

# **Fun Ways to Raise Money**

*by Pamela Fay*

Are you haunted by memories of selling candy bars or cookies to strangers door to door? Good news! Fund raising does not have to entail the miserable experience of pounding the pavement in your neighborhood. If your school, civic organization or charity needs money, try one of these fun ideas.

## **Second Hand Rose Clothes Auction**

Ask the members of your group to gather clean, wearable articles of clothing to donate. Encourage people to bring only the items that would be suitable for a consignment shop. You can also ask retailers to donate overstock or out of season pieces. Sell tickets to the event and recruit volunteer models. Then, auction pieces that will bring in the most money, using the models for items that they can wear. Neatly display additional clothing on sale tables. You'll have a fun fashion show, auction and bazaar all in one!

## **Fabulous 50s Bake Sale**

Hold a themed bake sale. Members can find recipes from the 1950s on sites like [Retro-Housewife.com](http://Retro-Housewife.com) and [PlaidPonyVintage.com](http://PlaidPonyVintage.com). Have the women dress as 50s television housewives in high heeled shoes, vintage dresses, aprons and pearls. Teen girls can wear poodle skirts and cashmere sweaters. The guys will don cardigan sweaters, slacks and ties. You can also put together a recipe book to sell.

## **Murder Mystery**

Host a fun murder mystery event. Depending on the number of characters involved, a murder mystery can accommodate 150 people or more. Solicit donations for prizes. In addition to charging admission, you can also make money by combining the murder mystery game with a dinner and a raffle. Find a game online at sites like [Host-a-murder.com](http://Host-a-murder.com) or [Great-Murder-Mystery-Games.com](http://Great-Murder-Mystery-Games.com).

## **Old Fashioned Carnival**

Carnivals are timeless fundraisers because they are fun. Take yours up a notch. Find carnival games online at [CarnivalSavers.com](http://CarnivalSavers.com) and [FunAttic.com](http://FunAttic.com). Solicit donations for the winning prizes but make sure you have plenty of cheap consolation prizes to give out. Check sites like [OrientalTrading.com](http://OrientalTrading.com) and [WindyCityNovelties.com](http://WindyCityNovelties.com). Put as much thought into the food as you will the carnival itself. Would fragrant slices of gooey pizza bring in more money than hot dogs? Remember that food and admissions are just the beginning. Set up a commissary to sell toys, novelties and buttons to raise additional money. Also, sell booth space to local businesses and craftspeople.

## **Cookie-gram**

Sell cookies to be delivered within a school or office. Purchasers can include personalized notes on handmade cards. Offer premium cards, too, for people who are willing to spend more money. You can also offer a singing option. The singers don't have to be good, just gutsy.

### **Speed Dating**

Sell tickets to single people for a speed dating social. Set up numbered two-chair stations and have one woman sit at each station. If there is a large age spread, you may want to have more than one group. Give each participant paper to keep a list. The men circulate, spending five minutes at each table. After each date, both men and women list the name of the people they would like to see again. The reconciliation of the lists takes place after the event. If there is mutual interest, email addresses are shared with both parties. Alternatively, you could host a make-a-new-friend event. In this case, there is no need to divide by gender. Make additional money at the event by selling food and drinks.

### **References**

<http://topschoolfundraisers.com/news/9-ways-to-get-fired-from-your-job-as-school-carnival-leader/>

Step by Step Fundraising Inc: Nine Ways to Get Fired From Your Job as School Carnival Leader

### **Resources**

<http://www.retro-housewife.com/1950s-recipes.php>

Retro Housewife: Recipes from the 1940s and 1950s

<http://www.plaidponyvintage.com/recipes/recipes.html>

Plaid Pony Vintage: Let's Get Cookin'!

<http://www.host-a-murder.com/fundraising.html>

Murder Mystery Maniacs: Fundraising Ideas 101

<http://www.great-murder-mystery-games.com/fund-raiser-ideas.html>

Great Murder Mystery Games: Fund Raiser Ideas