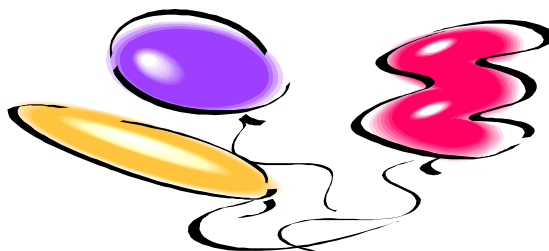


FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTERS

The following are some ideas gathered from the Internet. Some may work in one area and not another and some may be more successful at certain times of the year. If one does not work the first time, it could be an issue of timing and may be successful at another time or location. The key to the success of some is going to be the ability to get volunteers to help. Take advantage of the entire community, i.e. the seniors, local service clubs, high school students, college students and others who may have help to offer.

- **Fashion Show:** have stores around your community donate various outfits for the day's show. Select a few models from the local school, businesses, and the center to display a range of ages during the show. Have a local theater group help with the lighting and music. Sell tickets for a reasonable price and have refreshments available.
- **Tea Club:** send out invitations to individuals in your community who support your program and offer them a chance to sit and take a break with a nice hot cup of tea. Include a tea bag with the invitation. Request a donation from each (\$10). Let them know you will be publicizing the donors in the local newspaper.
- **Celebrity Item Auction:** Write celebrities and ask them to donate autographed items to be auctioned off. This will need to be done well in advance of the actual event. Ask a local auctioneer to volunteer to hold the auction. Have refreshments available.
- **Dinner Event:** local chefs and restaurants donate their services for a dining experience. Ask local businesses to sponsor each course to pay for the materials needed. Hold at a nice location (golf clubhouse, etc.), which you may ask to be donated. Thank everyone who donated their services by printing up a nice program for the evening. Have a local celebrity host the event-this can be a local media person, local artist, commissioner, etc. Can also include a silent auction for a few donated items. Ask the local paper to cover the event in the next day's paper.
- **Balloon Bust:** fill a room with balloons and sell them at 2.00 each. The balloons have been filled with pieces of paper, some of which are redeemable for prizes. People pop their bought balloon and win a donated prize or cash.

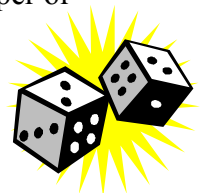


- **A Day of Beauty:** ask local beauty shop(s) to donate a day of service—hair care, massages, facials, etc. Sell raffle tickets for \$2.00-3.00. The winner will get pampered!



- **Waiting for Money:** Sponsor an evening of dining and entertainment at a local restaurant. Ask the restaurant to host the event on a day they are either not normally open or a usually slow. Ask them to provide food at their cost. They may be able to convince some of their employees (kitchen staff, cooks) to donate their time as well. Have someone volunteer entertainment. The ‘wait staff’ are local celebrities, community leaders, and business people who work for tips and donate them to the center. Also have celebrity valets park cars. Ask to have some free media for the event.

- **Auction:** Since often times local businesses are tapped out of donations, write or call big corporations and ask for donations of items to auction off. For instance, airline tickets on a major carrier, hotel stay, limo rides, show tickets. This will need to be started well in advance of the event.
- **Glamour Photos:** work with a local photographer to offer glamour photos for sale. Might be good to plan around such times as Valentine’s Day. May also offer vintage photos by having seniors donate their ‘old time’ clothes for the day. Center keeps a portion of each photo.
- **Chuck a Puck contest:** For those who have hockey rinks in their areas. Sell numbered pucks for a dollar to people going into the game. At the end of the second period, clear the ice and have everyone chuck his or her puck onto the ice. The person whose puck comes closest to the center mark gets half the money. This could be an ongoing fundraiser.
- **Stop the Clock Raffle:** A mechanical (wind-up) clock is wound and is locked in a box. The tickets are numbered for each second in a twelve-hour period. The winning ticket was the one which was the same or nearest to the time when the clock stops. Might need a big prize to ensure enough tickets are sold.
- **Engraved Bricks:** You will, of course, need to have a place to put the bricks—a walkway, a gazebo, etc. Sell bricks that are engraved with the individual or family’s name. Another option is to do a memory walk whereby people can buy bricks in memory of their deceased family members. Work with a local gardener or horticulture program at the high school to landscape the area and complete the picture.
- **Dice Runs**—this can be done for motorcyclists, walkers, drivers or runners. Charge an entrance fee to participate. On the day of the event, the participant gets a card with locations they are to go to in the town or county. They stop at each of these places and roll the dice. The dice score is placed on the card and initialed by the shopkeeper or



representative of the event. After stopping at all places, they turn in their card and then the dice rolls are totaled. The person with the highest score wins prizes donated by local businessmen. Refreshments can be sold as well.

- **Drive a sports car:** set up a sports car/motorcycle against a blue screen. Charge for individuals to sit in the car. Behind them on the blue screen is racecar footage. Video tape each individual in their own race and sell the tapes. Might be popular in areas with large numbers of racing fans, and/or also if an authentic race car can be used for the day.
- **Penny Drive:** idea of a countywide fundraiser. Challenge each center (community) to collect as many pennies as they can. Any silver change can be 'donated' to another center's collection and would count as a negative amount for the center receiving it. After the deadline, and using a counting machine, count the number of pennies that each center received and subtract the number (not value) of silver monies received from the total. For instance, if a center received 1,000 pennies, 25 nickels, 50 dimes and 25 quarters, their total number of points would be 900 (1,000-100). The center with the most points at the end wins donated prizes for their center. The total amount of money is also split between all centers competing.
- **Flamingo Hop:** Someone pays \$3-5 to have a tall, hot pink wooden flamingo placed in someone else's yard. That person then has to pay the same amount to have it placed in someone else's yard. This goes on through the day until the deadline. Might work well in small communities in which everyone had yards and who know each other. Good to do on a Saturday when everyone is home to see the bird.
- **The Stay at Home Event:** People buy tickets to an event that is not going to happen. Explain how much money both the center and the participant will save by not holding an event. No cost for staff, materials, advertising, etc. for the center. No cost for clothing, babysitters, gas, parking, etc. for the participants.
- **Unusual Telegram Deliveries:** might be a one time a year event (like Valentine's Day) or an ongoing service for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Donors pay you to send a message to friends and coworkers in an unusual way. For instance, bake a giant cookie and write a message on top to deliver for an individual. If you have the talent of a barbershop quartet, offer singing telegrams. Have Christmas Carolers sing during the holidays.
- **Construct a thon or clean a thon:** a twist to the walk a thon pledges. Have people gather pledges to do something useful in the community. For instance, pledge to have individuals clean up a nearby stream or playground. They can even pledge to do something around the center—landscaping, painting, etc. Donors sponsor the activity at so many dollars per hour of work.

