

American Diabetes Association® **SCHOOLWALK** for Diabetes

A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

A

Ask: The easiest way to raise money is to ask your friends, neighbors, relatives and anyone you know to make a donation to the American Diabetes Association's School Walk for Diabetes event, which you are taking part in. Explain your commitment of 24 hours and why you are involved – maybe because of a loved one living with diabetes.

Art Sales: Have an art show where preschoolers and elementary students create art, then have parents and friends buy back their budding artists' masterpieces

Auctions: Many schools are putting together live or silent auctions. Schools can make a whole event out of it- work with an auctioneer who will donate his/her time and hold a live auction. A team in MA held a silent auction during their family reunion. Some schools are putting together sports auctions, which are very popular. Collectibles are hot! Auction off the principal - have the principal as your teachers' assistant for the day at school.

B

Baby Sit: Do extra baby-sitting and give your pay (or at least part of it) to your team's effort. Or baby-sit as a team during a community event.

Bake Sales: Hold a bake sale at school or at a busy place- a bank branch held a bake sale once a week for several months. Or have a No-Bake sale where students and teachers pay so they don't have to bake goodies.

Balloon Day: This is good for students. Sell an Event balloon with a message attached for \$2 each. The students take orders in advance and then deliver the balloon messages at a later date.

Bank For a Year: Get every student to put in \$2 each week beginning the week after this year's School Walk for Diabetes. In 50 weeks each student will have his or her \$100. Or try this – 50 cents every day, in 50 weeks you will have collected, from yourself, \$175 – add just two more friends giving you 50 cents each per day and you will now have a total of \$525 in 50 weeks. See how easy it is.

Bingo: Hold a bingo night at a local club, church hall or at your school.

Birthday Party with a Purpose: Individuals have had birthday parties and on the invitation they state in lieu of gifts, please bring a check made out to the American Diabetes Association for School Walk for Diabetes.

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

Book Sales: Do it in conjunction with a publishing house that will donate books or have every student bring in good condition used paperbacks or hard cover books. Set up a table to sell your books. Get permission to have your table set up in a local mall or plaza, or set it up at the lunch room in School.

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Bounce-a-thon: Elementary students take a collection envelope home to collect pledges for bouncing a basketball for half an hour. Each class in the school takes turns gathering in the school's front hall throughout the day to bounce their basketballs.

Bowl-a-thon: Some students have been holding bowl-a-thons, where they get pledges per pin they knock down.

Bowling Chance: \$1 gives you the chance to throw 2 balls (toy bowling set). If you strike your name is entered into a drawing 2 times. If you throw a spare with your second ball your name is entered into the drawing once. The School is to solicit a nice prize for the drawing. This one could be held on site.

Breakfast With: Put together a breakfast with Santa or the Easter bunny. Work with a local restaurant or your grade or School can do it themselves at a hall or club. Have someone in costume and sell tickets, also have pictures taken. (Could also use this as breakfast with the mayor or other high profile person)

Brown Bag Lunch Day: Everyone brings in their own lunch and donates the money they would have spent to the School Walk for Diabetes fund.

C

Can and Bottle Drive: Set up at a central location and collect cans and bottles from passerbys. Return for deposit to nearest redemption center. You will need pick up trucks to carry the cans or ask a local redemption center or local store if you can set up in their parking lot so you don't have to carry the cans to be redeemed.

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

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

Car Washes: This is another good idea for students. Especially in the spring when everyone wants the mud off of their cars. Try saying "donations accepted" instead of charging a set price.

Car Smash: Secure an old car and write in large bold letters DIABETES across the car. For a dollar donation you get to "smash diabetes" three times with a sledgehammer.

Challenges: Challenge another grade to raise more money than you. Some radio stations may gladly put your challenge on the radio.

Change Makes a lot of Cents: Bank and credit union teams post this message at the teller line – Donate the cents from your deposit to the (name of bank) School Walk for Diabetes and help fight the war against diabetes. If your check total is for \$187.67 your donation is just 67 cents. We might find the cure for diabetes right in your pocket. All proceeds will benefit the American Diabetes Association.

Chili Cook Off: have a Hot-Hot-Hot chili cook off.

Christmas Party: Play carols, serve cookies, decorate a tree, have pictures with Santa and charge admission.

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A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

Christmas Tree/Wreaths: Ask a local retailer to donate \$1 for every tree and wreath sold to support your School. Or make your own wreaths as a class/grade/School- use princess pine you find in the woods.

Coin Drive: This is especially good for students to do at schools- have everyone give them their change in the lunchroom. Set up a coin jar at the beginning of the school year and see how it grows.

A school sent out a flyer explaining: *JOIN THE PENNY WARS*- drop off your change in the jars at the front of your classroom door. The classroom with the most points wins a pizza party for its students. Pennies are worth positive points, silver coins and cash are worth negative points. Sabotage the other classes by dropping off your silver coins into their jars! Spare some change for diabetes research.

Coin Toss: Get permission from the local mall to collect all the coins tossed into the fountain for a designated time period. Be sure to have signs state that the coins will be donated to the American Diabetes Association's School Walk for Diabetes.

Comedy Club: Ask a local comedy club to host an evening in support of the School Walk for Diabetes and invite all students to sell tickets. The students would get the credit for the tickets they sold.

Concession Stands: Set up a concession stand or booth at a community event during the year.

Cookbooks: Collect recipes from friends and family and have them published and sell them. Can be produced for approximately \$2 each and sold for \$7-\$8. You need to be sure that all recipes are healthy and follow nutritional guidelines.

Craft Fairs: Have your team set up a craft table or raffle at a craft fair or festival.

Crafts: In a holiday mood? Craft tree ornaments, stockings or decoration and sell them.

Cut-a-thon: Have a beauty salon or vocational school hold a cut-a-thon for you.

Cutest baby: Have a Cutest student Baby Contest. You can do this either on site or beforehand at School. Place a photo of each student as a baby on the bulletin board or on a display board.

People donate \$1 per vote. You decide on the appropriate reward.

D

Dances for a Cure: Students can hold a school dance. Adults can put together a dance at a local club or hall. Get a band or DJ to donate their services.

Day Spa: Raffle off a day of beauty, or for a set fee, provide haircuts, manicures and massages.

Decorating Service: No time to decorate?... holiday decorating service! Also can put Holiday lights up on houses for a fee- this is a job many people would like someone else to do.

Deliver Flyers: See what businesses distribute sales flyers in the weekly paper or through the mail and offer for your class/grade to deliver them within the town (at each house) for a set amount. It costs these businesses a lot to mail them out and they would be able to save money by having you distribute them personally. In Washington state the phone company paid a high school team \$2500 to distribute the new phone books throughout the community.

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A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

Die Cut Cards: The School Walk Backpack Pin-ups (we can e-mail them) can be sold at businesses, companies, or anywhere people frequent. Some teams have used them at holiday time to place a memorial or honor tree.

Dog Walkers: Have students walk the neighborhood dogs for a donation. Many pet owners would appreciate the opportunity to let someone take their dog for a long walk.

Dog Sit: While the owners are on vacation, saves them from sending Fido to the kennel.

Dress Down Days: Many schools that require uniforms have been doing this, where their students can dress down for a day if they make a certain donation. For a specified donation, the student doesn't have to wear a uniform to school that day.

Dunking Booth: Set up a dunking booth at a local event festival, fair, picnic etc. and recruit local celebrities to sit for you.

E

Email: Email your friends and relatives for donations.

Envelope at Restaurant table: Restaurant teams generate donations by placing a School Walk for Diabetes envelope at every table during a designated time period, stating "Please support our School Walk for Diabetes and the American Diabetes Association" Waitresses check envelopes after each seating and find surprising results. Be sure to have 800 # on the envelopes.

Errand Service: Never have time.... Run an errand service!

Event parking spaces: Sell parking spaces for community events near your home.

F

Face Painting: set up a booth at a local event, fair, or festival. Kids love it! Charge .50 and up.

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 students can be the models.

Fast Food Restaurants: Ask your local restaurants if they will have School Walk for Diabetes day. Either a percentage of the day's take or from a certain item on the menu will go towards your School. Students should be on hand to ask for donations from the patrons as well as be able to talk about the event. Fry Day Friday- on a Friday prior to your event, a dime from every order of fries sold goes to your School total.

Flamingo Alert: place pink flamingos in someone yard. It will fly away once a donation is made to School Walk for Diabetes. Some people have expanded this idea and for a set amount you can designate the next person it should go to, as well as you can purchase flamingo repellent, so it will not land on your yard. Other lawn ornaments could be used.

Flower sales: Work with a local florist or wholesaler and sell bouquets, potted flowers or individual stems (carnations or roses) at your school.

Flower bouquet Raffle: Ask a local florist to donate one bouquet of flowers, one for each month for a three-month period (or go to 3 different florists and get one per shop). This is a good



A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

fundraiser to get the teachers involved, especially during the winter months, to take a chance to win some “springtime” for their desk.

G

Game Night: Have a game night- much like a party with a purpose. Everyone comes to your house to play board games, charades etc. Charge an “entrance” fee.

Garage Sales: Work individually or as a class to set up garage sales- clean out your attic and raise money for the American Diabetes Association at the same time!

Glow Sticks: Sell glow in the dark sticks that can be worn as necklaces or carried at the event.

Go Door to Door: Go door to door and ask for donations. Canvas your neighborhood, work as a class or grade and canvas the town.

Golf Tournament: Have your school put together a golf tournament with the proceeds benefiting your School goal.

H

Hat (or Cap Day): This is good for schools. For a specified amount, the students can wear a baseball cap to school for the day.

Haunted House: For Halloween, organize a haunted house and charge admission. Or as a school organize a haunted forest. You can also sell refreshments such as donut holes and hot chocolate.

Hoagie Sale: Hold a hoagie sale at school or around town, taking orders ahead of time.

Hole-in-One: set up a portable putting green and for a donation; let people try to putt it in. You can do this at school, or at a community event beforehand.

Hot Dog For Diabetes: Principal at an elementary school agreed that if ALL the teachers would raise \$100 each he would dress up like a hot dog and let the students squirt ketchup, mustard, and relish on him.

I

Un-Ice Cream social: Plan one at school or for friends, asking for a donation to attend. Sell healthy alternative (i.e. frozen fruit smoothies) to ice cream at school.

J

Jewelry Sales: Work with a wholesale company to sell jewelry they don't wear anymore and have a jeweler clean it up for you, then have a sale.

K

Kiss a Pig Contest: Have your Principal kiss a swine (the first source of insulin) when a certain amount of money has been raised. Also has been done as a contest. Put the face of all the



A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

teachers one on each jar, and who ever raised the most money must kiss the animal (could also be a team mascot, goat mule, dog etc.)

L

Lawn Service: While you are mowing your lawn, mow someone else's- 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, and asking for a specific amount (more than you want) seems to work best or leave it up to them. Write them your personal goal and ask for their help. Some people are writing letters on behalf of their pets or babies adding a little humor.

Line Dancing: Work with a local club or facility to offer a night of line dancing. Get a DJ to volunteer his/her time to play music and get someone to teach a couple dances. It's a fun way to spend a night while collecting donations.

Lunch with the Principal/Teacher: Auction off lunch with your principal or teacher.

M

Matching Gifts: Ask a company to match what you raise. Some companies have a matching gift policy, check to see if your does. If they don't, ask them anyway.

Money Jars: Set up money jars or coin boxes at your **parents'** place of work. This is good for banks, diners/restaurants hairdressers, and stores. Check back to empty frequently.

Movie night: Invite your friends over for a night at the movies. You provide the popcorn and soda and charge admission. Or have a movie week during lunch hour at School. Charge admission and invite students to eat their lunch while they watch.

N

O

On-line fundraising- Send emails through the online fundraising tool.

Odd jobs: Call on your neighbors and ask to do some odd jobs, such as fixing a rain gutter, shoveling their driveway, paint a fence, or rake their leaves.

Open House: A fitness center held an open house with a variety of toning and aerobic classes offered throughout the day. They also included a silent auction and babysitting. Ask for donations.

P

Pancake Breakfasts: Hold a pancake breakfast at a hall or church or at work on specific days.

Parking Space Auction: High School students can auction off the Principals' parking spot or a prime spot for the day.

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A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

Payroll Deduction: Teachers can make their own contribution by having it deducted directly from their paycheck. A little each week, can grow into a large amount by event time.

Percentage of Sales from School Store: Designate a percentage of one day's sales or proceeds and let the students know so they will buy more.

Personal Bake Sale: Bake some extra delicious, extra gooey brownies and sell them for dollars a piece- make the slices large. Bake a different dessert each week for other students and faculty.

Pet Fashion Show: Have a pet fashion show where you give everyone's pet the opportunity to flaunt its favorite outfit. Charge an admission and vote for best outfit, matching outfits (owner and pet) wildest outfit etc.

Photos: Have your photo taken with a local celebrity for a specified donation. Or use one of those realistic cardboard stand-in's. Do this at school lunch or in conjunction with a local fair or festival.

Pie Sales: Much like bake sales, these are also popular. Especially around the holidays- take orders or set up a table at a busy grocery store or shopping center.

Pizza Sales: Work with a pizzeria to give you a percentage of the pizzas you sell. Take orders and deliver them. OR put pizza kits together yourself. Also can work with a wholesaler to get pizzas at a reduced price or donated is even better.

Place Information in your school bulletin or newsletter: Place information about your School Walk in your school newsletter. Place a picture of the person your school is walking in honor or memory of in a highly visible place to remind students and staff of the importance of their participation.

Plant Sales: Like the flower sales, work with local florists or wholesaler and sell potted plants. A nursing home team did this and painted the flowerpots, repotted the plants and added a bow with a card. They sold a number to friends, staff and family members of the patients.

Pot Luck Lunches: Designate every Wednesday as School Walk for Diabetes Pot Luck Day, where students take turns making chili, salads, desserts, etc and offer to other students and faculty at a set price or donation.

Program Ad Sales: Some EVENTS are giving partial credit to teams who sell ads for the program. You would have to check with your EVENT committee to see if this is an option.

Q

Questions for a Buck: One school raised money by having their Principal, who was constantly being asked questions by everyone to start charging a buck for each question. Word spread throughout the school what he was doing, and everyone started asking questions and paying up.

Quilt Raffle: Make a quilt to be raffled off. Or if you know of a creative seamstress at your school, have her hold a quilting class or just a quilting night. Quilters like to sew in groups, make a night out of it and ask for donations, or they can make the quilt for your raffle.

Quoits Tournament: hold a quoits, beano, or horseshoe tournament.

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A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

R

Raffles: There are so many different types of raffles you could have. Make up theme baskets where everyone in the class brings one item to go in the basket- Summer fun basket could include sun screen, paperback books, sunglasses, bottled water, magazines etc, - Easter basket could be made up of candy, chocolate bunnies, stuffed animal etc. Night out packages could include gift certificates to the movies, or tickets to a play, concert or sports event. Be Creative.

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

S

Sell Teacher/Staff Services: i.e. get the best gourmet chef in your school to agree to go to someone's home and prepare a meal (for a fee of course). Get your Principal to commit to wash a teachers' car, or several if willing. Have the best amateur photographer take a family photo for a certain amount etc. Could also hold a raffle for these services.

Shave your head: Have someone agree to have their hair shaved once a certain amount of money has been raised.

Shutter bug mania: into photography? Take candid shots around the community, schools, etc to sell to subject. OR take photos of a friends wedding, anniversary party, or birthday.

Sign Event Shirt: For a donation of \$5 (or amount designated by you) the contributor can write the name of the diabetes patient they are honoring or in memory of directly on your Event T-shirt. You will walk/run representing the diabetes patients listed.

Skunk Them: As a hospital group did, put a stuffed skunk on a staff/teacher's desk. They need to pay a donation to your school to have him go away or they need to pay to be de-skunked. See Flamingo Alert for other ideas.

Spaghetti Dinner: Have your class or grade put together a spaghetti dinner at a local hall or club. Schools have done this with the help of their parents. The students take the tickets, wait and clear tables.

Sports Tournaments: Schools organize bowling, hockey, basketball, soccer, and other sports tournaments.

Story Time Reading: Have an organized story time reading. Hold it at your school where faculty can bring their children and students can bring younger siblings, work with your local library to have a special time. Also a good idea for on site fundraising.

Student/Faculty Basketball Game: Set up a benefit basketball game between students and faculty, Or put together an alumni game. Challenge a local radio or television employee team.

Super bowl party: Have a super bowl party and ask everyone for donations when they get there. It is certainly worth it after all the trouble you go to organize the party and provide the refreshments. The same can be done for the NCAA Championship basketball game, Indy 500, Masters final round etc. Great idea for the team member with a big screen TV!

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A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

T

Tupperware party: Have the profits from a Tupperware party benefit your school.

Turkey Raffle: Great way to raise money during the holidays! Get a grocery store to donate a turkey for you to raffle off. You could also do the same with a ham at Easter time or a BBQ package for Memorial Day. Food is always a good item to chance off.

“Cold Turkey” Subs: Encourage sub/pizza shops to donate a set amount (50 cents) from each cold turkey sub sold to benefit your School Walk for Diabetes event.

U

V

Vending machines: Coordinate with your vendor to add .05 cents to the cost of a snack or soda prior to event, with the extra nickel going to your school total.

Vendors: Solicit your vendors for cash donations or goods you can raffle or auction off.

Video Sale: Hold a video sale at school and have each student and teacher bring in videos they don't watch anymore. Especially kid videos their children have outgrown. Other teachers with younger children would appreciate this.

W

Wait Tables: Work with a restaurant that will let you designate a specific night to benefit your school for the event. Pizza huts have been known to do this as well as others. High school students be the waiters for the evening and would collect all the tips as well as possibly a percentage of that evening's receipts. Make sure all your friends and family eat at that restaurant during the School Walk for Diabetes benefit.

Wear Company Logos: Tell companies that you will walk around wearing their hat or t-shirt for half an hour for a \$25 dollar donation.

Wrap Presents: During holiday time (Christmas or Mothers Day) set up a booth at a local mall, plaza or busy department store. Have students donate the paper and tape and raise money while helping out the holiday shoppers.

X

Xylophone concert: Hold a music concert or recital. Pass refreshments and ask for donations or sell tickets in advance.

Y

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



A-Z Year-round Fundraising ideas

Z

Zoot Suit Party: Swing music is in. Hold a swing dance party and give awards for the best zoot suit there.