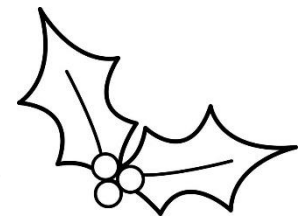


# Christmas Fundraising Tips!



The festive season is the single most important period for your fundraising, as it is the biggest time of the year for charitable giving, and the best time of year to really get ahead on your fundraising! People are usually in a particularly charitable mood at Christmas and are in the mood to give generously, so make the most of it!

Thinking of your December fundraising in two phases is a good idea - what are you going to do at University while it's still term time, and what will you do once you're back home or visiting with family and friends? End of term Christmas celebrations offer lots of opportunities to ask your fellow students for some more donations. Then once you've got back home, you have a fresh audience of family, friends and your local community to ask for money in new and fresh ways! Here's our top ideas;

**Donations as Christmas presents:** ask friends and family to donate to your challenge as a Christmas gift! After all, they'll be helping you go on the trip of a lifetime as well as helping improve the lives of the people you'll be working with. You could also ask people not to send you a Christmas card this year but instead make a donation on your VMG page and leave a Christmas message there instead.

## Christmas events:

All the usual fundraising events can be freshened up and made more festive: christmas karaoke, quizzes, a Santa pub crawl, Christmas film night, themed fancy dress parties – just at a seasonal twist!

**X-mas non-uniform day:** ask your old school if they would be willing to run a Christmas non-uniform day to help you raise money – these are big money makers for little effort on your part, and schools often love to see former pupils doing good works! Make it more interesting for them by offering to come and speak to pupils about your trip when you come back.

**Host a Christmas dinner:** this is a fun thing to do with university friends before you head off for the holidays. You could either do this at home or for a larger group of people such as any societies you are involved in. Ask them to donate what they would pay for dinner out (just make sure it's more than the cost of the meal!). You can add other fundraising games to the proceedings, such as the golden cracker or festive fivers for extra fun and fundraising.

**Children's Christmas Party:** persuade your large friend to dress up as Santa, your friend with all the music to be the DJ, the local community centre to lend you a hall and sell tickets to your friends and family who have had children.

**Pub Quiz:** many pubs will have a Christmas Quiz; see if you can be involved or start one with the profits going to your target. For existing quizzes, ask the landlord if

you can go round the pub with shakers asking for donations during the quiz. Pub quizzes are usually packed this time of year and the punters are feeling generous!

**Carol Singing:** voice like Aled Jones? Go round your neighbourhood and bring Christmas to the people. Rope friends and family into joining you! A good way of doing this is to arrange a time with several local pubs to come and do this and make a tour of it.

**Santa Race:** everyone dresses as Santa and runs a set distance in the quickest time – with an entry fee going towards your target of course!

## Fundraising games:

These games can be used on their own or as part of another event to maximise your fundraising:

**Sponsored novelty jumper:** you'll wear a hideous Xmas jumper for as long as people still pay you for it (one of our groups last year had people wearing them into February before the daily donations stopped coming!).

**Christmas Jumper competition:** take it a step further and get your friends and family to wear a Christmas jumper, on a specified day or event, and donate to take part. Make it a competition for the best jumper and give the winner a small prize. A great one to run at Christmas parties!

**Festive fivers:** a simple and easy party game. Get everyone to write their name on a fiver and put it in a Santa hat. Pull out a fiver from the hat – and whoever's name is on it, wins half the money, while the rest goes to your total!

**Christmas DJ donation:** if you're having any kind of Christmas party or event with Christmas music playing, offer people the chance to make a donation in exchange for picking songs to be played.

**Golden Cracker:** slip a prize ticket into one of a set of crackers. Ask people at your Christmas event or in your class or workplace to buy a cracker. They get the fun of pulling the cracker and keeping what's inside, and whoever finds the one with the ticket wins a nice prize!

**Pin the Nose on Rudolph** – just like the traditional pin the tail party game, but with Rudolph! Great fun at parties, charge a pound entrance fee and offer a small cute prize for the winners!

**Christmas raffle:** ask for donations of nice gifts for a raffle and ask if you can run it at your parents work or at your own holiday job – people with a regular wage have more money to donate to charity!

### Things to make and sell:

**Creative and crafty?** Make Christmas Cards, Christmas decorations, Christmas Wreaths, and gifts to sell.

**Present Wrapping:** offer to wrap peoples' Christmas gifts for money to save them the effort.

**Gift wrapping booths:** take it a step further and contact shopping centre managers and ask for a stall to wrap presents for a donation. Sell label tags for an extra 50p!

**Christmas fair:** you can either organise your own or ask for a stall at one and sell your own handmade items

**Christmas bake sale:** just the same as the usual bake sale, but this time with Christmas themed products – mince pies, shortbread, Christmas shaped gingerbread, and of course all the usual cupcakes but with festive decorations.

**Magic Reindeer Food:** mix bird seed and glitter together and put in envelopes or jars decorated in a Christmassy fashion and marked 'Magic Reindeer Food'. Sell it to the kids of your family and friends or on Christmas stalls to scatter on their front path on Christmas Eve for the reindeer. In the morning, the seed will be gone and just the glitter left to show that the reindeer have been!

**Peanut Christmas Wreaths:** thread monkey nuts onto a loop of wire and fashion into a Christmas themed shape such as a star to sell as a pretty Christmas themed treat for people to hang in their gardens as treats for the birds and squirrels.

**Homemade Christmas cards:** in addition to making generic cards to sell at events, you could also make personalised cards on commission for friends and family. Advertise your service on Facebook!

### Offering services:

**Elf auction:** talk your friends into letting you auction them off to be Santa's little helper for the day! Lots of people will appreciate having a little extra help at this time of year (if you don't have time to arrange an auction, just offer out your own services for a fee).

**Babysitting:** Christmas is the time for parties, so many of your family friends may need someone to babysit so they can join the festivities, and may be willing to pay generously!

**Taxi Service:** people may want to drink at the festivities, offer to pick them up or be the designated driver for a fee. (Only if you can legally drive!)

### And don't forget New Year!

**New Year's Eve party:** it's the most expensive and overcrowded night of the year, so offer your friends an alternative by organising your own party! You could either do this at home or hire a community hall. Charge for entry, and of course have some fundraising games and buckets and shakers going around during the night!

**Ditch the Vice for January** – there are a variety of these you can do, depending on your habits – a dryathlon to quit the booze, give up cigarettes, chocolate, coffee – the possibilities are endless! Get your friends to sponsor you, giving a bit of money for every day you keep it up for. Don't forget to let them know how much you're suffering to keep it up! You'll also probably save your own money in the process, which you can also put towards your target (this will make your friends feel more sympathetic towards sponsoring you too!). And of course there's the extra bonus of being healthier by the end of the month! This is a good one to do via social media.

**New year resolutions challenge** – let your friends pick your resolutions this year – for a donation, of course! Make it a condition that they give you a donation for every month you keep it up, and keep them updated how you're doing. This is another good social media one.

**Unwanted gift sale** – most people get a few things they don't want or need at Christmas. Once you're back at Uni, get all your friends to donate their unwanted gifts and hold a sale or use them as raffle prizes. There's bound to be *someone* out there who will appreciate them!