

Bridgebuilder Fundraising Toolkit

A complete fundraising pack
to make it simple for you to raise funds
on behalf of Bridgebuilder Trust.



Why raise cash for Bridgebuilder anyway?!

Bridgebuilder Trust is a charity, which means we exist on the generous donations of individuals, churches, groups and schools. We offer our services free to schools so that cost is never a barrier but it costs us money to provide assemblies and projects. We currently spend more money each year than we have coming in, and the demand for our work is increasing. This means we have a challenge to raise more money each year.

As part of our bigger fundraising strategy we need people like you and groups to come on board and help raise money on our behalf. We hope that we can engage you in taking part in FUNdraising activities and this booklet is packed full of ideas for how everyone can help us raise money for our ongoing work with children and young people across Milton Keynes.



Can I ask people for money?



Yes, most people are actually quite generous and will give to any cause that they believe in, especially to help support someone they know. So don't be afraid to ask, just politely communicate who you are raising for and why and you'll probably be surprised at how many people want to help support your charity fundraising. It works a lot better to ask people you know for money as they will more likely trust you and who you are fundraising for.

How can people give?

If you are running an event then collecting the cash might work best for you, especially if people are paying in cash on the night. But if you are doing a sponsored event then we totally recommend online giving. Set yourself up with a fundraising page on give.net and link it to our official give.net page. All the money will then come straight to us, and we can claim gift aid where applicable.



<https://www.give.net/20023161> and click on 'fundraise for us'



Who?

So you're thinking about raising money for us, thank you! We suggest you begin with who you'll target, then you can easily decide what you'll do.



Family — they're stuck with you for life but they'll likely be supportive of you whatever you do, especially in raising money for charity.



Friends & neighbours — through thick and thin, they've been by your side and you love having fun together. Maybe you want to get to know your neighbours better by inviting them to something, they'll all probably be really supportive of you raising funds for charity.



Colleagues — we spend most days with them and there is a lot to be gained from comradery in the workplace. You could join together for a wear your Pj's to work day, they'll likely support what you're doing and want to join in. Some businesses even do match funding if their employees raise funds for charity.



Church family or group you are a part of — The family that you always wanted, a mix of ages maybe but you all share something a belief, a hobby. If you run a fundraiser with these guys in mind, they'll be wanting to support you.

Or for maximum impact all of the above!

How?



1. *Run your own event* -

Pick an event that you think your target audience will love to come to and then organize and run it and make money for Bridgebuilder by charging people to attend and/or asking for donations on the night. Remember that all events cost money to run, so make sure you budget for this and keep costs as low as possible by asking people to donate what you need to run the event.



Dinner for a cause – Invite a group of people round for dinner, provide great food and drink, use some recipes you've always wanted to try out, and ask people to donate £10-20 or what they would have paid if they'd gone out to a restaurant, or you could charge for tickets.



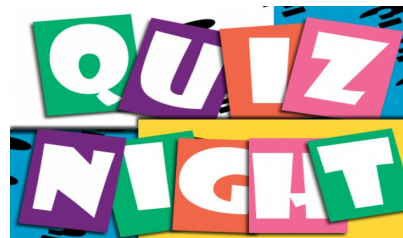
Cream tea/Afternoon tea – Get your granny or another great baker to make some scones with fresh cream, jam and strawberries, perhaps make some finger sandwiches too. Or just buy a big tray full of sandwiches or scones from Costco for around £6. You could host this in the summer and set out tables in your garden to make it quainter. Again, charge people between £6-£10 to come along and you'll find people love coming to experience a cream tea for a good cause.



Music night – Do you know any talented musicians or singers who would perform for free for a fundraising event? If so, you could host a music night with a drink or two included in the ticket price. £10 a ticket seems like a great price for a night out with entertainment. If you don't know any musicians, do you know any comedians or people with other performance skills?



Coffee morning – Get your granny or some people you know to make yummy cakes, borrow some cups and saucers and invite some other people round for tea/coffee and cake, get them to give you a fiver for coming and give Bridgebuilder all the profits ☺ Simple as that!



Quiz night – Could you host a quiz night and get people to sign up teams to take part, charge either per person (£5-10) or per team of 5 (£50). Get a prize for the winners and either make up your questions or compile some from online - don't forget the answers!



Table top sale – Maybe you could host a Christmas fair or table top stalls event at your church and charge all stall holders £5-10 for their table which would be given to Bridgebuilder Trust. This would make for a fun event for the whole church family and a great charity fundraiser.

CLOTHES SWAP

Clothes swap – Everyone has clothes, shoes and accessories in their wardrobe they don't need, this is a great chance to swap them for clothes you do want. Charge around £5 a ticket and encourage people to bring 5 unwanted items with. Get someone to make cakes and buy some drinks, so that everyone gets a slice of cake and a drink included with their ticket. At

the start of the evening exchange everyone's unwanted items for coupons and display all the items on rails, hangers and tables. When everyone has arrived and all the items are displayed let people browse around for things they want, they then exchange their coupons for items. If anyone wants more items than they have coupons, get them to donate an extra pound or two for the items.



Film night – Either in your own living room if you've got a big TV, or to make more of a special event how about a projector in the garden or at the local community centre or church- if you can use a room for free. Show a movie and invite people you know, you could even include a drink and popcorn as part of the ticket price. Charge £5 a ticket and everything is a profit that you could give to charity.

Sponsored activities

– This is where you set yourself a challenge to complete and ask everyone you know for sponsorship to help you complete the task. You'll be surprised how many people you know will want to show their love and support for you by giving you a few pounds to complete a challenge. The key to a great sponsored challenge is picking something you want to do or achieve or something you enjoy - as otherwise you are not going to want to put the effort in!

You could sign up for one of many local events that are already organised like the MK half marathon, Activity Run, or the Glow Run in Northampton. Or if you like setting your own challenge you can do that too, like Sponsored Silence, Sponsored Slim, Sponsored Swim, Sponsored Games Session, Sponsored Sleepout, Awake-athon, or Sponsored Wear your PJs to Work. The list is endless, just make sure your challenge is achievable, measurable and nothing that will put your life at risk!

Once you've chosen your activity, set yourself a target amount you'd like to raise, like £300 or £500 or £1000 or more. Your target depends on how many friends and family you have and how generous they are likely to be. Then tell all your friends and family about your challenge and get them to sponsor you for doing it, anything from £1 to £100 each.

We've made a sponsorship form in this pack if you prefer paper, but you can also use the online system on our website by setting up a give.net page which means you won't need to find everyone again to collect the cash!

Sponsored ideas completed in 2015:



Stephen Dunham ran a three marathons challenge raising £1033

for Bridgebuilder.



Sam Downton ran a 26.2 mile run in Nottingham raising £270 for Bridgebuilder.



Trevor Crowter did the 14km Bridge to Bridge Swim and raised £1048 for us.

2. *Youth group ideas* – Our work in schools is for young people, so who better to fundraise than young people. Imagine a young person saying, “Can you help us keep Bridgebuilder coming to our school to deliver great assemblies and enable them to expand and go into other schools too”; it sounds so much more authentic doesn’t it?! There are all sorts of ideas your youth group could do to raise funds for us, if you do social events already as a group, maybe you could just add on a couple of pounds each to the cost and give us that?



Car wash – The age old fundraiser: a bunch of young people with buckets and hoses serving the community by washing cars. Get the public to donate for the service and donate those profits to us.



Bag pack at the local supermarket -

Your local supermarket has slots available each year to allow community groups to pack customers bags for donations to a worthy cause. Get your young people along by promising them all a trip to get some fast food afterwards.



BBQ – Planning an annual BBQ for your young people anyway, or thinking about doing one? Why not raise funds for Bridgebuilder by asking your young people that can to give a couple of quid on top of the cost to fundraise for Bridgebuilder.

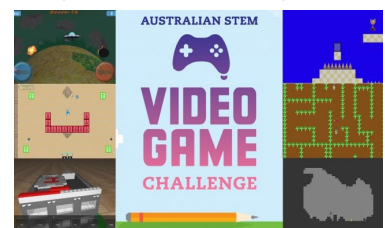


Film night – Young people love movies, why not show a movie on your church projector, get some popcorn in, maybe even make some milkshakes and add a fundraising element by asking young people to pay between £3 and £5 for coming along, cheaper than the cinema but an awesome night had by all. Then just give Bridgebuilder the profit 😊.



Promise Auction -

Have you been wanting to encourage your youth group to do things for others? Or get involved in serving? This one is all about serving. Invite people from your church to come along for an evening where you auction off certain skills or promises, eg. baby sitting, cleaning, gardening, cooking, guitar lesson etc. The proceeds/amounts bidden go to charity (Bridgebuilder) and the young people have to complete the promise voluntarily.



Sponsored Games console-athon –

How long can your youth group play games consoles for? Could they get sponsored to play for 24 hours straight, taking breaks and switching over. Both a fun challenge and a great way to raise funds for Bridgebuilder.

3. *Sell stuff at your group/church* — Perhaps you don't want the hassle of running an event yourself but you have a captive audience at a group you are a part of. Is there something you could sell that people would really want and be willing to pay for and then all profits could be given to Bridgebuilder? Food is something that people are willing to pay for as they feel like they are getting something for their cash, but this way they are supporting a charity too, so their tummy and heart can feel satisfied! 😊



Bake sale – Get some great bakers to make cakes and fairy cakes and charge 40p/50p/£1 each. People love a good cake especially homemade and they'll be willing to pay for it. All you need is cakes, a float and some posters telling people what you are selling cakes for. Plus don't forget to ask the venue's permission before turning up to sell!



Krispy Kreme sale – It's a favourite snack of many, that signature sugary ring donut is just so yummy and moreish. The store does a fundraising deal where you can buy them for around 40p each and sell them for the RRP £1.40 each or £6 for half a dozen and all profits go to your chosen charity, which in this case is Bridgebuilder. All you need to do to get this deal is use the web to make a formal enquiry a couple of weeks at least before your event telling them how many you think you need and what you are raising money for:

<http://www.krispykreme.co.uk/about-fundraising>

You then have to arrange a time to collect them from the store at CMK, set up your stall and sell, sell, sell!

Krispy Kreme will even provide boxes, napkins, hats, balloons and banners if you ask them nicely 😊.

**CAN YOU HELP US
RAISE SOME DOUGH?**



4. *Stuff that you were going to do anyway but could give Bridgebuilder the proceeds for -*



Car boot sale - We've all got stuff we no longer need sitting around; if you fancy doing a car boot sale to sell it all, why not give us some or all of the proceeds? To find your local car boot sales just have a little search on Google or in the local paper.



Selling your stuff on Ebay - Using the handy website Ebay as the middle man you can sell any good quality unwanted stuff. You just take a picture of your item(s), write an accurate description, decide if you want to put a reserve on it and let people bid on the item in a fixed time auction of 1 to 7 days. We are set up as a charity for this – you can search for Bridgebuilder eBay and nominate how much we get.



Handmade goods – Is there anything you can make to a high standard that others may want to buy? Could you go along to a table top sale or craft fair and sell them giving Bridgebuilder Trust all or part of your profits?



Give us your ink cartridges to recycle – We get money for recycling ink cartridges – the more we recycle the more money we get! Just drop them into collection box at our office.



Charity collection-

Maybe your group or church does a charity collection every now and then or likes to support a good cause? Could you nominate Bridgebuilder to be the charity for that appeal? We are happy to send someone along on the day or in advance to talk about how the money could help us inspire young people in schools.



Text Giving - Have a spare £5 this month or just feeling generous? You can give us a small amount via text message whenever you like by typing MKBT01 £amount and send it to 70070, into your phone and the sum will be deducted from your credit or added to your bill.

What next?

Choose how you'll raise money for us and let us know your plans, we'd love to know and we'd love to help you if we can.



Other useful advice?

We are here to help, so if you need any advice or tips on fundraising for us please contact us.

We can supply you with banners and leaflets to promote Bridgebuilder if necessary.

We'd also be happy to help promote your fundraiser if needed through our email list and website.

Please send us photos of you raising money for us, we'd love to see how you got on!

Please arrange to drop in the cash you've raised or collected to our office, pre counted if possible please.

Please make all cheques payable to Bridgebuilder Trust.

Happy Fundraising!

Thanks for raising funds for Bridgebuilder.

Sponsor form attached.

