



Keeping families close

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Community Fundraisers are vital to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Marshfield. We rely on community support and community champions to raise funds that support serving more than 400 families annually.

We know that our greatest champions and most successful events come from dedicated people or teams who are invigorated by unique ideas and propelled by experience. Here are a few suggestions! Please make sure to review the RMHC Guidelines and submit an application through our website prior to planning your community fundraiser.

fundraising ideas

1. **Airplane Toss:** Section off part of your parking lot into squares. Put prizes in each square and sell registration forms that the customer later turns into a paper airplane. Pick a busy time of day and have the customers toss their paper airplanes to win the prizes in each square.
2. **Amusement Park Tickets:** Make arrangements with a local amusement park where a portion of a day's ticket sales go to RMHC of Marshfield.
3. **Antique Car Show:** Charge auto exhibitors a fee to display their cars in your store's parking lot. To generate additional funds, incorporate raffles, drawings and concession stands. You might also charge participants a fee to vote for their favorite cars, and then present a "People's Choice" award to the exhibitors.
4. **Associate Cook-Off:** Have associates/employees bring their favorite dish. At lunch, charge associates a small fee to sample the food. Have everyone vote for the food they liked best and award winning chef!
5. **Auctions:** Gather donated items and hold a live or silent auction. The more items you have, the more money you will make.
6. **Baby Photo Contest:** Have employees display their baby pictures around the store and ask customers & associates to pay \$1 to vote for the cutest child.
7. **Bake Sale:** Collect baked goods and host a bake sale at your business.

8. **Barbecue:** Hold a sidewalk BBQ to sell hotdogs, burgers, chips and soda. This is a great event for weekends or holidays. Often vendors will donate items to this event.
9. **Bed Pan Race:** Teams pay an admission to enter then race around an obstacle course with a bedpan of water. The team to finish with the most water still in the pan wins a prize.
10. **Bike-A-Thon:** Participants enlist sponsors to pledge a RMHC contribution for every mile the participant rides.
11. **Bottle (or Can) Tab Drive:** Place a box near the soda machines to collect pop tabs for money. Hold a neighborhood bottle drive or place a container at the local redemption center for donations.
12. **Bowl -A-Thon:** Participants collect pledges and then bowl a set number of games. Set a per-person minimum (\$50?) for each participant.
13. **Breakfast with the Easter Bunny or other character:** Host a breakfast with the Easter Bunny or another cartoon character. Attending children receive breakfast and a picture of themselves with the character.
14. **Buck-a-Pound:** Participants pay \$1 for every pound lost and \$2 for every pound gained in weekly weigh-ins.
15. **Car Wash:** A few buckets, sponges, some mild dish detergent, soft towels, water and lots of elbow grease is all it takes to turn a few spare hours into extra cash. Prices can range from \$2 - \$5. Three volunteers per car is the rule of thumb.
16. **Carnivals:** Hold a carnival in your store's parking lot. Provide games, entertainment, etc. with all proceeds benefiting RMHC.
17. **Casual to keep families close:** For a donation, employees are allowed to dress casually on a specified day. Stickers are provided by RMHC of Marshfield.
18. **Celebrity Baggers:** Invite local celebrities in the community (mayor, business leaders, local TV and radio personalities, etc.) to bag items and receive tips for RMHC.
19. **Change Bandits:** Have employees dress up as bandits one day a week and collect pocket change from employees or customers.

20. **Cheap Auction:** Gather 50-100 items. Sell tickets for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Ticket holders can choose which items they want to "take a chance at" by placing a ticket in the corresponding jar.
21. **Chefs' Galore:** Find a host location with excellent space and viewing possibilities, such as a local country club. Find 7 –10 chefs who will donate their time and food (possibly different ethnic foods). Sell tables at \$500 per round table of 8 – 10 people. The event can be a formal night out with an opportunity to taste several different types of food.
22. **Chicken Legs:** Photos are taken of participants' legs. The participant to receive the most votes (\$1 per vote) "wins" the contest. Choose prominent community leaders to participate.
23. **Civic Group sales:** Work with local civic group such as Veteran's or American Legion to sell American flags or bracelets to commemorate special causes/events.
24. **Coin Collections:** Creative ways of coin collecting really add up. Attach umbrellas or festive canisters to your cash registers.
25. **Comedy Night:** Have a comedian perform. Sell tickets for the event and give a percentage to RMHC.
26. **Cookbook Sales:** Get employees, friends and family to contribute some of their favorite recipes and compile a RMHC cookbook filled with Family Recipes. Ask local celebrities to participate, i.e., the mayor, local television and radio broadcasters, athletic coaches, and others whose names are well known to the community.
27. **Counting On You:** Participants guess the quantity of jelly beans, paper clips, marbles, coins, M&Ms, etc. Participants pay to enter the counting contest and the winner gets a prize.
28. **Coupon Books:** Print store coupon books or flyers and sell them to customers.
29. **Craft Sales:** Rent space to creative artists in your community. Charge a flat fee for each local artist and crafts person to exhibit and sell their handmade items. Ask each participant to donate one item, then raffle or auction them off to raise additional funds.
30. **Derby Day:** Host a day of field events such as a 5K run, an obstacle course, a tug- of-war, and "carry the coach."

31. **Dessert Tasting Parties:** Ask customers and employees to make a small contribution to try different desserts and concessions. Coffee and tea also can be sold at this event.
32. **Easter Egg Draw:** Fill plastic Easter eggs with prizes and candy. Put them in a big bin for a \$1 each.
33. **Easter Egg Hunt:** Charge \$1 entry fee for each child.
34. **Eating Contest:** Sponsor an eating contest. Get creative with this one: use pies, cakes, pancakes, hamburgers or moon pies.
35. **Flea Market:** Rent the spaces in your parking lot to people who are interested in taking part in a flea market. One person's junk is another person's treasure!
36. **Giant Card:** Make a card for the families at the House. Ask individuals to sign the card in return for a donation to RMHC.
37. **Gift Wrapping:** During holidays (Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.) set up a gift-wrapping table. Charge a set fee or take donations.
38. **Good to the Last Drop:** If you have a coffee machine, sell "good to the last drop" buttons for \$5 or \$10 with the proceeds benefiting RMHC. Contributors get free coffee for one month.
39. **Grab Bag:** Donated prizes are written on individual pieces of paper and put in a grab bag or fish bowl along with an equal number of pieces marked "Thanks for Helping Us Keep Families Close!" Sell chances for \$1 or more based on prize values.
40. **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner:** Challenge others in a fundraising competition. The group that raises the most funds wins a prepared dinner for all from the "losing" location.
41. **Gumball Lottery:** Fill a gumball machine with gum and plastic ball containers with vouchers good for days off, additional break time, privilege parking, or any other item of value.
42. **Holiday balloons:** Sell holiday balloons for \$1 in the color to match the holiday. Have prizes donated (sodas, movie tickets, etc.). Tie notes on the string of each balloon. Some of the balloons will be marked "You Won" and others with "Thanks for helping to keep families close."

43. **It's Raining Money:** Hang golf umbrellas from the ceiling near the cash register. Ask employees and customers to throw their spare change in the umbrellas. This event works great by the exit doors.
44. **Jail and Bail:** Involve the local police department. The "arrested" must call friends to raise funds to be set free. They must raise a certain amount of money to "post bail." Participants also can be "jailed".
45. **Kiss for You:** Have index-sized cards printed to say "A Kiss For You – Thank you for your donation to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Marshfield." Tape a Hershey Kiss to the card and give out as a thank you for customers who donate.
46. **Kisses for Kids:** Sell small bags of Hershey Kisses (8-10 pieces in each) for \$1 with a note card attached (cards available from RMHC of Marshfield).
47. **Leisure Day:** Have associates pay \$1 to have a day to dress as they choose. Blue jeans, t-shirts, etc.
48. **Magic Show:** Charge \$3 per child for a special show.
49. **Male Beauty Contest:** The male management team dresses in pageant attire. A beauty contest is held and the manager who receives the most votes (\$1 per vote) wins.
50. **Manager in the Doghouse:** Put your manager in a doghouse until his or her fund- raising goal is met.
51. **Flowers:** Sell carnations for \$1 with a note card during holidays or special events. Secretary Day, Boss's Day, Easter, St. Patrick's Day and many other holidays are perfect for this event.
52. **Meals:** Create a combination of items from the snack bar at your location. When purchased together the store will contribute \$1 to RMHC.
53. **Money \$\$ Rolls:** Attach an empty coin roll to every employees' check on payday and ask them if they would turn it back in to RMHC when they fill it up. Start small and work your way up!
54. **Office Auction:** Auction any rare commodity around the office (such as a day off with pay or privileged parking for a week).
55. **Pancake Breakfast:** Host a public breakfast, charging a set fee for the meal.

56. **Pennies from the Heart:** Place a container that will hold 1 million pennies (\$10 thousand) in a high traffic area. Counting exercises could be incorporated for younger grades.
57. **People Greeter Pin Overload:** Cover your greeter with RMHC pins. Have the greeters sell the pins to customers as they enter the store. Make it a competition and reward the people greeter who sells all of his/her pins first. Set the price of the pin high enough to cover your expenses of purchasing the pins while still making a profit.
58. **Photo Contest:** "Kids Do the Darndest Things" is a popular theme for the contest. Create divisions – amateur, professional and photos taken by children. Establish an entry fee and plan displays throughout the store or in the photo department. Allow customers to vote by putting donations in corresponding jars. The winners are determined by the total amount raised in their jar.
59. **Picture with Santa, Easter Bunny, Buddy Bear, etc.:** Charge \$5 per shot. This is a great deal because most malls charge \$10 and up.
60. **Pie in the Eye:** Auction off pies (made of a thin paper plate and whipped cream) to be thrown at individuals in your store. Managers make good targets.
61. **Popcorn:** Sell bags of popcorn. Popcorn costs approximately fifty cents a bag and can be sold for \$1.
62. **Potluck Days:** Have everyone bring their favorite dish, along with copies of their recipe. Employees make a donation to eat lunch and copies of the recipes are sold or auctioned.
63. **Progressive Hors d'oeuvres Gala:** An evening of hors d'oeuvres at two prominent homes in the community and perhaps a third home for dessert. The homes should be within walking distance of each other.
64. **Quarter Mile:** Collect enough quarters to stretch them a quarter mile through a store or parking lot. You can try to do this for a mile as well!
65. **Recycling:** Aluminum cans can be collected all year round and proceeds from the recycling center can be donated to RMHC.
66. **Rent A Manager:** Associates make donations based on jobs that they would like their manager to perform for one hour. (Managers must be willing). Associates can do this as a group.

67. **Root Beer Floats:** Sell root beer or Coke floats for \$2. Fairly low cost with a minimal number of volunteers needed.
68. **Round-Up:** Ask customers to “round up” their change from the cost of their purchases. If something costs \$1.10 ask them to give the remaining 90 cents to RMHC. Ask employees to dress up as cowboys.
69. **Rush to Crush Grapes Stomp:** Two-person teams compete against each other to see who can crush the most grapes. It all takes place in a half-barrel. Points are earned for the most original and creative stomping style. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are given to winners of each heat. Heats take place hourly. At the end of the day, a grand prize winner is chosen and awarded a trophy.
70. **Scavenger Hunt:** Each team gets pledges to participate. The team that finds all of the clues first wins the grand prize. Have first, second & third place prizes, and a token gift for each participant.
71. **Sell Messages in School Papers or Company Newsletters:** Parents may want to wish their son or daughter a happy birthday. Students may want to put in a funny photo. Co-workers might use the space to advertise items for sale or to thank someone for a job well done.
72. **Silly Hat/Vest:** Pass a silly hat/vest around the business from one employee to another. Set a minimum in donations that must be collected allowing the employee to pass it on to the next employee.
73. **Silly String Shoot Out:** Auction cans of silly string to be sprayed at managers.
74. **Skate-A-Thon:** Have the use of a skating rink donated for a couple of hours. Participants get sponsors and individuals to pledge for the hours or laps they skate. Have a concession stand to raise additional funds.
75. **Softball Game:** Set up teams within your store or challenge another store team. Charge an entry fee to play. All proceeds go to RMHC.
76. **Spirit Chains:** Have each homeroom at a local school sell paper links for 10 cents. The links are assembled together in giant chain. Use school colors. Homerooms compete for “Most Spirit.” Provide incentives for winning homeroom.
77. **Sports Days:** Have a putt-putt golf tournament, a football skills contest, a basketball shoot out or another sports event. Participants pay an entry fee for the contest.

78. **Spring Fling:** Have an old-fashioned Spring-Fling with games, contests, and lots of prizes.
79. **Store-to-Store Competition:** Challenge another store in your community or create a fundraising competition between departments in your store. The losing department agrees to cook lunch for the winners or to dress like clowns for a day.
80. **Strike Out for Kids:** Participants get pledges from family, friends, and neighbors for the number of pins they knock down while bowling.
81. **Super Bowl Party:** Have a party, charge admission, and have people bring lots of food. Hold a raffle to raise additional funds. To make it more interesting, dress as your favorite player or make it mandatory to wear football clothing for entry. The same ideas can be adapted to other playoffs.
82. **Swim-A-Thon:** Each swimmer who competes must complete a set number of laps during a designated day. Individuals and sponsors are recruited to pledge a certain amount for each lap completed.
83. **Taste of the Town:** Ask local restaurants to participate in a "Taste of the Town" event sponsored by your store. Charge a \$20 participation fee to restaurants and then charge guests \$5 to sample the food. Ask restaurants to donate gift certificates or coupons that can be raffled as an additional fundraiser during the event. Ask your local media to cover the event.
84. **Teddy Bear Auction:** Using a variety of teddy bears (different shapes, sizes and color) have the talented/crafty associates in your store each decorate a bear. Display all of the bears in one location and take silent bids on the bears. Or let each department create its own bear and offer a prize to the department whose bear sells for the highest dollars.
85. **Toy Drive:** Collect toys at a local store and distribute them to children in the hospital over the holidays.
86. **Treasure Chest:** Fill a chest with donated prizes and sell keys to open the chest.
87. **Trike Race:** Adults race tricycles. Have them wear funny costumes and come up with silly names. Have people place their bids with half of the proceeds going to the winner and half to RMHC of Marshfield.
88. **Used-Book Fair:** Ask people to donate their used books to a sale for RMHC. Give them two or three weeks to bring in the books. Award contributors by giving them a RMHC pin or sticker. When you have all the books collected,

organize your book sale. Because all the items are donated, 100% of the proceeds go to RMHC.

89. **Walk-A-Thon:** Participants collect pledges for each mile walked.
90. **Weekend Picnics:** Set up a food wagon in front of your store and sell grilled hot dogs and hamburgers.
91. **Weight-Lift-A-Thon:** Participants get pledges for lifting larger and larger weights.
92. **Wishing Well:** Nobody can resist dropping a quarter or two into a wishing well. To be effective, the well needs to be placed in a high-traffic area.
93. **Yard Sale Saturdays:** Section off part of your parking lot and sell spaces for a yard sale.