



## Fundraising Ideas

1. Start Now! The earlier you begin fundraising, the better off you'll be.
2. Tell Your Story. The more you talk about your upcoming adventure, the more people will share in that excitement and want to pledge you.
3. Personal Participant Center. One of the great features of our website is the Participant Center, where you can upload a photo of yourself or your team, write a little bit about your mission and reason for participating and create a fundraising goal.
4. Email from Participant Fundraising Center. From this site you can send an email to everyone on your contact list and invite them to visit your Personal Participant Center page. You can also track donations received electronically and account for those you received by mail or in-hand.
5. Ask for the Right Amount. Take a good look at who you're asking for donations and make sure you ask for the right amount. Don't ask for \$100 if you know someone could pledge \$1,000.
6. Corporate Matching Gift. Ask your company to match the amount of pledges you receive from your coworkers. Look into matching with [Double the Donation](#).
7. Your Friend's Matching Gift. Ask a friend to see if they can investigate getting their company to match pledges. House Party. This is a surefire way to raise money. Collect donations and entertain at the same time. Create a theme (like a costume party) and have fun!
8. Birthday Gift Pledge. It will be a lot easier for your friends and family to write you a birthday check rather than spending hours trying to shop for you! Add their gifts to your pledge total. You can also create a Facebook fundraiser to make it simple and we can link this to your fundraising goal!
9. Social Media! We live in a social media world, this is a FREE resource where you can reach so many people! We have a Social media resource document with sample posts, hashtags and tips for Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter!
10. Garage Sale. Do you really need all that extra stuff taking up space in your garage, attic and/or basement? Gather it up and ask your friends to do the same. Then pick a Saturday or Sunday, put the stuff in the front yard and sell! All the money raised can go toward your fundraising goal.
11. Church or Synagogue Bulletin. Place an advertisement in the weekly bulletin/newsletter letting everyone know what you're up to!
12. Make Your Own Contribution. Lead the way by making your pledge first.
13. Bake Sale. Become Julia Child or Mrs. Fields and host a bake sale with your friends. You can even have it in conjunction with your garage sale.
14. The "Extra Change in My Pocket" Box. Create these little boxes for your friends and family and have them place it on their dresser or desk. At the end of the day, they can drop spare change in the box.
15. Start your own "Extra Change" Box. Keep a jar near your door and put all your extra coins in it every day. It adds up! Or put it on your desk at work—others will join you.
16. Office Fundraising Challenge. Speak with everyone in your office and get them to challenge each other to raise the highest amount. Give the winner a prize, like movie passes or a gift certificate to lunch or dinner.
17. Gym. Ask your gym to place a pledge jar at the front desk! Leave a stack of pledge forms at the counter as well.
18. Spinning/Yoga/Pilates. Have a stack of pledge forms with you, and ask your instructor to make an announcement in class.

19. Some franchise restaurants offer a percentage of the proceeds of a certain day to your cause. You can set this up, let your network know that if they all get their lunch or dinner at that certain location, then a part of those proceeds will be going to your cause! [Here is a list of chains and franchises that offer this!](#)
20. Ask Local Restaurants. Check with the restaurant manager about placing a donation jar at the front of the restaurant. This works best if the jar is in a high-traffic area where lots of patrons can see it.
21. Fundraising Dinner at Your Favorite Restaurant. Ask your favorite local restaurant to host a fundraising dinner for the cause. They supply the food, and you supply the pledge forms!
22. Happy Hour Party. Invite all your friends (and their friends) and get them to sign an item of clothing you will wear at the race. Charge \$10 per signature.
23. Theme Party/Dinner. Host a theme party for 10 or more of your friends. Have each guest donate \$50, spend no more than \$20 per person on food and you'll have \$300 or more in pledges by the end of the night.
24. Wine and Cheese Party. Host a party at a local restaurant and ask the owner to donate the wine and cheese.
25. Host a Movie Night Party. Pick up a new release, make some popcorn, buy some drinks and invite your friends and family over for the night. Make sure you have plenty of pledge forms out!
26. Have a Local Theater Donate Tickets to a Performance. Ask a local theater to donate a pair of tickets to one of their plays or musicals, then auction them off.
27. Delegate. Give 10 of your friends 10 pledge forms each and ask them to help raise money for you.
28. Creative Friends. Find a local artist or ask a creative friend if they would donate a piece of art or jewelry that you could auction; or see if they would be willing to create mass quantities that you could sell on their behalf. Keep a portion of the proceeds for your pledge total.
29. Housewarming Party. Are you moving anytime soon? If so, ask your friends to make a pledge instead of purchasing a gift for your new place.
30. Business Cards. Print some inexpensive business cards (you can even do it on your own computer). Have all the fundraising information on the card and include your name, fundraising link (bonus make the link into a QR code)! Hand these out to everyone you meet!
31. Ask the People You Do Business with for Support. You have supported them over the years. Ask your doctor, travel agent, chiropractor or yoga instructor for a donation.
32. Radio Station. Call your favorite radio station and ask them to make an announcement on the air. They may even interview you. Pledges can be sent directly to the Erika's Lighthouse office.
33. Picnics. Holiday picnics are a great place to raise funds.
34. Mow-a-Thon. Check ahead of time with your neighbors and ask them if you can mow their lawn for \$50.
35. Neighbors. Write to all the neighbors on your block or in your building. Attach a letter stating what you're doing and ask them to make a donation. Or just stick a flier in their mailboxes or building bulletin, explaining why you're raising money.
36. Good Karma Tip Jar. Ask local businesses to put a pledge jar near the register or on their front counter. Tape a picture of yourself to the jar, along with a short explanation of why you're raising money.
37. Personal Assistant for a day. Offer to be your friends' and/or co-workers' personal assistant for a day (or just a few hours) in exchange for a large donation. Maybe \$250 or more!
38. Meet the Press. Does your company distribute a newsletter? Does your company have interoffice email? Take advantage of these—they're the perfect way to get the word out! Check your company's email and solicitation policies first, though.
39. Babysitting. Offer your services and let your friends have a nice, quiet night out of the house.
40. Pet Sit. Are your neighbors going away and they don't want to leave their pet(s) at the kennel? Again, offer your services and charge them what they would have paid at the kennel, adding the funds to your pledge total.
41. House Sit. Are your friends going out of town for a while? Maybe they need a warm body to stay at their place while they are away.
42. Neighborhood Chores. Are you handy? A lot of your neighbors would probably rather pay you than someone else. Place signs around your neighborhood or place ads in mailboxes to advertise your services (watering gardens, cleaning gutters, sweeping driveways, fixing easy plumbing problems, painting rooms, putting IKEA furniture together etc.).
43. Karaoke Night. Who cares if you can't carry a tune? Spend a Friday night at a karaoke bar and sing for pledges!

44. Talented Friends. Do you have a little piano bar in your neighborhood and a talented piano-playing friend? Ask the owner to let you bring some friends in one night for a cocktail and piano night. Charge anyone who attends and let them know that it's a fundraising event for Erika's Lighthouse.
45. eBay It! Gather up your goods and those of your friends and auction them on eBay.
46. In Memory of.... If you're participating in memory of someone, include a picture of you with your loved one in your pledge letter or on posters.
47. Pledges for Each Mile. Ask people to pledge an amount per fun walk mile. For example, walk three miles at \$50 per mile, and you will receive \$150.
48. Pet Birthday Party. People love their pets and they even love their friends' pets. Get the word out that if they were thinking about buying your pet a new toy, maybe they should think about writing a check to Erika's Lighthouse instead.
49. Television Show Finale Party. It's fun to gather a big group of friends and tune in to a big season or series finale. Of course, charge them at the door, and put the money toward your pledges.
50. Game Night. Get out those board games and start playing! Break into teams and let the fun begin. Have the pledge forms handy.
51. Host a Poker Game. Call your card-playing friends and invite them over for poker night! Again, have the pledge forms handy.
52. Bowling Night. Plan a fun night of bowling at your local lanes. Ask the owner to waive the cost of bowling, and you can collect that money and turn it into pledges.
53. Used Book Sale. Everyone has books that have been sitting on shelves collecting dust. Ask your friends, family and neighbors to donate books they no longer want and set up a weekend book sale in your front yard. Put up some signs so people will know where the money is going, and, once they know, hopefully they'll give you even more!
54. Local Stores. Ask a local store manager what the bestselling item is these days, and then ask if he or she would be willing to donate a percent of the sales from that particular item to you.
55. Curse Jar. Place a curse jar in your office, and whenever someone says a bad word they have to open up their wallet, grab a dollar and put it in the jar.
56. Dress Down Day. Ask your company to allow an official Fundraising Dress Down Day. For the privilege of dressing down, employees pledge \$10 or \$20 toward Erika's Lighthouse.
57. Other Parents. If your kids play in soccer leagues or any other sports teams, distribute your pledge forms to the other parents at the event.
58. Remind Them. If you didn't receive an answer the first time you asked, ask again! Your potential donor may need a little coaxing.
59. Inspirational Bookmarks. Create them and sell them to your friends and family.
60. Voicemail Message. This will alert everyone who calls you at home that you're up to something special! Let them know that you need their support.
61. Universities and Colleges. Contact your local schools and ask if you can put an advertisement in the school newsletter. Some of the organizations may even invite you to make a short presentation.
62. Rock On! If you know any musicians, ask them to perform at a benefit concert. Tell people that their admission ticket is a check made out to Erika's Lighthouse.
63. Ask Your Favorite Magazine. Call the editor and ask them to sponsor you for Team Resilience. If you've subscribed to a specific magazine or local newspaper for a long time, they may be willing to give something back to you.
64. Fraternities and Sororities. Contact the national chapter of your fraternity or sorority and ask them to make a donation.
65. Alumni Organizations. Call your own college or university and ask them to place an ad in the alumni newsletter.
66. Pizza Party. Check out your local pizzeria and ask if they will donate pizzas for a fundraising party. Sell each slice for \$5 in the office during lunch time.
67. Clubs and Organizations. Send a solicitation letter to your local Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, Rotary Club or Kiwanis. They support individuals in their communities.
68. Shop at Walmart with a Sunshine Fund. Some Walmart's have a Sunshine Fund to support individuals in the community.

69. Raffle. Everyone that contributes is entered into a raffle to win a special item such as a homemade quilt or baseball tickets.
70. Contact Your Local Paper. Make sure that you include information about how people can contribute and submit the story with a photo.
71. Send Reminders. Remind people to support you in your fundraising efforts.
72. Write to Local Politicians. You supported them—don't you think they should support you?
73. Send a Letter or Email to Everyone You Know. We have templates and donation forms you can attach.
74. Try Fundraising Companies. Purchase flower bulbs and sell them to friends and family so you receive a portion of the profits. Or try selling candy (you see basketball teams doing this all the time), wrapping paper, candles, jewelry, nuts and calendars. Companies offer these fundraising packs year-round.
75. Ask as Many Times as You Can. Don't be afraid to ask again!