

Organizing a fundraiser in your community can help increase funds for rare disease research and development of new treatments. Below are just a few ideas but be creative, combine efforts with family and friends and do something fun together that helps raise funds!

For each event, it helps to have a few people plan and implement the activity. The more people you have helping, the greater the impact you can have, and there is less risk of burnout. Remember, Odylia is here to support your efforts. [Contact our Director of Development.](#)

## Fun Run/Walk/Bike

- Choose something you enjoy doing – run, walk, bike, swim, tennis, football, lacrosse, etc.
- Determine distance/route/format and location. If holding your event in a public space, be sure to check about permission/permits. Consider doing a virtual event – participants can go outside in their own community to participate and not have to be in a single geographical area.
- Decide an appropriate entry fee or have people/groups try to raise as much as possible to participate.
- Challenge groups or businesses to compete to see who can raise the most funds.
- Develop a t-shirt, hat, socks, or some other item to give to all registered participants.
- Have water and fruit donated for snacks at the end of the race.
- At the beginning/end of the event, share your story about the importance of raising funds for Odylia and your fundraising success.

## Coin Collection

- Ask the owner/manager of local stores or restaurants if you can put a canister out by their register for a few weeks/months. People can drop change into the can to support your fundraiser.
- Be sure to put a photo and/or a brief description of what you are raising money for, so donors learn about our program. We can help you make a QR code to link to a donate page if they would like to learn more or donate a different way.

## Round Up

- Ask a store or restaurant in your community to ask patrons to 'round-up' their bill. This works well in locations people primarily pay with credit cards.
- See if they will also print a short message on the receipt thanking people and include the website.
- Create awareness by putting signs up at the register, on the door, in the menu, in the restrooms, wherever people will see it.

## Tip a Volunteer

- Work with a local restaurant to allow you and other volunteers to help the servers for an evening. At each table, explain you are holding a fundraiser for Odylia and leave an envelope or a card with online giving instructions. (Odylia can help you set up an easy link to your fundraiser page)
- Promote the event ahead of time and try to get your friends and family to come to the restaurant.
- Have an information table set up at the front so people waiting can learn about the fundraiser.

## Percent of Proceeds Night

- Similar to the Tip a Volunteer event, but instead of having each table make a donation, the restaurant agrees to donate a percent of their earnings for the night.
- You and your friends help promote the night to increase business for the restaurant (this works great for pizza places.)
- Some fast-food restaurants have programs set up already to sign up online for a charity night.
- This could also work for a retail store, car wash, etc.

## **Set up a stand to sell – lemonade, hot dog, baked goodies, candy, artwork, t-shirts, etc.**

- Everyone needs something! Gather some friends to stock your table.
- Advertise in your neighborhood, be sure to let people know about Odylia and why you are raising money.
- Consider tagging on to another event - pool party, neighborhood BBQ, local farmers market.

## **Birthday donations**

- Consider asking people to donate in honor of your birthday or in lieu of a present.
- Hold a fun fundraising event or competition on your birthday to raise funds such as a dance-a-thon or invite people to a restaurant/bar for a 'percent proceeds night' on your birthday.
- Use social media outlets like Facebook or Instagram to encourage people to donate for your birthday.
- Consider asking a donor to match donations.

## **Garage Sale/Facebook Marketplace**

- Organize a neighborhood yard sale with a portion of proceeds (or better yet all the proceeds) for Odylia.
- Post items for sale online and let people know what the proceeds support.
- Ask businesses/services/people in your community for gift certificates or other items to use for the event.

## **Auction**

- Hold a brainstorming session with volunteers. Divide the ideas for auction items into categories: travel, sports equipment or tickets, entertainment, home products, computer products, and autographed items.
- Ask volunteers to think of personal contacts who could help get auction items and send requests in writing.
- Set a goal of acquiring 50 high-ticket items and 50 medium-ticket items.
- Hold a preview cocktail reception to put guests in the bidding mood, maybe with music and food.
- Display all your auction items attractively.
- Find a location to hold the event. It can be at a company facility, a house, a museum, or tied to an event, e.g., a dinner gala already being organized.

## **Drawings/Raffle**

- Before you organize a raffle or drawing, be sure to check about local regulations, if any.
- Find a top prize, for example, a weekend for 2 at a particular resort that will give you a deal or donate the weekend, a computer that your company can get donated, or a car that you can get donated or purchase at a low cost.
- Get tickets printed and select a date for the drawing.
- Sell the raffle tickets to friends, family, clients, neighbors, team members, everyone.
- Hold the drawing somewhere in a public area.
- Make sure the winner gets their prize.

## **Bowl-a-thon (or read, rock, dance, sing, etc.)**

- Plan the event date with the venue (if using)
- Determine the number of participants the location can hold, or you would like to participate.
- Designate a registration fee or donation amount per lane or per team (many companies will pay for their employees to play)
- Invite individuals from companies, community groups, teams, etc. to participate.
- On event day be sure to tell people about Odylia and why you are raising funds.