: cookies, cakes, savory baked goods, tarts, and more!) select a panel of judges, create your team and then get ready, set, bake! *COVID-19 friendly option: set up drive-thru pastry pickups for folks to safely take your baked goods home to try.*

12. Rent an Assistant

Pretty much everyone could use an assistant from time to time to sort through that stack of paperwork piling up on your desk, stuff some envelopes, and take some tedious tasks off your hands. Gather some capable employees where you work (supervisors are ideal) and create fundraising pages for each participating "assistant." Allow employees to make donations to the page of the "assistant" of their choice in pre-set amounts to rent that employee's time — \$25 for 30 minutes, \$50 for an hour, \$100 for a full day. This is a great way to boost productivity *and* raise money for a good cause!

13. Chili Cook-Off

Bring out your inner Food Network stars by hosting a chili cook-off for charity! The chefs compete to raise the most money for the HEARTest Yard.



14. Scavenger Hunt

An office or neighborhood scavenger hunt can get people working together, get some exercise and build camaraderie, *and* raise money for a great cause! Request donations to participate in the scavenger hunt, then distribute clues to the hunters to help them find the items in the office building or on the block. This is fun, easy to plan and pull off, and working together to solve clues can give your office's teamwork skills a boost!

15. Charity Competition

To *really* stoke the flames of competition, partner with other companies or neighborhoods to see whose team can raise the most money for a good cause!

16. It's a Grill-off!

A perfect fundraiser for the summertime! Fire up your grills and bust out your best barbecue recipes. Charge a donation as an entry fee, or you can start a team and ask guests to make a donation to their favorite grill master's fundraising page to vote for them. (Don't forget to include a vegetarian category so everyone is included!)

17. Moustache Contest

Gentlemen – this one's for you! Put together a group of willing guys to grow a moustache for the month of November and have coworkers, neighbors and/or friends vote for their favorite moustache by making a donation. Offer up a prize for the winning 'stache!

18. Coffee/Latte Donation

Everyone knows how important that morning cup of coffee or latte is to starting your day off right, but the cost can add up quickly — think of how much money your office could raise if everyone got together and donated the cost of their morning Starbucks run to charity! Ask employees to consider donating the cost of a day, a week, a month, or even a year's worth of coffee to a good cause!

19. Holiday Gift Wrapping

An easy way to get in the holiday spirit, help a good cause, and take some of the stress out of holidays is by hosting a gift-wrapping day! Recruit the craftiest and most skilled gift-wrappers and people can pay a donation to have gifts wrapped for them. *COVID-19 friendly option: designate a place where people can drop off their gifts and pick them up perfectly wrapped and sanitized!*

20. Bowl-a-thon

Get your coworkers out of the office, into some rented shoes, and onto the lanes for a charity bowl-a-thon! Work with a local bowling alley to host the bowl-a-thon and have bowlers encourage people to support them by making a donation to the HEARTest Yard and get out of the office for some fun!