

FUNDRAISERS

- **24-hour fast:** Older kids can participate in a full-day fast to raise awareness and money to fight hunger. Participants ask families and friends to sponsor them for each hour of the fast and donate the money raised to The Food Bank to buy food for people in need. Best done on a weekend.
- **Bake Sale:** Not just cakes and cookies. Include preserves, guess-the-weight-of-the-cake competition and other refreshments.
- **Basketball Brackets:** Organize a March Madness basketball brackets pool and give the winner half the proceeds while the other half goes towards fighting hunger.
- **Board Game Tournament:** This can be held as an individual or team competition. Suggested games include Scrabble, Cranium, Catch Phrase, Taboo, Battleship, Connect Four, Twister, Uno, etc. Entrants pay \$10, and the top 2 or 3 win a prize.
- **Book Fair:** Collect unwanted books from friends and supporters over a period of months then hold a book sale for friends or co-workers in your home complete with refreshments. This can be combined with other events, e.g. a coffee morning. Any unsold books can be donated to charity shops, the local library, hospital, etc.
- **Breakfasts and Dinners:** Host a pancake breakfast, pizza night, barbeque, spaghetti dinner, poor man's supper, etc. Have a local grocery store donate the food. Charge \$5 per plate and offer tea, water, and coffee with the meal. You can sell single desserts for \$1 each and also sell full desserts to take home (cakes, pies, etc.) for \$7 each.
- **Canapalooza:** Organize a week-long series of events around the issue of hunger. Ask participants to donate a can for admittance to events throughout the week.
- **Dance-a-Thon:** Organize an event where participants are sponsored for every hour they stay on the dance floor.
- **Empty Bowls:** Kids create ceramic bowls in the art studio and raise awareness of hunger by selling them to parents or other community members to raise money for the Food Bank. Kids can also host a meal using the "Empty Bowls" to raise awareness of hunger; sell tickets to the meal and offer the bowls as a gift to take home.
- **Food-4-Fines:** Ask local libraries to agree to donate collected fines until they reach a certain goal amount.
- **Food Drive and Field Trip:** Have a food drive and deliver the food to the Food Bank and receive a "behind the scenes tour" of the warehouse. It is amazing to see.
- **Guess the Weight:** Put a quantity of items (e.g. sweets, screws, dog biscuits) in a jar, and ask people to pay to guess how many there are, or how heavy the jar is. The winner gets a prize and the contents of the jar.

- **Hunger Awareness Month Madness:** Set your goal at 100 people and have each person donate \$25. Every day of the month draw a name from the 100 people involved. Each day the person drawn wins \$25. The names drawn on Fridays win \$50. So here's the math: $100 \times 25 = \$2,500$ income. Payout 27 days at \$25 = \$675 plus payout 4 days at \$50 = \$200. Therefore, the income of \$2,500 minus the prize money of \$875 = profit of an easy \$1625.
- **Penny Wars:** This is a fundraising competition between teams/grades/classes. Each group gets a jar. Pennies count positively, silver and paper count negatively. People put pennies in their own jars but will put silver and paper money in other's jars. The group with the most points ($\#pennies - \#silver/paper = \text{total points}$) wins a prize.
- **Performance:** Does your school or program have a talent show or other event for parents or community members? Let parents know that they can bring food donations or money to help the Food Bank, and have the MC of the event talk about the service and learning the students have done.
- **Recipe Book Sale:** Collect favorite recipes from friends and family. Put them all together in notebooks to be sold. Decorate with illustrations and photos.
- **Restaurant Outing:** Ask a local restaurant to donate their space and services for a fee, i.e. \$3 per person to supply a limited menu (such as pizza, salad, soft drinks) and charge \$10 at the door. Benefits for the restaurant include food ordered that is not included in the cover charge, as well as free public relations.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Participants pay an entry fee to find objects or solve clues on a set route. They may have to solve additional cryptic clues to identify objects along the route (e.g. a weathervane, a class gift). Depending on the type of competition, the winner could be the first one to finish or the one who solves the most clues.
- **Sharpie Signing:** Draw a fundraising thermometer on the back of a t-shirt. Charge \$2 to allow people to sign, draw or pin something to your clothing and agree to walk around in the decorated t-shirt all day. Each time someone makes a donation have them color in part of the thermometer.
- **Trick or TrEAT:** Put on a costume and go door-to-door Halloween night collecting canned goods.
- **Trivia:** Charge an entry fee for individuals or teams to take part. Intersperse the trivia rounds with questions about food nutrition, or examples of people who've made contributions towards ending hunger in the United States. "Which President began the AmeriCorp program, a national program with the aim of ending poverty in the U.S., in 1965?" "What does the acronym USDA stand for?" "Which teacher is shown in this picture when they were 8?"
- **Virtual Food Drive:** Staff at The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts can help you set up a personalized fund raising page. By sending this link to friends and family, your supporters can buy cases of foods for The Food Bank's partner agencies. This non-traditional type of food drive provides \$13 for every \$1 donated. Information can be found through this link <http://www.foodbankwma.org/take-action/food-drives/conduct-a-food-drive/>

ADVOCACY/ AWARENESS

- **Contact Your Representatives** (*See The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts website for contact information*)
- **Coordinate a Lobby Visit.** A face-to-face meeting is one of the most effective ways of influencing your member of congress.
- Before the Lobby day coordinate a **Letter Writing Campaign** and deliver the letters from constituents in person.
- Invite The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to Come **Speak**.
- **Food Stamp Challenge.** Commit to living one week on the maximum allotment of a food stamp budget. That's just \$6.60 per person each day.
- Some schools and camps grow **Vegetable gardens**. **Plant an extra row** to donate to a local food pantry. Kids can also cook up cookies or a meal to donate to a local meal site. Call the Food Bank for the meal site or pantry closest to you.
- **Save your snack money** for a week and donate it to a local pantry.