



A – Z GUIDE OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Autism NI (PAPA)
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Autism – the invisible disability

More than 300 children in Northern Ireland are diagnosed with Autism every year. It is a complex and variable developmental disability which affects individuals in the areas of social interaction, communication and imagination. Individuals with Autism find difficulty in making sense of the world and around 50% will also have a learning difficulty. The challenging behaviour often displayed by children with Autism can place great strain on parents and families.

Autism NI (PAPA)

Autism NI is the main voluntary organisation for the support of children and adults with Autism in Northern Ireland. The charity supports a network of 17 branches and support groups across Northern Ireland and provides free advice and information, support for parents and carers, practical help for people with Autism, a 24-hour helpline, an Autism library and a wide range of training courses.

Help us raise money

Our work would not be possible without the help of our supporters. Funds and support received from donations and events are vital to Autism NI, and enable us to undertake many projects which otherwise would not be possible. Please get involved and help us ensure a better life for parents, carers and people with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Northern Ireland. Please support in whatever way you can.

What can we do for you?

Whether you'd like to fundraise through your own activities or with friends or colleagues, we can offer help and advice and are always delighted to hear about the wonderful ways you are raising money for Autism NI. Please send in details of your event or fundraising efforts so that we can acknowledge you in our newsletter and promote it on our website www.autismni.org. We can also supply you with Autism NI materials, such as balloons and T-shirts, and sponsorship forms.

Good luck!

A

- Abseil. Scale the dizzy heights of a local landmark or office block.
- Aerobics: Organise a sponsored aerobathon with the help of gyms, leisure centres and sports shops.
- Antiques fair
- Arts/Crafts Stall: Make necklaces, dried flower arrangements, stained glass mirrors, etc, to sell on a stall.
- Auction: Auction off original items, taking a percentage of sales. You could even auction the services of people and businesses - anything from singing lessons to dinner for two.
- Afternoon Tea: Put the kettle on and get baking. Entertain guests with raffles, auctions, tombolas & live music
- Aluminium Collection: Collect empty cans and tins and sell them to a recycling company.

B

- Bad hair day or bad tie day: Charge your colleagues a pound to come in wearing their loudest tie. Award the winner.
- Baked Bean Bath: Get sponsored to spend the day in a bath/Jacuzzi of baked beans. Charge friends to join you.
- Barbecue: Add stereo, football and rounders bats and make it a whole day's event.
- Barn Dance: Swing into action by hiring a caller and traditional country band. Serve food & plenty of cider.
- Bits and Pieces (music quiz)
- BMX bike display, or competition
- Book Sale: Sell old books, collected from everyone you know. Book dealers may buy leftover stock.
- Bouncy castle - it could be a sponsored event, eg number of bounces per minute!
- Bring and buy sale.
- Balloon Race: Sell balloons that are filled with helium; the purchasers' name and address are written on a tag fixed to the balloon. The balloon that travels the furthest wins a prize
- Beat the Goalie: Score a goal and win a prize. Footballers pay to enter.
- Bed Push: The 'bed' can be anything from a hospital bed to a four-poster or even a 3-piece suite!
- Bingo: Hold a one-off evening or regular morning sessions.
- Board Games Evening: Invite friends over to play Scrabble, Monopoly, Cluedo and more. Charge entrance or game fee.
- Boat Race: Teams build model boats and race them. Alternatively, use real yachts, dinghies or canoes.
- Bonny Baby Contest: Charge proud parents to show off their offspring in the town centre. Invite the local press.
- Bungee Jump: Raise sponsorship by flying in the face of fear.
- Burns Night: Theme evening with Scottish dancing, Haggis, Nepes and Tatties. Admission fee.
- Bus Pull: Gather a team & get sponsored to heave a bus through town. More teams? Make it a race.

C

- Cabaret, talent show, concert, recital or play. Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.
- Car boot sale: Cash in your old belongings, or sell pitches. Raise more with bouncy castles, raffles, etc.
- Car wash: Wash cars at shopping centre, office car park or in schools grounds.
- Card delivery service, pupils pay for delivery within the school
- Carol singing - Carol singing: Get a group to go door-to-door singing. Bigger public displays may require a licence.
- Carol concert: Host a festive concert for your community. Earn extra by selling minced pies & mulled wine.
- Charity shop - open one lunchtime a week selling donated items
- Christmas cards - making and selling them, or selling bought cards
- Coffee mornings.
- Collections (eg waste paper, bottle tops, coins, stamps)
- Computer games knockout, best if played in pairs.
- Cook books - writing a class or school cookbook that can then be sold
- Cookery contest (eg Ready Steady Cook - could be the teachers!)
- Cake Stall: Hold a traditional cake stand at fetes or fairs. Check health and safety regulations.
- Calendars: Design & sell a pictorial calendar for your company. Departments/suppliers may sponsor pages.
- Car treasure hunt: Drive from clue to clue in search of the 'treasure'. Teams pay to enter.
- Casino evening: Hire gaming tables and a hall for the evening.
- Charity ball: Raise sponsorship the sophisticated way. Organise a themed ball with DJ or live music at a hotel or nightclub. Charge for tickets, but boost your earnings with games and raffles.
- Christmas draw: Sell tickets and ask local firms to supply prizes. Check regulations about public draws & raffles.
- Classic car show: Well-organised classic car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.
- Coconut shy: Easily arranged game for traditional fairs. All you need are a few coconuts and wooden balls.
- Coffee morning: It's open house for the morning. Make extra with raffles, bring and buy sales and cake stalls.
- Collecting tins: Trusted fundraiser for busy pedestrian areas. Charity should supply tins, stickers and leaflets.
- Copper collection: Ask people to donate their collections of one and two pence pieces.

D

- Dance: Barn dances, tea dances, disco dances, salsa dances - whatever rocks your boat.
- Darts tournament: Challenge all the pub teams in the area to compete for cash prizes, or a barrel of beer.
- Dinner and cabaret: Hire a popular and spacious restaurant. Entertain ticket holders with music, comedy & magic.
- Disco: Spin the decks or hire a DJ to stage a themed disco night.
- Dog show: Charge proud pet-owners to show off their pooches. Ask pet shops to sponsor the event.

- Duck race: Sell numbered plastic ducks and launch them from a bridge. The duck to finish first wins.
- Dance marathon
- Dry Cornflakes/Cream Cracker-eating contest

E

- Easter egg hunt: Edible hide and seek. Charge entry fee and ask confectioners to provide the eggs.
- Eating marathon: Get sponsored to stuff your face with as many baked beans/grapes/pies etc. as possible.
- Eyebrows: Get sponsored to shave them off - they grow back eventually!
- Easter party
- Egg rolling competition

F

- Face painting: Get creative with face paints at fetes, fairs and children's parties.
- Fancy dress: Jazz up your event with a fancy dress contest. Charge entrance fee.
- Fashion show: Ask businesses to sponsor venue, or donate outfits or catwalk. Or use clothes made by pupils or donated by local shops. Charge admission and sales commission.
- Fastathon: Get sponsored to fast for an hour, a morning or a day. Consult your doctor first.
- Fete: Reach the whole community by holding a fete, or team up with organisers of an annual event.
- Film evening: Recreate an evening of vintage cinema by showing classic films and musicals.
- Flower show: Always popular. Boost funds with competitions, advice corners & side stalls.
- Football tournament: Schedule fixtures and charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.
- Foreign coins: Ask people to donate their leftover holiday coins. Change into sterling once you have enough.
- Fun day: Arrange games, music, competitions and stalls at a nearby hall or sports club.
- Furniture sale: Hire a large hall to sell donated furniture and old office equipment. Take sales commission.
- Fairs, fetes, bazaars, etc
- Fireworks party (adults to organise)
- Foam party - fill paddling or swimming pool with foam and then party!

G

- Game show: Host mock version of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, The Weakest Link, Stars In Their Eyes, Wheel of Fortune, Blockbusters, Blind Date etc. Otherwise adapt board games for big audiences, and get prizes donated.
- Garage sale: Sell off all your unwanted belongings.
- Garden party: Sell tickets or invite guests to make a donation.
- Gardening: Offer your gardening services to friends and family.
- Glamorous Gran: Go in search of your area's most glamorous gran. Charge contestants to enter, and ask local hair and beauty salons to donate prizes. Invite the local press.
- Go Kart Grand Prix: Hold a Go Kart Grand Prix at the nearest track. Drivers pay entrance fee.

- Greeting cards: Make and sell cards for every occasion. Find out about selling Christmas cards for your charity.
- Guess the??? Competitors guess how many sweets in the jar, a cake's weight, etc. The closest answer wins.
- Guest speaker: Invite a guest speaker and sell admission tickets. Boost funds with raffle & refreshments.
- Gunge Tank: Charge fairgoers to drop their relatives, friends or enemies in tank of last week's leftovers.
- Gladiators/Gladifakers
- Gymkhana

H

- Halloween party: Another excuse to dress up and party. Charge entrance fees and raise money trick or treating.
- Head shave: Sick of bad hair days? Go bald for charity.
- Household sale: Sell off all your unwanted belongings.
- Hair beading/plaiting
- Hot-dog/burger stand

I

- Inflatable: Put a bounce into your summer fete with an inflatable fly wall, boxing ring or gladiator court.
- Ironing: Offer your ironing services - at a cost.
- It's a Knockout competition: Revive the 80s game show by inviting teams to compete in silly games in silly costumes.

J

- Judo competition or display (adults to organise)
- Jumble sale
- Jailbreak: Dump teams in the middle of nowhere. With no money or transport, see who gets back to base first. Charge entrance fees and offer prizes.
- Jazz festival: Play your own brand of jazz, or stage a show for local musicians. Sell tickets and refreshments.
- Jewellery making: Buy your own beads and get threading. Sell your products at markets and craft fairs.
- Junk mail: Collect all your junk mail and sell it to a recycling company.

K

- Karaoke: Arrange your own Pop Idol contest. All you need is a machine, a room and a well-stocked bar.
- Kite flying

L

- Left-handed day: Try doing everything with your left hand for the day.
- Line dancing: It's all the rage. Just make sure you have a caller and plenty of drink!
- Longest chain of paper-clips, line of coins, etc

- Lottery - can be Chocco Lotto where numbers are put onto sweet packets

M

- Marathons: Get sponsored to run a traditional 26-mile race.
- Marathon events - table tennis, aerobics, line dancing, badminton, etc (in shift teams)
- Mile of pennies: Make a mile of pennies in your town centre. Ask shoppers to help by donating their coins.
- Mini-Olympics: Invite everyone you know to compete in traditional & silly sports. Charge entry.
- Mufti/non-uniform/denim/tracksuit/etc day: Introduce dress down day at work. Colleagues pay a fee to leave their suits at home.
- Music concert: Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.
- Midsummer masked ball
- Midnight film shows/parties/etc
- Murder Mystery evening

N

- Nature trail: Offer guided walks to natural beauty spots.
- New Year resolutions: Get sponsored to stick to your new year's resolutions.
- New Year's Eve dance/party
- Night-time hide and seek, using torches
- No work day, students choose what they want to do

O

- Open garden: Open your garden to visitors. Sell tickets, refreshments, plants and vegetables.
- Opera night: Stage an opera evening in your area, or arrange a trip to see a big London production.
- Old-time music hall
- One hundred club - raising £100 every week, half term or term, or a fundraising club with 100 members in it

P

- Paintballing: Organise paintballing challenges at locally run centres. Players pay to enter.
- Pancake race: Get flipping on Shrove Tuesday. Charge teams to enter, and spectators to eat.
- Parachute jump: Daredevils only. Get sponsored to take the plunge.
- Parties: Pick a venue, a date, a theme... and party on. Sell tickets and charge for extras like food.
- Petrol tokens: Trade in petrol tokens for gifts, which can be used as raffle or competition prizes.
- Plant a tree: Seek sponsors for a "plant a tree" scheme.
- Plant sale: Sell donated plants or rent out pitches to traders.
- Playstation play-off: Organise a league of players and compete on a certain game. Charge entrants.
- Play your cards right: Fair game made famous by Bruce Forsyth. Guess higher or lower 6 times running & win a prize.
- Postage stamps: Collect and sell foreign and unusual stamps to dealers.
- Private tuition: Whether it's French or Flamenco, sell your skills with private lessons.
- Programmes: Get businesses to advertise in event programmes. Number the programmes & use as raffle tickets.

- Pub games night: Stage a championship of traditional pub games - darts, skittles, dominoes, cards, etc.
- Puppet show: Pull in the crowds with a traditional Punch & Judy show, or something more innovative.
- Penalty shoot-out competition
- Penny mile, where coins are lined up and measured - can be done in teams
- Pet show
- Photographic competitions
- Pram push

Q

- Quizzes: If your local doesn't run a pub quiz, set one up. Test the regulars on pop, trivia or sport.

R

- Race night: The race is run on a large screen after all bets have been taken. A typical evening consists of eight races. Props (and film) are supplied by race operators. Some gaming regulations apply.
- Raffle: Ask local firms to donate prizes and sell tickets. Check raffle laws with charity.
- Raft race: Teams compete by building their rafts and racing over a set distance. Teams pay to compete.
- Ramble: Take to the countryside for a mass walkabout. Throw in a theme (fancy dress, singles, three legged, Easter), and charge for entry and refreshments.
- Recipe book: Publish favourite recipes from local restaurants and chefs.
- Recycling collections: Collect paper, aluminium, glass, etc, and sell on to recycling companies.
- Refreshments: Sell teas, coffees, sandwiches, biscuits, cakes, etc, at any fundraising event.
- Roll-a-ball: Fair game where player rolls a ball through a hole at the end of a bowling-type alley.
- Roll-a-coin: Fair game where player rolls a coin down a chute, aiming to land on a playing card.
- Roll the dice: Roll six sixes and win a car! You need a big event... and car sponsor to make this worthwhile.

S

- Safari supper: Travel from restaurant to restaurant, having a different course at each stop. Ask restaurants to support your efforts, but set cover charge to include all food and your cut.
- Sale of Xmas gifts: Sell Christmas cards, wrapping, gifts, food and drink.
- Scavenger hunt: Variation on the treasure hunt where participants have a list of items to collect.
- Shoe shine: Get down on your knees at your nearest train station or shopping centre.
- Shopping coupons: Trade in loyalty points for money or goods (to be used as prizes).
- Skittles: Make an evening event out of this traditional pub game.
- Skydiving: Free fall your way back to earth - for sponsorship.
- Slimming contest: Arrange with local slimming clubs. Participants get sponsored £1 for every pound lost.
- Slippery pole: Fair game where competitors pillow fight while sliding along a slippery pole.
- Sponge throwing: Players pay to chuck sopping wet sponges at whoever's in the stocks.
- Sponsored silence: Mum's the word. Stay silent for as long as you can.
- Sports competition: Whatever your game, organise a tournament. Sell tickets, and organise stalls, raffles, etc.

- Stage play: Raise the curtain on a local Am Dram production.
- Street entertaining: Get juggling, tight rope walking, fire eating, knife throwing, unicycling...
- Swear box: Spend a £1 for every \$@*£\$! uttered. Put a box at home, at work and at the pub.
- Swimathon: Get sponsored per length, mile, minute, hour...
- Saints' days parties/theme day
- Santa's grotto
- School fair
- Scoff-a-hotdog competition (eg 'who can eat two in the fastest time possible!')
- Shakespeare marathon
- Silly games afternoons: egg & spoon, silly races, wet sponge throwing, etc
- Skateboard display
- Slide evening
- Soap episodes show or theme day
- Sponsored events (eg bike ride, dog walk, knit, kite-flying, headshave, haircut, hula-hooping, no smoking, rapping, run, shoe-clean, silence, sing, sports match, swim, talk, three-legged walks, walk, watch TV/don't watch TV, window clean, etc etc etc)
- Sports contests, teachers vs students (no PE teachers allowed!)
- Stalls at fairs etc (eg cakes, plants, books)
- Strawberry and cream tea party
- Swap-shop

T

- Tabletop sale: Indoor variation on the car boot sale. Charge for table hire.
- Talent competition: Discover Britain's next big thing with your own talent show. Charge entry and offer prizes.
- Ten-pin bowling: Bowling alleys often have special rates for big groups & charity evenings.
- Tombola: Pick a raffle ticket out of a barrel and match it with a ticketed prize. Fair & fete favourite.
- Toy sale: In the run up to Christmas, toy sales can be big fundraisers.
- Treasure hunt: Sniffing out the clues, teams compete against each other to discover the 'hidden treasure'.
- Tuck shop: Sell sweets, crisps, cake, drinks, etc, at a children's event. Get supplies donated
- Teddy bears' picnic
- Theme days/evenings (eg countries - French, Spanish; soap operas, past-eras etc)
- Throwing wet sponges at a person/teacher in stocks, great at a summer fair!
- Top of the Pops show, teachers or students miming and dancing to chart music

U

- Unwanted presents: Arrange a post-Christmas sale of unwanted gifts. Ask traders to donate a cut of their takings.
- Uniform days (for schools without a uniform and/or for teachers)
- University challenge

V

- Variety show: Comedians, magicians, singers, dancers & musicians all under one roof.
- Vehicle rally: Well-organised car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.

- Visits: Organising visits to local places or tourist destinations.

W

- Waste paper: Collect waste paper and sell to recycling companies.
- Waxing: A hair-raising experience for the boys. Get sponsored to wax your legs or chest.
- Weight of the cake: Fair game. Pay to guess the weight - and win the cake if you're right.
- Welly throwing: Fun for every fete and fair. Throwers compete to see whose welly goes furthest.
- Windscreen wash: Charge to wash windscreens at service and petrol stations. Ask permission first.
- Wine & cheese: Ask supermarkets to donate the wine and cheese. Sell tickets, and produce to take away.
- Wine tasting: Hold tasting sessions for wine companies. Charge commission on wine sold. Arrange a raffle.
- Woodcutting: Offer to prune trees or chop firewood for friends and family.
- White Elephant stall
- Who's that baby? (students and staff bring in photos of themselves as babies)

X

- Xmas evening: Stock up on crackers, pudding and mince pies. Break with tradition by holding it in July!
- Xmas hampers: Make up and sell your own Xmas hampers. Include food, drink, toys and gifts.
- X-Files day (Use your imagination - the ideas are out there!)

Y

- Yard of ale: Challenge yourself and others to a lengthy drinking contest. Charge entry fee.
- Young Enterprise Scheme run by students, donate part of profits (eg making and selling cards)

Z

- Zodiac evening: Invite a guest astrologer for a star-studded fundraiser. Charge for entry and horoscopes.

Contact us

For more information, ideas or advice, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Remember - whatever you do, have FUN doing it!!

Thank you