

Quirky fundraising

When deciding to raise money for charity, most of us turn to classics like pub quizzes and bake sales. Yet sometimes it pays to think outside the box. Words: Ellie Swain

Fundraising can be as simple as joining a crowdfunding platform or as complex as organising your own event. But if you're one to go the extra mile, we've found a few ideas that are peculiar enough to be successful.

Dog wash service

While we love our furry friends, washing our dogs is often a joyless and messy job that many owners avoid wherever possible. A great way to raise money is by volunteering to complete this mucky task for others, in exchange for donations to your charity of choice.

All you need is a bucket, an old brush, a small tub, a spray, soap and towels. You could even pick out some fancy, pleasant-smelling dog washes or run a grooming service to make the offer all the more tempting. Other additions could include a tea, coffee and cake service for dog owners while they wait for their pooches to dry.

Game of dares

'Schadenfreude' is a German word that means pleasure derived from another person's misfortune, and it could mean big money in the charity sector. If you want to raise the big bucks, consider hosting a fun game of dares.

Brainstorm a selection of dares and place prices on them so people can buy one. Then you and your brave volunteers must follow through with the dares you chose. It's a great excuse to act silly, all for a good cause. Of course, don't do anything dangerous that could harm yourself or others. Some fun ideas include bungee jumping, sky diving or waxing your body hair.

Hair makeover

Shaving your head is an effective fundraising idea alone. To make it extra challenging, let your hair grow, then remove it all and ask people to donate to your cause.



▲ Dare a friend to try sky diving
PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

If you're reluctant to part ways with your locks, you could always organise a 'mad hair day' at work or between friends and family. Charge everyone a set amount of money to participate, then take a private vote on who's turned up with the craziest hairstyle and award them with a prize. And don't forget to take a team photo — it will be one to remember!

Imaginative contests

Host a silly competition and have every participant donate to enter. They could be asked to do all sorts of ridiculous things, such as attempting to eat a cupcake hanging from a piece of string, blindfolded; the person who manages to finish the cake first wins.

Other cool ideas include a cream cracker eating contest or eating jelly with chopsticks.

Virtual auction

If you've got no time to organise an in-person auction, host a virtual one instead. For this, you'll need three components: a host, an audience and some unusual or unique items or experiences to sell.

Don't be afraid to get creative; jewellery, clothes and electronics are nice, but a 'date with the host' or a one-on-one lesson on accents sound way more fun.



▲ Ready to part ways with your locks for charity? PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

Raleigh International

Your memory making adventure for 2023

On a Raleigh Expedition, you will immerse yourself in culture and work beside local communities on environmental and community projects.

Experience real adventure, equip yourself with new skills and create long-lasting impact.

raleighinternational.org

SWIM22

22 MILES.
12 WEEKS.
YOUR WAY.

22 March 2023
Take the plunge and find a fitter you – search 'Swim22' now.

DIABETES UK
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

The British Diabetic Association operating as Diabetes UK a charity registered in England and Wales (215199) and in Scotland (SC039136).

Registered with **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR**