

## Fundraising Ideas

This list is a combination of the *To the Spaghetti Supper and Beyond! Vol. 2* and tried and true fundraisers by other DECA chapters.

### Host an Arts and Craft Show

Use the local halls of the college to host an arts and craft sale just before the holidays. Charge vendors for a table and advertise to the University staff and faculty. It is easy for them to Holiday shop. Host a bake sale for even more profit.

### Host a Food Truck Rally

Contact local and specialty trucks in your area. Arrange for the date and location. If you can arrange the event to be held on campus before a game or event that is better. Each truck donations a portion of their earnings or charge a fee to set-up. Advertise the event and enjoy the food.

### Daddy-Daughter Dance

Here is a fundraiser that accomplishes much more than producing funds for your cause: A Daddy-Daughter dance. The key is advertising early and passionately. Then have volunteers install a disco ball in the gym or event location's ceiling. Buy picture frames for all the girls who come and arrange for a talented and personable photographer to take a photo of each girl with her daddy. A volunteer can make the soundtrack for the evening—great dance songs, especially those girls would like—some even feature daddies. Just serve a mixture of animal crackers, M & Ms, Mike & Ikes, goldfish, and peanuts (no mess!) Each girl will also need a corsage. All these are easy to do and the reward comes when you go and see all the girls dancing with their daddies. Charge a small admission fee.

### Euchre Tournament

What's more Michigan than euchre? Hosting a euchre tournament is surprising simple and satisfying. Have some great prizes donated or buy some if you need to. Either includes a meal or just snacks and beverages. Set up tables and have your rules ready to explain and hand out. Number the tables and provide scorecards. Euchre tournament rules and scorecards documents can be requested for your use.

### Catalog Fundraisers

Many catalogs support fundraisers. This could be a good fundraiser for a group that doesn't need to make a big amount and don't have much time or money to begin. The companies have their own terms and allow you to keep a percentage of what is ordered. They do support your efforts in special ways, as well. Lots of catalog companies do this—one of them is Gooseberry Patch—for information call 877-854-7400. Others include Pampered Chef, Tupperware, LuLaRoe and more.

### **Jeans Day**

Make an arrangement with workplaces in your community to help you raise funds by offering their employees the chance to wear jeans to work one day for \$5. Companies who do this in places around the country raise a surprising amount with no work for anyone! You can split the proceeds with another charity, if that helps workplaces join the cause.

### **Valentine *Family* Dinner and Dance**

The idea is to have an event that would appeal to the entire family. Use the chapter's member's likes and talents to provide DJ and cooks. A more simple meal that might appeal to most is being prepared by the cooks and can be served family style. We are also having a picture location so that couples and families can get a special Valentine picture. With a computer and printer handy we can actually print pictures for them on site. Whether or not many choose to dance, remains to be seen, but it will be a fun night with a good chance to visit. Maybe have some games on hand. We wanted to keep it affordable while still raising the desired funds so the suggested minimum donation is \$20 for families and \$10 for individuals.

### **Mall Coat Check Fundraising**

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, my nephew's basketball team went to the local mall every weekend. They had arranged with the mall management company for an area to have a coat check. Stores in the mall donated the temporary use of racks to hang the coats on and a secured area for people to leave packages, etc. They handed out a "coat check" ticket and shoppers left their coats, mittens, etc with them while they shopped. They asked for a minimum donation of \$1 for the service or do based on tips. They were able to raise thousands of dollars with very little upfront cost. The only thing they had to pay for were rolls of tickets that you can buy at any office supply store or Walmart.

### **Gift Wrapping Fundraising**

Get in touch with a store or mall in your area and ask about setting up a gift-wrapping fundraising booth for their customers for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and/or Christmas. Just like regular gift wrapping stations, you can charge different amounts for different levels of wrapping. You will need to invest in boxes, tape, wrapping paper, and bows. You can either accept donations, or charge a fee per gift (depending on size, etc.). Usually the store will let you make announcements advertising your booth over their intercom while you are there gift-wrapping. Make sure you have enough people on hand to staff the booth during times advertised.

Remember that your "Wrap Staff" are representing your group and cooperating merchant and should act and dress appropriately. Do not waste gift-wrap material by creating "works of art" during down time. Even if you are using scraps, it gives the appearance that you are

wasting supplies. Do not tape directly on the box you are wrapping. Some boxes contain collector's items that lose their value if you disfigure the outside packaging. Be safe. Don't use tape on the box.

### **Dog Walk Fundraising**

Call it what you will – Strut Your Mutt, Jog Your Dog, Canine Constitutional, Paws in the Park, Wag and Walk. A sponsored pet walk where the walkers (and their pets) solicit donations for how far they walk. Or, fundraising participants pay a set fee to enter and walk their dog. OR, bring homeless dogs who need walking. Remember the pooper scoopers. This could culminate in a pet talent show or some other event where you solicit additional donations. Use it to present spay/neuter message, or message of finding homes for all the homeless ones. Ask people to sponsor a homeless dog to see how many laps (limit of four?) he can do.

### **Santa Letter or Birthday Newsletter Fundraising**

Letter From Santa Fundraising: Offer a personalized 'Letter from Santa' written on colorful holiday stationery and matching envelopes. Children just love receiving their own mail... especially from someone as magical as Santa! Compose one or more standard letters using a standard word processing program. Develop an order form for personalization to be provided by purchaser. This could include the child's name, age, gender, hometown, address, good deed, accomplishment, grade in school, name and age of siblings, name of pet, etc. Purchase colorful holiday stationery. Keep the quantity low until you see how sales are going. Colorful Christmas stamps are also a must!

Take orders in advance. Get payment with the order. Set a cut-off date to make sure the letters will be delivered timely.

Pick the city you want the letter to be postmarked from and contact the postmaster there to make sure that they will open your bundle of letters and re-mail them for you. Some choices of cities could be North Pole, AK; Santa Claus, GA; Reindeer, KY; Christmas, FL, etc. You get the idea.

Set a price. Similar letters are available from a number of sources for \$4.00 to \$10.00. Since you are doing this as a fundraiser, your supporters will probably be generous but keep the price reasonable enough to generate good volume. This is not a big fundraising money maker but it can be fun. Sample Santa letters are included here as attachments.

### **Scrabble Tournament Fundraising**

Scrabble is all about being fluent in the language and coming up with words that might be worth a lot of points. People have fun coming up with strange and exotic words no one else has thought of. Teams of four, six, or eight gather at different tables, each with a Scrabble

board and all the letters available. Each team starts with the same opening word, and has 20 minutes to fill the board with high-scoring words. A judge sits at each table. Individuals pay \$35 to participate. Players can sneak a peek at a dictionary for an additional \$10 donation. Make extra fundraising money selling refreshments, raffle, auction, etc. Additional details and ideas available from the [National Scrabble Association](#).

### **Road Rally Poker Hand Fundraising**

Attracts classic car owners and others. Charge a registration fee. Registrants pick up clues to the route where they pick up one card from a deck of cards. Box lunches are provided at the end while waiting for all cars to return. The best poker hand wins the grand prize which could be a set of tires, detailing, tune-up and oil change, etc (hopefully donated). Other trophies and prizes are also awarded. It's a great fundraising idea and lots of fun. Be creative with the clues.

### **Adult Spelling Bee**

Between the 40 spelling teams, silent auction, raffle, private donations and refreshment sales, the spelling bee raised approximately \$15,000. Contestants had to spell words from the 2003 Paideia booklet which are made for kids spelling but are uncommonly hard. The first few words in each round were fairly simple. If you are still up there after five or six words, all bets were off. Want some specifics on adult spelling bees? Try the [National Spelling Bee](#) site!

### **Sell Your Wares Fundraising**

Host a "sell your wares" fundraising evening in November. Our members who normally sell items at home parties (e.g., Longaberger Baskets, Tupperware, Usborne Books, Avon, Tastefully Simple, Home Interior, Fabulous Finds, Pampered Chef, People Fit, Party Lights), set up vendors' tables in a central area. They were available for two hours one evening for people to come in and do a little early Christmas shopping. The saleswomen had some cash-and-carry items, as well as catalogs for items to be delivered in time for Christmas. Each saleswoman/man donated her profits from the evening to the group's treasury. The fundraising event was hugely successful!

### **Five-Buck Lunch Fundraising:**

Most people go out to lunch with other people from their office and spend lots of money on costly meals every week. Pick a week and make announcements to the offices in your area that you will be selling sack lunches. Have your group make enough lunches for all the offices in your area. Take about 20 lunches to each office (this number may vary depending on how many people work there). Put a flyer in front of the lunches explaining what you are earning money for and what comes in each lunch. Sell the lunches for \$5.00. You could do pre-orders too. This could turn into an ongoing relationship between you and certain offices. Let them know that they are free to call with orders and you will provide lunches according

to what and when they order. Menu options include sandwiches, soup and salad, tacos. Include an apple, cookie and bottle of water or soda.

### Ironman Contest

Select some willing men to compete in this hilarious fundraiser which can be held in conjunction with another event. The contestants, armed with their own iron, board, and shirts, will iron as many shirts as possible in a given amount of time. Each shirt is judged for quality and detail while people in the audience pledge money to any or all of the "Ironmen" for each shirt completed. A trophy is presented to the best overall Ironman (an iron that doesn't work anymore would be great!) with certificates going to all the contestants. Money is collected at a designated table before people leave. Line up several of the best cooks to make their favorite dessert to bring for the contest, if that's fitting.

Promotion: a few weeks before the contest, present a skit to the congregation, playing off the idea of the Ironman Triathlon. One week before the contest, invite one of the contestants who is claiming to be the shoo-in winner to the front and have him show off a shirt he has been "practicing" on. It should be burned clear through in places and scorched in others.

### Ironman Promotional Dialogue:

Perform this promotional skit to your congregation a week or two before the Ironman Contest. Equip someone with a ridiculous amount of athletic gear—a bike's helmet, running shoes, Lycra tights, stopwatch, and so on. Throw in a snorkel and mask and a backpack.

Person is already in front of the group. The Ironman enters.

Person: (as if the Ironman is interrupting) Excuse me!

Ironman: Yes?

Person: who are you?

Ironman: I'm Biff.

Person: And what are you doing, Biff?

Ironman: I'm training.

Person: Training for what?

Ironman: the greatest test of man's endurance, agility, and strength.

Person: And what might that be?

Ironman: The Ironman Contest. See my training equipment?

Person: yeah, that's impressive, but isn't the Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii?

Ironman: no. I just saw posters up everywhere saying there was going to be an Ironman Contest here.

Person: Well, yes, we are having an Ironman Contest, but it's not the same kind of Ironman Contest.

Ironman: Well, what kind of contest are you having here?

Person: Would you like to see the trophy?

Ironman: That's an Iron!!

Person: Very perceptive! Our Ironman Contest will decide which of our ironmen from our congregation are the best at PRESSING toward their goal of being the best at handling an iron. The contest is to raise money for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Then give details of where, when, etc.

Set up the contest like a TV game show. Ask someone to keep a running commentary on the contestants during the action. If possible, pick someone who has a good sense of humor so the commentary is funny and fast-paced. Use a portable scoreboard clock or videotape a scoreboard/swimming clock and play the tape to show the time elapsed. Play some fast-paced game-show-type music to intensify the contest. The wives of each contestant can act as personal trainers and coaches. Give them water bottles and sweat rags and let them play their part to the hilt.

Judging:

Ironman Contest Judging Form

For \_\_\_\_\_

Rate each category on a scale from 1-10.

- \_\_\_ Completed shirt
- \_\_\_ Wore apron
- \_\_\_ Creases on sleeves
- \_\_\_ Collar
- \_\_\_ Button front
- \_\_\_ Overall crispness of shirt
- \_\_\_ No help from wife
- \_\_\_ Total Points

### Family Feud

You won't have more fun with many fundraisers. You've seen it on TV—now you can host a Family Feud night by creating teams from your different student organizations. Find a person who is willing to be the host and use the Family Feud game that you can purchase; there's even a DVD version. Even better, you can use the questions from the game as ideas and poll your own members for **their** answers! And for sure, add some questions that pertain to your organization so that the answers are customized to your own group and extra funny. The student organization may have buzzers too! To raise funds, you could charge an entry fee for the groups if that is appropriate, depending on the cause. Surely you can charge a small admission charge. The best way to raise more funds at this event is to add several more fundraising opportunities at the same time—a silent auction, a bake sale, etc. One idea is to ask each organization to bring a snack to share and have a table where everyone can add their snacks so that you have a fun smorgasbord of treats. But to raise more funds, refreshments can be sold. Prizes may make things more fun, too. To promote the event, emphasize the competition. Include announcements of one team challenging another, for example. Make

sure that winners get lots of “bragging rights.” It’s a natural to do this annually and have teams “defend their titles.” This is a great one for group-building in addition to fundraising.

### **Trivia Night**

This is similar to Family Feud in terms of potential for fun with competition. There are lots of variations, but at one successful Trivia Night that raised \$6,000, eight-member teams each donated \$80 for the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, snacks, trivia, and to compete for honors! The questions can come from a variety of sources like books of trivia, but boxed games that include questions would be an excellent resource. “Who Wants to be a Millionaire” aspects like lifelines can be added for more fun. At the Trivia Night I read about, a local radio personality agreed to come and be “Alex Trebek.” Their seven-member committee chose 10 categories. Trivia planners are always new twists: team members can be asked to guess what their final score will be. Other times they’re asked what they think will be their best category and then get double points for that one are doubled. They also included a prize for the best-decorated team table and other door prizes were given away that had been donated.

### **Pottery Party**

This has possibilities as a women’s fundraising event, although couples work too. Women sign up, preferably with groups of friends to go on a field trip to a pottery studio. There they each choose a piece to glaze and decorate. The firing is done later and the pieces are ready to be picked up in about a week. Many other types of studios would have this same potential. In some areas, pottery studios will bring the party to you. Get your group together, let them get creative, and go home with works of art.

### **Take-Out Chili Feed**

Make a huge vat of chili (not much harder than making a smaller batch) and get ready for Game Day. On game day schedule from 9:30 to noon, let customers pick up and take home a quart container of chili, 4 breadsticks and 2 cookies for \$9. Easy!

### **Christkindlmarkt**

Kids like to buy Christmas gifts for their family members but can’t shop alone. Until you organize a Christkindlmarkt, that is. Christkindlmarkt is a children’s Christmas store, but you can certainly call it something else if the German thing isn’t for you. Gifts that especially moms and dads, but also brothers and sisters might like are handmade by volunteers throughout the year. Keep in mind item should be sold at a child’s budget. In addition to what is donated this way, suitable items can be ordered from companies. The project is well advertised so that kids can bring shopping money to school on the day of the sale. The store is set up in the school gym or at a local mall or church. Helpers, from the organization help the kids shop. The gifts are wrapped to take home. This is a great service as well as a good fundraiser.

## Young Chef's Academy

If there is one thing that people will spend money for today, it is for their children's enrichment. Parents send their kids to camps and classes with enthusiasm. Near my house, there is a place called the Young Chef's Academy, subtitled a Cooking School for Kids. They offer weekly classes with new themes each week, weekend classes, birthday parties, private parties, field trips, mini camps, and unique cooking gifts for kids. Connect with food service on campus to see if they can help sponsor such an event or a local farm market. Organize your own Young Chef's Academy, either as a one-time fundraiser or as an ongoing one. You could also use this same idea with sewing, woodworking, or any other skill or talent. Sports camps work well too.

## Breakfast With ...

**Santa:** Hold a Breakfast with Santa fundraising event in December. Sell tickets for \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Serve pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee, milk and juice. Servers dress as Santa's elves. Santa visits each table addressing the children by name (courtesy of name tags). Santa then retreats to his decorated throne where you sell pictures of the children with Santa. Use a Polaroid or a digital camera (with laptop computer and printer) on a tripod for consistently clear shots. Arrange a good backdrop and/or props such as a sleigh or reindeer.

Experiment ahead of time to determine the best lighting and distance for good photos. Get photo cards or envelopes to make sure the photos get home in good shape. Sing Christmas carols to help pass the time. Photos can be extra or included in the breakfast ticket charge, raise ticket prices accordingly. If included, tables for service could be assigned as participants arrive and photo sessions called by table number to avoid long waiting lines. You might also arrange a secret microphone on Santa, with the speaker in the parents designated waiting area to learn their child's secret wish for Christmas.

## Other Options

Change the date and costumed characters, and you have Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, St Patrick, the Great Pumpkin, Uncle Sam, the Pilgrims, you name it. You can do a Mother's Day or Alice in Wonderland tea.

For Easter, you could also include a sale of flowers and spring plants or decorated eggs. You can sell appropriately decorated cookies, pies or cakes at any event.

## Balloon-O-Gram

Basically, a balloon-o-gram is a telegram with balloons. This fundraising event may be run for many months so that it included many holidays (Mothers Day, Fathers Day, etc.). Anyone could order a balloon-o-gram at anytime. The deliverer would take a bunch of five



to six balloons, candy and card for the receiver. The cost for the balloon-o-gram was on a donation basis.

A telegram with balloons. A message with each balloon, or you could even have a color code: Red is love, Blue is Get Well Soon, Yellow is Friendship, Green ... well, I think of M&Ms, but maybe something calmer like Thinking of You or Just Saying Hello. Make up your own. Run this fundraising event for a while, including holidays. From February to Memorial Day would give you Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mothers Day, as well as birthdays.

**Variation:** Lollipop Bouquets containing five lollipops: Charms, Tootsie Pops, Valentine Suckers, etc. Tissue paper is used to make the lollipops look like flowers. They are held together with a rubber band and a gift tag is attached. Sell these bouquets by pre-order in the morning and during the lunches. They are purchased as gifts and are delivered on Valentine's Day.

### **Ugly Tie/Ugly Sweater Contest Fundraising**

Each member donates a man's neck tie or a sweater. Display the ties/sweaters in a prominent location in your school. Put a jar or bucket beneath each tie. One penny equals one vote. The tie which receives the most votes at the end of a month is the winner. The Dean or President gets to wear the winner for a day.

### **Can & Bottle Drive**

You start off about 1 or 2 weeks ahead of time by sending out or passing out flyers door to door telling the residents that you will be coming around on a designated date to collect cans and bottles for your fundraising project (i.e., a trip or charity). Then on that date that you designated you go door to door and collect the cans and bottles. You will need many cars (trucks are helpful) then take them back to a location to be returned.

### **Iron Man Miniature Golf Tournament**

Reserve a miniature golf course for your youth group fundraising event. Have each student ask people to sponsor them per hole they play. (.10¢ per hole.) Then, run the tournament just like an Iron Man competition except you play on the miniature golf course. Play 100 holes in two hours or as many as you can do in two hours. Kids can raise \$100.00 by just getting 10 people to sponsor them at .10¢ per hole.

### **Restaurant Fundraising**

Arrange with a local restaurant to host a night where a portion of sales. The owner also allowed us to inform the general public of fundraiser and set up a donation box by the cash register for additional contributions. Buffalo Wild Wings and Several other restaurants participate by providing coupons to drive sales and donations.

### **Breakfast is Not Served, it's Delivered**

Choose a day for delivering the breakfasts—either an ordinary day or a well-chosen one. Plan a menu—some milk, some orange juice, bagels, croissants, or some specialty from a bakery. You can also try to get a discount on what you buy or get donations. Also include a morning paper. Pre-sell the breakfasts. Make a logo to put on the delivery bags so that this event has a signature that you can repeat annually. Coordinate delivery routes based on your drivers. Get together to assemble the breakfasts and then deliver with a smile. You can also check with Crispy Kreme Donuts about fundraising information.

### **Parents' Night Out**

This is a good way to give local adults a night out, provide a service project for your youth, and make a little money for your worthy cause. Offer the parents and/or adults a night out that give them dinner, a movie, and babysitting all for one low price. Appropriate movies can be chosen and projected. Have the whole group prepare and set up for the dinner. Then divide your work crew in half and have some serve the adults while the other half cares for the kids. Then they switch. Half the group does clean-up while the other half baby sits.

### **Cheerleading Camp**

Get the help of local cheerleaders and sponsor a cheerleading camp for the little girls in the neighborhood. Offer special T-shirts, some pom-poms, and some time to learn cheers from older girls and women volunteers. Then give the girls a chance to cheer with other girls their age. Culminate the camp with a performance by the "campers" at half-time of a basketball game. Make sure to charge admission—parents won't miss this!

### **Best Seat in the House Fundraising**

First, find a sofa to use. This fundraising raiser involves raffling off tickets for a student and two friends to win the best seat in the house. Tickets are sold throughout the week prior to a game. Before a volleyball, basketball, or football game announce the winner. The winner gets to sit on the sofa with two of his or her friends. Make sure the sofa is in an ideal spot to view the game. For halftime, order pizza and sodas for the winner and guests. Alternative: it would also work to "sell" best seat in the house to parents or grandparents! for a band or choir concert, a spring musical or a play, any kids' performance, or even a graduation. Keep the emphasis on fun.

### **Karaoke Night Fundraising**

We have a monthly fundraising event that both the kids and adults have really gotten into. We host Karaoke nights. Admission is \$5 per person and we supply the punch and snacks for the evening. Sometimes we hold a competition and sometimes it's just a free for all. The machine is rented from a local DJ along with a library of 5000 songs for about \$100 per night. We normally raise \$500 to \$600 in an evening and have a great time doing it!

### **Student/Faculty Basketball Game Fundraising**

Every year we host a student/faculty fundraising basketball game. Students' sign up to play and the coordinators (also students) decide fair teams based on athletic ability. The students play each other in 10-15 minute games in a tournament. The team that wins the tournament plays a team made up of instructors from the college of business. The instructors seem to love it. They always plan practices beforehand and get excited about it. **Alternatives:** Consider other sports or academic challenges but please take it easy on "the old folks".

### **Movie Night Fundraising**

Many organizations rent a movie and hold movie night fundraising events. This works especially well if you have a large room and projection/large screen TV. Make money by charging a single price for the movie and refreshments; provide the movie free but sell refreshments; or charge nothing and just ask for donations. Make sure you select a movie that will be of special interest to your group. Allow plenty of time for socialization before and after the movie. Some groups have held all-nighters where movie-goers bring their sleeping bags and blankets and have a movie marathon.

**Variation:** Have a parking lot on campus you can do a drive-in movie. Rent an inflatable screen and show a movie. The sound can be programmed through the car's radio system or campus PA system. Get local food trucks or carnival trucks to provide concessions. Check with Student life about rental agreements and copy rights for movies.

### **Gas Station Attendant Fundraising**

Ask a local gas station to let you pump customers' gas and wash their windshields. You can either ask for an unspecified fundraising donation or a set amount (you will do better without a set amount). Since most stations are now self-service you will be offering the customers a welcome option. It's a win-win situation. It doesn't cost the station a cent and their customers get premium service. You'll get a few cheapskates but most customers will "treat you right"! You have no upfront cost. The gas stations already have the windshield cleaner, squeegees and paper towels. You just provide warm bodies and elbow grease. We use this fundraising idea at least twice a year and earn \$300 in three hours with just seven people! We are a small school and love doing this fundraiser.

### **Scrapbooking Marathon**

We explained that this was not an athletic event, but a time when scrapbooking enthusiasts can get together and work on their scrapbooks without messing up their homes or being interrupted. To get the word out I wrote an article and submitted it to local area newspaper, made signs and put them up in grocery stores, doctor's offices, etc. Before I did anything, I asked a Creative Memories consultant, if she would like to partner with us. It was a good partnership! She helped me plan the day, spread the word over her website, and encouraged her customers to participate. Here are the steps we followed:

1. Find a location and when it is available, and set a date and time. Ours was a 12 hour marathon, and we set the hours to be 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
2. Set a registration fee. We set \$25 per person until the date that was one week before the event; after that date, it was \$30. Most people will make reservations early to save \$5.00 and that helps with the planning.
3. The registration fee included a place at the table to work on a scrapbook, snacks, lunch, supper, and a few prizes. We have two scrapbook stores in our area. One supplied a welcome packet and the other supplied a prize. Some prizes were scrapbooking related, and others were such things as a fruit basket, birdhouse, and a gardening basket. You are only limited by your imagination! The Grand Prize was a basket filled with Creative Memories supplies.
4. It is helpful if the food and prizes are donated.
5. We had people donate time to work – usually 2-3 hour shifts. We needed help with setting up tables; working the registration table; welcoming and helping people bring their things in; people in the kitchen to keep snacks fresh and to serve lunch and supper; clean-up crew in the kitchen as well as a clean-up crew to put the tables away and clean up the gym at 10:00 p.m.
6. We set (2)8' tables back-to-back, and seated four people at it. (Each person had 1/2 an 8' table for workspace, and people enjoyed sitting across from others as they could visit and share ideas.)
7. We scheduled optional "workshops" throughout the day. These sessions were held in another room close by. (This room was where one could go to eat, also) The morning was a beginner's workshop, and was well attended. During the afternoon four demonstrations or crop talks were presented. An agenda was given to each participant so everyone would know what to expect and at what time.
8. KEEP THINGS SIMPLE. Our lunch was homemade soup and crackers, with cookies for dessert. Supper was a spaghetti bake and Italian bread, a variety of salads and a variety of desserts. Snacks were coffee and coffee cakes in the morning. In the afternoon cheese and crackers, cookies, and a party mix were added. In the evening we set out what desserts were not eaten at supper. We had bottled water for everyone. When that was gone we made pitchers of ice-water. Some brought their own pop, etc.

The only change I might make would be in the food menu. The soup was good at lunch, but was kind of hard to serve in paper bowls, and I was trying to keep the clean-up at a minimum.

### **Mom-to-Mom Resale**

Most new mothers receive incredible items at baby showers these days. What happens to all that equipment when the baby grows up? Mom needs to pass it along to a new mom. It's a great service to the community and a great fundraiser to have a Mom-to-Mom Resale.

Charge a mom who has items to sell an amount for a table, and charge a nominal amount to get in to shop. Then even serve refreshments or add a bake sale.

### **Sports Tournament**

If there's one thing that's true about life today, it's that people are very involved in sports. Take advantage of your gym or outdoor property and host a sports tournament—volleyball, softball, 3-on-3 or regulation basketball, 3-on-3 or regulation soccer, etc. These can be for kids or adults or both. Find some "jocks" to organize the tournament, advertise it well, and "have a ball!" Between entrance fees and a concession booth, this could be a great way to raise funds AND to host the community at your place.

### **Equipment Swap Fundraising**

Each year in Bend, Oregon, the ski season kicks off with the Annual Skyliners Ski Swap, a fundraiser for the Mt. Bachelor Ski Education Foundation (MBSEF). Attendees can sell and buy used and new alpine and cross country ski equipment, snowboards, winter clothing, ice skates and other winter recreational items. A 25% commission for each product sold and a \$3 admission fee benefits MBSEF. A similar event could be held in your area to defray equipment and uniform costs for most any sport or activity.

### **MONOPOLY® Tournament Fundraising**

Design your MONOPOLY® fundraising tournament to "fit" your organization and potential supporters. Most organizations charge an admission fee for individuals and/or teams. Don't forget the possibility of business supporters who can sponsor specific spaces on the board. Most fundraising tournaments are conducted on a set time limit basis. If you want to really do it right, contact the National MONOPOLY® Tournament Director at [Hasbro](#).

### **Carhop Grill-Out**

This one uses your parking lot! Grill hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. in the parking lot and invite the community to come and eat at the new "restaurant." Have carhops on skates waiting on people in their cars, taking their orders and bringing the food. Trinity, Paw Paw included a classic car show, 50s music from a live DJ, and a 50s movie at dark!

### **Talent Show**

Whatever happened to the old-fashioned Talent Show? What a shame for it to have disappeared. It's grand to sit back and enjoy the talents of the people in your community—especially the ones you didn't know they had. Kids and adults alike benefit greatly from both the chance to share their talents and to applaud for others'. Encourage GROUPS to perform—sing, dance, perform skits, etc. That involves more people. No tedious planning, no shopping, no cleaning up—just invest the time in recruiting your acts and making sure you have a big audience. Make sure you highlight what you're raising the funds for.

## Sale Food Items

Little Caesar's Pizza Kits [www.pizzakit.com](http://www.pizzakit.com)

See's Candy fundraising.sees.com

Krispy Kreme [krispykreme.com/Fundraising/home](http://krispykreme.com/Fundraising/home)

World's Finest Chocolate <https://www.worldsdinestchocolate.com>

Hershey's <http://www.hersheys.com/fundraising>

Cookie Dough [thegoodiesfactory.com/Fundraisers/CookieDough](http://thegoodiesfactory.com/Fundraisers/CookieDough)

[www.justfundraising.com/Michigan/Fundraiser](http://www.justfundraising.com/Michigan/Fundraiser)

[www.abcfundraising.com](http://www.abcfundraising.com)

[www.otisspunkmeyer.com/fundraising](http://www.otisspunkmeyer.com/fundraising)

## Sell Merchandise

Yankee Candles [www.yankeecandlefundraising.com](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com)

Scented Pens & Pencils [www.sniftypen.com/fundraising](http://www.sniftypen.com/fundraising)