

Fundraising Ideas

You have decided to dip your toe into fundraising for the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association (NSDA). We know that fundraising can be difficult because it is uncomfortable to ask for money. For those with a voice condition, it can be twice as tricky. That's why we created a fundraising idea list and sorted the activities by the level of participation and management required. This is not an exhaustive list and is only intended to spark ideas and to help you find something that interests you.

Low Involvement

Low involvement fundraising tends to produce lower revenue. This is likely due to the absence of the emotional connection. However, you could run a few of these low involvement activities throughout the year and be able to meet your fundraising goals.

Profit share days at local restaurants

Restaurants like McDonalds and Panera will give back to their local community by offering special profit share days. On a specific day, from say 3-7 pm, they will do a revenue split of the profits for any sales. Usually the shopper has to present a flyer or ad in order for the credit to go to the non-profit.

Facebook Fundraiser

The ultimate in hands-off fundraising. Go to Facebook to make a post and choose Support a Non-Profit. Enter the NSDA into the search field. This personal fundraising idea requires you to have a very clear goal or an emotionally compelling story that inspires support. The money raised will be sent to the NSDA directly.

Shopping with retailers

Target, Amazon, spas and other retailers offer a portion of your spending to support charity of your choice. You may be able to designate the NSDA. Amazon's program is one of the easiest to participate in and you can encourage your friends to enroll and support your charity and each time they shop, the NSDA will benefit. Learn more at <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Corporate Matching Gifts

Tell your family and friends that many workplaces today offer corporate matching gifts to charities. They can contribute time or cash to your fundraiser and encourage them to complete the matching gift paperwork at their workplace.

Dress Down Day at Work

You can work with your office manager to create a dress down day in support of your charity. If your request is approved, colleagues would pay \$5 to wear work-appropriate shorts and tee-shirts to the office on a hot summer day. Or in these times of social distancing and working at home, you could suggest a 'dress up' day!

NATIONAL SPASMODIC DYSPHONIA ASSOCIATION

Voice Change Box

Put all of your spare change in a container and then at the end of the year, count it up and make a donation to the NSDA.

Medium Involvement

T-Shirt Fundraiser

Designing and selling t-shirts is a great fundraising idea and is a win-win situation for everyone involved. The campaign creator gets to raise money and promote their cause via merchandise, and supporters get a memorable item in return for their donations.

Throw a Fundraising Party

Use a theme like fourth of July BBQ, Holiday Open House, Pot Luck, International Food Festival or Cookie Bake and invite your friends and family over. Let them know that you are raising money for the NSDA. In return there will be great food, games and maybe some entertainment. You can even have raffle prizes or do a split-the-pot if you have enough people at your event.

Sell Stuff

Coffee Bean Fundraiser, Coupon Books, pre-packaged foods, chocolates, greeting cards, Christmas trees and many other items can be available at a wholesale price. You can contact local suppliers of unique products and get the product at a reduced rate. You can then set up an ad or even a web page to offer the product and announce the fundraiser.

Garage Sale

You probably have stuff you want to get rid of; why not have a garage sale for charity? You can ask friends to donate items to your sale and make signs to showcase your garage sale as a charity event. People will pay more for garage sale items when they know the proceeds are going to charity.

Food Truck Partnership

Partnering with a local food truck is an easy way to raise some support for your project or cause. Reach out to a food truck entrepreneur in your neighborhood to discuss your cause and ask if they'd be willing to take part in a percentage fundraising event. Many food trucks will likely be eager to get involved in order to help out and reach new customers for the first time!

Reach out to other local organizations in your area that host large gatherings of people. These groups are typically in the best position to partner with a food truck.

Fundraising Auction

Can you get access to tickets to a local event or concert? If so, maybe you can use those coveted tickets as an auction prize. You would need a large local system of contacts in which to advertise your fundraiser, but this a great way to raise money.

NATIONAL SPASMODIC DYSPHONIA ASSOCIATION

Host an aluminum recycling drive

An oldie but a goodie. Pick a central location like a school gymnasium or community center, and have people bring in their recyclables that you exchange for money at the collection site. It's a lot easier for people to just pop them in the bins right outside their door, so consider sweetening the pot by offering to pick up donations or awarding an award or prize to the person who donates the most. Storing and transporting bags and bags of recycling isn't the easiest or most thrilling task. Get some awesome volunteers to help make this task fly by!

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Over the Holidays, offer to wrap gifts at a centralized location for a fee. This would cover the cost of materials plus a donation to the NSDA. Get helpers from the local high school that need community service hours.

Community Car Wash

This activity is often done by sports groups, but there is no reason why you and friends couldn't do a carwash to support the NSDA. You will need access to water and labor, but you can raise a substantial amount of money in one Saturday.

Sponsor a Dunk Tank at a Local Event

Sell tickets to dunk local politicians and other popular folks. Get a local celebrity involved to really increase sales. You will need to rent the dunk tank for about \$300 and fill it with water, which you can ask your fire department to help out with.

Team Trivia Night

You can create a trivia night fundraiser using a local restaurant or VFW Hall. Each team of up to six participants pays an entrance fee of \$60. You can get prizes donated and sell food and beverages. This is a great activity for a family or group of friends. No devices allowed!

Guided Nature Hike

Bring your donors on a hike or nature walk outside your town for a small fee. You'll need to find a wildlife expert or guide who can lead the walk. Guests should also be made aware of any potential dangers such as bears or ticks. Hold it when it's warm outside (but not too hot!)

Bingo Night

Bingo sets are generally pretty affordable and worth buying if you plan to repeat the event, but if not, party rental suppliers are a good option. Consider selling refreshments as well — Bingo can be thirsty work! You will need to check in on local gambling regulations and get a location like a church basement or VFW Hall.

High involvement

Running special fundraising events can be a difficult and time-consuming process, but they are often the most exciting and rewarding. You will likely have a great time while raising money for your favorite Association and if you can get a corporate sponsor or two, you'll raise even more. Here is a list of event ideas:

- Walk for the Cause
- 5K Fun Run
- Corn Hole Tournament
- Golf Tournament
- 100-Mile Bike Ride
- 3-on-3 basketball tournament
- Organize a production of a play or musical
- Bowling for bucks
- Poker Tournament
- Talent Show
- Flag Football Tournament
- Concerts

Dog Walking

If you're looking for a free way to raise money for your cause or project, you can offer dog walking services to the pet owners in your neighborhood. This incredibly easy fundraising idea doesn't require any materials except time! Let people around your community know that you're available to walk their dogs by posting on social media. Raise money by charging per walk. Don't forget to tell pet owners that all the money is going toward a great cause as they'll be more likely to continue using your services in the future. The side benefit is that dogs are awesome companions and you get a lot of exercise!

Host a Community Class

Are you an expert at HTML code? Have a green thumb? Or know basic photography skills or how to make pasta from scratch? Put your expertise to use, and set up a class to raise money for your cause or project. Charge admission to attend and place a donation jar in a visible location so participants can give more. Don't forget to spread the word about your class on social media and via email. You can often get space at the library or high school for your event. Host one class or host a bunch of courses depending on your schedule and how much you want to raise. You can even offer online classes in the winter and have people donate using Paypal.

NATIONAL SPASMODIC DYSPHONIA ASSOCIATION

Garden and Plant Sale

You'll need either a nursery to make a donation or to grow your own seedlings or flowers to sell. Either way, you'll need to start planning early! Catch people in spring or early summer, when they're beginning to really think about their gardens. To incentivize a nursery to donate, offer to give attendees applications to their loyalty or rewards programs.

Breakfast with a Character

Make a special dress-up breakfast with a special character. You can do Santa, Captain Marvel, the Easter Bunny, or Cinderella. Make pancakes and watch the excitement happen. You will need a lot of helpers to make this a success.

Now that you have made a commitment to fundraising, don't be sad if the first year doesn't reach your goal. Each year you will get better at it and eventually you might find that your event becomes THE annual affair that everyone looks forward to.