

Are you looking to host a community event? Would you like to help kids in need get the chance to read & succeed?! Here is a list of fundraising ideas you could utilize to raise funds for Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program. See full list here:

Below are ideas from author and fundraising guru Kim Klein. According to Klein, all of these methods have been used by different volunteers in a wide variety of organizations.

1. Teach a seminar on a topic you know: fundraising, knitting, organic gardening, organizing, proposal writing, environmental impact reports, gourmet cooking, dog grooming, starting your own business. Charge \$20-50 per person, with a goal of 20-30 people. Either absorb the cost of promotion, or have enough participants to cover it.
2. With 4 or 5 friends, have a spaghetti dinner at a church or union hall or other big room with a large kitchen. Charge \$10 per person and feed more than 50 people. You can charge extra for wine or garlic bread, or for dessert.
3. Have a fancy dinner at your home or a regular dinner at someone's fancy home. Serve unusual or gourmet food, or have special entertainment. Charge \$25 or more per person, and have 20 or more guests.
4. Host a wine and cheese party. Do not charge admission and invite as many people as you can. During the party, give a short talk about your organization, and ask everyone to consider a gift of \$25, \$50, or \$100 or more (depending on the crowd). Either pass out envelopes and ask people to give then, or after the party contact everyone individually who came and ask for a major gift. Indicate that you have given, and if appropriate, how much you have given.
5. Get your gambling friends together. Charge a \$5 entrance fee, and have a poker evening, asking that every "pot" be split with the organization. Individuals win and so does the organization. You can charge extra for refreshments, or include one or two glasses of something with the price of admission. (Watch the laws in your community on this one. In some communities it is illegal to gamble, even in your own home.)
6. Ask 2-5 friends to help with a bake sale, book sale, or garage sale. You and your friends bake the goodies, or get the books or other stuff required for the sale, staff it, and help clean up afterwards. This is an excellent way to get people involved in fundraising without ever actually asking them for money.
7. Invite people to your birthday party and ask that in lieu of gifts they give money to your organization.
8. Lead (or get someone to lead): A nature walk, an architectural tour, a historic tour, a sailing trip, a rafting trip, or a horseback ride. Charge \$15-25 per person, or charge \$35 and provide lunch. Advertise the event in the newspaper to draw in people from outside your organization.

9. If you live in a nice house or own a getaway cottage in a beautiful place or in an expensive city, rent it out for a week or a weekend two or three times during the year and give the proceeds to your organization. Or rent a room in your home for much less than the cost of a hotel room to people needing a place to stay while they are on business in a big city. You may even make a new friend in the process.
10. Offer to do something your friends and family have been nagging you to do anyway, and attach a price to it. For example, quit smoking on the condition that your friends donate to your group, or get your friends to pay a certain amount for every day you don't smoke up to 30 days. Agree to match their gifts at the end of thirty days if you didn't smoke. Give them their money back if you did. (This method could be applied to other healthy behaviors, such as exercising or not eating sugar.)
11. If you belong to a church, research whether your church or theirs has a discretionary fund. Many churches have small pools of money available to groups through a women's fellowship or pastor's discretionary fund or various seldom-used endowments. Grants are often in the \$50-\$500 range and so go largely untouched by fundraisers. Sometimes simply writing a letter will free up this money and it tends to be renewable if someone is willing to ask the church yearly.
12. Research all the service clubs in town and see what their giving policies are. They often have formal giving guidelines for large grants of \$2,000 and up, but have smaller amounts of money available for specific small projects.
13. Ask someone to donate \$50 a month for a year. Ask four people to donate \$10 a month for a year. Ask nine people to donate \$5 a month for a year. Get the organization to send reminders to them or send the reminders yourself.
14. Ask friends who belong to service clubs, sororities, antique collecting groups, support groups, bridge clubs, etc. to discuss your organization in their group and pass the hat for donations. A once-a-year sweep of even small organizations can yield \$100 from each.
15. For the church-going: ask if your organization can be a "second collection." The church passes the plate for its own collection and then you or someone from your organization gives a brief talk (or sometimes the whole sermon) about your group and the plate is passed again; the proceeds go to your group.
16. A variation on the above is to organize a "second collection Sunday" and get as many churches as you can to take up a second collection for your organization. Someone from your group will need to be at each service and give a brief talk. Second Collection Sundays can be very lucrative, as witnessed by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which collects \$8 million on one Sunday in all the participating Catholic churches in the United States.

17. If, as a child, you collected something avidly that you now store in a basement, consider selling it. Coins and stamps are particularly valuable and have usually increased in value over the years. But your collection of rocks, toy ships, rockets, arrowheads, or dolls can also be valuable. When you donate the income from the sale, you can deduct that amount from your taxes -- an added bonus of this strategy, since you probably paid little or nothing for the items in the collection.
18. Have a sidewalk sale or garage sale for your whole neighborhood or building. Go around to your neighbors and tell them you will take their stuff outside and sit with it all day to sell it if they will donate half or all of the proceeds to your group. Since this is stuff people want to rid of anyway, it is a good deal for them. In one apartment building with ten units participating in donating stuff, an organization netted \$3,000 in one day. Three people from the organization helped with the selling. With a few high-ticket items, such as a washer/dryer or some nice lamps, you can make good money.
19. If you have an artistic bent, offer to design greeting cards to specification for organizations or individuals for a fee. If you are good at calligraphy, sell your skills to schools for graduation announcement, friends for classy but low-cost wedding invitations, or just fun certificates such as "World's Greatest Dad" for Father's Day or "Outstanding Friend." Create unique Halloween costumes or masks. Donate the proceeds from your artistry.
20. Find out which of your friends (perhaps this is true for you also) work in corporations with matching gift programs. Then ask them to donate and get their gift matched, and ask them to ask their co-workers to donate and get their gifts matched.