

40 FUNraising ideas



With your help, Solace Women's Aid aims to raise **£40,000** for women and children affected by domestic and sexual violence. Help them reach their target and you'll be helping the charity to continue providing services to the women and children they help every year.

- 1) **Hold a bake off at work** - Invite your work mates to bake show-stopping themed cupcakes and ask someone neutral to pick a winner. Sell your cakes to colleagues for £1 each.
- 2) **Try your hand at karaoke** - A chance to show the world – or at least a group of your nearest and dearest – how close to Jessie J your falsetto can get! Just invite them to donate £5 each for your bravery and promise at least 4 songs. Don't worry – by the end of it you'll be gyrating your hips and strumming your air guitar!
- 3) **Pamper delight** - Rope in a willing beauty therapist and preferably their salon for a professional setting and offer a range of treatments from a blow dry to a manicure for £25 a ticket. Don't forget to put on a few nibbles and a little prosecco to sweeten (pun intended!) the deal.
- 4) **Swap shop** - For every item you sell or swap with a friend, you can donate any percentage of the takings. So if you swap a jumper that would have sold for £10, you could donate 10%, for example.
- 5) **Strut your stuff** - Rope in some willing models (a.k.a. friends and friends of friends) to showcase a retailer's new lines. Tickets could be priced at £10 and canapés passed round. The catwalk can take place anywhere you have a decent amount of space. Don't know any retailers? Try contacting smaller stores and encourage them to try. They could attract new customers and help out a charity at the same time.
- 6) **(Wo)man versus food** - Use this event as your perfect excuse to fill your face with all the delights you usually steer clear of. Think pies, doughnuts and burgers! Do this to a time limit for x amount of money. It's best to get a group of you competing so not all the attention is on you! Why not try – dough for a doughnut? Make it fun! Go on and get stuck in!
- 7) **Do you dare?** - Have donors pay a minimum of £1 to vote to decide on a dare for a willing participant. Think about the person being someone in a position of authority such as the boss! The dare for example could be: dye hair, dress as a clown, trade a job for the day...you get the idea.
- 8) **Bingo!** - Get prizes donated and charge an entrance fee. This is an easy one to organise. Bingo strips and stamps can be ordered on the cheap from the internet and it makes for a fun change in your lunchtime or night in.
- 9) **Party like it's 1999** - Get entertainment and food donated and charge a ticket fee for each guest. Just remember to ask the owner of the property first!

- 10) **Spell S-U-C-C-E-S-S** - Hold a spell-a-thon with each contestant collecting donations for the number of words spelt correctly. The top winners receive donated prizes.
- 11) **Smoothie stand** - A healthy and yummy alternative to the dough for doughnut idea. Work out your cost per smoothie and add whatever percentage mark-up you feel acceptable to take for donations.
- 12) **Strike Gold** - Ask friends and family to donate old jewellery they no longer wear and turn the gold into cash.
- 13) **50/50 raffle** - Contact local businesses or friends for prize donations (we all have those lingering toiletry sets from Christmas!) and sell raffle tickets offering half of the proceeds as prizes and the other half of the proceeds will go to charity.
- 14) **Going once, Going twice** - Hold a silent auction. Seek out services and product donations and hold the auction either online or live at a venue such as a meeting room at work or your local pub...assuming the landlord/lady agrees to it.
- 15) **Come dine for a cause** - We all know the rules to this one. The only difference is that you pay to enter the competition. Look at asking for £5 to join in the fun. With a minimum of 4 contestants. There may not be £1000 up for grabs but you'll have a lot of fun! Don't stress about the 3 course meal either. 1 dish each is enough and you can still score each other. If the gloating between friends is not sufficient incentive perhaps offer a bottle of wine for the winner.
- 16) **It's a wrap** - Offer your gift wrapping services to stores and/or spas during the Christmas period and they typically will donate a gift to you which can then be used as a prize in another charity fundraiser. Just be sure to ask what is up for offer before committing.
- 17) **Pick me up** - Get baked goods or smoothies donated to sell at events such as your football team's Sunday kick-around.
- 18) **Treasure Trove** - Collect new and used items from friends/family/work colleagues to be sold at a car boot sale.
- 19) **Text it** - This is a quick and easy way for people to donate £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 from any mobile phone whilst they are at your event. All they have to do is text SOLA07 followed by the amount you would like to donate – for example, SOLA07£10 – to this number: 70070
- 20) **Mind that child** - Offer babysitting services for a designated evening or two.
- 21) **Blow up** - Sell balloons for £2 each and insert a number in each that corresponds to a raffle ticket given to the purchaser. Pop a balloon for each available prize and read off the winning number. This is great for Fun time Fridays at work.
- 22) **Go hairless** - Male volunteers commit to shaving their beards or moustaches...or, if they're feeling really brave, their heads! Only if a specified amount is raised by a deadline.
- 23) **Every penny counts** - Start a coin jar at work for everyone to drop in any spare loose change. You'll be amazed at how much will be collected!

- 24) Packed lunch** - Forego your usual Pret a Manger lunch and pack your own lunch instead, donating the money you save to Solace. Suggest this on email at work and pool together. You never know ... someone may offer to cook up a casserole for the floor!
- 25) Jack Of All Trades** - Volunteers commit to working for an afternoon doing any odd jobs that friends/family/work colleagues hire them to do. Think painting, gardening, washing cars.
- 26) Pop of colour** - Ask HR to replace the usual smart formal work-wear for a day of wearing casual clothes that include a minimum of one block colour of your choice. Avoid colours such as green or pink as these are used for other charity promotions. 'Punish' those who don't get involved with a £1 fine.
- 27) Go casual** - An alternative to the above would be to request HR to allow one day when people can dress down if they raise enough money to meet a goal. No colour block or punishment for this one!
- 28) Pay it forward** - Give one person in your company money from previous donations and a specific amount of time to raise more than they were given...but not to lose any (or else they pay back in). That person then passes the funds to another and the cycle starts again until you've at least doubled the original amount.
- 29) Cookbook** - Ask the usual suspects – friends, family, etc. – to offer up their best family recipes for a cookbook. Your local printer may be willing to bind and print these for free or for a reduced price. Sell these cookbooks at work and back to those who offered up their own recipes for inclusion.
- 30) Dress up** - Fancy yourself as Wonder Woman or Carrie Bradshaw? Whatever your preference, think up a theme and hold a costume party. Donations to attend. Think about including food and drink specific to your theme...Cosmo, anyone?
- 31) Give it Up** - Donors commit to give up a regular activity or favourite treat for a week, or even better, a month, and donate the money they save.
- 32) Think big** - Set a goal, make the direct ask to your company and avoid an endless slew of small fundraising. You don't get it if you don't ask! Be brave!
- 33) Spread the word** - Solace Women's Aid are set up on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram so share, like and spread the love.
- 34) Eat, drink and be merry** - Ask a local restaurant to donate a minimum 5% of their profits on a designated night in exchange for encouraging supporters to eat there, with a promise of a mention on social media.
- 35) Gift matching** - Ask your company to match any funds raised through any of your endeavours in and out of work. Most large companies do this but you'll need to set up a fundraising page. Try www.justgiving.com
- 36) Secret's out** - A bit early in the year but something to keep in mind...instead of the usual round of Secret Santa presents, ask for the money to be donated instead.
- 37) What The?!** - Participants pay £2 to stick their hands into 5 different boxes, each concealing a horror or a delight. The aim of the game is to guess what is inside the

box. This could be jelly, dog food(!), candy floss...The person who guesses correctly the most times wins a prize. It's best to put any food in a bowl and conceal the boxes completely. Cut a hole in the front large enough for hands but no peeking!

38) Ace of Spades - Hold a card night, be it Poker, Twenty One, or any other card game you and your peers can compete in. Depending on your chosen game, you can either request a player fee or play for money all of which gets donated.

39) Fun time Friday - Start a regular 'fun time' slot at work. Participants donate £1 or £2 to join in the fun. This could be a quiz, riddles, best decorated ping pong...the list is endless. Not only will it boost morale by all joining in the cause as a team but you'll also be building up a steady stream of regular donations...don't forget to see if your company does matched giving to set up the fundraising page and double your money!

40) Host a 'Shop for a Cause' Trunk Show with Stella & Dot! Buy boutique-style jewellery and accessories with friends and/or colleagues while supporting Solace Women's Aid (a % of the Trunk Show sales will be donated and there is the option to include a small raffle).

Contact our Stella & Dot stylist Marjolein on windmarjolein@gmail.com to arrange. Browse the collection here www.stelladot.co.uk/marjolein.

Email fundraising@solacewomensaid.org if you would like to discuss your fundraising or how to donate the money you raise. If you are planning a public event we can help to promote it through [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

And don't forget to send photos and highlights of your event for us to use on our website and e-newsletters to inspire others to raise funds too.