

LET'S RAISE MONEY FOR CASA

Lots of relatively simple fundraising ideas to get your fundraiser for CASA started

BAZAARS, FAIRS, CARNIVALS, ETC.

- 1 **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Christmas is the official theme, and all of the for-sale items are appropriate to give as gifts or to decorate the home for the holidays.
- 2 **GARAGE SALES:** Organization members collect unwanted merchandise and tag each piece with an appropriate price. Garage sales frequently bring in several hundred dollars in an afternoon.
- 3 **GARDEN FAIR:** Organization members work in and for a local nursery and receive a commission on whatever plants they sell. This can be for one day, or longer. Weekends typically bring more customers.
- 4 **RUMMAGE SALE:** Organization members sell such things as clothing, furniture, appliances, and brand new items like desks, lamps, pictures, and shoes are donated by local retailers.
- 5 **WHOLESALE'S DAY:** This is a "professional" flea market where merchants each pay to set up parking space-sized booths, and the public is invited to browse and buy. No admission fee is charged.
- 6 **HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL:** People are invited for a small donation to come to a Halloween costume party. Tickets are sold for games and prizes can be awarded to the winners. Judging contests can occur for the best costume, etc. Host food at an additional cost. The sale of raffle tickets can generate additional income.

AUCTIONS

- 1 **CELEBRITY AUCTION:** Items donated by local or national personalities bring in lots of money, particularly when the items are signed by their donors.
- 2 **CHINESE AUCTION:** The items to be "auctioned" are displayed on tables around the room; in front of each is a glass bowl or other receptacle. Participants buy tickets, usually 10 for \$5, and place one ticket in the bowl in front of each item they wish to "bid" on. At the end of the event one ticket from each bowl is selected, and whoever's name (or number) appears on that ticket wins the item.
- 3 **SERVICE AUCTION:** Donations of time and effort are solicited, and donors are asked to come up with imaginative offerings. Some examples of service auction offerings are: baby-sitting for an entire weekend, a day-long sailboat trip, a pool party for 20 people, and a husband and wife "butler and maid" team to serve at a dinner party, and the list can on and on.
- 4 **SILENT AUCTION:** Items are donated from local vendors and volunteers. A sign up sheet is placed next to each item where bidders write down their name and the amount they want to bid. Usually a minimum bid price is set and bidders are asked to bid in \$1 or more increments. The highest bidder is the winner at the close of the auction.
- 5 **TWELVE GOOD MEN AUCTION:** Auctioning off eligible bachelors for a date becomes a fun money maker. Your bachelors donate themselves to go out with the highest bidder. The men donate the date, or solicitations can be made to local vendors to help cover the date expenses.

SHOWS, EVENTS, SALES, ETC.

- 1 **BROADWAY PRODUCTION:** A three night production generally put on by high schools. Tickets are sold for general admission. Sponsors can also be solicited to lend their support.
- 2 **CONCERTS:** Well known performers will allow you to get larger audiences and charge higher ticket prices. If you must pay for talent, try to arrange a special rate. Also, remember that local amateurs can usually be persuaded to donate their talents to a worthy cause, and aspiring performers may be happy just to have some public exposure. General admission is charged for this event.
- 3 **VARIETY SHOW:** Amateur acts may include singing, dancing and comedy skits. General admission is

charged and sponsors can be solicited.

- 4 **MALE BEAUTY PAGEANT:** Male contestants walk a runway in front of a panel of female judges. This can also be adapted for a cutest baby pageant, or other imaginative ideas. Contestants are charged to enter and an admission price is charged.
- 5 **MARATHON DANCING:** One example of a marathon dancing schedule is two hours on and 10 minutes off for 50 hours. In order to enter the contest couples must have sponsor pledges of at least \$200.
- 6 **THEATRE PARTY:** An organization buys all the seats or a block of seats, for a given performance of a show and charges those who attend a fixed amount over and above the price of the tickets.
- 7 **ART SHOW AND SALE:** Types of artwork exhibited may include paintings, lithographs and pieces of sculpture. Admission to the exhibit may be charged and attendees can bid on the artwork.
- 8 **DOLL SHOW:** Displays of unusual and antique dolls from private and public collections are on view during the show. In addition, there are dolls made by local residents as well as some donated by merchants and “dressed” by people from the community; many of these can be purchased. At the end of the show, all for-sale dolls that haven’t been bought are donated to needy children.
- 9 **FASHION LUNCHEON:** Merchants who own clothing stores or boutiques and managers of department stores are often willing to lend clothing and accessories to charitable organizations staging fashion shows. Tickets are typically sold in advance and the price of lunch can also be included.
- 10 **GALLERY AND MUSEUM PREVIEWS:** The night before the official opening of gallery or museum exhibit is a good time to have a champagne or supper preview. A per person donation usually includes dinner. Tickets are pre-sold.
- 11 **NEEDLEWORK SHOW:** The show features exhibits of needlecraft such as old tapestries, lace doilies and needlepoint pillows. Booths are rented to boutique owners who sell knitted and crocheted garments; also to yarn-store owners who sell needlework supplies.
- 12 **PET SHOW:** Tickets are sold to benefit the organization. Trophies, rosettes and ribbons are awarded to winning pets. A small entry fee can be charged to each contestant.
- 13 **PHOTO CONTEST:** This contest can be divided into categories such as amateur, professional, and photos by children to ensure fair judging. No entry fee should be charged for children or adult amateurs. Viewers can vote for their favorite photo in each category by placing a donation in a container in front of each photo. At the end of the contest, the photo garnering the most money in each category is the winner
- 14 **TABLE SETTING DISPLAY:** Local merchants and private collectors lend dishes, art objects, antiques, centerpieces, flatware and linens—all of which can be coordinated by a professional store-display designer who has volunteered her services. An entry fee is charged to attendees.
- 15 **WEDDING FASHION SHOW:** Spring and fall are the best times to hold bridal fashion shows, and local department stores and bridal salons are usually more than willing to participate. Potential ticket buyers are easy to locate through engagement announcements in newspaper society columns.
- 16 **ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST:** Stick to one or two offerings that are easy and inexpensive to prepare, such as pancakes and sausage or fried eggs and bacon, and keep the coffee urns full.
- 17 **BAKE SALE:** Possible baked goods include cupcakes, brownies, cakes, and pies.

BOX OF RECIPES: Organization members contribute favorite recipes, have them printed on index cards and sell them in brightly decorated recipe file boxes.

- 18 **COOKBOOKS:** The organization prints and sells a cookbook as a fundraiser.
- 19 **FOOD FAIR:** Features food from many nations. Organization members are asked to prepare some of their own ethnic specialties for sale. Attendees are charged to sample these delicious treats.
- 20 **HOMEMADE LUNCHEON:** Organization members prepare a homemade lunch for visitors or guests. Each attendee pays a set fee for lunch.
- 21 **ITALIAN DINNER:** Authentic Italian meal is prepared and sold.
- 22 **LUNCHEONS WITH SPEAKERS:** A luncheon is given at local hotel with speech by a prominent member of the community. Tickets are sold in advance.
- 23 **ROVING DINNER PARTY:** Start with a group of 12 couples. Assign three people to make hors d' oeuvres, three to cook the main course, three to pay for the main course ingredients and three to prepare desserts. Then set up a round robin dinner with participants going to different homes for the hors d' oeuvres and for the main courses. All 12 couples meet in a single home for dessert. Each couple pays to contribute and the contributions go to a charitable organization.
- 24 **TASTING LUNCHEON:** Members make food themselves, with a different theme every year, and charge guests to attend the luncheon. As added attractions, they have an art show, boutique and sale of the recipes for the foods served that day.
- 25 **WINE TASTING PARTY:** Unlimited wine and cheese tasting. Four or five vintners and several cheese companies provide samples for guests to taste. Some restaurants are also willing to provide their restaurants for wine tasting events, and they provide everything but the volunteers. They give you a set amount of money to provide the volunteers for them.
- 26 **CELEBRITY WAITERS:** Guests are asked to attend a dinner event held at a local restaurant where they will be waited on by "Celebrity Waiters". The restaurant should be asked to donate a portion of their proceeds for that night to the charity and the "Celebrity Waiters" are asked to donate their tips for the evening.
- 27 **THEMED TABLE LUNCHEON OR TEA:** Local women are solicited to sell tickets to their friends for a luncheon. The table host is responsible to decorate the table in either a pre-set theme, or in any theme that inspired them. The host is also asked to bring special home made desserts for everyone at her table. The main course is provided by the group sponsoring the event. Adding a raffle or a silent auction also adds to the money raised that day.
- 28 **REFRESHMENT STANDS:** Many local vendors are looking for volunteers to help man their booths at local concerts, games, etc. Usually the organization is paid by the number of volunteers provided and specified amount determined by the sales that evening.

TOURS AND TRIPS

- 1 **ARTISTS' AND CRAFTSMEN'S STUDIO TOUR:** Potters, photographers, painters, weavers, jewelers, sculptors, and printmakers open their studios to the public. Trip includes talks by the artists and demonstrations of works in progress. Some of the works may also be offered for sale. Tickets are sold in advance as well as on the day of the event.
- 2 **CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR:** Houses that are elaborately decorated for Christmas are opened to residents. Christmas related items, such as ornaments, handcrafted gifts, and baked goods, may be for sale. Tickets are sold in advance for the tour.
- 3 **MYSTERY BUS RIDE:** One person makes arrangements for an entire group, and tells members only what to wear or how to prepare for the evening's entertainment. Then members board a bus at a predetermined location and are whisked away to anything from a helicopter ride to scuba-diving lessons or dinner at a local restaurant. Each couple simply pays a fixed amount over the cost of the evening's activities.

LANDSCAPING TOUR: Works the same as a home tour, but here individuals are asked to purchase tickets to drive and see beautifully landscaped homes.

EXTRAVAGANZAS

- 1 **ANNUAL DINNER DANCE:** Dinner-dances are extremely popular fund-raisers for a number of organizations. Tickets are pre-sold.
- 2 **DOWN ON THE FARM DANCE:** A dance that features farm themed clothing, decorations and food. Tickets are pre-sold.
- 3 **GOURMET COOK-OFF BALL:** Tickets are sold to witness local celebrity's cook their hors d'oeuvres, main course, or dessert specialties on stoves set up around a ballroom as guests look on. Meanwhile the hotel kitchen staff prepares the identical recipes for the guests. Professional food experts and critics judge the culinary offerings of the contestants, and award prizes in each category.
- 4 **HEADDRESS BALL:** 10 to 12 women model elaborate 15-pound papier-mâché headdresses designed especially for the ball by local florists, designers and other creative people in the community.
- 5 **MALL BALL:** A cocktail-dinner dance held in an enclosed mall of a major shopping center. Other possible unusual sights for fund-raising events around the country include beaches, subway stations and airplane hangars. Tickets are sold prior to the event.

ACTION FOR SALE

- 1 **BASKETBALL MARATHON:** A dribbling and shooting endurance contest that may last up to ten hours. Participants solicit pledges.
- 2 **BATHE-IN FOR DOGS:** Pet accessory manufacturers donate equipment, the fire department hooks up hoses to fire hydrants, and dog-grooming experts are on hand with supplies and advice. A fee is charged for each dog bathed.
- 3 **BINGO:** Bingo games are extremely popular local fund-raisers. Typically, players pay an entrance fee, rent lap boards and buy disposable paper game cards. About 25 games are played during a given evening; and the lucky person who has a winning card can win anywhere from \$25 to \$250. Bingo games are tightly regulated and supervised, often by government officials, to ensure that the games are being run honestly. Volunteers that hold bingo games usually raise extra money by selling refreshments.
- 4 **LAS VEGAS NIGHTS:** Las Vegas nights are evenings of casino-style gambling, with the proceeds going to charity. Usually the sponsoring organization takes a percentage of each pot or a fixed amount at the beginning of each hand of blackjack or poker. To raise additional money, almost all organizations charge an entrance fee and sell food.
- 5 **WALKATHON:** Each person who registers for the marathon is asked to solicit a certain number of pledges of varying amounts for each mile of the route. These events can also be copied with a SWIM-A-THON, BIKE-A-THON, JUMP ROPE –A-THON, etc.
- 6 **TENNIS TOURNAMENT:** Participants enjoy a certain amount of playing time, dinner and the opportunity to watch a number of exhibition matches for an entry fee.
- 7 **CELEBRITY SPORTS GAME:** Ask local celebrities to form a team and play against a non-celebrity team. General admission is charged to witness the competition.
- 8 **GOLF BALL DROP:** Similar to a 50/50 raffle, tickets are sold that correspond to a plastic golf ball that has been numbered. On the day of the drop, a hot air balloon is tethered over golf green and the balls are dropped from the air. The first ball in the hole (or the ball closest to the hole if none go in) is the winner of the

money prize. Instead of doing this as a 50/50, the winner could also receive a set amount of money or a pre-determined prize that has been donated.

- 9 **LET ME WORK FOR YOU:** Young people and adults are encouraged to go around their neighborhood taking donations for work done, i.e.: mowing the grass, pulling weeds, painting – the list is endless.

THOUGHT PROVOKERS

- 1 **BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENTS:** Contestants pay an entry fee and donated prizes are awarded to winners in each level of competition. Additional money may also be raised through a raffle.
- 2 **CARD PARTIES:** Bridge, canasta and gin rummy are among the most popular card games played at afternoon fundraisers.
- 3 **MINI-COURSES:** short demonstrations or lectures about hobbies such as gardening, sewing, and photography. Each “course” may last one, two or three evenings. Tickets are sold to each mini-course to raise money.
- 4 **READATHON:** Sponsors contribute varying amounts for children who read a certain number of books in a given period of time. This can also be duplicated as a MATH-A-THON, or HISTORY THON. Teachers love these events because they not only raise money for a cause, but their students are learning at the same time.
- 5 **STOCK-A-RAMA:** A month-long fund-raiser that allows participants to play the stock market without any risk of losing real money. A \$25 donation entitles a participant to 50,000 “credits,” with which to “buy” and “sell” stocks. Professional stockbrokers volunteer to take the orders and keep track of how participants do. At the end of the month, donated prizes are awarded to those who have “made the most money” and to the person who has “lost” the most (The loser gets back his \$25, with the advice to stay out of the market.)

FOR THE KIDS

- 1 **BOOK FAIR:** A company brings in and sets up a huge selection of children’s books in all price ranges in local schools.
- 2 **CHILDREN’S ART BOOTH:** Paint, crayons, colored pencils and other favorite media of young artists are displayed at a colorful booth set up at church fairs. For 25 cents children can create their own masterpiece which is then attached to a stick by a volunteer. The child can then carry the work as his or her own personal banner to display during the fair and take it home as a souvenir.
- 3 **CHILDREN’S CARNIVAL:** A children’s carnival is a fair just for children. There are attractions like pony rides, games like pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, and foods like peanut butter sandwiches and ice cream. For parents there may be a booth at which to buy used children’s clothing, games, toys, and more.

EASY MONEY-MAKERS

- 1 **ARTISTS’ AND CRAFTSMEN’S BOOTHS:** A flat fee is charged each day for renting space to local artists and craftsmen to exhibit and sell their creations.
- 2 **BOOK SALES:** Books are bought at a discount from a dealer who agrees to take back any that aren’t sold.
- 3 **CAR WASHES:** All it takes is a few buckets, sponges, some mild detergent, soft towels, water and lots of elbow grease to turn a few spare hours into extra cash.
- 4 **CONSUMER TESTING:** Some manufacturing firms or market research companies will pay money to organizations who guarantee a certain number of participants in a day-long product evaluation session.
- 5 **50/50 RAFFLE:** This idea is simple. Participants sign their names on dollar bills and drop them into a large container. At the end of the afternoon or evening, someone pulls out one of the bills. The person whose name is on the bill wins half of whatever money has been collected and the organization gets the other half.

- 6 **GAMES OF SKILL:** Participants are charged to try their hands at games such as ring tossing, knocking down bottles, breaking plates and throwing balls into a brightly painted bushel basket.
- 7 **JOURNALS:** Sell sponsorships and advertisements in printed journals and programs distributed at concerts, dinner dances or other fund-raising galas.
- 8 **PLANT SALES:** All types of houseplants are sold as well as donated refreshments.
- 9 **RAFFLES:** Ideally, all items to be raffled have been donated by local merchants or individuals, and the only expense involved is the price of printing the tickets.
- 10 **REFRESHMENT STANDS:** As always, try to get donations from local merchants or, failing that, arrange a discount. Possible items for sale are soft drinks, coffee, cake, cold sandwiches, hot dogs, and pizza.
- 11 **“SLAVE FOR A DAY”:** Baby-sitting, lawn-mowing, garage- or basement-cleaning and similar chores are all performed by members in return for a donation.
- 12 **YOUR WEIGHT IN PENNIES:** Guests are asked to donate a penny for each pound they weigh (or sometimes, each year of their ages). Invite donors to guess how much will be raised by the end of the raffle and award prizes to the people whose guesses are the closest to the actual amount. Or have the participants guess the weight of each donor! Along the same lines are games such as “Guess the Number of Pennies” (or beans). Put them in a glass jar, charge 10 cents or 25 cents for each written estimate and give prizes to the three (or five, or ten) people who come closest to the correct number.

The list of fundraising ideas is endless!

Before holding a fundraising event on our behalf please fill out the fundraising form below and send it to us so we can be aware of your event in case we are contacted by potential donors or the media.

Please contact The Mahoning County CASA/GAL Program if you have further questions or ideas you would like to share with us.

Mahoning County CASA

300 E. Scott Street
Youngstown, OH 44505
Tel: 330-740-2239
Fax: 330-740-2286
mahctycasa@aol.com

Renee Battafarano
Director