

FUNDRAISERS

1. "A-thons"!
 - a. Bowl-a-thon: Have people donate a certain amount of money for each pin you knock down!
 - b. Rock-a-thon: People donate for each hour a young person rocks in a rocking chair (up to 12 hours during a lock-in)
 - c. Run, walk, bike a-thon: for each mile that you move
2. **Holiday Babysitting:** Have parents drop off their children at the church one Saturday in December for cheap babysitting.
3. **Penny War:** Have groups collect pennies and other coins during the week. On Sunday (or another day of the week) groups add their week's collection to their jars. Anything copper in their jar counts for them, anything silver counts against them. Pit the boys against the girls or the junior highers against the senior highers or the youth against the adult leaders! Announce the updated score each Sunday.
4. **Lollipops:** A great company to work with on this is Fundraising.com. Check out the web site www.fundraising.com for details on lollipop sales. Profit is 50%!!
5. **Caramel or Cinnamon Rolls:** Bake rolls at the church during the early service and sell them as folks are leaving worship.
6. **Silent Auction:** Youth sell their abilities (lawn mowing, raking, babysitting, dog care, etc) to the highest bidder. Or try to get local businesses to donate items or gift certificates for you to auction off.
7. **Super Bowl:** Make and sell homemade soup and/or hoagies for Super Bowl parties. Either buy packaged materials or find people to donate ingredients.
8. **Fisher Pot Pies:** Buy and sell this local product. We suggest baking one during church so people can smell how good they will be. Offer a taste test! For more info contact the folks at God's Love, Newtown or St. David, Philadelphia.
9. **Dinner:** prepare a dinner for your congregation and community. Anything from spaghetti to ham works. For a something different have congregation members put on a talent show for diners.
10. **M & Ms:** Buy the little tubes of M & Ms and give them away to congregation members. Tell the people that you are giving away candy instead of selling it! Have them take the tubes home, eat the candy. Tell them that M & M stands for Missions Money for your next trip. Ask them fill the tube and bring it back to the church as a donation for the youth trip. Each tube holds approx. \$14. As they eat the M & Ms have them pray for you and your journey.
11. **Gift Wrapping:** Many businesses offer free gift wrapping during the holiday season. See if youth from your church can volunteer to do that wrapping for customers. Tell them that the youth are trying to raise money for their trip/event and would like to put a tip jar out. Also prepare a page of information about the trip, your youth ministry program and your church to put up at your wrapping booth. Check with stores early as wrapping spots fill up quickly.
12. **Labor of Love:** Post a help wanted sign on a bulletin board for congregational members to look over. Make up little business cards for each of your youth and put them on the board (take an envelope and cut ends off to make pockets to put the cards in). Each card should have the jobs that youth is willing to do (babysitting, lawn care, dog walking, etc) and contact info (phone and email). Congregational members then contact the youth and make arrangements for work to be done. On the Sunday following the completion of the task, the congregation members delivers a check to the church as payment for the work. You could make special envelopes that say "Labor of Love" and have them available at the bulletin board. Individual accounts for each youth's earning would need to be kept.
13. **Stock in Youth:** Sell shares of youth stock...pretend you're on Wall Street. The youth of our church is a great investment...will a positive return guaranteed! Each stock goes for \$10, people can buy as many as they would like. As a shareholder, they will be invited to a stockholder's banquet. Plan the banquet for a few months after your trip or event that you are fundraising happens. Have a nice meal and put together a presentation on your ministry event. Include personal stories from youth and adults who went, pictures (maybe a slide show or PowerPoint presentation) and maybe songs or skits. You may also want to print up
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Stock Certificates give those out as a thank you. When you are done selling shares, estimate what the dinner will cost you and take that off the top of your donations, after that profit is 100%.

14. **Genardi's:** Go to your local Genardi's and sign your group up for the Escrips program. Then pass out your group number to everyone you know.
15. **Buy miles:** Have congregation members purchase miles to get your group or individuals to your destination. Each mile could cost .50 or \$1. Set incentives for people to buy more...15 miles=a postcard sent to them from the event, 30 miles=postcard and group photo, 50 miles= postcard, picture and an invitation to a dinner with program about the event. You could even get a map and trace your route from home to destination and have a little bus or airplane travel towards the destination (and back home again!) as miles are purchased.
16. **Garage Sale:** Collect items from congregation members and have your own flea market. Mark things insanely cheap so they'll fly off your table. Sell food and beverage to make a few extra bucks.
17. **Christmas Bizarre:** Make this an annual holiday tradition for your youth program and your congregation. Tell congregational members that they can buy a table from you to sell their Christmas items at your Bizarre (charge \$15 or so for each table). Have youth members come up with ideas for other tables such as: make ornaments and sell them, have a kiddy craft table, a white elephant table (things that are used but still in good condition), baked goods. See if your quilting group will donate a fantastic quilt to be raffled off, charge \$1-5 a ticket and have them for sale during the weeks before the Bizarre. The ideas are endless!
18. **Corsages:** On Mother's Day, have corsages for sale before and after worship. See if local florists will donate the corsages.
19. **Brown Bag:** A great fundraiser for your families on the go. On Sunday morning, prepare brown bag lunches for the next day. A bag may include a sandwich, juice box, a piece of fruit and a little bag of chips. Sell them after worship for kids' school lunches or for adults who take lunch to work. Your congregation will love it and ask for this service to be provided every week! Again, if you can get grocery stores to donate food items, you'll be that much further ahead.
20. **Cookbook:** Have congregation members hand in their favorite or best recipes. Combine these into a cookbook of your church. You could have the Sunday School kids create original covers for each of the books. Try books with a theme like Christmas recipes or Desserts!
21. **Servin' Shoes:** Have youth each loan you a pair of shoes (make sure you label each pair so you know which shoes go with which person!). Set up a banner in the church describing the nature and cost of your servant event. Assign each shoe an equal dollar value (such as \$50) and line up the shoes side by side on the floor. Ask church members to donate money for the event by placing their donations in the shoes. Once a shoe has collected its assigned amount of money, remove it from the line up. Continue to encourage donations each week until all the shoes are removed.
22. **Valet Parking:** Dress up your older youth members (or your adult youth leaders) and provide a valet parking service for church attendees on a Sunday morning. Have group members keep track of the keys, car locations and names of the owners. Let the church members know in advance that you'll be providing this service for them (if they desire) and inform them that tips will be greatly appreciated. This might be particularly useful for those congregations in the city or other places that limit parking and for "high attended" services such as Christmas Eve and Easter.

Another fundraising tip:

* Involve the parents!! Have parents pair up to come up with or run each fundraiser. Maybe give youth bonuses if a parent is involved with a certain percentage of fundraisers.

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