

No Excuses - 25 Ways to Raise \$500 ... or more!

Giving back is important for all of us, but it is an extremely important lesson to teach our children. It teaches them that they are part of the greater community. Most of the items on this list can be done by children as well as adults. Set an example, participate, lead, but above all include them.

Cash Donations

- 1.** We use PayPal to make it easy to give online, but if you are able to give that much you should be able to help raise much more.
- 2.** Make a donation on behalf of a friend or relative who is a caregiver. (Make sure you include your name as well as the name and mailing address of that friend so that we can send a thank you letter.)
- 3.** Invite people to your birthday party and ask that in lieu of a gift they give money to the Foundation For Caregivers.
- 4.** Pledge \$25 a month, and get one other person to do likewise.
- 5.** Make a list of your friends who are interested in the issue of caregiving, or similar organizations. Decide how much each one should give. Write to them on your own stationery; include a return envelope. Phone those people who don't respond in two weeks. Depending on your friends, you may need 5 @ \$100, 10 @ \$50, or 50 friends to give \$10. Most people will need a combination.
- 6.** Make it a challenge; tell people you'll give \$5 for every \$25 they give, or that you will match every gift up to some limit.
- 7.** Do a Foundation For Caregivers' phone-a-thon, same as #5 but done as a group. Get your group or social club to bring the names of people they think would like to donate and call until you have raised \$500. Or trade names with someone else and call their friends until you have reached \$500. This may help for people who are shy about asking their friends for money, but are not afraid to ask people they don't know.
- 8.** Give part of the \$500. Then ask your friends to donate. This is effective because you are not asking them to do anything you haven't done.
- 9.** Do a bulk mailing. If you belong to a group, a church or social organization, perhaps you can set up an exchange, or you may have access to a list of members of some other group. Ask your friends to give you the names of 10 to 15 people they think would like to donate. Depending on how "hot" your list is, you might need as few as 100 names or as many as 2000. It will take a few more responses if you want the mailing to pay for itself and also generate \$500.

Get rid of stuff you don't use/want!

Everybody has stuff lying around that they would like to get rid of but often not enough to have a garage sale. Many are reluctant to go online to sell used items on Amazon, Craig's List or eBay. You can collect these items and do a little work then split the proceeds between the owners and the Foundation For Caregivers. Since this is stuff people want to rid of anyway, it is a good deal for them.

10. If, as a child, you collected something avidly that you now store in a basement, consider selling it. Coins and stamps are particularly valuable and have usually increased in value over the years. But your collection of rocks, toy ships, rockets, arrowheads, dolls or even those McDonald's Happy Meal gifts may also be valuable. When you donate the income from the sale, you can deduct that amount from your taxes -- an added bonus of this strategy, since you probably paid little or nothing for the items in the collection.
11. Have a garage sale and give the proceeds to the Foundation For Caregivers.
12. Have a sidewalk sale or garage sale for your neighborhood or building. Go to your neighbors and tell them you will take their stuff outside and sit with it all day to sell it if they will donate half or all of the proceeds to the Foundation For Caregivers.
13. Do a digital garage sale! Sell your used books on www.amazon.com, donate the proceeds to the Foundation For Caregivers. This has the added advantage of clearing out bookshelves and boxes that are just gathering dust. Before you list a book make sure you check the current price (on Amazon) for a used copy of your book in similar condition. Most paperbacks have no value for online sale, but may sell at a garage sale.
14. Ask your friends to donate their books to sell on Amazon and donate the proceeds to the Foundation For Caregivers.
15. Sell your unused household/garden/garage items on Craig's List www.craigslist.org or eBay www.ebay.com, donate the proceeds to the Foundation For Caregivers. As with selling your used books, this has the added advantage of clearing out closets and boxes that are just gathering dust.
16. Ask your friends to donate their unused stuff to sell on Craig's List or eBay and donate the proceeds to the Foundation For Caregivers.

Your Business Associates and the Community

17. Solicit small businesses, churches, synagogues, or service clubs for donations. If you are active in a church, or own your own business and are involved in business organizations or service clubs, this can be very effective. You can often raise \$250-\$500 with a simple proposal and phone call.
18. If you belong to a church, research whether your church or your friend's church has a discretionary fund. Many churches have small pools of money available to groups through a women's fellowship or pastor's discretionary fund or various seldom-used endowments. Grants are often in the \$50-\$500 range and so go largely untouched by fundraisers. Sometimes simply writing a letter will free up this money and it tends to be renewable if someone is willing to ask the church yearly.
19. Research all the service clubs (Elks Club, Kiwanis, Lions Clubs International, Rotary clubs, Zonta International, etc.) in town and see what their giving policies are. They often have formal giving guidelines for large grants of \$2,000 and up, but have smaller amounts of money available for specific small projects.
20. Ask friends who belong to service clubs, sororities, antique collecting groups, support groups, bridge clubs, etc. to discuss the Foundation For Caregivers in their group and pass the hat for donations. A once-a-year sweep of even small organizations can yield \$100 from each.
21. Find out which of your friends (perhaps this is true for you also) work in corporations with matching gift programs. Then ask them to donate and get their gift matched. Don't forget to ask them to ask their co-workers to donate and get their gifts matched.

Involve your family

22. Offer to do something your friends and family has been nagging you to do, and attach a price to it. For example, quit smoking on the condition that your friends donate to the Foundation For Caregivers, or contribute \$5 for every pound you lose. Set a goal ... 30 days without smoking, or to lose 10 pounds. Make it interesting; agree to match their gifts, or to contribute on their behalf if you don't succeed.
23. A strategy with a long-deferred payoff (we hope): leave the group a bequest.
24. With similar hopes, get friends to include the group in their wills.
25. Give it yourself. (yes we asked twice, but this is so good we had to say it again.)

This is a sample list, there are literally hundreds of ways to raise money and have fun doing it. It takes a little time and effort and yes you do have to ask people to donate but you will be amazed how many people truly want to help a good cause. You will also be amazed by how good it feels to be a part of something that is important.