



Food & Fund Raising 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 on each square.
2. **Associate Cook-Off:** Have Associates 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 the winning chef!
3. **Baby Photo Contest:** Have managers and other Associates display their baby pictures around the store and ask customers & Associates to pay \$1 to vote for the cutest child.
4. **Bake Sale:** Collect baked goods and host a bake sale at your store.
5. **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.
6. **Bottle (or Can) Drive:** Place a box near the soda machines to collect returnable for money. Hold a neighborhood bottle drive or place a container at the local redemption center for donations.
7. **Bowl -A-Thon:** Participants collect pledges and then bowl a set number of games. Set a per-person minimum for each participant.
8. **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.
9. **Carnivals:** Hold a carnival in your store's parking lot. Provide games, entertainment, etc. with all proceeds benefiting NYH.
10. **Casual for Kids Day:** For a donation, employees are allowed to dress casually on a specified day.
11. **Change Bandits:** Have associates dress up as bandits one day a week and collect pocket change from employees or customers.
12. **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
13. **Coin Collections:** Creative ways of coin collecting really add up. Attach umbrellas or festive canisters to your cash registers.
14. **Comedy Night:** Have a comedian perform. Sell tickets for the event and give a percentage to NYH.
15. **Cookbook Sales:** Get Associates, friends and family to contribute some of their favorite recipes and compile a NYH cookbook filled with *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.

16. **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.
17. **Craft Sales:** Rent space to creative artists in you 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.
18. **Dance Marathon:** A continuous, multi-hour event where participants raise funds through pledges. This event blends dancing, music, games, food and a variety of entertainment into one experience where can you raise a LOT of money.
19. **Derby Day:** Host a day of field events such as a 5K run, an obstacle course, a tug-of-war, and “carry the coach.”
20. **Dessert Tasting Parties:** Ask customers and Associates to make a small contribution to try different desserts and concessions. Coffee and tea also can be sold at this event.
21. **Gift Wrapping:** During holidays (Christmas, Mothers Day, Father’s Day, etc.) set up a gift-wrapping table. Charge a set fee or take donations.
22. **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.
23. **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” in your store.
24. **Money \$\$ Rolls:** Attach an empty coin roll to every Associate’s check on payday and ask them if they would turn it back in to NYH when they fill it up. Start small and work your way up!
25. **Pancake Breakfast:** Host a public breakfast, charging a set fee for the meal.
26. **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.
27. **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.
28. **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.
29. **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!
30. **Recycling:** Aluminum cans can be collected all year round and proceeds from the recycling center can be donated to NYH.
31. **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.
32. **Root Beer Floats:** Sell root beer or Coke floats for \$2. Fairly low cost with a minimal



number of volunteers needed.

33. **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 NYH.
34. **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.
35. **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.
36. **Shaved Head, Mustache or Beard:** The store manager challenges Associates to raise a predetermined amount of money by a certain date. If the Associates succeed, the manager must shave his head, mustache or beard. If the manager is a she, have her wear pajamas for a day! Also a great idea for students and teachers!
37. **Silly Hat/Vest:** Pass a silly hat/vest around from one person to another. Set a minimum in donations that must be collected allowing the person to pass it on to the next person.
38. **Silly String Shoot Out:** Auction cans of silly string to be sprayed at managers.
39. **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.
40. **Softball Game:** Set up teams within your store or challenge another store team. Charge an entry fee to play. All proceeds go to NYH.
41. **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.
42. **Sports Days:** Have a putt-putt golf tournament, a football skills contest, a basketball shoot out or other sports event. Participants pay an entry fee for the contest.
43. **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
44. **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.
45. **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.
46. **Treasure Chest:** Fill a chest with donated prizes and sell keys to open the chest.
47. **Trike Race:** Adults race tricycles. Get store managers to participate. 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 NYH
48. **Weight-Lift-A-Thon:** Participants get pledges for lifting larger and larger weights.



49. **Yard Sale Saturdays:** Section off part of your parking lot and sell spaces for a yard sale.
50. **Host a Basketball Tournament**
51. **Pitch-a-thon:** rent a radar gun and measure how fast people can pitch, throw or shoot
52. **Mini-golf tournament**
53. **Poker tournament**
54. **Casino night**
55. **Pub quiz night**
56. **Board games:** ask people to bring in board games and then people can pay per person per hour to play. Provide snacks and drinks for sale
57. **Photo scanning:** Scan peoples old hard photos onto a computer for them for a fee
58. **Hired hand for a day:** auction off time to mow lawns, clean out garages, babysit
59. **Rubber duck race:** sell ducks to participants by writing their name and phone number on the bottom. Set them all off in river and the first one at the finish line wins. Makes sure to collect all the other ducks afterwards and use waterproof ink
60. **Bingo tournament**
61. **Worst hair picture contest**
62. **Seed sale**
63. **Etsy sale:** set up a store on etsy to sell homemade crafts. Have everyone donate something.
64. **Guess that baby:** post baby photos and have coworkers guess who is who
65. **Ice cream bar**
66. **Pizza lunch**
67. **Karaoke idol**
68. **Recycled food container fashion show:** get some creative people to design clothes made of only recycled materials
69. **Battle of the bands**
70. **Office murder mystery/Human Game of Clue**
71. **Chili cook off**
72. **Silent auction**
73. **Beverage cart**
74. **Payroll deduction**
75. **“o-grams”:** candies, songs or cards, pay to send people o-grams
76. **Tacky tie contest**
77. **Corporate/friend match**
78. **Host a movie**