

GETTING CREATIVE: FUNDRAISING A -Z

Ask: Ask friends, neighbors, relatives and anyone you know to make a donation to the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio.

Art Sales: Have preschool and elementary students produce great art and have a show. Parents and friends buy back their budding artist masterpieces.

Auctions: Put together a live or silent auction. Teams can make a whole event out of it or do it in conjunction with another event.

Bake Sales: Hold a bake sale at work or during another event.

Bank for a Year: Get everyone on your team to put in \$2 each week beginning the week after this year's event. In 50 weeks each team member will have \$100. Or try 50 cents every day. In 50 weeks you will have collected, from yourself, \$175- add just two more friends giving 50 cents per day and you have a total of \$525 in 50 weeks.

Birthday Celebration: Ask people not to purchase gift cards for your birthday, but make a donation to your bed race team or start a Facebook Fundraiser.

Block Party: Put together an old fashioned block party in a parking lot, or close off a neighborhood street (with permission). Have a band or DJ donate a few hours, have a BBQ, do face painting, offer hay rides etc. Have fun and raise money for your team.

Books Sales: Have everyone on your team bring in good condition used paperbacks or hardcover books. Set up a table to sell your books, perhaps at a local mall or plaza, or if you work for a large employer, set it up in the break room or lunch room.

Bowl-a-thon: Consider holding a bowl-a-thon, where team members get pledges per pin knocked down.

Candle Sales: Sell scented votive candles to fellow employees and friends.

Candy Bar Sales: Sell candy bars at work or have someone at a business let you set up a display box (beauty shops, store check-out counters, etc.). You can purchase box kits from wholesale warehouses such as Sam's Club or ask a candy store to donate them.

Car Washes: Try saying "donations accepted" instead of charging a set price (people tend to give more).

Challenges: Challenge another team to raise more money.

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Coin Drive: Spare some change for the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. Set up jars for change donations at schools, work, or other safe areas with high traffic.

Coin Toss: Get permission from the local mall to collect coins tossed into fountains for a designated time period.

Dress Down Days: Ask an employer if employees can dress down for a day if they make a donation. This can also be done at schools that require uniforms. For a specified donation, the student doesn't have to wear a uniform to school one day.

Email: Email friends and associates for donations.

Envelope at a Restaurant Table: Teams generate donations by placing a Bed Race envelope at every table during a designated time period, stating "Please support our Bed Race for the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. Servers check envelopes after each seating.

Fashion Show: Work with new or existing clothing stores to hold a fashion show. You could have it at the store or use a club or church hall. Offer refreshments and your team members can be the models.

Fast Food Restaurants: Ask local restaurants if they will have a Bed Race day. Either a percentage of the sales or a certain item on the menu will go towards your team. Your team should be on hand to ask for donations from the patrons and be able to talk about the event.

Flamingo Alert: Place pink flamingos in someone's yard. The flamingos will fly away once a donation is made to the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio. Some people have expanded this idea and for a set amount you can choose the next person it should go to, or you can purchase flamingo repellent.

Flower Sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems. (Carnation or Roses) at work, school, or other groups/clubs.

Game Day: Have a game night -like party with a purpose. Everyone come to your house to play board games charades etc. Charge an entrance fee.

Garage Sale: Work individually or as a team to set up garage sales- clean out your attic and raise money for the Furniture Bank of Central Ohio at the same time!

Golf Tournament: Have your team put together a golf tournament with the proceeds going to your Bed Race team.

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Hole-in-one: Set up a portable putting green for donations; let people try to putt it in. You can do this on site or at a community event beforehand.

Ice cream Socials: Plan one at your place of work or for friends, asking for donations to attend. Sell ice cream, low-fat yogurt and other frozen treats for dessert.

Jewelry Sales: Clean up the jewelry you don't wear anymore and have a sale.

Lawn Services: While you're mowing your lawn mow your neighbor's lawn- for a donation.

Letter Writing: A great way to ask for donations without asking in person. Send letters out to your friends and family explaining what you're doing and why. Write your personal goal and ask for help.

Matching gifts: Ask your company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching gift policy. Check to see if it does.

Nominate a Teacher/friend/loved one: Challenge a teacher/friend or loved one to shave for a good cause. Have people donate money towards the event or charge an entry fee if you want to showcase it.

Open House: A fitness center held an open house with a variety of toning and aerobic classes offered throughout the day. They also include babysitting.

Roll Those Pennies: Roll those pennies sitting in a jar on your dresser. While you're at it roll the rest of the coins you have been collecting.

Shutterbug Mania: Into photography? Take some candid shots around the community, schools, etc to sell. Or take photos of a friend's wedding, anniversary party, or birthday.

Sport Tournament: Organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other sport tournaments. Challenge a local radio or television employee team.

Tupperware: Have the profits from a tupperware party benefit your team.

Ugly Bartender Contest: Get all the bartenders in your town to agree to be in your "Ugly Bartender Contest" At \$1 per vote, a lot of money can be raised for your team with the winner getting some sort of reward and being asked to become an honorary team member.

Vacation Day Award: Ask your employer to award a free day off to the team member who raises the most money. Post the standings for the weeks leading up to the event.

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Wait Tables: Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a specific night to benefit your team for the Bed Race.

X-Marks the Spot: Have a Treasure hunt with the people in your community and charge an entry fee. Let the winner keep the treasure.

Yard Sales: Just like the garage sales, work together as a team or one individually.

Zzzz: Work with your boss to plan one day where all team members are allowed to come in half an hour late. Each participant pays a fee to sleep in and dream of a world where everyone has a bed.